

Regional Workshop on Opportunities and Priorities for Low Carbon Green Growth in Asia

15-18 September 2009, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand

Background & Objectives:

Protecting the environment is an economic imperative and the case for immediate action is particularly strong in the Asia and the Pacific. The environmental carrying capacity as measured by ecological foot print exceeds the available bio-productive areas per capita in most Asian countries. As a consequence of rapid and carbon intensive growth, the region is fast becoming a major source of green house gas (GHG) emissions. Low Carbon Green Growth could be a regional strategy for Asia to advocate a new developmental paradigm wherein economic activity continues to expand while emissions are reduced, environmental quality is restored and new employment opportunities are generated on a large scale.

What does low carbon green growth actually mean to Asia? a region heavily dependent on imported energy and resources. Tapping the potentials of energy efficiency not only can achieve a meaningful and effective near term goal of reducing carbon emissions but also increases energy security at the national level and bring business profits at firm levels. Renewable energy generates more job than employment in fossil fuels. Technological innovation prevents or reduces emissions/pollutions. International cooperation efforts and innovative funding mechanisms help diffusion of green technologies. Emerging economies also innovate rather than being just recipients of new technologies.

While the planning for green economies drew noteworthy lessons in some parts of Asia, it is clear that concerted actions and investments are needed to simultaneously deal with both the environmental and economic challenges, that also on a priority basis. This workshop is designed to stimulate regional level discussion on opportunities available with low carbon green growth and improve capacity to identify relevant policies, programs and projects for putting them into practice.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- (i) To understand the risks associated with climate change and the opportunities related to low carbon green growth.
- (ii) To exchange innovative policy experiences that provides low carbon energy services in a more efficient way.
- (iii) To identify success factors in low carbon international technology transfer schemes and the main difficulties in eco-innovation faced at national level.
- (iv) To showcase promising financial mechanisms that could accelerate Asia's shift towards low carbon green growth.

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| Date & Time | Agenda | Speakers |
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| Tuesday, 15 September 2009 | | |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | <i>Registration</i> | |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | Opening Remarks and Welcome Statements Soo-Nam Oh, Asian Development Bank Prof. Sudip K. Rakshit, Vice President - Research, Asian Institute of Technology | |
| Session I: | Concepts of Low Carbon Green Growth, Challenges and Current Status in the Asia Pacific Region <i>Chair: Sivanappan Kumar, Asian Institute of Technology</i> | |
| <i>The share of global carbon emissions from the Asia-Pacific is rising rapidly – making it main driver of global climate changes. Climate change and environmental impacts threaten considerable social and economic progress achieved in recent years. Decoupling economic growth from further increase in green house gas emissions need to be a new developmental program for Asia. This session will introduce the basic concepts of and identify specific approaches to achieve low carbon green growth in Asia.</i> | | |
| 09:20 – 09:45 | Low Carbon Green Growth: Overview and Scope of the Workshop | V. Anbumozhi, <i>Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)</i> |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | Economics of Climate Change and Regional Challenges | Stefanos Fotiou, <i>United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Confronting Climate Change and Green Growth: Pathways for Low Carbon Societies in Asia | Ryokichi Hirano <i>Environmental Partnership Council (EPC), Japan</i> |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Priorities for Low Carbon Green Growth and Current Status in the Region | Sangmin Nam, <i>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP)</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Towards Low Carbon Green Growth in Asia: ADB's New Energy Policy | Jong Inn Kim, <i>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i> |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Open Discussion | |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Photo Session & Lunch Break</i> | |
| Session II: | Inside the Low Carbon Green Growth: Innovations in Green Energy Supply <i>Chair: Krishnamurthy Ramanathan, Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)</i> | |

For Green House Gas (GHG) emissions to be reduced in drastic way, Asia has to significantly reduce fossil fuel use. Countries and regions around Asia are reducing their carbon foot print by accelerating investments in renewable energy supply. For example, some authorities have mandated the purchase of renewable energy at a fairly high tariff which will give renewable energy projects higher-than-market returns. This session will address innovations in such planning tools that accelerated the uptake of green energy.

