# Role of Asia-pacific in healing the earth

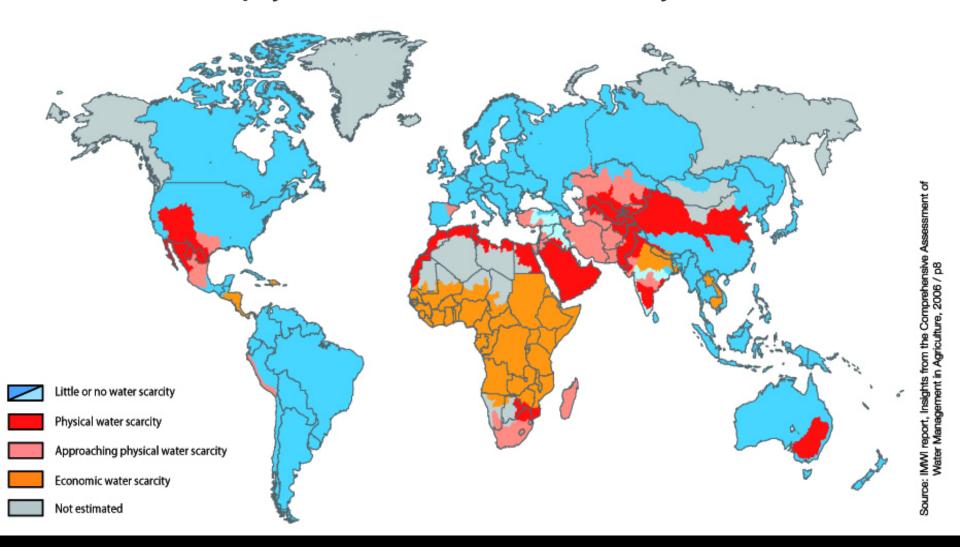
Hemantha Withanage

Exceutive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice Convenor, Friends of the Earth Asia Pacifc



