

Sir,

It is with sadness and concerns for the future that I write this obituary.

The Kyoto Protocol was born in 1992. The initial euphoria surrounding its birth was quickly replaced by fear of its survival. Through many a difficult year, its parents fought hard to keep it alive. And in the end their work paid off. In late December 1997 Kyoto was finally given a clean bill of health.

The parents of the Kyoto Protocol had always wanted it to grow up and find a cure for global warming - a dangerous disease threatening the planet. Everyone knew that it was a very challenging job indeed. But now healthy and strong, the parents set about preparing Kyoto to take on this important role.

In 1991 disaster suddenly struck. One of the parents, who had initially supported the Kyoto protocol from childhood right through to maturity, decided to leave Kyoto and the rest of the family behind. It was a real setback for Kyoto, but it survived thanks to the commitment of the remaining family.

Four years later the Kyoto Protocol was finally ready to take on the responsibility of saving the world. It so happened that its parents started talking about producing a second protocol in the same year.

Still new in the job, but full of good intentions and resolve, the Kyoto Protocol was unexpectedly struck down by a severe case of global warming - the selfsame disease it was trying to find a cure against.

Throughout 1995 Kyoto fought a hard but losing battle against the disease, which was growing stronger by the month. It slowly became clear that Kyoto was too weak to fight the illness and fully recover. All alone, with its parents busy preparing for the next protocol, Kyoto passed away in silence early in 1996.

Kyoto leaves behind its parents, friends, missed opportunities, crushed expectations and a planet still desperate for a cure against global warming.

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