Plenary 3: Unbundling Pledges, Actions of INDCs and Measuring Public Perceptions on Mitigation- A Methodological Study: The Case of South Asian Countries

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Talking points

1. As a part of the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation, 165 countries of the world have pledged to reduce their carbon emission as a part of the Paris Agreement of Climate Change.
2. While the total emission of South Asian countries made up for less than 6% of global GHG emission, the average growth rate of emission from this region was no longer less than that of the world’s emission. Average growth rate of GHG emission in South Asia is 3% whereas the global rate is 1% per annum since 1997.
3. Bangladesh submitted its INDC with the unconditional commitment to reduce 5% of its emissions from Business as Usual scenario and further 15% reduction conditional on availability of international assistance, by 2030.
4. Mitigation efforts will be particularly concentrated on the Power, Transport and Industry sectors, since these are likely to be the highest emitting sectors of the country by 2030.
5. Governments policy makers should be aware about the pledges by the government to reduce carbon emission
6. On the energy efficient technologies and/or strategies – study found that level of awareness of energy efficient technologies among government and academic groups are much higher than that of private players and NGOs.
7. Study shows that the top 10 strategies for reducing GHG are: 1) reducing traffic jams, 2) upgrading urban bus services, 3) improving traffic management, 4) energy efficient power production, 5) fuel switching for brick kilns, 6) modernization of power plants (to make them energy efficient), 7) promotion of waste to energy projects in cities, 8) standardizing energy efficient gadgets, 9) Promoting improve cooking stoves in rural areas and 10) energy audits in factories.
8. All the South Asian countries pledged to reduce their GHG emissions over the next decades. The global communities on the other hand, also agreed to provide financial and technical assistance to these economies. An efficiency argument, in this regard, is to find the least costly solution for reducing carbon emissions and for this, reducing GHG emissions in energy-inefficient economies is the best set of options.
9. CPI 2016 suggests that CPI for Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are 26, 40, 36, 29, 32, and 36 respectively. According to TI, any score below 43 (the average value of the index) implies that the countries are likely to be infested with a high degree of corruption in the public sector of these countries.
10. It has been commonly argued that developing countries lack in resources and so energy efficiency can be achieved through investments in such a way that provisioning of public goods can be increased. This includes provisioning for alternative energy, energy switching, investment in urban infrastructure including transportation, energy production, etc.
11. Renewable energy policy is not supportive to the consumers or investor either. IDCOL provided solar system is not performing well due to poor quality.
12. Where India is promoting solar energy why they are pushing coal based power plants in Bangladesh near the Sundarban this is not clear.
13. Development partners should provide assistance for mitigation in these countries to examine their public policies in terms of tax, subsidy and other regulations to create incentives for firms to become energy efficient and thus contribute to reduce GHG emission. They should plan integrated ways and provide fund accordingly.

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