

**GREENPEACE**



## NGO CHALLENGE TO THE ASIA PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP ON CLEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE

### BACKGROUND

In July 2005 the Governments of the United States, India, China, The Republic of Korea, Australia and Japan announced a new compact (the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate) to promote technology deployment and transfer.

Australia has positioned the Partnership as an alternative to Kyoto. However, China, India, Japan and The Republic of Korea are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and remain committed to advancing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through this global agreement. This is evidenced by the results of the first meeting of the Kyoto Protocol in 2005.

The United States and Australia claim the Asia Pacific Climate Pact will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, however by 2010 Australia and the US energy emissions are projected to increase by around 40% of their 1990 levels. Voluntary agreements have been tried before and have failed to affect significant change.

Without targets, timetables nor market based incentives to encourage the deployment of already developed clean energy technologies the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate is an empty and meaningless shell that will not help us avoid dangerous climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by all countries in the Asia Pacific Pact, except for the United States and Australia. The Kyoto Protocol includes effective mechanisms to drive the transfer of technology by establishing greenhouse pollution reduction targets, creating emissions trading and encouraging developed countries to undertake projects in developing countries (through the Clean Development Mechanism). The Kyoto Protocol creates a market, and hence an incentive based system to encourage technology transfer. The Asia Pacific Pact does not have any of these elements.

## **A GENUINE PACT FOR GENUINE PROGRESS**

In the lead-up to the inaugural meeting of the Asia Pacific Climate Pact in January 2006 environment groups representing the people of the United States of America, India, China, the Republic of Korea, Australia and Japan call on all members of the Asia Pacific Pact to ensure:

- All countries represented within the Pact actively participate in post 2012 negotiations within the Kyoto Protocol to meet positive environmental outcomes that include deeper targets for the reduction in greenhouse pollution from developed countries and decarbonisation contributions from developing countries, coupled with global trading mechanisms.
- The Pact recognises the Kyoto Protocol as the genuine comprehensive, multilateral framework for action on climate change and ensures that additional agreements complement the Protocol.
- That effective mechanisms to drive the adoption of technology are at the heart of this technology transfer agreement and that it includes measurable goals to rapidly increase the commercialization of clean technology such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- The Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate becomes an initiative that will robustly address climate change: incorporating mechanisms to drive the adoption of technology, developed in an open and transparent manner with the full involvement of stakeholders, not covertly behind closed doors.
- The United States and Australia ratify the Kyoto Protocol and, along with Japan, meet their first commitment period targets.

Environment groups strongly support the adoption of effective mechanisms that assist in the deployment and transfer of technology from developed to developing countries. Financial mechanisms that make renewable energy and energy efficiency in particular more affordable should be a major focus.

We note that there is already a wide range of commercially viable technologies (such as wind power, solar power and sustainable biomass) that can be deployed immediately. These technologies are tested and proven, and simply require incentives for wider deployment. Developed countries that are sincere in their wish to mitigate greenhouse gases and assist in development will focus their efforts on establishing effective mechanisms to transfer these proven technologies. If the final agreement focuses primarily on nuclear and coal technologies, including Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) which is as yet unproven and not commercially available, the Partnership will have failed in its task of finding genuine solutions to the climate crisis.

Although technology development plays a key role in tackling climate change, environment groups believe that this alone will not achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. A multilateral agreement with binding commitments (differentiated to ensure equity/development outcomes) is essential. We also note that there are existing multilateral mechanisms within the Kyoto Protocol that have been designed to effectively support technology transfer (the Clean

Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation) and call upon Kyoto Governments to work within these mechanisms and to focus their efforts on strengthening these mechanisms.

We believe in the principle of common but differentiated responsibility set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We also note that some developing countries are taking a leading role in setting ambitious targets for renewable energy, such as China, which has committed to 15% of its energy being met by renewables by 2020.

Specifically, we urge countries in the Partnership to include the following elements in their final communiqué:

- 1) Targets and timetables for timely absolute reductions of GHGs by the developed countries in order to create the headroom for China, India and the rest of the developing world to grow their economies sustainably;
- 2) Financial mechanisms for transferring funds to China, India and Republic of Korea to fund the incremental costs of adopting a low-emissions path to economic development through renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- 3) Concrete initiatives with funding to deploy a wide range of existing and new clean energy technologies in order to achieve large scale reductions in greenhouse pollution;
- 4) An action plan to overcome five key barriers to technology transfer:
  - Technology needs & needs assessments
  - Technology information
  - Enabling environments
  - Capacity building
  - Mechanisms for technology transfer

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