
Asia-Pacific Partnership On Clean Development And Climate

The United States, China, India, Japan, South Korea and Australia have recently agreed to form the Asia-Pacific Partnership for clean development and a clean climate.

Bringing together key developing and developed countries in the region, the partnership also addresses the challenges of climate change, energy security and air pollution, while also striving to encourage economic development and reduce poverty.

The participating countries have stated that the partnership is a significant step forward as it establishes a new path for global agreements

to emerge that are based on clean technology development and deployment. These factors are effective and comprehensive in addressing climate change.

Australia contributes only 1.4% to world emissions, but the countries involved in the partnership collectively produce or take approximately half of the world's greenhouse emissions, population and energy consumption. The partnership will also consider ways to include other like-minded and interested countries.

The partnership is consistent with efforts under the United Nations Framework Convention on

climate change and will complement, but not replace, the Kyoto Protocol.

The founding countries released a vision statement for the partnership at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Vientiane, Laos, stating they will work together to develop, deploy and transfer existing and emerging clean technology. The countries would also meet their increased energy needs, and explore ways to reduce the intensity of greenhouse emissions that were driven by the economy, by building human and institutional capacities to strengthen cooperative efforts, and by seeking ways to engage the private sector. ■