

**THE DANISH-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
BUSINESS: A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED PERSPECTIVE ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES ADDRESS THE  
PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This paper aims to find address the problem of climate change through the Danish-friendly environment and human rights business. The biggest causes for climate change derive from aggressive business and human being activities. The impacts of climate change are direct and indirect linked to human rights. Denmark is categorized as the most friendly environment country in 2022. This achievement is a reward for Denmark which has had a development climate policy since the 70s through the green energy transition. Denmark developed its climate policy into business. The business is a friendly-environment and human rights. The development theory is implemented in this paper to answer the development of the Danish climate policy.*

**Keywords:** *Climate Change, The Danish-Friendly Environment, and Human Rights Business*

**ABSTRAK**

Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk menemukan solusi atas masalah perubahan iklim melalui Program Denmark yang ramah lingkungan dan hak asasi manusia. Penyebab terbesar perubahan iklim berasal dari bisnis yang agresif dan aktivitas manusia. Dampak perubahan iklim secara langsung dan tidak langsung terkait dengan hak asasi manusia. Denmark dikategorikan sebagai negara paling ramah lingkungan pada 2022. Pencapaian ini merupakan penghargaan bagi Denmark yang telah memiliki kebijakan iklim pembangunan sejak tahun 70-an melalui transisi energi hijau. Denmark mengembangkan kebijakan iklimnya menjadi bisnis. Bisnis ramah lingkungan dan hak asasi manusia. Teori pembangunan diimplementasikan dalam tulisan ini untuk menjawab perkembangan kebijakan iklim Denmark

**Kata Kunci:** Perubahan Iklim, Denmark Lingkungan Ramah, Bisnis Hak Asasi Manusia

**INTRODUCTION**

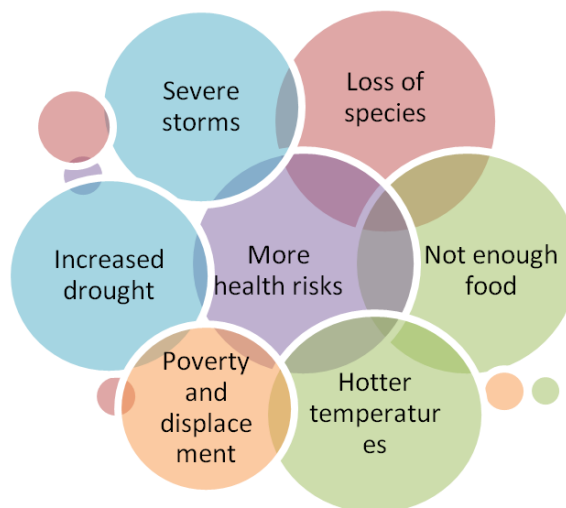
Climate change came from a long history. Riley (2022) describe the timeline of climate change caused by human beings and their activities during the Industrial Revolution in 1750. Furthermore, Riley emphasizes the timeline of

climate change started in 1896 until 2022 with the fulfillment of scientific observation, which also included the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 and the Paris Protocol in 2015.

Climate change is caused by global warming as the result of aggressive economic and business activities (Dunlap and York 2008; Scheffran and Battaglini 2011). The United Nation on its official website mentioned several causes of climate change. The causes are: a) Generating power is the activity that uses the generating electricity and fossil fuels which produce gas emissions globally. b) Manufacturing goods, the industry activities which burn fossil fuels and contributed the large greenhouse gas emissions. c) cutting down forests or deforestation which has eliminated carbon sequestration through forest functions. Where the main forest's function is to absorb carbon. d) Using transportation which contributed the large of carbon through the vehicle's fuels. e) Producing food through the food industry, deforestation for food manufacturing, fertilizers factory which produced the carbon and gas emission by the fuels. f) Powering buildings increased electricity for air conditioners, lighting, and so on. These powering buildings' needs affect the rise of energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions. g) Consuming too much which contains the humans' daily needs such as electricity, clothing, food, packages or plastic, and so on. These also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the facts above, the biggest contribution of the causes derived from aggressive economic and business activities. Where aggressive economic activities derive from human beings. And aggressive business activities from the manufacturers. These activities created a bad impact on climate change and human rights. The United Nations mentioned several impacts of climate change and these impacts on human rights:

