

## **38th UNU Global Seminar Student Report** **by Arslan Ali**

### **1. Introduction**



Arslan Ali is a JDS fellow from Pakistan. He is studying Public Economics at the International Christian University in Tokyo. His passion is effective policy making and efficient public service delivery. He remained part of the reforms team of the Prime Minister Office in Pakistan and contributed to many reforms for effective public service delivery. He had been directly involved in policy formulation at several government departments (including the environment department), overseeing implementation and post implementation impact evaluation. Pakistan of today is among the top 10 countries affected by global climate change and the Government of Pakistan is highly committed to the environment and reducing carbon emission is one of the top priorities. Pakistan has taken several measures to control the carbon emission footprint including introduction of Electric Vehicle Policy and green energy interventions.

### **2. Keynote speech summary**

The keynote speech by Prof. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi, Director of UNU-IAS, and presentation given by Dr. Seita Emori, Professor of Institute for Future Initiatives, the University of Tokyo, on day one of the seminar were vivid and laid a strong base on which the remaining sessions of the seminar were conducted. They were very succinct in educating participants on the philosophy behind the global efforts to contain global temperature rise to 1.5C, especially the simulations of temperature change were instrumental in relating to what can be different scenarios if prompt global action is not

taken. The presentations conveyed categorically what risks are posed to humanity and who will suffer the most due to this climate chaos.

The presentation on day two by Prof Shobhakar Dhakal, Vice President for Academic Affairs (AIT), was very informative on how individual lifestyle changes can aid in the energy transition and towards the net-zero emissions world. He briefed about how at least 18 countries have sustained production-based GHG and consumption-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction for longer than 10 years through change in policies and economic structure. Linking the challenge to demand side changes, he stressed a shift in socio-cultural factors, infrastructure design and use, and end-to-end technology adoption. He gave a detailed overview of individual behavioral changes and key policy options which can aid in making these transitions possible.

### **3 Group discussion summary**

My group focused on the energy sector which is responsible for 73.2% GHG emissions. The group undertook a detailed analysis of the sectors and sub sectors involved. Industry with 24.2% contribution to emissions is the largest contributor followed by energy requirements at residential and commercial buildings at 17.5% and transport at 16.2%. The group also had a look at the sources of energy globally available and Co<sub>2</sub> emissions of each source, and found that coal, which produces most Co<sub>2</sub>, is biggest source of global energy production at 34%, followed by natural gas at 23%. This intrigued the group to have a look into the energy mix of their countries, Pakistan, China, and Sri Lanka, and found that Pakistan is producing 12%, China 55%, and Sri Lanka 37% energy from coal.

The group then studied the IRENA 2019 Report A Roadmap to 2050, which estimated that meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement would require reducing global energy demand through energy efficiency, increasing the electrification pathway for all end-use sectors, and increasing the share of renewables in the energy matrix.

The group also deliberated on how individuals and businesses can become more sustainable by relying on sustainable energy in transport, residential and commercial buildings, and industry. The group identified and presented the hurdles that inhibit people from adopting sustainable energy in all these sectors, and came up with interventions that can be made to eliminate the hurdles. The group also shared the projects initiated

in their respective countries in these sectors to add renewable energy to the national energy mix and make it more sustainable. It was overwhelming to learn that governments are making policies to make their energy mix more sustainable and ecofriendly.

#### **4. Overall feedback on the seminar**

As the world is now realizing that climate change has become the defining issue of our age and this is the last chance humanity has to come together for a cause which is bigger than any other threat posed to humanity, it was the right time to take up the issue. The seminar provided an opportunity to not only ponder on the causes but also gear up for a shift to sustainable lifestyle. I believe that after the seminar all participants sensed the urgency and individual responsibility, and vowed to become the change agents for sustainable lifestyle and contribute in their own spheres by influencing others.