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| 13:30 – 13:55 | Regulators Role in Promoting Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) | Sivanappan Kumar, <i>Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</i> |
| 13:55 – 14:30 | Connecting Renewables to Green Grid: Case of Bio-energy Supply | Natee Sithiprasasana, <i>A.T. Biopower, Thailand</i> |
| 14:30 – 14:55 | New Networks for On and Off Shore Wind Power Supply | Pinij Siripuekpong, <i>Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Thailand</i> |
| 14:55 – 13:20 | Open Discussion | |
| 13:20 – 15:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Streamlined Planning for Decentralized Power Systems: Case of Micro Hydros | Kiran Man Singh, <i>Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP), Nepal</i> |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Maximizing the Co-benefits of Renewable in Low Carbon Zones | Vimut Prasertpunt, <i>Mahidol University, Thailand</i> |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Country Paper Presentation: Low Carbon Green Growth Strategies in Korea | Jaekyu Lim, <i>Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI), Korea</i> |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Open Discussion | |
| 18:00 – | <i>Reception</i> | |

Wednesday, 16 September 2009

Session III: Demand Side Energy Efficiency Solutions: A Low Hanging Fruit for Low Carbon Green Growth
Chair: Sangmin Nam: ESCAP

Demand side energy management is a good example of a no-regret strategy for a low carbon economy. Improving energy efficiency implies using less energy to achieve the same amount of production and services. This session provides insight into energy efficiency approaches that can help to achieve near term goal of reducing GHG emissions while adding to bottom line profits.

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| 09:00 – 09:25 | Energy Efficiency Solutions for Low Carbon Green Growth | V.Anbumozhi, <i>Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)</i> |
| 09:25 – 09:50 | Strategies to Overcome Barriers to the Adoption of Clean Technologies in Industry | Brahmanand Mohanty, <i>Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</i> |
| 09:50 – 10:25 | Open Discussion | |
| 10:25 – 10:45 | Adapting Environmental Management | Akira Ogihara, <i>Institute for</i> |

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| | Systems and Standards for Energy Efficiency Improvement | <i>Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Sustainable Energy Financing: Overcoming the First-Cost Barrier to Energy Demand Management | Brahmanand Mohanty, <i>Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Carbon Labeling Programs and Co-benefits of Eco-Efficiency Improvement | Punjaborn Weschayanwivat, <i>Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)</i> |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | Open Discussion | |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | <i>Lunch Break</i> | |
| Session IV: <i>Managing the Technology for Low Carbon Green Growth</i> <i>Chair: Stefanos Fotiou, United Nations Environment Programme</i> | | |
| <i>Wider use of innovative technologies to adapt to and prevent climate change can form an important part of low carbon green growth strategy. Although technology transfer occurs at different levels, appropriation, creating correct market conditions and enabling policies are needed to flourish low carbon technology transfer. This session will provide insights into how the enhanced transfer of low carbon technologies is being achieved during the transition towards low carbon green economies.</i> | | |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Technology Needs Assessment in the Context of Low Carbon Green Growth | Krishnamurthy Ramanathan, <i>Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)</i> |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Enabling Conditions for Technology Acquisitions and Absorption: Case of Clean coal technologies | Hoang-Luong Pham, <i>Hanoi University of Technology, Viet Nam</i> |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | National Innovation Systems for Promoting Green Technology Transfer | Krishnamurthy Ramanathan, <i>Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)</i> |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | Public–Private Partnerships in International Technology Transfer | Shinya Okuda, <i>Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren)</i> |
| 16:15 – 17:00 | Country Paper Presentations: Low Carbon Green Growth Strategies in Central Asia | Irina Goryunova, <i>Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)</i> |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Open Discussion | |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | <i>Logistics for the field visit</i> | |

