

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FOR EACH SESSION

Note: The session key points were provided by the moderators of each session. The views and opinions reflected at and collected from the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change do not represent the positions of the Organizers.

ICCC2009 Conference Day 1: Wednesday, 7 October 2009

Day 1 First Plenary Session: The New Business Climate

Moderator: Bruce Hicks

1. Mr. Edward Yau: The Hong Kong government is committed to a low carbon economy. Legislative changes, i.e. building energy efficiency. There are new business opportunities -- for example in service based economy.
2. Professor Yanhua Liu: Restated Green Government Policy
There are Opportunities in
 - a. Energy Efficiency
 - b. Renewable supply (goal of 15% by 2020)
 - c. Circular economy/green economy/low carbon economyNo to protectionist measures. [Border adjustments are considered protectionist.]
Need to improve measurement and technology of business
3. Mr. Yue Zhang: There are many opportunities in Hong Kong. Hong Kong should be leading.
4. Mr. Sandy Flockhart: This is the greatest challenge the world is facing. HSBC is working on this internally, externally and with customers.

Day 1 Second Plenary Session Business Opportunities

Moderator: Dr. Steve Howard

1. Low carbon economic revolution is definitely happening;
2. More attention will be paid to performance-based technology and solutions, especially for disruptive technologies;
3. Private-public partnership is crucial to encourage deployment of low carbon technologies.

Day 1 Parallel Session A1: Low Carbon Finance

Moderator: Liam Salter

1. The recession has not been a tier 1 barrier to clean technology investment in China.
2. Capacity and learning is needed on both sides -- investor and project developers. In many ways, normal evolutionary issues associated with new markets apply to low carbon finance. But ongoing evolution won't be fast enough to achieve the intended outcomes.
3. Policy framework will be required particularly to support energy efficiency and built investor confidence in vehicles such as Energy Services Companies (ESCOs).

Day 1 Parallel Session B1: Energy Efficiency

Moderator: Ir. Otto Poon

Recommendations:

1. New technology to drive for improvements on energy efficiency;
2. Legislation to drive for improvement in energy efficiency;
3. Taking externalities to reflect the true cost of fossil fuels;
4. Educate community on energy efficiency and energy conservation.

Day 1 Parallel Session A2: Low Carbon Technologies

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Thomson

1. Education and awareness is a key driver for successful application of low carbon technologies -- at all levels to create regulatory environment, market demand, technology acceptance and much more.
2. Solar power has a big future and costs are tumbling, but low carbon economy requires broad deployment of different technologies, both high and low tech, across all sectors.
3. Many technologies are aimed at moving towards a low carbon lifestyle -- for individuals and cities and corporations. Battery storage is seen as a new and exciting opportunity. Generally low carbon technology is an exciting business opportunity.

Day 1 Parallel Session B2: Green Supply Chains

Moderator: Dr. William Yu

1. We need not only a system in place but real changes in mindset among factory management, a real understanding of the impact of measuring carbon footprint or implementing environmental standards.
2. A new relationship pattern is needed between Brand and Manufacturer, i.e., partnership – understanding each role in greening the supply chain, receiving support and trust from each other. Drop the mentality – it benefits brand's CSR only in environmental standard compliance.
3. Be realistic about the effect of existing climate solutions ranging from energy saving to carbon reduction. More education in order to have more green manufacturer, green management and green staff; green customers to generate demand. More sharing – a platform bringing parties to make sensible business decision.

ICCC2009 Conference Day 2: Thursday, 8 October 2009

Day 2 First Plenary Session: Communicating Science-Based Facts

Moderator: Professor Johnny Chan

1. Many scientists see themselves as objective searchers after the truth and politicians as searchers for facts to support their positions. It is extremely important that scientist are careful how they communicate to the public so that their messages are not taken out of context. Journalists have an important role but are not the sole conduit. Educating the public is essential to change their mindset on what to do about climate change.
2. We do not yet understand the regional impacts of climate change and much more research is necessary to identify such impacts.
3. Global warming in Hong Kong has been suppressed by about 0.5C due to local air pollution. This effect is likely to reverse with a consequent increase in warming in Hong Kong.
4. When scientifically analyzing the global warming problem one must determine the drivers of carbon emissions. One of these is population.
5. The impact of climate change on biodiversity and health, especially for the tropics, is practically unknown, and more research must be carried out.

