

**Thematic Session
Social Economy**

Climate Crisis and Climate Justice

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Climate crisis has increasingly become real and more visible.

Heat waves and wildfires in Europe, draughts and famine in Africa, floods in Pakistan, and diverse climate disasters have swept around the world. Korea is not an exception. Korea has repeatedly struggled with heat waves, draughts, wildfires, and typhoons every year. The belief that the crisis could be curbed, however, is gradually waning. Also, many scientists have suggested that it would become more difficult for humanity to keep its promise to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius as prescribed on the Paris Agreement. The very ambitious pledge on GHG reduction has failed to be turned into action due to 'gray' economic recovery policies following COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia war. Even in Korea, coal-fired power generators have been still under construction and a new airport construction project is under development.

In essence, climate crisis boils down to the matter of injustice and inequality.

Nations and classes that emit most of greenhouse gases (GHG), a main culprit of climate crisis, have dominated the wealth and nations and classes suffering consequences of climate disasters are on the verge of economic inequality. The top 10% income earners account for almost 50% of GHG emitted all over the world, and the bottom 50% of them emit just a little over 10%. Approximately 2,200 people residing in the Horn of Africa, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya are the ones that barely emit GHG. Furthermore, Pakistan, a nation where a recent severe flood submerged a third of its territory and displaced 33 million, a seventh, of its population, emits a very little amount of GHG. In Korea, a heavy rain hit the mid part of the nation, taking a toll on many people last August. Especially, the deaths of residents at the basement floors have extremely sown the 'inequality of disaster'.

The key to addressing the climate crisis lies in 'equality'.

The efforts to address climate crisis must link to the efforts to cope with inequality. Otherwise, climate policies and actions could reproduce inequality and even end up making it worse. What the climate justice movement must seek for is not to set its Efochal point on GHG reduction, but to overcome 'capitalism-driven growth system' that systemically reproduces climate crisis and social inequality. To that end, a social movement is needed to allow those at the forefront to unite and obtain social power. In doing so, we must form 'environmentalism for the underprivileged' and innovate democracy.