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| <i>Thursday, 17 September 2009</i> |
| Session V: <i>Field Visits</i> |
| <i>In Thailand, high importance is attached to enterprise competitiveness and energy efficiency. Many public sector programs are also targeted to improve renewable energy portfolio of energy service providers. Field visits and on-site discussions will be arranged to understand</i> |

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| <i>the key success factors of such approaches.</i> | | |
| 09:00 – 12:00 | AM: Field Visit to Energy Efficiency Improvement Project | Siam City Cement |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <i>Lunch Break</i> | |
| 13:00 – 16:00 | PM: Field Visit to Energy project where RPS is in Practice | Biogas plant |

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| <i>Friday, 18 September 2009</i> | | |
| Session VI: Resources Mobilization for Low Carbon Green Growth <i>Chair; Anthony Michael Zoala, Club Mekong Co.Ltd</i> | | |
| <i>Perhaps the most common obstacle to the technology transfer is the lack of funding. Because renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements offers cost benefits in the long term rather than the short term, low carbon approaches are often bypassed in favor of more carbon intensive programs. In response to this situation, a creative suit of financial arrangements and tools are designed to generate capital for low carbon investment. This session exemplifies such programs, partnerships and international practices.</i> | | |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Tapping the Potentials of Carbon Markets | Yasuo Tanaka, Japan Bank for International Cooperation Agency (JBIC) |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Micro-Credit Programs for Low Carbon Societies: Now and the Future | Dipal Barua, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Bilateral Technical Cooperation Programs for Low Carbon Green Growth | Togo Uchida, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Development Assistance for Low Carbon Asia | Isabelle Vincent, French Development Agency (AFD) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Implication of Carbon Tax on Climate Friendly Technologies and Financial Resources | Ram Shreshtha, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Open Discussion | |
| Session VII: Group Discussions | | |
| <i>Despite widespread experimentation and rhetorical endorsement, the actual implementation of Low Carbon Green Growth pathways such as renewable energy supply and energy efficiency improvements are confined to few pioneering actions. These initiatives have also not been immune from the effects of economic crisis: a tight credit market has limited the range of climate friendly investments that governments can realistically pursue. At a moment when momentum has been building for Global Green New Deal (GGND), it is unclear how Asia-Pacific can engage more actively. The group discussions will aim to respond to this call by exploring practical tools countries can use to catalyze their economies. Those policy tools have concrete objectives: generation of green jobs, national policies for energy conservation, promulgating energy efficiency standards, enhanced financing for eco-solutions, and more climate friendly operation of transport & agriculture sectors. Throughout the discussion, attention will be given to identify barriers to collaborative framework and identify strategies that foster inter-sectoral cooperation within the countries and those that generate synergies between regional and international actions.</i> | | |

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| 11:15 – 12:30 | Break out Group Discussions | |
| | Group 1: What steps could be taken to strengthen the knowledge base on Low Carbon Green Growth? | Facilitators: AIT et al |
| | Group 2: What are the critical issues for the developing countries in relation to low carbon technology transfer? | Facilitators: APCTT et al |
| | Group 3: How the role of markets could be enhanced to support the transition towards Low Carbon Green Growth? | Facilitators: ESCAP et al |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch Break</i> | |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | Breakout Group Discussions (Contd) | |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Group Presentations | |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Open Discussion | |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | |
| Session VIII: <i>Wrap-Up Panel Discussion</i> | | |
| 16:00 – 16:55 | <p>Designing the Asian Landscape for Low Carbon Green Growth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges in valuing and underwriting Low Carbon Green Growth paradigm shift? • How could threats of global financial crisis be transformed into opportunities for accelerating investment in green energy? • How can the private sector turn energy efficiency into a marketing principle for greening their products and services? • Why is fostering regional cooperation vital for Low Carbon Green Growth? | |
| 16:55 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks | |