



by Ir. Lau Tai Onn

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Combating the ‘Inconvenient Truth’

Global warming was the subject of the famous 2006 documentary film titled “An Inconvenient Truth”, about former U.S. Vice President Al Gore’s campaign in raising international public awareness of this environmental issue.

The global warming is real, potentially catastrophic and human-caused as suggested in the film. It is undeniable and appropriate action must be taken to address this increasing “planetary emergency” before it is too late.

Al Gore, who became more prominent as an environmentalist than a politician, concluded: “Each one of us is a cause of global warming, but each one of us can make choices to change that with the things we buy, the electricity we use, the cars we drive... The solutions are in our hands; we just have to have the determination to make it happen.”

Engineers, endowed with the mission of fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity are, needless to say, duty-bound to play a more active role in combating this “inconvenient truth” of global warming. With this in mind, this issue of *JURUTERA* is devoted to this topic with articles contributed mainly by members of this Standing Committee.

It is hoped that we will be able to inspire and influence the engineering community to mitigate, if not eradicate, the effects of global warming.

Let us reflect on Native American Chief Seattle’s quote made two centuries ago: “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

If we do not protect Earth from global warming caused by our actions, it is only a matter of time before we perish along with it. ■