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# Global warming slowing down world economy

## Report paints grim picture of fallout of climate change

[NEW YORK] Climate change caused by global warming is slowing down world economic output by 1.6 per cent a year and will lead to a doubling of costs in the next two decades, a major new report said on Tuesday.

The DARA and Climate Vulnerable Forum report, which was commissioned by 20 governments and due to be presented yesterday in New York, paints a grim picture of the economic fallout of climate change.

The "Climate Vulnerability Monitor" report finds "unprecedented harm to human society and current economic development that will increasingly hold back growth, on the basis of an important updating and revision of previous estimates of losses linked to climate change".

However, according to the report, tackling climate change's causes would instead bring "significant economic benefits for world, major economies and poor nations alike". Key findings include estimates that carbon-intensive economies and associated climate change are responsible for five million deaths a year, nearly all of them due to air pollution.

"Failure to act on climate change already costs the world economy 1.6 per cent of global GDP amounting to US\$1.2 trillion in forgone prosperity a year," the report says.

In addition, "rapidly escalating temperatures and carbon-related pollution will double costs to 3.2 per cent of world GDP by 2030".

Although poorer countries face the steepest economic damage in terms of GDP losses, big countries will not be spared.

"In less than 20 years China will incur the great-

est share of all losses at over US\$1.2 trillion. The US economy will be held back by more than 2 per cent of GDP; India, over 5 per cent of its GDP," the report said. It said these projected losses "dwarf the modest costs" of addressing climate change.

The climate forum's chairman, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said weather pattern changes would be devastating for her country.

"One degree Celsius rise in temperature is associated with 10 per cent productivity loss in farming," she said. "For us, it means losing about four million metric tonnes of food grain, amounting to about US\$2.5 billion. That is about 2 per

cent of our GDP. Adding up the damages to property and other losses, we are faced with a total loss of about 3 to 4 per cent of GDP."

Jeremy Hobbs, executive director of the aid agency Oxfam International, called the report "another reminder that climate change's most savage impact is hunger and poverty".

"The economic and social costs of political inaction of unchecked climate change are staggering," he said. "Behind the statistics are the stories of real families and communities, for whom climate change means putting children to bed with empty stomachs."  
- AFP