



## Role of Business and Technology in Managing Climate Risks

Dr. Brian P. Flannery Major Economies Business Dialogue

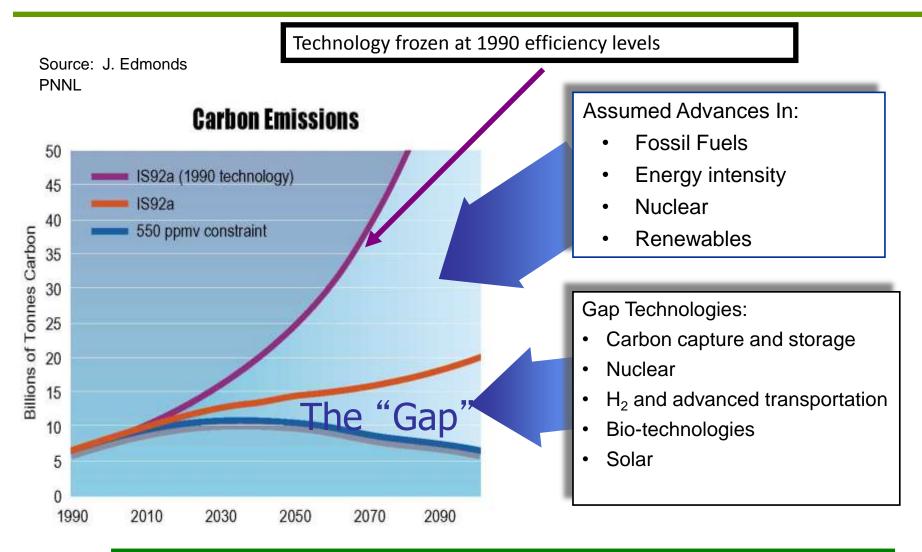
Joint Global Change Research Institute Resources for the Future

#### www.bizmef.org

#### Major Economies Business Forum on Energy Security and Climate Change



#### The Need for Innovative Technology



Mitigation cost estimates depend sensitively on assumptions about the availability, cost, performance and public acceptance of advanced technologies

# **Technology Objectives**

- Promote more widespread use now of existing efficient technology in developed and developing countries
- Encourage earlier retirement of less efficient but still productive technology
- Stimulate research and development to create innovative, affordable, lower GHG technologies sooner

## Twin International Energy Challenges

- Meeting significant increase in energy demand and improving access to energy
- Responding to GHG risks

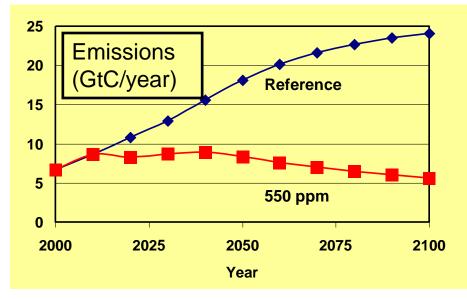
Context (IEA):

2B People without access to commercial energy
\$22T Investment (through 2030) energy supply and distribution
\$45T Investment (through 2050) to manage climate risks

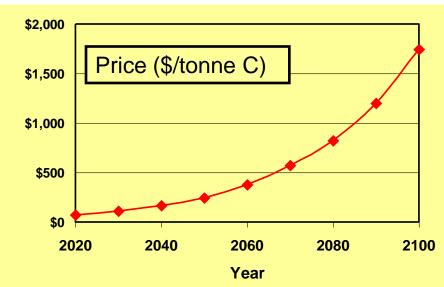
Accelerated development and deployment of advanced technology will be essential to meet aspirations and manage risks at affordable costs

Deployment will require thousands of multi-billion dollar investment projects, many for *currently non-commercial or politically challenged technologies* 

#### Economic Models Explore CO<sub>2</sub> Stabilization

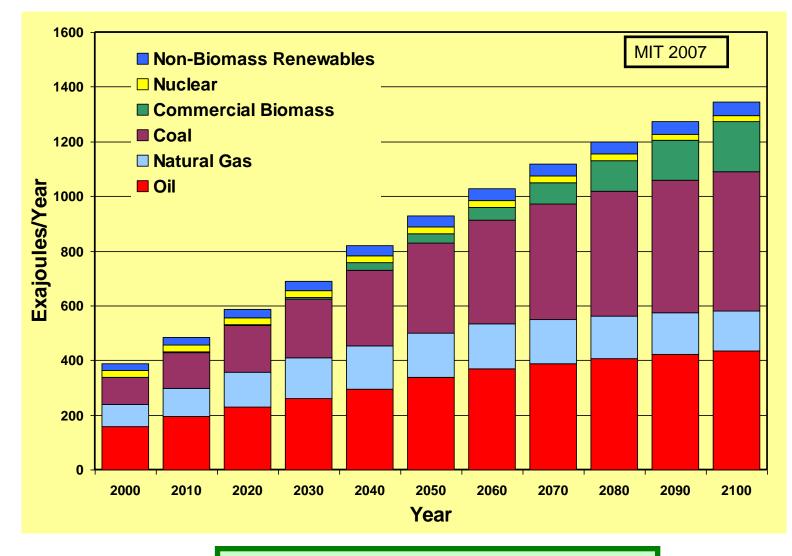


- Reference case key assumptions
  - Population
  - Economic growth
  - Available technology
- Stabilization pathway derived from climate, carbon models