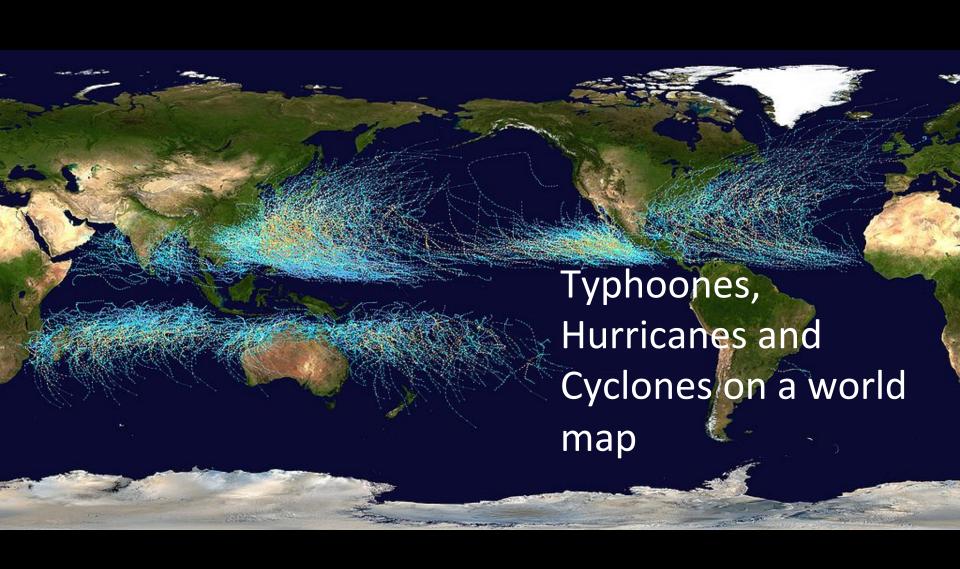


#### Areas of physical and economic water scarcity

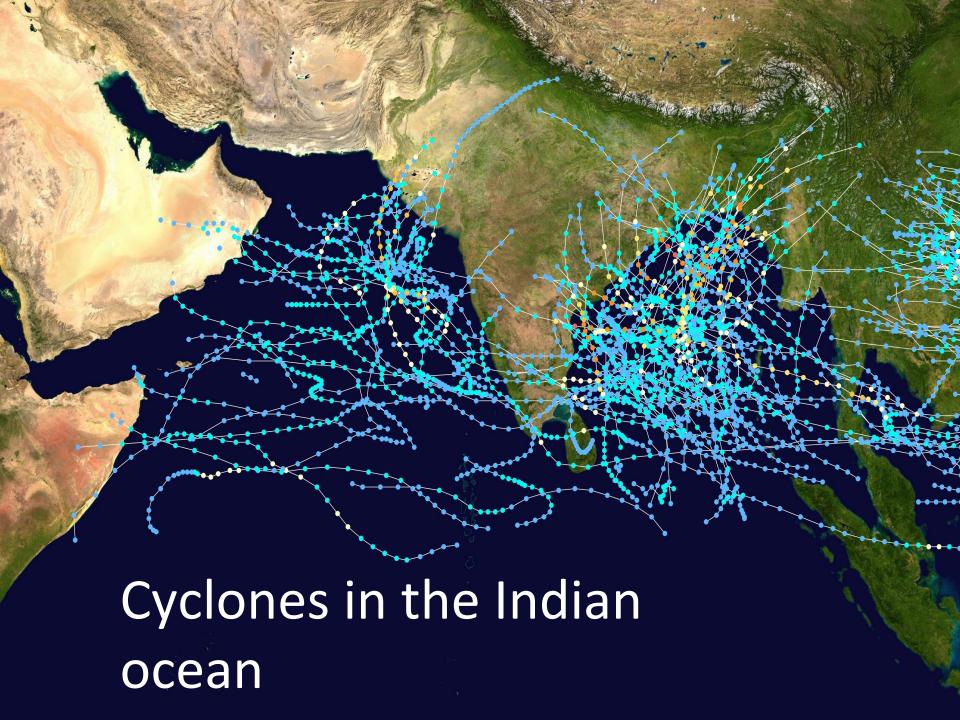


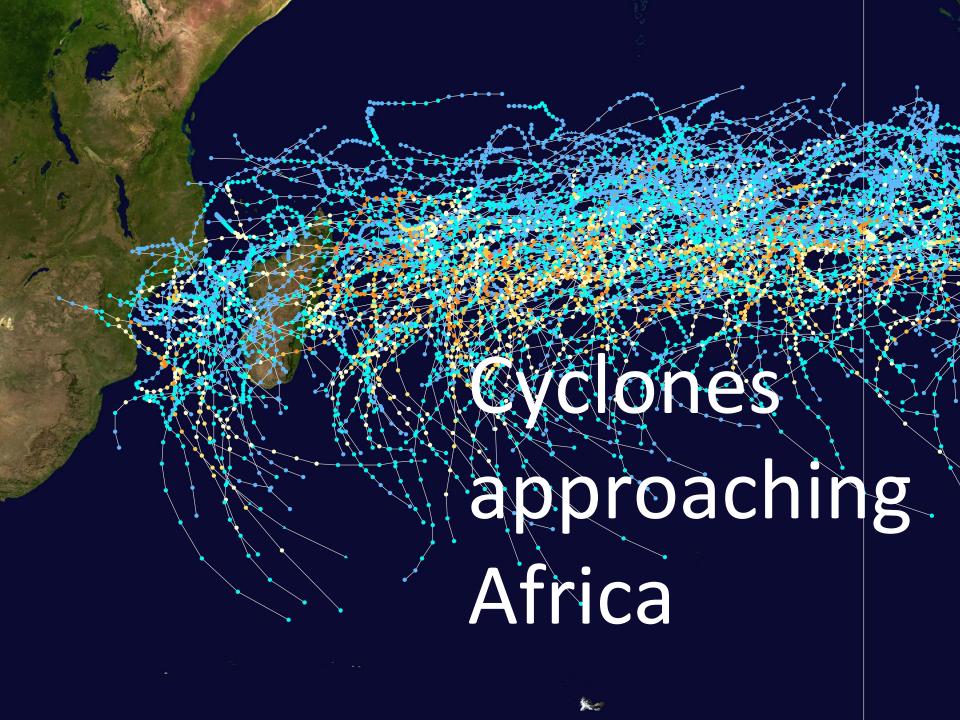
# Asia in the World Map

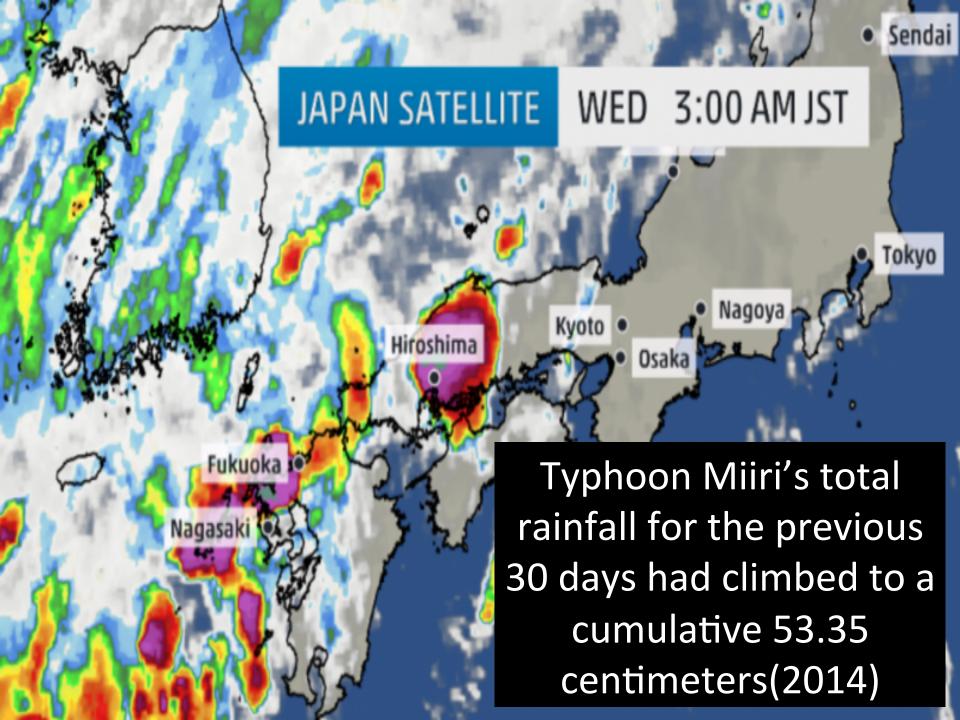
Our climate has accumulated 2,037,061,382 Hiroshima atomic bombs of heat since 1998 Billion A-Bombs 0.5 1.0 1.5 2003 2008 2012 1998 http://sks.to/heat







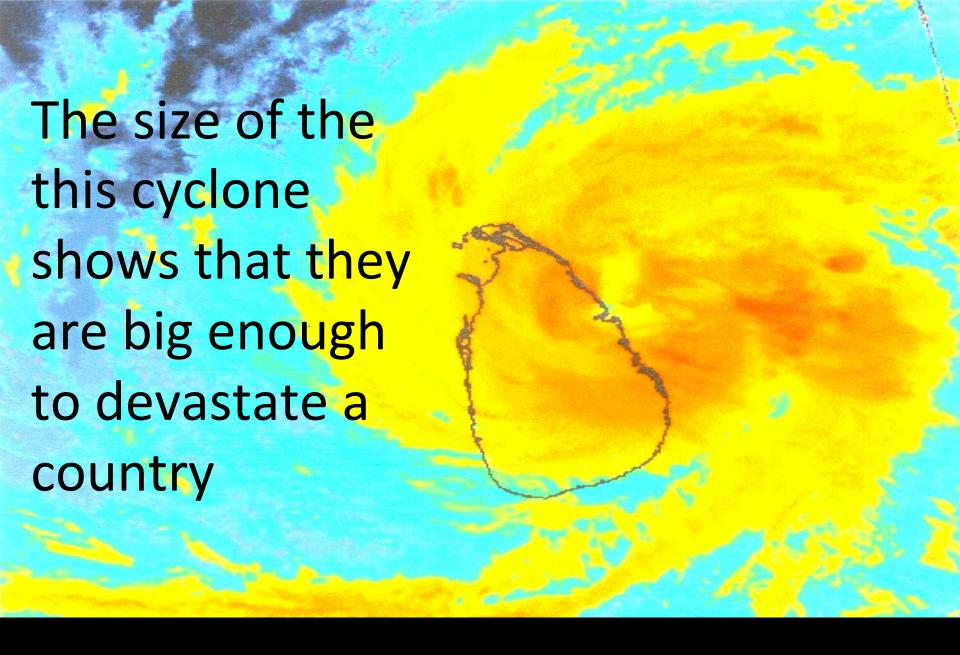






# Cyclone 'Aila' in Bangladesh

- Cyclone 'Aila' struck the southern coast of Bangladesh in May 2009 leaving over 190 people dead.
- More than 7,100 people were injured and about 600,000 homes damaged, destroying the livelihoods of communities across the southwestern coastal belt. Some are still living in with lot of hardships.



Sri Lanka, Trincomalee Cyclone 26.12.2000







Digging for Water, Hambantota, Sri Lanka Dec 2001

Source: Dept of Social Service



Coconut Trees in Hambantota, Sri Lanka - December 2001

**Source: Dept of social service** 



### A victim of Hambantota Drought December 2001 Sri Lanka

Source: Dept of Social Services

### Heat, Floods and earthslides in 2016

- India recorded its **highest temperature** on May 2016 in Rajasthan with 51 degrees Celsius.
- During the same time neighboring Sri Lankan capital Colombo had floods along the Kelani river, driven 300,000 residents out of their homes.
- Just upstream of the Kelani River, a landslide killed more than 150 people.
- Sri Lankan Finance Ministry has estimated the damage to small businesses and industries at about \$2 billion Sri Lankan rupees.
- No system is available to pay this loss and damage.











