

COP14 and CMP4 Side Event on **Monday December 8, 2008**

Sustainable Low-Carbon Asia: how can it change the post-2012 climate negotiations?

9:00-10:30 in Aesculapian snake, Poznań International Fair Ltd, Poznan, Poland

Jointly Organized by

National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan

Civic Exchange (CE), Hong Kong

Action for a Global Climate Community (AGCC), United Kingdom



How can strategies for building Low-Carbon Societies (LCS) in Asia contribute to solving the global climate crisis and "change the game" for post-2012 climate negotiations? This session presents visions and concrete roadmaps for developing LCS in Asian countries including Japan, China, and India and examines potential solutions for strengthening participation from Asia in the post-Kyoto agreement.

Discussion points

- How can we design visions and roadmaps towards a sustainable low-carbon Asia?
- How can we structure a framework, mechanism, and rules to realize sustainable low-carbon Asia?
- How can we integrate a long-term strategy and short-term action into the post-2012 agreement?

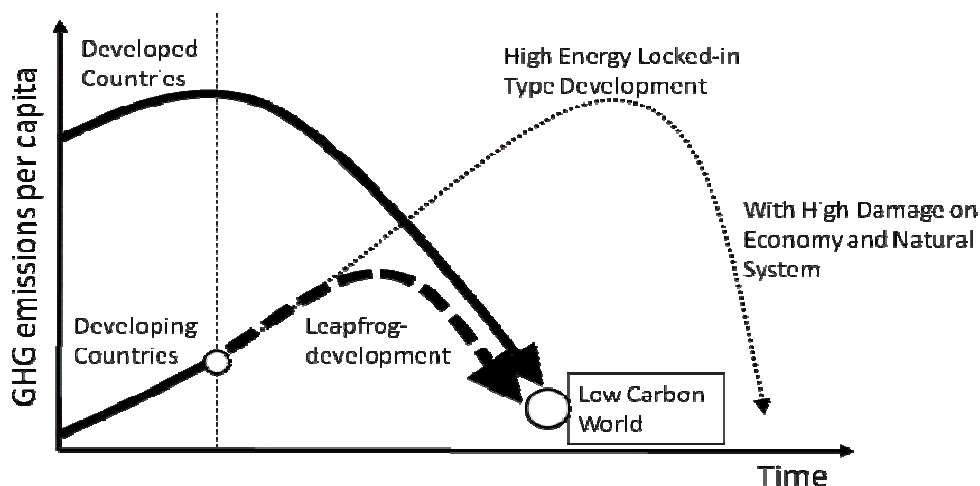


Fig.1 Image of GHG emissions in developing countries

Introduction

IPCC AR4 indicates that we need drastic GHG emissions reductions (50% by 2050) to avoid dangerous climate change. However, an effective global response is still far from guaranteed. Asia contains many of the world's largest and fastest growing emitters, and the most vulnerable poor countries. It is crucial that we design and realize a "Sustainable Low-Carbon Asia" to achieve our ultimate climate change goals.

Many countries in Asia are beginning to pursue sustainable and low-carbon development as top domestic political priorities above growth at all costs. However there are no clear middle or long-term visions, and roadmaps to achieving a "Sustainable Low-Carbon Asia". This makes it difficult to avoid the type of high energy locked-in type development observed in developed countries. How can scientific activities help develop low-carbon scenarios and accelerate leap-frog development in Asian countries?

Asian countries have a particularly important role to play in negotiating and implementing the post-2012 agreement. As many Asian countries argue, under the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, their right to economic development is non-negotiable and must be integrated into any global agreement. How can the post-2012 agreement support these strategies, and how can they contribute substantially to global greenhouse gas reductions?

This session will examine potential strategies for a more effective pursuit of sustainable, low-carbon development in Asian countries. We hope that increased understanding of these issues will allow Asian countries to build cooperation within the region and with the rest of the world in pursuit of an effective solution to the dual problems of global climate change and economic development.

