

## “Carbon, the Genie from Nature’s Magical Lamp”

Carbon is the basis of how humans need to re-understand our world.

In the prehistoric ages, mythology was the first way human beings started to explain the world.

When humans were still in an innocent state of scientific ignorance, Nature already had many violent storms of winds, snow, thunder and lightning that far exceeded human scale. Mankind relied on myths, prophecies, and superstitions to settle down to live, to cope and to develop, so as not to be frightened by these enormous, powerful forces of Nature.

**With the gradual development of civilization, the world slowly ushered in various stages of enlightenment. Human rationality gradually opened up.** But mankind was still constantly searching for what the best state of the world should be. From the philosophers of ancient Greece, Newton, Galileo, Leibniz and Adam Smith in the Enlightenment Age, to Einstein's theory of relativity  $E=MC^2$  used to explain the universe, many phenomena in this world could basically be explained by mathematics, formulas and logic. Human beings used scientific knowledge to observe, to structure, and to reveal the essence of Earth and ourselves.

**When human beings rapidly expanded civilization, it also rapidly caused drastic changes in the entire natural environment.** This was especially true after the Industrial Revolution which essentially based development on carbon as our main energy source. This was demonstrated by the speed at which extreme weather events and the speed at which species disappeared, which normally would have taken tens of millions of years of natural evolution. Through technological advances, we have accelerated these changes in a mere 100 years.

**In our world, carbon has always been the most important foundation of life.** It is also the source of rapid changes in the ecological environment today. It is the fourth most abundant element in the universe and the basic building block for almost all life forms on the Earth. Human beings can even use carbon to date the geological and paleontological history of tens of millions of years ago. Through this, we were able to conclude that the carbon footprint of human beings over the past one hundred years had increased exponentially. The process of extracting hydrocarbons that were originally sealed in Nature and converting carbon into energy through combustion is the largest contributor to climate disaster today.

**Unlike many other things today, carbon has not been domesticated by humans. It has no borders, no constraints, turns into hot air, and stirs up the sea that cannot be cooled. It is creating innumerable occurrences of natural disasters.**

In the past, human beings shaped the explanation of the world through mythology, but now through science,

human beings must understand our planet and the need to stabilize and rectify the world. The keyword is carbon.

## “Carbon governance is an urgent task for all human beings to undertake.”

**Indeed, the Carbon Genie has been released from Nature's magic lamp.** In the process of the development of human civilization, the Carbon Genie granted our wishes, and even allowed modern society to live a life of excessive waste of natural resources. But now, the power of the Genie has become so ubiquitous, that it has reached the point where it is squeezing our existence. We must use our final wish to put the Carbon Genie back into Nature's Lamp.

Only by relying on the industrial system, and on the limited ability of all companies, can we concentrate on using our technology and change our way of life to help the world to domesticate the Carbon Genie as much as possible. The problem is that at the same time, in other corners of the world, there is much political wrestling or man-made inertia, which still keeps releasing new Carbon Genies.

What is more important for carbon reduction?

To use less carbon?

Try to find methods of returning carbon to the earth?

Actually, the answer is both, and as fast as possible!

**Carbon governance and carbon domestication are already the most important elements of the governance of the Earth.** I believe that every industry that intends to reduce carbon will have a question: Will the work of the corporate world in the next 30 years only be as absurd and futile as Sisyphus, who, according to Greek mythology, kept pushing stones uphill, while the rock would always roll back down due to his powerlessness, forcing him to begin all over again?

Even now, I believe that people, companies, countries and the European Union that govern the Earth can play a role like Atlas: to squarely shoulder the responsibility of the Earth because it is clearly our responsibility to human society.

How difficult it will be to carry the earth on our shoulders? Human beings don't have Atlas to help us. We must be our own Atlas! We, the eight billion people on Earth, must carry the weight of the world on our own backs for the sake of the future.

**Counting down from now, we are in a race against time to reach the 2050 net-zero carbon emission limit agreed to in the Paris Agreement.** In the past 30 years, we have not moved forward very much, as there are still many dominant negative forces.

Let us use the next 30 years to extend life of Earth for another 4.6 billion years! Today, human beings are faced with the undomesticated carbon, which is causing extreme environmental disasters. In addition, the world has experienced three years of epidemics, and economic activities are slowly recovering. There is also unprovoked war. As long as a war lasts for one day, it is equivalent to a country's carbon emissions for one year. How much effort is needed to reverse that?

In particular, industries around the world are still transitioning from their past carbon-based business models, and the development of renewable energies is just beginning. We are at a stage where it is necessary to continue to invest much time and resources. This requires global cooperation and careful coordination.

So, how do we change to a productive economy that will satisfy global needs for economic growth without greenhouse gas emissions? It's the multi-trillion dollar question. Building a system of low-carbon energy and economy is a major infrastructure problem. The challenge is no longer to simply understand or be persuaded by science and facts. The challenge is to inspire action and face sacrifices. It will require commitment, dedication, compassion, and empathy for others. We have to find a way to care about future generations, and the millions of people who are already personally affected.

## "This is a race against time."

Companies are conducting a comprehensive report and calculation of carbon footprints, and reducing carbon emissions through alternative raw materials and renewable energy. Is it enough? At the same time, the International Conservation Association states that one species goes extinct every minute on Earth. Statistics from the International Energy Agency also indicate that the world will reduce carbon emissions by 550 million tons through renewable energy in 2022. At the same time, a war that has lasted for a year may directly and indirectly cause more than 100 million tons of carbon emissions.

All these international organizations and corporations, working hard for the environment, deserve to have a 30-year period of no wars and dedicated cooperation, so that they can reduce carbon emissions undisturbed.

The situation of enterprises and organizations engaged in carbon reduction work all over the world is similar, and it is bound to be difficult. It is like sailing in the vast ocean, without front, back, left, right or any previous experience, and no directional indicators. Our only direction is to look up to the North Star that guides us. It must be in the heart of every one of us to care for each other.

**The legendary Holy Grail has never been lost.** When the world gives us a moment of calm, we will be closer to the possibility and hope of a Holy Grail that carries eternal life energy, enough to heal the environment of Earth.

Our mission is to ensure that future generations can have a good standard of living, and that their natural environment is not being jeopardized.

**In conclusion, we must put the Carbon Genie back into the Lamp.** The implementation of a CBAM cross-border greenhouse tax can contribute to reducing global greenhouse emissions, by leveling the playing field in global trade, promoting clean energy, and holding polluters accountable.

TCC Chairman

