

## **Thematic Discussion: Addressing inter-linkages between climate change and sustainable development**

**4 May 2006 Plenary 3pm-6pm**

### **Comments from Australia**

Pleased to hear comments from others of the importance of integration between environment, energy, finance and planning and also the important role that the private sector can play in taking action on climate change.

It is Australia's view that climate change cannot be effectively dealt with in isolation – responses should integrate energy, clean development, climate and other key policy considerations and reflect different national circumstances.

In developing and implementing its approach to climate change the Australian Government takes a whole-of-government approach to ensure an integrated approach is taken and works in partnership with industry, all spheres of Government and the community to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for the consequences of climate change.

We have learnt that Partnerships involving governments, research and industry are crucial if we are to successfully deal with the challenge of climate change – success comes particularly when industry leads in partnership with government.

An example of a new partnership developed in Australia is COAL21 – a partnership between coal producers, unions, electricity generators, research and government. Coal21 is an industry conceived initiative being led by key industry players.

In Australia, coal fuels over 80% of our electricity generation. COAL21's purpose is to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions from the use of coal in electricity generation in Australia. It is a collaborative, consensus-building program which will identify key technologies needed to reduce emissions from expanding coal use in Australia.

A key element of the partnership is the financing mechanism – a voluntary coal production-based levy of approximately 20 cents/tonne aimed at raising an amount in the order of \$200-300 million over a five year period. This fund will complement the Australian Government \$500 million Low Emission Technology Demonstration fund and will help drive the research, development and deployment of new low emission technologies with significant long term abatement potential.

Australia's relatively small economy means that international collaboration and engagement also provides an important means for accessing new technology, promoting Australian innovation and influencing the development and acceptance of new technologies to meet Australia's needs.

Australia has played a key role in the development of an important new contribution to the international effort to address climate change, the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate. The Partnership involves key countries in our

region (the United States, China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea) to develop, deploy and transfer the cleaner, more efficient technologies that the world will need to make the required deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions.

What makes this Partnership different from others is that it seeks to address climate change, air pollution, energy security and sustainable development in an integrated manner and fully engages business in developing and implementing solutions.

It uses an innovative approach of government/industry Task Forces to develop sustainable solutions to our shared challenges through bottom-up practical action. This recognises that harnessing the power of our private sectors, our research communities and our governments is the most effective way to drive sustainable development outcomes across Partners' economies. The Partnership will bring together key experts and leaders focussing on these issues from the public, private and research areas of our economies. It will also enable partners to share experiences on related issues, for example, on workplace safety and technologies that help ensure the health and well-being of our peoples.

In conclusion - government/business partnerships and collaboration provide an important means for accessing new technology and innovation, and ensuring the integration of energy, clean development, climate and other key policy considerations.