

The climate crisis: A call to action



LETTERS

Tuesday, 31 Aug 2021



Disaster: Civil Defence Force personnel searching for missing villagers at the landslide site in Yan on Aug 21. — China Press

EVEN if people don't know much about global warming and the climate crisis, just reading the news every day is enough to tell us that what is happening nowadays is massively damaging on a global scale. Deadly fires in Turkey, severe floods in India and China, the earthquake in Haiti – it all makes our hearts ache. Malaysia is not exempt either: a landslide earlier this month in Yan, Kedah, triggered by heavy rains, killed at least four people and caused hundreds and thousands of ringgit in property damage.

Natural disasters serve as a warning that if we continue to harm our planet, more catastrophes will follow. We can't wait any longer, it is time to act. Every single one of us has a role to perform.

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Here are my suggestions on how to start taking action:

Knowledge and awareness building: How can we act if we don't have adequate knowledge of the problem we want to address? We must equip ourselves with a fundamental comprehension of climate crisis issues, such as its causes and consequences. Only as we gain information can we begin to understand our own roles.

Responsible consumption: Consider your actions carefully before engaging in any consumption. Is the item you want to purchase essential or are you just adding to the earth's load? Consumption may include the food you want to eat, the vehicle you wish to ride, the clothing you wish to wear, or even the paper on which you like to write. The more trivial items we consume, the more the planet must be exploited for resources.

Multistakeholder action: Progressive action must involve everyone working together. Whether an individual or a large organisation, we should all work together to solve this issue and find ways to mitigate climate change by developing a framework and implementing an initiative to overcome the problem.

Climate adaptation: Even as we try to lessen global warming we have to accept that the climate crisis is upon us and affecting us. Let us work together to find ways the country can adapt to the problems so that we are not overwhelmed completely.

The critical point is that we should not delay action any longer. We have an obligation to address the issue and should work more diligently on it. The longer we wait, the more unfortunate situations we will see throughout the world.

Remember, the earth on which we are currently living will be inherited by future generations. Therefore, let us take action now to ensure the world is a better place for our children.

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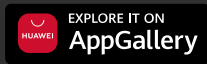
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