



28 August, 2007

Dear Prime Minister/President,

We are pleased that, for the first time, climate change will be included in discussions at the fourteenth Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Sydney, Australia next month. The urgency for leadership on climate change is becoming clearer every day.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 2007 reports make it clear that the scale and urgency of the challenge is greater than we had thought, and feared. The impacts of climate change are already being felt, particularly in the poorest countries of the world - those with least capacity to adapt and least responsibility to mitigate. The IPCC's reports also make it clear that our "[M]itigation efforts over the next two to three decades will have a large impact on opportunities to achieve lower stabilization levels", and whilst it is still possible to keep warming below 2°C, the IPCC indicates that global emissions must peak by 2015 at the latest, and reduce from 1990 levels by 50-85% by 2050.

In the face of a growing gap between the scale and urgency of the problem, and the political commitments to reduce emissions, leadership from the APEC countries is essential.

To avoid dangerous climate change it is clear that the global average temperature increase above pre industrial temperatures must remain as far below 2°C as possible. Acknowledging the findings of the IPCC, the G-8 countries issued a statement in June pledging "strong and early action" to combat climate change, agreeing to seriously consider a global emissions goal to halve emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, and affirming the UN climate process as the appropriate forum for the negotiation of a new international agreement. We urge APEC Leaders to acknowledge the imperative to keep temperatures below the 2°C limit, commit to measures that will accomplish that goal and work toward successful negotiations within the United Nations framework.

To avoid dangerous climate change, a post-2012 agreement must be built using the architecture of the Kyoto Protocol: absolute emission reduction targets for developed countries, and expanded mechanisms that facilitate contributions from developing countries, and mechanisms for sufficient and consistent adaptation funds to least developed countries and small island developing states. A "Pledge and Review" system incorporating aspirational targets and non mandatory commitments will be a backward step, and will not avert climate disaster.

Earlier this month the APEC Finance Ministers issued a first-of-its kind statement acknowledging that "[C]limate change is one of the major international challenges with implications for both the environment and global economy" and recognized future obligations towards "developing and linking market-based economic policy responses to these challenges." Finance Ministers are to be commended for addressing climate change and affirming their role in facilitating solutions, yet we expect the Leaders summit to produce a far more specific and ambitious goal that reflects the seriousness and urgency indicated by the science of climate change. Specifically:

Climate change

- US and Australia to ratify Kyoto, thereby demonstrating their commitment to a global solution to climate change.
- Commit to avoiding dangerous climate change by ensuring that the global average temperature increase is kept well below a 2°C increase from pre industrial temperatures.
- Commit to an emissions pathway consistent with 2°C, that peaks global emissions by 2015 at the latest and reduces global GHGs by 50% to 85% by 2050, setting 1990 as the base year.
- Agree that industrialized countries, including those in APEC, commit to binding targets to reduce their emissions by at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020.

- Agree that, based on the principles of common but differentiated commitments, developing countries, particularly the rapidly developing, need to further decarbonize their development. The international community needs to develop new instruments and shift investment frameworks to support this.
- Acknowledge that Kyoto's carbon markets have made an important contribution to pricing carbon and facilitating developing country contributions, and should be expanded and strengthened as part of a Kyoto-based post-2012 agreement to help deliver the necessary emissions reductions and shift investments into sustainable development.
- Call for expanded adaptation mechanisms, involving assistance and compensation funded by industrialized countries, to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- Agree to launch fully-fledged post-2012 negotiations at the UN climate COPMOP in Bali 2007, with an end date of 2009 at the latest.

Energy and Technology

- The UN post-2012 agreement must include new and far more ambitious technology cooperation to deliver significant efficiency gains and accelerated deployment of renewables. Coupled with new systems to generate technology transfer and finance, this is an essential and achievable part of the post-2012 regime. As of yet, industrialized countries have not adequately delivered on their commitments to transfer technology. Voluntary approaches to target setting and technology transfer have not proven adequate for this task, enforceable mechanisms are required.
- Industrialized APEC countries must commit to reducing their primary energy consumption and put in place the necessary policies and measures. Developing countries can also realize large “no lose” efficiency potentials in their economies. China and the EU have already committed to mandated efficiency targets: other countries need to follow this lead. All need to be more ambitious and include new positive incentives for greater actions.
- Renewables could provide as much as 35% of the world's energy needs by 2030*. APEC countries should commit to taking the lead in realizing this potential by substantially increasing their shares of primary energy from sustainable renewables and laying down timetables and policies to achieve this.
- APEC countries must acknowledge that nuclear, with its weapons proliferation and waste risks, is not a sustainable energy source.
- APEC countries should commit to a phase out of public financing for fossil fuel operations and oil aid and must ensure that International Financial Institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, become leaders in investing in the energy future, based on renewable energies and energy efficiency.

This year's APEC meeting affords the opportunity to translate the increased political momentum around climate change into joint action. If there is to be no gap between Kyoto commitment periods and the global carbon market is to continue to thrive, formal negotiations of the post-2012 climate regime must be launched in Bali in December 2007. This negotiation must strengthen and broaden Kyoto and achieve more ambitious reduction targets, broaden participation, address directly the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable countries and reduce emissions from deforestation. The APEC work program must facilitate these aims so that the post-2012 UN and Kyoto framework can be agreed by 2009 at the latest.

We look forward to working with you on this urgent agenda. There is no time to waste. The science is clear. The time to act is now.

Yours sincerely,

Julie-Anne Richards,
Executive Officer, Climate Action Network Australia
on behalf of Climate Action Network International

* *Energy [R]evolution: A Sustainable World Energy Outlook, 2007, Greenpeace International and EREC*