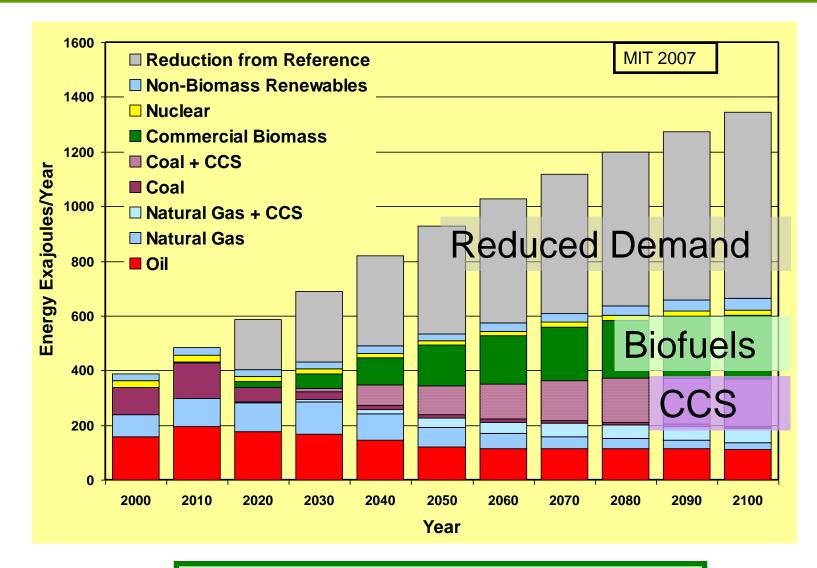
- Carbon price tuned to achieve stabilization pathway
- Economic model:
  - Assumes global carbon tax
  - Computes technology mix and reduction in energy demand

## **Global Primary Energy: Reference**



Scenario without climate/carbon policy

#### MIT 450 Stabilization Scenario



Scenario with economists' "ideal" climate policy

#### Criteria for Technology Evaluation

Especially critical for

developing countries

- Performance
- Cost
- Consumer acceptance
- Safety
- Enabling infrastructure and
  - capacity
- Regulatory compliance
- Environmental and social impacts at large scale

Weakest link paradigm: failure in any dimension will prevent widespread commercialization

## **Investment Decisions and Climate Policy**

- Decisions on major capital expenditures by private firms are based on a riskadjusted expectation of adequate returns
- Many of the technology systems that show promise for mitigation face high costs, limited or no commercial experience and political controversy
- Higher costs, potential for permitting or regulatory delays, public acceptance, and policy and legislative uncertainty add to perceived risks and raise costs
- Inadequate returns force firms to seek alternate approaches, defer decisions, or reject projects
- Effective climate policies will need to work with mainstream project investment and finance processes, and with local and national approval processes
- Business seeks sufficient clarity to plan, propose and implement projects with confidence that they will be commercially viable and proceed in a timely fashion

The key issue in climate finance is not so much raising funds, as confidence in returns from successful projects

#### Private Company Role

- Profitable multi-national companies with strategic emphasis on R&D play an essential role in research, development and global deployment of advanced technologies: resources, products, processes, services
- Research
  - Aimed both at near-term deliverables and long-term breakthroughs
  - Involving internal R&D and collaborations with academia, national programs, other companies
- Commercial opportunities typically derive from a combination of technology, business models and effective management systems (proprietary positions and know how)

Production control	Market strategies
Financial controls	Operations integrity
Energy management	Environmental Compliance
Maintenance	•••

Requires a corporate culture of promoting, utilizing and gaining competitive advantage from technological innovation

## **Government Role**

- Establish stable policy/regulatory environment
- Build societal capacity
  - Education/training especially in science and engineering
  - Fundamental Research
  - Infrastructure
- Create enabling frameworks
  - Governance and rule of law
  - Intellectual Property Rights
  - Investment
  - Technology deployment
  - Technology transfer
- National circumstances affect policy choices: ability of nations, firms, citizens to respond to an economic signal depends on: structure of economy, national circumstances, institutions, ...

## Take Away Messages

- Large-scale investments that diffuse and transfer technology occur continuously using a variety of existing processes
- Climate policies need to leverage mainstream business activities, not create a separate playing field for "climate investments"
- In consulting business on finance, engage with operating companies as well as financial firms (and be aware that many firms self-finance their investments)
- Regulatory and permitting delays add costs and can tie up projects for years, try to expedite the investment process rather than add new complexity
- Private firms make investment decisions based on risk adjusted expectation of returns; without adequate returns they will not invest

Thank You