

Main Points of the Outputs

of the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting 2008.

Climate Change

Main points of the chair's summary are the following.

- The strong political will was expressed to go beyond the agreement at the Heiligendamm Summit which the G8 leaders agreed to seriously consider reducing GHG emissions by at least half by 2050, and reach agreement on shared vision of long-term global at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. It was noted that in order to halve global GHG emissions, developed countries should take the lead in achieving a significant reduction.
- To realize long-term goals, transition to low-carbon societies is necessary. In so doing, there was general recognition of the importance of all the countries to have a clear vision of low-carbon societies.
- The need was expressed for effective mid-term targets which take into account the findings of the IPCC.
- Developed countries must commit to quantified national emission targets, actively adopt measures to reduce GHG emissions, bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. For countries with rapidly increasing GHG emissions, it is especially critical to strive to curb the rate of increase.
- Bottom-up analysis of GHG emissions reduction potentials can be useful tools for setting national reduction targets. In setting the target, environmental integrity should be ensured.
- Economic instruments, such as emissions trading and environment tax, could assist in setting a price for carbon, and constitute a critical set of instruments for the greater reduction of GHG emissions. It was recognized that countries should further explore possible utilization of these economic instruments according to their own national circumstances.
- There was wide support to follow up on the outcome of this meeting as the “Kobe Initiative”, involving on an international research network on low-carbon societies.
- It was recognized that developing countries require support from developed countries, in the field including promotion of co-benefits approach, mainstreaming of adaptation into development policies, finance and capacity building.

- The Kobe Initiative includes:
 - i. International research network on low-carbon societies
 - ii. Analysis on bottom-up sectoral mitigation potentials
 - iii. Promotion of co-benefits among relevant policies
 - iv. Capacity building support for developing countries on inventories and data collection (measurability, reportability, and verifiability [MRV])
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