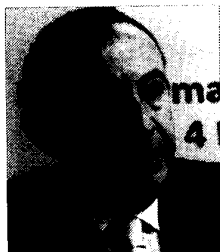


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UN body comes to Pachauri's rescue

■ Yes, a mistake was made and IPCC responded to criticism, says Yvo de Boer



Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC executive secretary

'In my language there's a saying: tall trees collect a lot of wind, and Pachauri is a very tall tree. He is a respected scientist. The IPCC did not get the Nobel for just one report but for all of its work'

on the takeaways from the Copenhagen conference in December 2009 and the way forward for climate change negotiations in 2010.

De Boer said the criticism of IPCC and Pachauri had had a positive fallout in that it had helped heighten realisation around the issue of climate change. "There's no process anywhere that's completely flawless, IPCC has a team of 2,200-2,600 scientists who also look at the scientific literature that's out there to come to a balanced assessment," he explained.

Speaking on the future of the Copenhagen Accord that was patched together towards the end of the climate summit in the Danish capital and in which the BASIC group—of which India is a part—played a crucial role, de Boer said that while it is important as an indication of political intent by a number of countries, it is important not to "overplay" its significance. He added that while 56 countries had agreed to the accord, 26 others had indicated their support for it. The accord, he said, should be kept in mind, "in their back pocket", by climate change negotiators in future meets, both formal and informal.

fe Bureau

New Delhi, Feb 4: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary Yvo de Boer on Thursday came to the rescue of chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) RK Pachauri, who has been criticised for a 2007 assessment report by IPCC that said the Himalayan glaciers would melt away by 2035.

"In my language there's a saying: tall trees collect a lot of wind, and Pachauri is a very tall tree," de Boer said.

"Pachauri is a respected climate scientist. The IPCC did not get the Nobel for just one report but for all of its work," de Boer said. "Yes, a mistake was made and IPCC has responded to the criticism," he said, adding that it

would be "senseless" for Pachauri to take the blame for it and resign.

In response to attacks mounted by climate sceptics, Pachauri has maintained that climate change remains a serious threat and that he would not resign over the mistake in just how quickly the Himalayan glaciers are likely to disappear.

In an exclusive interview to *The Financial Express* in late January, environment minister Jairam Ramesh had said he felt "vindicated" by IPCC's goof-up on the life of the Himalayan glaciers and that India would soon have a well-equipped national agency for climate change assessment.

In the Capital for the three-day Delhi Sustainable Development Summit that kicks off on Friday, de Boer was addressing the media