

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

CLIMATE POLICY PROJECT

MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Climate change policies for Asia in the context of the global climate regime

Addressing global climate change in Asia is a challenging task, not only because of the region's growing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but also due to the fact that its people and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The mission of the IGES Climate Policy Project is to recommend pragmatic climate policies for sustainable development in the region in an era of an evolving global climate regime.

The Project aims to propose suitable approaches to engage Asian countries in formulating the future climate regime, facilitate adaptation to climate change, effectively implement the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and maximise developmental and climate benefits of policies and measures in sectors of importance to the region.



RESEARCH OUTLINE

The Project seeks to strengthen the knowledge base and capability for climate change-related governance in Asia through the identification, assessment and dissemination of policies that lead to the stabilisation of the global climate while simultaneously contributing to sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the Project will conduct action-oriented research with four objectives:

- To engage Asian developing countries proactively in formulating the future climate regime through identifying suitable means to reflect their concerns and developmental aspirations more adequately than before, and in developing an inclusive institutional framework for **a post-2012 climate regime**;
- To enhance adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities through recommending ways to mainstream **adaptation** concerns in development planning of agriculture and water sectors at local and national levels;
- To maximise the developmental **co-benefits** of GHG mitigation policies in key sectors of importance in Asia; and
- To promote sustainable development benefits of CDM and other **market mechanisms** through developing effective policy frameworks for their implementation, especially in sectors which have received inadequate attention from investors.

These objectives are based on key elements of national, regional and international climate change strategies identified from our research conducted in previous phases.

RESEARCH COMPONENTS

Post-2012 climate regime

The components under this theme include: (a) identification of ways for effective participation of major Asian developing countries in the future climate regime; (b) analysis of the role of Asian businesses and the current non-Kyoto Annex I Parties in the future climate regime; and (c) organising a working group of experts on the future climate regime.

Selected Activities

- ◆ IGES Consultations on the Post-2012 Climate Regime - Round 4 (2008):
 - Towards a Copenhagen Consensus: Opportunities and Challenges: IGES/NIES/UNESCAP Policy Forum (9-10 October 2008, Kyoto, Japan)
 - Integrating Asia's Energy Security Concerns into the Post-2012 Climate Regime (7-8 August 2008, Bangkok, Thailand)
- ◆ UNFCCC COP13 Side Event "Reconciling Asian Developmental Priorities and Global Climate Interests in Climate Regime Beyond 2012" (7 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia)
- ◆ Japan Low Carbon Society Scenarios Toward 2050 - International Symposium: The Challenge of Reforming the Industrial Structure aiming for Low Carbon Society (18 October 2007, Tokyo, Japan)



Consultation in Kyoto (2008)



Consultation in India (2007)

Adaptation

The Project carries out research on policies for facilitating community-based and national level adaptation in the most vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture and water management, and identifies quantitative or semi-quantitative indicators to measure the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

Selected Activities

- ◆ Expert Consultation on Adaptation Metrics (17-18 April 2008, Tokyo, Japan)
- ◆ UNFCCC COP13 Side Event "Financing and Mainstreaming of Adaptation to Climate Change: Priorities and Prospects" (10 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia)
- ◆ IGES/UNU-IAS Scoping Consultation on "Mainstreaming Adaptation Concerns in Agriculture and Water Sectors: Progress and Challenges" (14-15 February 2007, Hayama, Japan)



Expert Consultation on Adaptation Metrics



COP13 side event in Bali

Co-benefits

The Project assesses developmental co-benefits as an approach to mainstream climate concerns in sectoral development, especially in transportation, agriculture and waste management, with an emphasis on energy use and conservation measures.

Selected Activities

- ◆ Better Air Quality 2008 Pre-Event "Climate-Friendly Transportation Strategies in Asia: Overcoming Obstacles to Co-benefits" (11 November 2008, Bangkok, Thailand)
- ◆ The US-Japan Workshop on The Co-benefits of Climate Actions in Asia (22 April 2008, Bangkok, Thailand)
- ◆ IGES Scoping Consultation "The Developmental Co-Benefits of Climate Policies in Asia" (3 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand)



The US-Japan Workshop on The Co-benefits of Climate Actions in Asia

Market mechanisms

The Project promotes CDM projects in selected Asian countries through effective capacity strengthening, and analyses policies for enhancing sustainable development benefits from those mechanisms in selected projects.

>> For details, please refer to the IGES Market Mechanism Project leaflet.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS / OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

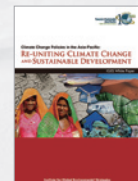
Asia-Pacific Consultations on Climate Regime Beyond 2012

- Round 4: IGES Briefing Notes on the Post-2012 Climate Regime (December 2008)
- Round 3: The Climate Regime Beyond 2012: Reconciling Asian Priorities and Global Interests (February 2008)
- Round 2: Asian Aspirations for Climate Regime Beyond 2012 (October 2006)
- Round 1: Asian Perspectives on Climate Regime Beyond 2012: Concerns, Interests and Priorities (December 2005)



IGES White Paper

- Second IGES White Paper "Climate Change Policies in the Asia-Pacific: Re-uniting Climate Change and Sustainable Development" (June 2008)



Journal

- International Review for Environmental Strategies (IRES) Vol.5 No.1 "The Kyoto Protocol: Its Development, Implication, and the Future" (2004)

Contributions to International Activities

- OECD Workshop "Working Together to Respond to Climate Change: Annex I Expert Group Seminar with non-Annex I countries" (5-6 May 2008, Paris, France)
- 1st Regional Consultation for a Review of the Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia (RRECCS) (3 April 2008, Mandaluyong City, Philippines)
- GROCC 5: The Fifth Session of Global Roundtable on Climate Change (12-13 February 2008, New York, USA)
- Regional Conference on Climate Change: Reducing the Threats and Harnessing the Opportunities of Climate Change (29-30 October 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- IISD Development Dividend Task Force Meeting (2-3 October 2007, Oslo, Norway)
- The 17th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change (31 July - 3 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACT

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