**Figure 1.** Impact On Climate Change And Human Rights



Source : Processed from united nation data, 2022

According to the data above, there is a linkage between climate change and human rights. Climate change derives from aggressive economic and business activities through using fossil fuels, electricity, and so on. The impacts mentioned above contribute a negative impact on human rights. These phenomena have had a significant impact on every individual enjoying human rights including the right to live, the right to get clean water and air, the right to obtain safe health, the right to obtain safe foods, and the right to self-development such as working, social, and culture. We could see the linkages between climate change and human rights according to these explanations. To slow climate change, a court-based approach alone is not sufficient. NGOs have to build grassroots efforts, leaving the UN with no choice but to act. Clearly, there are barriers to action, as large industries will see the economic gains from global warming in the Arctic. Only international action that produces regulations can combat this problem (Emhardt 2014).

Climate change is a strong and serious threat to all countries in the world. Danish is one of the countries which experienced the impacts of climate change. Prakoso, et.al. (2019) argued the flood which been hit Denmark in 2017 was the

impact of the risen of the sea level of 177 cm in the south of Denmark and 157 cm in the south of Copenhagen. This phenomenon of course affected the human rights of the Danish people who get a direct impact on their health and livelihood. This paper will conduct an assessment to find solutions to the problem of climate change through Denmark businesses that are environmentally friendly and human rights.

## **METHODS**

The research method implemented in this research is library research. Library research is a research method that contains two steps, namely data collection and data implementation. Data collection means the researchers collect data from books, the internet, and any other related documents to be implemented in the research so-called data implementation. According to the explanation above, the writer uses this method to analyze the data from the official website to be implemented as a short recommendation paper for academics or certain stakeholders. The source is retrieved from the official Danish Governmental Body, United Nations, and several related journals.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Development theory can explain the policy of the Danish government to combat the climate change impacts from the oil crisis era in the 70s and develop the Danish-Friendly Environment and Human Rights Business. The theory will explain the development of the Danish policy regarding the emergence of climate change impacts on human rights stability and economic growth. Halperin (2018) stated development theory has changed over time with changes in ideology and the international environment, and, as it changes, so do its conceptions of development and governance and how they are related. Based on Halperin's argument, the writer linked the emergence of climate change impacts with the Danish policy from the oil crisis in the 70s until now.

ONCHR (2022) explains that inequality is widening within and among countries, poverty gaps, food shortages, climate change, economic crises, armed conflicts, rising unemployment, popular unrest, and other pressing challenges

confronting our world today. Thus, the right to development is very important for human rights in way of facing global challenges, especially for the climate change impacts. Following the explanation above, the writer finds the Danish environmental policy linked to human rights. Danish is a welfare country, where the welfare of the citizen is the main priority for each policy.

### **The Development of the Danish Environmental Policy**

According to World Population Review, Denmark is the most environmentally friendly country in the world in 2022 with a total EPI score is 82.5 which included high scores in the "biodiversity and habitat" and "air quality" categories. This achievement derives from Denmark's efforts to minimize the effects of the oil crisis and climate change through environmental policy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark claims Denmark is the laboratory for green solutions. The green solutions started during the oil crisis in the 70s. The Danish efforts to overcome the oil crisis in the 70s through the green transition from oil to renewable energy in the form of solar and wind power. Besides wind and solar, Denmark is also rich in biomass which is a green energy source and also categorized as renewable energy. Thus, Green energy has been a top priority in Denmark for decades.

Denmark is a country with sustainable environmental policies to reduce the effects of global warming. Sustainable development is a motto for the Danish environmental policy. The main target is to phase out fossil-fuel use and replace it with renewable energy. According to SGI, All parliamentary parties have approved an agreement aiming to produce 100% of electricity consumed in Denmark from renewable sources by 2030. A government climate plan would phase out petrol and diesel cars by 2030, and earlier for buses and taxis. The country plays an active role in shaping international environmental regimes, working through the EU, the UN, and other bodies. Civil society actively puts pressure on politicians to act in this area both domestically and internationally.

