

Australia Joins New Climate Change and Energy Partnership

Media Release

I am pleased to jointly announce the newly-formed Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate with founding members China, India, the Republic of Korea and the United States.

The Partnership is innovative and fresh new initiative for like-minded countries in the region to work together to address challenges of energy security, climate change and air pollution while recognising the fundamental importance of economic development.

Today, Foreign Ministers the five founding partners released a Vision Statement for the Partnership that outlines the core principles and shared vision. Partners will work together to develop, deploy and transfer cleaner, more efficient technology to address energy security, climate change and air pollution issues in practical ways that makes economic sense. Founding Partners represent 44% of global greenhouse emissions, so the group has potential to make a significant impact.

I am also pleased to announce that Australia will host the inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Partnership in my home city of Adelaide. I will be inviting Foreign, Environment and Energy Ministers from the five founding members. Australia's Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell and the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Hon Ian Macfarlane will join me in helping to make the inaugural meeting a success.

The Ministerial meeting will allow Ministers to build on the principles of the Vision Statement through a compact and means for implementation. Discussions are underway on practical elements, including a work plan, with wide range of technology areas being identified for possible collaboration. Ministers also will consider ways to include other interested and like-minded countries.

The Partnership complements a number of existing international and regional discussions in which Australia is playing an active and constructive role. Australia is, and will continue to be, actively involved in forums such the ASEAN Regional Forum, APEC, the International Energy Agency and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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