Day 2 Second Plenary Session: What Will It Take?

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Jackson

1. Climate change is a humanitarian crisis of global significance, with the greatest impacts falling on those least able to afford adaptation.
2. There is a need to move away "disaster-based" policy making given the momentum of change in the climate and the long term effects of issues such as technology lock in.
3. China has a pivotal role to play in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions both as a developer/creator of low carbon technologies and as an exporter of appropriate low Carbon technologies to the developing world.

Day 2 Parallel Session A3: Best Business Practices

Moderator: Dr. Jeanne Ng

1. Investors and financial analysts need to incorporate carbon risk into their assessment as best practice, and later as part of business as usual. Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is an example that

this is beginning, but need to push further to make this best practice as part of business as usual. In turn, this investor practice (CDP) can stimulate best practices within companies being addressed by investors.

2. In order to spread best practice, we need to share best practice. There are an increasing number of organizations formed to facilitate this, e.g. the Climate Change Business Forum (CCBF) (in Hong Kong). It is important for multinational enterprises (MNEs) who have more resources to not only share amongst themselves but also with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) too, which is what CCBF does.
3. For SMEs who have fewer resources, one way to stimulate adoption of best practices is to recognize and reward good practices, e.g. Federation of Hong Kong Industries 1-1-1 Program (one project, one factory, one year program). It is not just about regulation or “sticks”. And they welcome to look to MNEs who have the know-how on best practices and so sharing with CCBF has been a useful collaboration.
4. Once you decide you want to reduce carbon emissions, you need to identify and measure and understand your emissions sources. Using energy efficiency as an example, need to first measure where and how much energy is being used before you identify reduction opportunities and formulate reduction plans.
5. General consensus that both regulations and policy incentives need to be put in place by governments for the changes needed to happen and this will stimulate implementation of good practices where best practice is not necessarily “good practice”. E.g. some energy efficiency certified buildings are not necessarily the most energy-saving ones.
6. People need to change -- individuals need to change transition away from being schizophrenic, i.e. behaving one way at home in another way at work. Our actions both at work and at home should be based on consistent values. But admittedly this will take time and so we need to start today.

Day 2 Parallel Session B3: Human Impacts and Adaptation

Moderator: Sophie Le Clue

1. The need for adaptation is universal and immediate.
2. There is a significant role to play e.g. the principal sectors and many opportunities to be realized.
3. Yet the focus of adaptation discussed was on the challenges and barriers including the need to change mindsets at a fundamental level. We have a long way to go despite the urgency.

Day 2 Parallel Session A4: Business Risks and Adaptation

Moderator: Alexandra Tracy

1. Adaptation is intrinsically linked to mitigation.
2. Wide range of risks: physical, operating, consumer preference, reputational, regulatory, etc.
3. There are also opportunities for new products to help businesses adapt e.g. insurance, and new technology

Day 2 Parallel Session B4: Urban Planning and Adaptation

Moderator: Anne Copeland

1. Key challenges for cities in a warming world: heat island, ventilation, infrastructure (water and waste) human health = vulnerabilities.
2. Focus for adaptation: flexible and resilient urban building design and coastal design, low carbon and pedestrian friendly transport, public participation, building communities where neighbours help each other in times of trouble (e.g. natural disasters, food shortages), and flexible and appropriate government policy and regulations and food provision
3. Ideal city: nature and people centric, retrofit and build new with sustainable design, holistic planning, multiuse localized communities and regulations to support low-carbon cities (e.g. mandate cross-ventilation to reduce air conditioning demand) and adaptation needs.
4. A radical change of mindset is needed to change urban development to be sustainable and to adapt to a carbon-constrained, warmer world.

ICCC2009 Conference Day 3: Friday, 9 October 2009

Day 3 First Plenary Session: Regional Leadership in China

Moderator: Dr. Jie Yu

1. Guangdong province and cities in Hong Kong have started to make strategic plans for low carbon economy and are willing to take strong actions on both low carbon technology manufacturing, and deploy them in the infrastructure construction and urban planning.
2. It's time for Hong Kong and Guangdong original equipment manufacturer (OEM) model to be upgraded to energy efficiency application and carbon labeling. Hong Kong business community particularly should take the lead on this matter in their operations in the Pearl River Delta.
3. As a high income community, Hong Kong has the responsibility to demonstrate a low carbon high-quality lifestyle to inspire the region in China for its future prosperity.