## **The Danish-Friendly Environment and Human Rights Business**

Another achievement derives from the Danish effort to combat climate change. Denmark is a country that often gets the impacts of climate change. Examples of the efforts are climate diplomacy and friendly-environmental business. Friendly-environmental business is a business that prioritizes the preservation of natural resources and reduces their impact on the environment. As a friendly-environment country, Danish makes this a direction in running a business. Besides that, Danish also prioritizes the human resources involved in it as the existence of social welfare state country. According to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there are two main business focuses related to the environment and human rights, namely:

1. World-class R&D, with a focus on Cleantech and Life Science. For over 40 years, Denmark ambitious to prioritize the energy policy through green energy. This contributed to putting Denmark at the forefront of "cleantech" as the effort to reach a goal of being completely independent of fossil fuels by 2050. Denmark also has one of the strongest clusters in the world when it comes to biotech and life science, based on robust public-private partnerships. And last is the food innovation which offers high quality and exemplary hygiene and safety.
2. Work-life balance makes Denmark a great place for employees. The work-life balance way of Danish is 30 minutes lunch break with colleagues and an afternoon shift with the family. This makes the employees happier with strong families. A national network of quality subsidized child-care facilities gives Danish women the opportunity to compete on equal footing with Danish men. This contributed to gender equality in Denmark.

The Danish Friendly Environment and Human Rights Business not only addresses the climate change impact but also optimizes the stability of human rights domestically and globally.

- ✓ Domestically the work-balance way of life created happier employees, strong families, and also gender equality.
- ✓ Globally with a focus on Cleantech and Life Science through the green energy transition, biotech, life science, but also food innovations.

These friendly-environmental businesses prioritize the preservation of natural resources and reduce their impact on the environment. Through climate diplomacy, Denmark invites other countries to combat climate change by doing business with them through this friendly-environmental business. Thus, through this business principle, the adverse impacts of climate change and the improvement of human welfare will be better addressed which will be explained.

Dikeman referred Cleantech to as clean technology and is often used interchangeably with the term Greentech, which has emerged as an umbrella term encompassing the investment asset class, technology, and business sectors which include clean energy, environmental, and sustainable or green, products and services. On another hand, life science has the basics of biotech and is often used for human health science. These two principles of friendly-environment business contain green energy transition, biotech, and life science, but also food innovations that address climate change and human welfare.

Figure 2. Friendly-environmental businesses in Denmark



Source : Processed by researchers, 2022

The green energy transition is the non-fossil fuels and non-oil dependence through green energy by wind, solar, and waste or plastic management. This could reduce the pollution from fossil fuels and create fresh air for human welfare. Then

Biotech is often used for the science of human health and food innovations through manufacturing. According to bio.org, modern biotechnology provides breakthrough products and technologies to combat debilitating and rare diseases, reduce our environmental footprint, feed the hungry, use less and cleaner energy, and have safer, cleaner, and more efficient industrial manufacturing processes (Biotechnology Innovation Organization). This also contributes to human welfare in order to get better health, better foods, and cleaner air. Meanwhile, Life science is included in the biotech principle above. This focuses on human health technology which uses clean energy. Furthermore, Food innovation, in my opinion, is the principle that contains clean energy and green energy. Clean energy and green energy for the food manufacturers, but also for food packaging. For example, replace plastic with a reusable package from waste management.

## **CONCLUSION**

Climate change became the biggest threat to all the countries in the world. It is caused by global warming as the result of aggressive economic and business activities. Climate change impacts are directly and indirectly linked to human rights. The impacts of climate change are spread globally following aggressive economic activities. The causes are threatening the sustainability of the environment and human rights. Countries from all over the world should develop their environmental policy to combat climate change. Denmark is one of the countries that developed its environmental policy to combat the impact of climate change which is also developed.

Denmark is categorized as a friendly-environment country with green energy as the main policy. Denmark is also a welfare country where the welfare of the citizens is the main priority. Denmark also experienced floods caused by climate change. Summarized to these facts, The Danish-Friendly Environment and Human Rights Business is an effort of the Danish to combat the impacts of climate change. The writer is very interested in this case because it saves the circle



between the sustainable environment and human rights from the bad impacts of climate change.

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