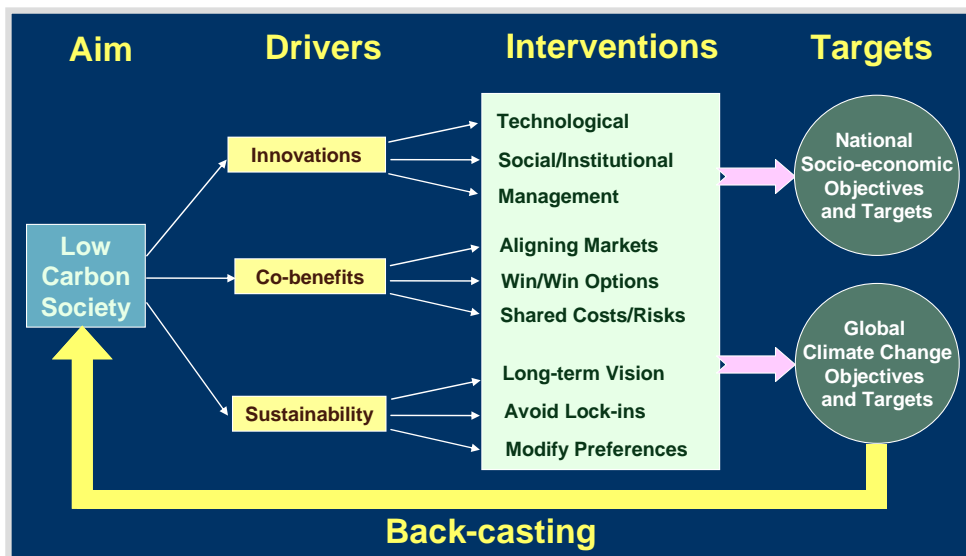


Fig.2 Sustainable Low Carbon Development

National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan



NIES was established in 1974 in the scientifically-oriented Tsukuba, near Tokyo and has played a major role in environmental research in Japan. NIES conducts multidisciplinary environmental studies in natural, social and human sciences (<http://www.nies.go.jp>). NIES, in collaboration with institutes in ERI/China, IIM/India, AIT/Thailand, and others has jointly developed a large-scale computer simulation model called AIM (Asia-Pacific Integrated Model) (<http://www-iam.nies.go.jp/aim/index.htm>) to assess climate policy options. AIM developed the IPCC SRES/A1B marker scenario. The model has been widely used for policy studies and its results have been presented in various environmental assessments such as IPCC/SRES UNEP/GEO, ECO-Asia, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Japan Low-Carbon Society (LCS) Scenario, Japan - UK Joint Research Project “Developing visions for a Low-Carbon Society through sustainable development” (<http://2050.nies.go.jp>), and the IPCC new scenarios for AR5.

Contact: Junich Fujino, D.Eng. (NIES), fuji@nies.go.jp

Civic Exchange (CE), Hong Kong



Civic Exchange (www.civic-exchange.org) is a Hong Kong-based non-profit public policy think tank that was established in October of 2000. It is an independent organization that has access to policymakers, officials, businesses, media, and NGOs—reaching across sectors and borders. Civic Exchange has solid experience in many areas, including air quality, energy, the environment, urban planning, and climate change research, as well as economics and governance issues. Recent work in these areas includes studying Asian climate change negotiations, green buildings, shipping-related air pollution, and the health impacts of air pollution in southern China, and books analyzing the changes in Hong Kong’s environmental and air quality policy since 1997. Civic Exchange has also hosted a series of forums on the relationship between energy policy, air quality, buildings and climate change.

Contact: Andrew Stevenson (Civic Exchange), astevenson07@gmail.com

Action for a Global Climate Community (AGCC), United Kingdom



Action for a Global Climate Community (www.climatecommunity.org) is a London-based non-profit organisation that was founded following an international conference on global warming held at Wilton in 2003 attended by participants from 18 countries including India, Russia, Japan, Kenya, China, Zimbabwe, and EU member states. AGCC calls for a new political initiative within the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) which aims to identify ways in which the developed and developing world can jointly bear the costs of maintaining sustainable economic growth using renewable energy. AGCC believes that a pioneering group of countries composed of key developed countries, particularly the European Union, and key developing countries, particularly India, can take the lead in creating a climate community, based on equity, justice, efficiency, solidarity and shared responsibility and accelerate action for climate security.

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Sustainable Low-Carbon Asia: how can it change the post-2012 climate negotiations?

Date: 9:00-10:30, Monday December 8, 2008

Venue: Aesculapian snake, Poznań International Fair Ltd.

Programme

9:00-9:05 Welcome Address and objectives of this side event, Shuzo Nishioka (NIES)

9:05-9:25 Sustainable low-carbon Asia - backcasting methodology can identify possible leap-frogs to sustainable development (AIM/NIES)

by Mikiko Kainuma (NIES), Junichi Fujino (NIES), Kejun Jiang (ERI, China) and P.R. Shukla(IIM, India)

In order to achieve the global "50 by 50 target", Asian countries must strive toward Low-Carbon Society (LCS) design ideals. Our collaborative research focuses on visions and roadmaps to achieving LCS, especially in Asian countries (China, India, Thailand, Japan, etc.).

9:25-9:45 Climate change negotiations: can Asia change the game? (Civic Exchange)

by Andrew Stevenson (Civic Exchange), Tariq Banuri (Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations) and Cornie Huizenga (Clean Air Initiative – Asia)

Can Asia be a game changer in solving the global climate crisis? Given the seriousness of emerging science, it may have to be. This session will examine key questions and outline potential solutions for strengthening participation from Asia in the post-Kyoto climate agreement.

9:45-10:05 India-EU cooperation on climate security: a new framework for action? Insights from the Potsdam Process (AGCC)

by Titus Alexander (Director, AGCC) and Tom Spencer (Director, AGCC; Executive Director, European Centre for Public Affairs; Vice-Chairman, the Institute for Environmental Security)

High level discussions in Europe and India about scientific and political cooperation to accelerate action on climate change and clean development, focused on practical measures (solar, sustainable biomass, black carbon, extension of the ETS); joint research; and political opportunities for enhanced cooperation within the UNFCCC.

10:05-10:25 Open Discussion, Moderator, Tom Spencer (AGCC)

10:25-10:30 Closing Remarks, Raekwon Chung, Climate Change Ambassador, Republic of Korea

All slides will be available at "http://2050.nies.go.jp/sympo/cop14_side.html"

Refreshments will be served.