

## **Not Settled by Januario Azarcon, Esq. 10 February 2010**

Should former Vice President Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) return the Nobel Peace prize jointly awarded to them for whatever they have done on climate change?

Al Gore came out with a movie, "Inconvenient Truth" sounding the alarm about drastic rising temperatures and sea levels unless man clamps down on fossil fuel burning. IPCC came out with a report in 2007 which for a while served as the bible for governments relying on scientific authority to support their political decisions on energy policies.

Recent developments casting doubts on the credibility of the IPCC report seem to point out that truth has become a casualty as facts deemed inconvenient towards a desired conclusion are simply ignored or distorted.

Just before the Copenhagen climate summit last year, it was revealed that scientists at climate research center in the U.K. suppressed and manipulated information to hype man-made global warming. Based on hacked emails, Professor Phil Jones, the director at the center appeared to have asked his colleagues to destroy requested scientific data rather than release it to people intent on discrediting their work monitoring climate change.

Then followed one drip after another. As reported in the U.K's Telegraph, IPCC's most recent climate change report included false claims that most of the Himalayan glaciers would melt away by 2035." It turned out that this claim was merely based on an article in a popular mountain climbing magazine, more on speculation not peer-reviewed studies.

Signaling a push back to the IPCC, the Indian government has established its own agency to monitor the effects of global warming because it "cannot rely" on the IPCC headed even by Indian's own famous scientist, Dr. R. K. Pachauri.

Another IPCC report in 2007 stated that 40 percent of the Amazon rainforest in South America was endangered by global warming. Last week, this claim was discredited by a scientific blogger in Europe who discovered that the purported findings were based on numbers from a study by the World Wildlife Federation that had nothing to do with the issue of global warming, and that it was written by a freelance journalist and green activist, not peer-reviewed scientific study.

Then there's this IPCC claim in its 2007 report that global warming could cut rain-fed North African crop production by up to 50% by 2020. This assertion has been repeated in speeches by the IPCC chairman, Rajendra Pachauri, and the UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon.

However, Professor Chris Field, the new lead author of the IPCC's climate impacts team says in a London newspaper interview that he could find nothing in the report to support the claim. Apparently, the claim was based on a policy paper written for a Canadian think tank and it was never peer-reviewed.

The IPCC report is also causing pique in the Netherlands. Dutch authorities would like a correction in the IPCC report that more than half of the Netherlands is below sea level. According to the Dutch, only 26 percent of the country is below sea level. It appears

that the IPCC may have added the area – 29 percent, threatened by river flooding.

Al Gore recently warned that all of Antarctica would be under water in ten years if we do nothing about global warming. I venture to guess that ten years later Al Gore's nose would be much longer than Pinocchio's.

Pres. Barack Obama is trying to sell us this cap-and-trade legislation which is essentially

a tax mandate under the guise of clean air. It means billions of dollars to be paid by utility companies and other energy dependent industries which will ultimately suck the pocket books of consumers. Barack and Hollywood tell us that the science on climate change is settled. As we can tell from the above-cited baseless claims, we just can't take the words of Nobel Peace Prize winners anymore.