



24TH ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

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**STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE AND
COOPERATIVE SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

**“Addressing Climate Change: Moving Towards
COP16”**

by

**Dr Hartmut Grewe
Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation
Berlin/Germany**

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Addressing Climate Change: Moving Towards COP16

Contribution for Plenary Session 5
The 24th Asia-Pacific Roundtable
Sheraton Imperial, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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Dr. Hartmut Grewe
Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Berlin/Germany

A Three-Level Strategy

Proposed by German Advisory Council on Global Change
(WBGU) in April 2010

- A. Revitalising multilateral climate policy
(UNFCCC-process)
- B. Strengthening Europe's credibility through
good practice
- C. Encouraging sub-global alliances of climate
pioneers

A. Revitalising multilateral climate diplomacy

- Replace the consensus principle - which impedes the decision-making process – with a majority-based system of decision-making
- Safeguard the key successes achieved in the UNFCCC-process such as agreements on adaptation and provide additional funds for implementation
- EU should propose to cut its own greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2020 from the 1990 baseline; Germany already has committed itself to a 40% reduction goal !!
- Fostering a worldwide debate at highest political level and within European civil society on how to achieve the 2 degree guard rail affirmed in the Copenhagen Accord

B. Strengthening Europe's credibility through good practice

- EU should modify its 20-20-20 agenda by committing to a 30%-reduction of green house gas emissions
- EU should adopt a Europe-wide system of feed-in payments for renewable energies using optimal locations for each RE
- EU should implement a high-tech energy strategy, demonstrating that economic efficiency and climate protection are by no means mutually exclusive
- EU should support initiatives launched by cities and municipalities in climate alliances along with engagement by the business community and civil society organisations

C. Encouraging sub-global alliances of climate pioneers

- Europe can help to break the US-China deadlock in climate issues by exploring the option of new alliances with other key countries in the world (forming a multinational pilot coalition)
- Exploring thematic areas such as:
forest conservation; infrastructural development; expansion of EU emissions trading; expansion of renewables; improving energy efficiency; adaptation
- EU should encourage joint action in these areas via education, research and technological cooperation with selected countries, e.g. an alliance with key forest countries

Climate Change in South East Asia

Will ASEAN usher in a regional climate policy?

- The nation-states of South East Asia must take strong measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which produce adverse climate effects and to adapt to the consequences of climate change. ASEAN has taken a lead in formulating a common regional climate policy.
- The April 2010 Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam made public „ASEAN’s Leaders’ Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change“
- Climate policy, however, will remain a second-rank issue for ASEAN, being dominated by the commitment to building a Political and Economic Union
- Member-states are far too heterogenous in substance and interests as to allow for an effective management of climate protection measures
- ASEAN serves its members as a multinational platform to deliver the message of „common, but differing responsibilities“ in the international climate dialogue, specifically addressed to Western industrial nations
- Evolution of a regional climate policy in South East Asia depends on progress in international climate negotiations (within UNFCCC-process)

Example: Forest Protection in SE-Asia

REDD-Initiative

- REDD means „reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries“
- Since COP 13 in Bali the protection of tropical rain forests is on the agenda of international climate talks and negotiations
- Apart from mitigation efforts in the energy sector by industrial nations, a decisive role is attributed to developing countries holding vast forest reserves which are endangered by local, in part illegal, economic activities, such as logging, palm-oil production, agricultural uses
- Of concern are Amazon-Basin in Latin America, Congo-Basin in Africa, rain forests in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand other other SE-Asian countries
- International financing of protection efforts is indispensable but risky: receiver countries are ill prepared to use these funds properly and - without effective financial control and monitoring of results - suspicion from donor countries remains about possible diversion of funds for private use by irresponsible elites and local criminals