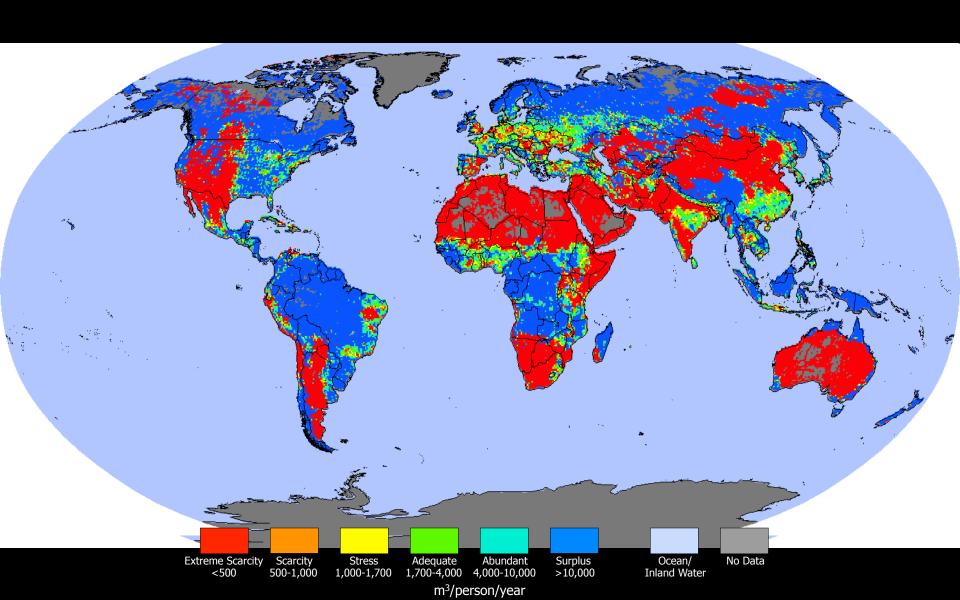


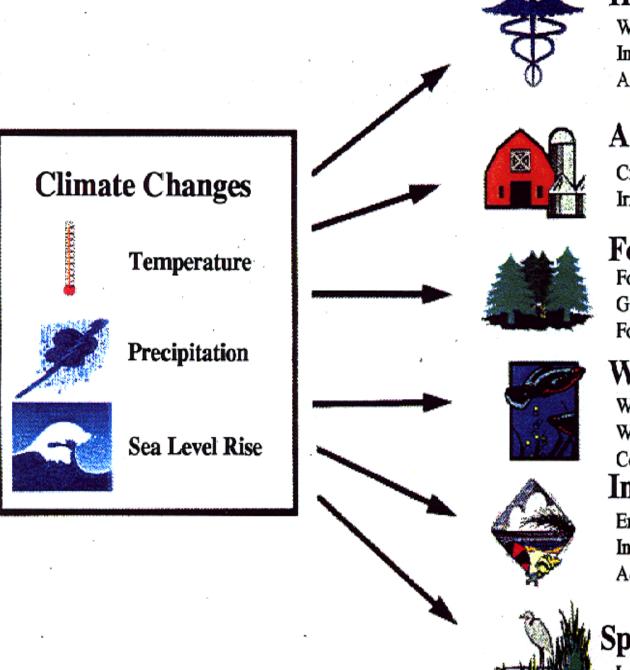






# Wife of Asile Billion 22650





#### **Health Impacts**

Weather-related Mortality Infectious Diseases Air Quality-Respiratory Illnesses

#### **Agriculture Impacts**

Crop Yields Irrigation Demands

#### Forest Impacts

Forest composition
Geographic range of forests
Forest health and productivity

#### Water Resource Impacts

Water supply
Water quality
Competition for water

#### **Impacts on Coastal Areas**

Erosion of beaches
Inundation of coastal lands
Additional costs to protect
coastal communities

#### **Species and Natural Areas**

Loss of habitat and species



Local voices not heard in the climate negotiations





# Keep below 1.5 C

- Exceeding 1.5°C will entail unacceptable impacts for billions of people/
- The need for urgency is therefore not only limited to the planet and our environment but also about people and the right of all citizens to a safe and dignified life.
- The next 10-15 years are critical in preventing the most dangerous effects of climate change.

