

LETTER OF THE DAY

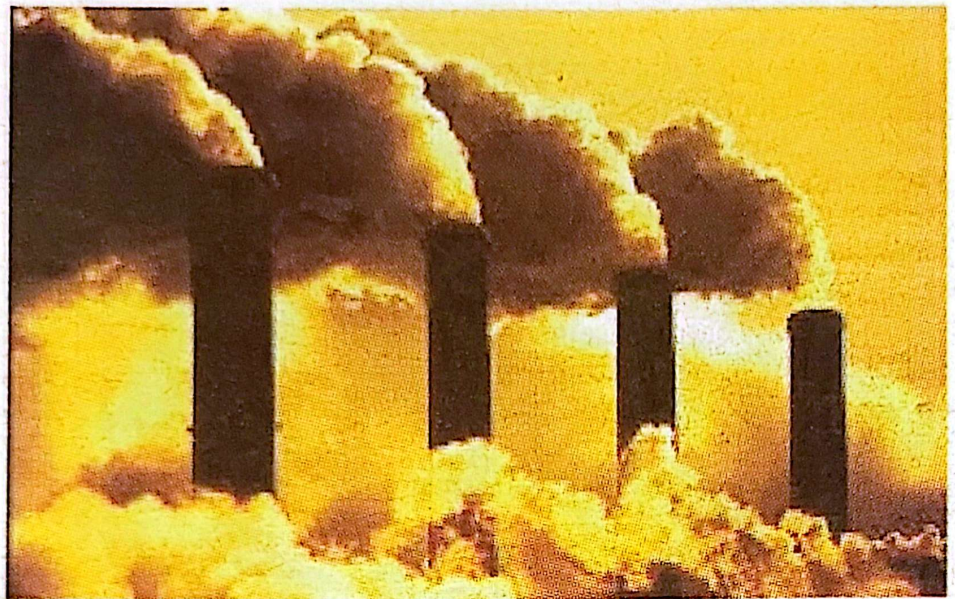
Youth critical in climate change

As the world prepares to celebrate the International Youth Day on August 12, whose theme is: 'Youth building peace', I get to remind all the youth that one of the biggest threats to global peace and security is climate change.

Considering that the youth constitute more than 1.2 billion of the world's population with 85 per cent living in developing countries, there is more worry to have about the future of peace and security if this population is not involved in climate change mitigation strategies where climate financing falls.

The climate change impacts, majorly arising out of global warming, have greatly affected ecosystems such as lakes, rivers, forests, and wetlands, among others, where majority of the youth, especially in developing countries obtain income, thus it is mandatory as the youth to advocate for and actively take part in climate financing to curb the devastating effects of climate change to our future social, economic and political lives.

The youth should invest in clean energy, engage in low-carbon producing activities to reduce emissions, effectively and sustainably



utilise wetlands, lakes, rivers and forest resources, including contributing resources towards biodiversity conservation strategies such as wetland restoration, protection of water catchment areas, afforestation and re-afforestation among other climate financing initiatives.

It is our mandate as the youth to also request and remind governments of developing countries to effectively utilise the climate finances obtained from developed countries while ensuring transparency in the way these resources are used for climate change mitigation and ad-

aptation activities.

Youth should also request private companies and businesses to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation activities since they are the biggest contributors of carbon emissions so that all stakeholders are on board in this fight against climate change as we work together on the achievement of sustainable development goal 13 before 2030 as well as creating a firm foundation for peace and security in the world.

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