

Bali unearths a climate of greed and self-interest

Bali – a farrago of greed and lust for power – all based on deception and scientific fraud.

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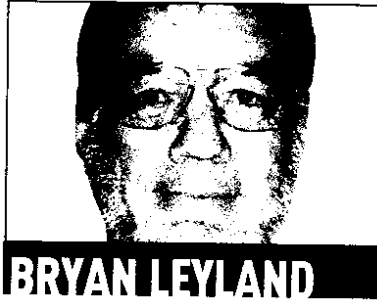
I was at the December climate conference in Bali as team leader for a group of highly qualified international climate change specialists. The whole thing left me dismayed. Like a Nigerian scam letter, it promised a lot but the reality was that, if followed up, it would deliver less than nothing.

When he was chief executive of the Ministry for the Environment, Barry Carbon once said to me: "Kyoto is not about science, it is about politics." This conference was the same. Many of the people there saw "climate change" (the new buzz words for "man-made global warming") as a means to an end.

Many people expected to make money from carbon trading even though (or because) it is wide open to massive fraud. Others were chasing the huge subsidies available for expensive, futile and environmentally damaging options such as biofuels and wind energy.

For many of the developing countries it was a way to get money for what they really needed to do – develop their economies and to make sure that they could cope with natural climate change, be it cooling or warming.

For the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) it was a way of ensuring a continuing supply of money and



a free ticket to conferences in exotic places. Many others were there purely because it was an opportunity to promote their particular hobby horse. "Women against nuclear power" and "carbon-reinforced granite" were typical examples.

For the politicians and organisations such as the UN, the conference was a wonderful opportunity to increase their control over the economies of their country – or the world. Many of them seemed to believe that economic growth is incompatible with the environment.

I have spent quite a lot of my life working in Africa so I am aware that, in developing countries, economic growth benefits the people and the environment. Therefore I find this attitude quite sickening.

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Climate change conference turned into an opportunity to promote their particular hobby horse.

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Gore gave his standard story about climatic doom and disaster. All the time, sitting in front of him, was Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, who had been an expert witness in the court case in England when a judge found that there were nine serious scientific errors in Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

After the meeting the Viscount, who was a member of our team, said he identified 50 errors in 12 categories.

Gore also omitted to mention he has a financial interest in promoting subsidised renewable energy and carbon trading. Under the stock

exchange rules in the United States and in Britain, he should have opened his speech with a statement setting out his own financial interest in what he was saying.

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As a group of sceptics, we expected to be vilified. To our surprise, we found many of the delegates

were reasonably open to the evidence the science was not settled and it was wrong to spend huge amounts of money and effort trying to solve a problem that may not even exist. But few were prepared to say this openly.

I was able to make one presentation at the conference. It finished up with: "Why do we have 10,000 people in Bali engaged in a futile attempt to fix a problem that, in all probability, does not exist?" We need an honest answer.

■ Bryan Leyland is a power industry consultant and a member of the New Zealand Climate Science Coalition.