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Introduction

The world is getting hotter as it experiences the extremes of global climate change. In 1999, catastrophic storms hit Honduras, China and East India, bringing severe devastation to lives and national economies. El Niño swept across the Pacific in early 2000, inflicting the worst floods on Mozambique and neighbouring countries. Industrialised nations are not immune to global warming – cases of encephalitis, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes, were reported in the State of New York. In Antarctica, an iceberg seven times the size of Manhattan island broke loose and floated towards Cape Horn.

The melting of Arctic glaciers also continues – huge volumes of fresh-water will disrupt the warm conveyor-belt from Central America to Europe. The net effect of convergent glacial drifts from the polar regions to the equator is expected to intensify cloud formation in the tropics – hence exacerbating global warming. As the destructive forces of nature intensify, so does the rhetoric from environmental organisations – as evidenced by the disruption of the last World Trade Organisation conference in Seattle.

It is now up to civilisation to challenge climate change. It can achieve this by command and control as well as flexible mechanisms at home and abroad, before the process of global warming becomes totally irreversible.

1.1

Overview

The book principally addresses climate change and describes the remedial strategies for developing countries based on the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. It provides a very comprehensive account of the array of proposals and economic instruments devised by the international community – including the Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading initiatives of the Protocol – to abate global warming. Chapter 3, Sections 2.1 and 2.2 describe the objectives and key working platforms of the Protocol. The effects of other major atmospheric, land and water pollutants from industries and domestic sources are also covered. It is realistic to state that if current efforts by the international community fail then the book could form a practical guide for domestic action by individual countries.

1.2

How to Use This Book

Apart from the original and ongoing revisions of the text of the Kyoto Protocol, which can be referred to in www.unfccc.de, readers of the book will find the following guidelines useful in the application of information and data in project development:

Chapter	Usefulness to reader
4	Relevant articles of the Kyoto Protocol
5	Emissions characteristics for different countries
6, 7	Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) opportunities and project criteria
8	Cost-benefit analysis of remedial technologies
9	Emissions trading techniques and risk management



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