Day 3 Second Plenary Session: Implications of Copenhagen for Hong Kong and PRD

Moderator: Isabel Hilton

1. Hong Kong is in an anomalous situation (with respect to international commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) because it is a well developed economy within a developing country.
2. Policies and agreements should contain market signals to promote direct investment in low carbon business and technology.
3. The distinction between developing and developed countries would not work for international transportation. These industries prefer to be governed as individual sectors by an international body that sets the same requirements for throughout the sector, and raises funds for mitigation and adaptation. It is essential that these funds be hypothecated to ensure that they help reduce emissions and or adapt to a changing climate, particularly in developing countries.
4. Hong Kong should be exercising more leadership on climate change. Currently Hong Kong's electricity sector uses a good mix of fuel sources including coal, natural gas (with approximately half the emissions of coal) and zero-emission nuclear power, and therefore has relatively moderate emissions per unit electricity. To shift this mix further in the direction of natural gas and nuclear power, and thereby significantly reduce emissions per unit electricity, would require significant action on the part of the government. There are also significant opportunities for the financial services sector to lead on this issue.

Day 3 Third Plenary Session: Nations in Action

Moderator: Dr. Gail Kendall

1. China is undertaking a wide range of concrete and quantifiable measures to mitigate against climate change, including a 20% reduction in the energy intensity of its economy in line with the 11th five-year plan, and the overall development of a green economy. More effort is needed on the transfer of technologies and know how from developed countries.
2. Denmark has achieved remarkable success in transforming its national energy infrastructure to one with a significantly lower carbon footprint through new policies (including fossil fuel tax) and proven technologies, resulting in a highly distributed energy supply infrastructure and highly efficient building infrastructure. The transition began in the wake of oil shocks in the 1970s. The transformation has been achieved at an estimated cost of several hundred US dollars per capita per year.
3. There is a significant need for expert advice to business and other organizations on how to carry out projects enabled by new policies and programs so as to achieve widespread uptake, and avoid the valley of death that new technologies can fall into if there is not adequate support. It is particularly true for energy efficiency.
4. Policy measures within the EU are in keeping with their international commitments through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in keeping with their commitment to a 2°450 ppm climate scenario. The EU's commitments include 20% renewable energy and 20% reduction in total emissions by the year 2020. These commitments will be significantly augmented if other high emitting countries participate in the next commitment period (from 2013).

Day 3 Fourth Parallel Session: Expectations for Copenhagen

Moderator: Donald Kanak

1. The hopes and expectations of billions on the planet depend on achieving a climate deal that effectively covers mitigation, adaptation, and technology transfer, and does not undermine economic development and trade;
2. While seeking to achieve those goals, "Copenhagen" should be viewed not as an "endpoint" but as a milestone in a long journey or process; not all will be done in Copenhagen;
3. The key ingredient in moving forward successfully is the right kind of leadership by governments, business, consumers and civil society, including asking how can Hong Kong take a leadership role in setting its own reduction objectives and in helping less developed areas of the mainland develop on a low carbon path.

(One panelist suggested that Hong Kong commit to a 25 % reduction in GHGs)

Day 3 Closing Plenary Session Remarks

Commentator: Chiu-ying Lam

Closing Remarks: Ir. Otto Poon

1. Scientists do not and should not control the world. In fact bacteria have the greatest control over the natural world.
2. We should examine our lifestyles and make the changes necessary to significantly reduce our own carbon footprints. If we don't, we will be doing significant harm to our children and ourselves.
3. Government policies largely reflect the needs and concerns of the people. Unless the people change their mindsets, governments will find it difficult to take action on climate change.
4. Hong Kong should consider two points:
 - a. With China taking strong action to improve energy efficiency there is a challenge to Hong Kong to further improve its energy efficiency.
 - b. Part of the solution to the climate change problem is for the 'rich' world to provide funding to help the developing world develop in a low carbon manner. There will be a great need for intermediaries to help arrange this. This may require some of the skills that Hong Kong has developed acting as an intermediary between the buyers of the 'rich' world and countries which produce textiles and other goods.