

Floods the concern of all

I REFER to "Climate havoc" (*The Star*, Dec 5) and agree with the call for preparedness to face future climate uncertainties. The affected areas in Kuantan, Kajang, Kuala Lumpur and elsewhere in the Klang Valley reflect the severity of floods due to heavy rains that cause rivers to swell and overflow.

Besides, we also see hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, wildfires, and other natural disasters in many parts of the world.

We are facing a situation where climate uncertainties are causing much difficulty to the people and their livelihood: losing homes and valuables, severe damage to business premises and food inventories, making public roads filthy.

The monsoon season hits from November to February. Floods and rising of river levels are something we need to keep track of.

Of course, climate change and global warming are world phenomena we need to face bravely as ever.



Research shows average temperatures have climbed 0.8°C (or 1.4°F), and glaciers and mountain snows are rapidly disappearing. Sea and river levels could rise between 7in and 23in by the next decade.

We cannot deny that we too have contributed to global warming in many ways.

Indiscriminate consumption of fossil fuels, rapid industrialisation

without proper integrated waste treatment and drainage system, increasing deforestation with fewer tree planting activities, aggressive development with little care for landslides, and polluted air going into the atmosphere untreated, have greatly contributed to the current situation.

There still exists unscrupulous parties that exploit the environ-

ment and nature with hardly any thought for climate care and the wellbeing of future generations.

Fortunately, more and more people are now realising that this attitude is short-sighted and irresponsible. Planet Earth is our only home and therefore it makes sense that we respect and cherish it.

We should continue our efforts to deepen awareness of environmental issues. It is therefore important for individuals, communities, government agencies, and the private sector to work together to prepare for potential disasters and work out contingency plans.

We need to redouble efforts to keep our drains cleaner, to stop throwing rubbish into the rivers, to stop indiscriminate deforestation, and to complete all the drainage enhancement projects on time without further delay.

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