

## A Common Path

### How does the Paris Agreement promote the goal of a resource-efficient and pollution-free Asia-Pacific?

12:30-14:00, Tuesday, 5 September 2017  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre  
Bangkok, Thailand

#### Background

When it comes to implementing a resource efficient and pollution free Asia-Pacific, climate action has to play a part.

The link between global climate action under the Paris Agreement (PA) and the move towards a pollution-free and resource-efficient Asia-Pacific is undeniable. A recent World Resources Institute (WRI) study examining the alignment between the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) – which detail countries' plans to reduce emissions and enhance their resilience to climate impacts under the PA – and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) found that the climate actions communicated in INDCs “align with at least 154 of the 169 SDG targets” (WRI, 2016).

The degree of alignment is not surprising, the climate action agenda and the sustainable development agenda are deeply intertwined and interdependent. While, it is widely agreed that the impacts of climate change could threaten hard won developmental outcomes, it is also true that well-designed policies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance resilience to climate impacts can provide broader sustainable development benefits, particularly when it comes to resource efficiency and pollution abatement. It is increasingly understood that tackling air pollution and climate change jointly can lead to substantial gains as technologies or policies often serve both objectives.

Climate action such as GHG mitigation, carbon pricing policies and the removal of inefficient subsidies, or enhancing resilience, to name just a few, has numerous co-benefits for the 2030 SD agenda. For example, a recent study (Jacobson et al. 2017) has projected that global climate action aimed at avoiding 1.5 degree Celsius global warming can also eliminate 4-7 million air pollution deaths each year. Climate change adaptation measures help to strengthen communities' resilience to climate impact. Clean cook stove projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) are consistently by improving indoor air quality, lowering pollution from the burning of wood, and enhancing the quality of life in communities, all while decreasing global GHG emissions.

Furthermore, carbon markets as envisioned under Article 6 of the PA provide incentives to increase resource efficiency, and to achieve climate action at the lowest possible cost. Furthermore, carbon markets offer the opportunity to redirect any generated revenue back into the sustainable development agenda.

Countries will need to develop an understanding of how the implementation of the PA can enhance their sustainable development agendas and identify development co-benefits of their climate action as a means for prioritisation.

This side event brings together experts and practitioners in the field of climate action for a discussion on how the implementation of the PA contributes to resource efficiency and pollution reduction and aims to showcase the transitional influence of climate action on the pathway towards a sustainable low carbon society.

## Scope

The objective of this side event is to articulate and demonstrate the interdependence and synergy between taking action on climate change under the PA and moving towards a pollution-free and resource-efficient Asia Pacific. Specifically, this session will consider the following areas:

- **Carbon pricing:** de-incentivise the use of fossil fuels, thereby reducing pollution and enhancing resource efficiency (e.g. EE measures) □ how does it work, what is needed, how do we support it;
- **Co-benefits of mitigation projects (CDM):** sustainable development components of climate change mitigation, SD tool; e.g. CDM transport, cook stoves, renewable energy (replacing fossil fuel), are reducing air pollution; waste treatment, wastewater treatment projects are incentivised, reduce soil and water pollution; Host country can set criteria (LoA);
- **MRV and standard setting:** helps to quantify the reduction of GHG per MWh of produced electricity (GEF for RE projects) or the carbon footprint of products and processes (industries, manufacturing, demand side); develops a country (region) wide baseline of current practices to make it easy to compare to the outcome (projected outcome) of mitigation measures (MRV);

## Programme

<b>12:30 – 13:00 Lunch</b>	
<b>13:00 – 14:00 Panel Discussion: <i>How does the Paris Agreement support the quest for a resource-efficient and pollution-free Asia-Pacific?</i></b> <b>4 panelists will speak for 10 minutes each</b>	
<b>Opening remarks:</b> Synergies between the PA and the SDG agenda, particularly in the areas of pollution reduction and resource efficiency	Session Moderator
<b>Panelists:</b>	
UNFCCC representative – MRV and climate finance	Gajanana Hegde
GIZ representative (German International Cooperation) - Regional transport project	Friedel Sehleier
President of IGES (Institute for Global Environment Strategies, partner of the RCC Bangkok)	<i>Tbc</i>
Pakistan Ministry of Climate Change,	<i>Tbc</i>
<b>Moderated Discussion</b> with questions from the audience	
<b>Concluding remarks and closing statement</b>	Session Moderator and panelists