

Summary

The IPCC Outreach Event on AR4 WG III was held at the Keidanren Hall in Otemachi, Tokyo on 6 March 2008, hosted by the Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation). In its opening address, Mr. Hiroyuki Ino, Chair of the Keidanren Global Environment Working Group, said that the Outreach event was extremely significant in terms of establishing a chiefly academic dialogue between industry and those involved in climate change issues, and that he hoped that this would provide the catalyst for closer dialogue between industry and IPCC. In his remarks to participants, Mr. Toru Ishida, Director General of the Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, noted that the Ministry had recently announced the Cool Earth Energy Innovative Technology Plan which he believed would stimulate the development of technology to halve greenhouse gases. He said that he also believed that the results produced from the Outreach event would provide useful input in the process of preparing AR5.

The following are brief descriptions of each of the five sessions that took place in this workshop.

In Session I, Ms. Rutu Dave, Scientific Officer, TSU, IPCC WGIII provided an overview of Working Group III and the role of industry under the theme of alleviating climate change and told the audience that AR4 had benefited from more active input from industry and had wound up on a better note than AR3.

Session II was a discussion on key findings of the WG III report and its impacts on policies, instruments and co-operative agreements, chaired by Mr. Taishi Sugiyama, Lead Author IPCC, and Senior Researcher of CRIEPI.

Ms. Dave began with a report on the key findings of the WG III, noting that answers could be found to the climate change problem and that it could be alleviated by reducing greenhouse gasses at lower costs if strong social, economic, scientific and technological polices were put in place.

She was followed by Professor Charles Kolstad of University of California, Santa Barbara on the topic of Policies, Instrument and Co-operative Agreements who pointed out the practicality of establishing key criteria for policy assessment and the participation of those countries that produce the most global greenhouse gas emissions in making global decisions.

In response, Professor Mitsutsune Yamaguchi of the University of Tokyo said that he believed that the AR4 was, in the final analysis, extremely well balanced and that readers should be able to gain an overall understanding and put the report to good use.

In the comment and Q&A by Keidanren related company, Mr. Masayuki Sasanouchi, Chair of the Keidanren Working Group on Global Environmental Strategies and Senior General Manager of Toyota Motor Corporation made a statement. He said that it was important for companies to make sure that vitality is not lost in technological development while maintaining a balance between environmental issues and economics/industries, and that he would like to see companies like these involved in the discussion.

In Session III, Mitigation for Cross-Sectoral Perspective and Different Business Sectors Presentations was chaired by Professor Hisashi Ishitani of Keio University.

Professor Michael Grubb of Economics at Cambridge University, United Kingdom, spoke on the contents of Chapter 11, which discussed in cross-sectoral perspective. He said that the projected potential for mitigation of climate change for the seven industry sectors taking into account cost and location had used all information currently available, and although the potential was there for all sectors and locations, the greatest was in the construction industry.

In response, Professor Kenji Yamaji of the University of Tokyo pointed out a number of items that should be noted including the fact that debate in this forum would continue until 2030.

In the subsequent Keidanren company comments and Q&A, Mr. Yoshiharu Tachibana, Fellow, Sustainability Advisor to the Board, Tokyo Electric Power Company, commented that industry should take action after taking note that the long-term projections based on model calculations in the IPCC report had certain limitations.

The next speaker, Professor Diana Ürge-Vorsatz of the Central University of Hungary, Budapest, commented on trends in residential and commercial buildings under Chapter 6, saying that improving energy efficiency was the most important short-term solution.

In reply, Professor Hiroshi Yoshino of Tohoku University pointed to the need to beware of falling back on the base line presumed mitigation potential.

Professor Shuzo Murakami of Keio University, who was also in attendance, commented that he would like to see "Co-benefits" incorporated in the AR5 construction sector since they held the key to energy reduction by the general public.

Session IV, Mitigation for Cross-Sectoral Perspective and Different Business Sectors, was chaired by Mr. Shigetaka Seki, Executive Director, Vinyl Environmental Council.

Professor Suzana Kahn Ribeiro of Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil summarized Chapter 5 Transport and Infrastructure, noting that there was no single option such as biofuel and that the choice should take local conditions into account.

Professor Mr. Yasuhiro Daisho of Waseda University in response pointed to the importance of contributing globally by having Japanese technology and policies utilized throughout the world.

In the Comment by Keidanren Related Company followed by Q&A part of the session, Mr. Michinori Hachiya, Sub-committee Chairman Global Environment, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association Inc., and General Manager, Global Government Affairs Dept.-Environmental and Safety Technologies, Nissan Motor Company, said that the motor vehicle industry was looking to reduce emissions using a comprehensive approach that firstly included fuel consumption improvement technology and also included non-technological methods.

Professor Joyashree Roy of Jadavpur University, India summarized on Chapter 7 Industry, and pointed out that steel, cement and paper pulp were the industries with the biggest potential for mitigating climate change.

In the Comment by Keidanren Related Company Followed by Q&A part of the session, Mr. Junji Ohsawa, Corporate Officer of Oji Paper Co., Ltd. provided a progress report on the targets of the voluntary action plan by the Japan Paper Association.

The subsequent Chapter 4 Energy Supply, Mr. Seppo J.V. Vuori, Research Manager of Nuclear Energy, Technical Research Center of Finland, asked how the use of nuclear power, reusable energy and other energy options could cut greenhouse gas emissions.

In his response, Professor Yoji Uchiyama, of University of Tsukuba pointed out the need to balance global environment problems, energy security and economics in selecting a technology for providing energy.

In his Comment by Keidanren related company followed by Q&A, Mr. Yoshihiro Tachibana said that he hoped that industry would read the report in its entirety, understand its intention and then work towards carving out a new direction based on the appropriate technological development and market management policies.

Session V was led by Ms. Rutu Dave with the chairpersons of Sessions II, III and IV on a discussion panel divided into two parts.

In Part 1, panelists set out their views. Professor Sugiyama, who chaired Session II, expressed the feeling that it was difficult to accurately convey scientific knowledge and the meaning of expressions (such as carbon pricing) to policymakers without misunderstanding. Professor Ishitani, who led Session III, spoke of the importance of selecting the appropriate mitigation option for each industrial sector and the need for the construction sector in particular with its enormous mitigation potential to adopt a superior approach to system and technology-related issues. The chair of Session IV, Mr. Shigetaka Seki, noted that although the problem of interaction between industrial sectors had already been recognized, AR4 was unable to fully debate the issue and, therefore, it must be discussed properly in AR5.

Part 2 comprised a Q&A session with participants. The first speaker said that although the steel and cement industries emit large quantities of carbon dioxide by the very nature of their manufacturing process, he believed that there was no major reduction policies in hand. He asked if the IPCC was considering any realistic processing methods. Mr. Seki replied that, rather than wait for any long-term technological innovation, a sectoral approach would allow national frameworks to be overcome, making it possible to produce extremely large results. Mr. Grubb also replied that technological innovation could produce immense results with cross-sectoral alternative technology. The second speaker asked how the overall problem was being addressed by the IPCC as opposed to those in individual sectors discussed today. In response, Ms. Dave said that today's event had discussed WGIII and that impact on the environment was handled by WGII. Further, she said that the overall subject was being addressed in a synthesis report.

In her closing address, Ms. Dave thanked all those involved on behalf of the IPCC and said that she looked forward to the cooperation of the Japanese government and industry.