# Role of Asia & the Pacific

- Asia has the population of 4.4 billion with over 2 billion in China and India.
- It has over 30,000 islands.
- Over 750 million people out of 1.2 billion people live below the poverty line lives in Asia and Pacific.

- Number of least developed countries are also located in Asia and Pacific. People live in these countries are most vulnerable to climate change.
- If the global warming is not managed, these communities may become the climate refugees.
- Not only developing countries but also developed countries are not ready for this.

# 200 million Climate refugees by 2100 only in Bangladesh and India along

- Asia is one of the past growing regions of fossil based development lead by china, India and japan.
- If all the Asia-pacific countries follow the same development model, the climate change will worsen and the same countries will be affected.
- Therefore, Asia's development model needs to be more climate sensitive and resilient.

Australia and Indonesia are still the highest coal producing countries in the world.

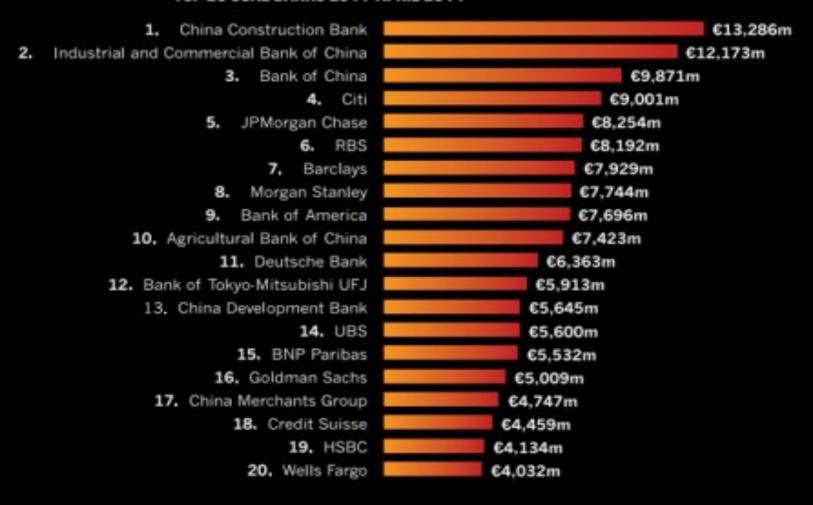
Unless these economies changed, the climate change will worsen.

Countries such as China, India and japan still sell Coal power and LNG technologies.

There should be an immediate stop to these climate killer technologies.

## STOP Funding Coal

## TOP 20 COAL BANKS 2011-APRIL 2014



Euro millions



- Private Banks provided more than US\$88
  billion worth of underwriting and loans to 65
  top coal-mining companies in 2013.
- Asia Development Bank (ADB), Japanese Bank for International Corporation (JICA) and the newly established Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB) has the total annual budget of over 200 billion USD.
- The three agencies support coal power plants and climate negative infrastructure in the region.



- ADB projected "energy demands", expects more than double between 2010 and 2035, reaching 16,169 terawatthours or half of the world's global energy consumption by 2035.
- By then, Asia will also be responsible for almost half of all global carbon emissions, 35 % higher than current emissions.
- If such energy comes from fossil fuel, the climate change will be irreparable.

- The ADB claims that its own financing for clean energy rose to \$2.4 billion last year from only about \$280 million in 2005.
- This might seem a positive trend but evidence shows that ADB's average energy lending for off-grid and minigrid renewable energy is only at 7.5 % of its total energy portfolio.

 Bulk of taxpayers' money goes to false solutions to the problem of accessible and "clean" electricity such as energy efficiency, clean coal that are still powered by coal, the largest contributor to climate change. This is not acceptable anymore.

- ADB label some poor quality projects as environmentally enhancing projects across all funding facilities for "clean" and "green" projects.
- Thus, despite the proliferation of "green" financing instruments and windows, ADB energy projects still destroy peoples' lives and the planet.
- Just last month, Indonesia's Ministry of Finance shared the AIIB's readiness to provide USD 1 billion in loans to Indonesia over the next four years, including for 2,000 MW coal-fired power projects.
- JICA also support several coal power plants in Asia including 28.5 billion Yen loan to India coal sector.

- The Asia and pacific will be a deciding factor on the climate change.
- Asia can be a solution as well as a problem as we are in the region of majority countries and the highest population.
- The role of Asia and pacific in cooling the planet will depend on how the developing nations design the development model.
- It will also depend on how the multilateral and private banks invest in clean and sustainable development.

Asia has a big role to play for investing in climate friendly development.

It is important to stop investing in all forms of fossil fuel

and

support active shifting to renewable energy now.



## SAY NO TO COAL