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Letters to editor

Main culprit not climate change

Thomas Ho ("[Red alert](#)", July 6) referred to reports by the World Bank and the Climate Change Business Forum claiming global warming will threaten our future unless a course of adaptation is taken.

This is based on outdated conclusions and recommendations contained within the Intergovernmental Panel on [Climate Change \(IPCC\) Assessment Report No 4](#) released nearly six years ago.

Regarding the concept of anthropogenic global warming, some scientists continue to put forward a number of reasons as to why they are still sceptical about it.

These objections will need to be addressed by IPCC Assessment Report No5 which is scheduled to appear in September 2014.

Mr Ho raised a number of contentious issues. Why is the heat-trapping effect of the most important greenhouse gas, water vapour, ignored as a cause of global warming?

Where is the evidence to show that temperatures, sea levels and the frequency of extreme weather events are rising at an ever-increasing rate?

When exactly did Mr Ho's "new normal" of climate change start?

Risk management is not just about mathematics, including modelling, but is interdisciplinary. Cost-effective risk management must reduce the real risk rather than an unproven "modelled" risk.

Finally, the main culprit is not climate change as the climate has always gone through changes in the past, with or without the influence of humans.

The most important reason for the increase in future risk is our greed for economic development through population growth and the exploitation of natural resources, including the utilisation of marginal amounts of land.

Wyss Yim, Pok Fu Lam