

Robert Henson The Rough Guide to Climate Change – The Symptoms, The Science, The Solutions, Rough Guides, London and New Delhi, 2011 – 4

Part 4: Debates and Solutions – From spats and spins to saving the planet, Copenhagen, climate gate and beyond, page 294

In 2009 the UN held a Climate Summit in Copenhagen. Just prior, climate sceptics released over 1000 e-mails into the public domain. These were got from a server from the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit. Climate deniers saw the contents as proof that climate scientists manipulated their test outcomes. Climate deniers announced a scandal about the fabrication of global warming and climate change.

The bulk of these mails depicted the day-to-day processes of climate scientists at work. A tiny fraction of the mails purported to show something sinister. Reporters and climate deniers emphasised use (in one correspondence) of terms "trick" and "hiding". They claimed this showed how scientists obscured global *cooling*. But the terms meant satisfying a scientific approach as opposed to a nefarious strategy. Accusers also focused on scientists ignoring requests for data and information. This likely arose from their wanting to avoid distraction from research. They would have had to spend time explaining the background and context of the data. Some of the data was also copyrighted by official meteorological sources. A series of investigations in 2010 exonerated the researchers from these allegations.

Shortly afterwards there was a controversy about a prediction in the IPCC 2007 Report. This was that the Himalayan Glaciers could be gone by 2035. But prominent glaciologists disputed this assertion. The IPCC acknowledged that this was an error on the part of those compiling that section of the Report.

(summarised by Paul Hendler)