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**Subject:** Late day climate clips on Asia-Pacific Partnership - 7/28/05

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 Lloyd's List

July 29, 2005

SECTION: Issue #58965; Insight & Opinion; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 645 words

HEADLINE: **The Kyoto bypass**

BODY:

THE news that the US, India, Australia, Japan and China have reached a practical accommodation to co-operate on technology to mitigate climate change sounds a cheerful note in this doleful summer.

It may not have many of the signatories to the Kyoto protocol dancing in the street but it could, in the end, be a good deal more effective than any of the hopeful prescriptions contained in that treaty. It is an interesting gathering of states that have concluded this statement of co-operation, a group that combines advanced technology and aspiration, huge populations, the developed and the rapidly developing.

Their deliberations have been undertaken without publicity and far away from the sort of international circuses with huge political grandstanding of which Kyoto was the latest edition.

It may be non-binding and is certainly shorn of targets, but may well be more effective for all of that.

For all the abuse that is thrown at the US for its refusal to subscribe to the Kyoto document, it is worth considering the technical advances that are taking place in that country to reduce emissions by developing more environmentally friendly systems of power generation and transport.

Those who fling the brickbats at the US rarely give that country credit for the reality of the research being done which is likely in the future to do more for climate change than measures which are more likely to constrain development and harm economic growth.

Worth noting, perhaps, that Australia, although its government has refused to sign the Kyoto document, has actually delivered on many of its targets unlike many more strident adherents.

Technology, rather than politically driven "targets" which rely more on hope than reality, probably promises a good deal more that is practical and "do-able".

An alliance of these countries, which have great needs but also substantial capabilities, could be far more effective than unenforceable economic restrictions, stupid stunts by green activists trying to blockade Australian coal ports or attempting to devise daft schemes for "personal" emissions trading.

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Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited  
The Advertiser

July 29, 2005 Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 480 words

HEADLINE: **RICE TO LEAD SUMMIT IN SA**

BYLINE: BRONWYN HURRELL, POLITICAL REPORTER, CANBERRA

BODY:

THE world's most powerful woman will visit Adelaide in November for "the most significant international meeting ever held" in the city.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will headline ministers from six countries - which total half the world's population and GDP - at the inaugural meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. Details of exactly when and where the meeting will be held have not been released, but the delegation will attract presidential-style security.

The alternative-to-Kyoto environmental pact among Australia, China, Japan, India, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. was officially announced yesterday.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer, in Vientiane, Laos, for the ASEAN summit, said Australia would hold the inaugural ministerial meeting to develop implementation of the environmental pact.

"This is a globally significant meeting about one of the great issues of our time and I am delighted to be hosting it in my home city," he said.

"This will be the most significant international meeting ever held in Adelaide." U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday appointed Dr Rice to the delegation.

"I have directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman to meet with their counterparts this (northern Autumn) to carry forward our new partnership and provide direction for our joint work," President Bush said.

Mr Downer, Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell and Industry, Tourism and Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane, will represent Australia.

"These countries represent well over half the world's population and economic production," Mr Downer said. "And their ministers will tackle the crucial issues of air pollution and global warming while meeting in our wonderful state capital.

"I always draw great satisfaction and pride from hosting foreign dignitaries in Adelaide but this will be the most heavyweight delegation and event that I have been able to attract. The founding partners represent almost half of global population, GDP, energy use and greenhouse emissions, so the group has the potential to make a significant impact."

Australia and the U.S. are the only developed countries to have refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, on the grounds of it not involving all countries and the effect it would have on economies.

The Federal Government says the new partnership will be a more effective measure to cut emissions than the Kyoto but it says it is not an attempt to detract from it.

"The partnership is a bold and innovative 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," Mr Downer said.

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The Australian

July 29, 2005 Friday All-round Country Edition

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 551 words

HEADLINE: **Emissions pact 'fairer than Kyoto'**

SOURCE: MATP

BYLINE: Amanda Hodge, John Kerin

BODY:

AUSTRALIA should stick with trying to reduce coal's greenhouse effect through the new six-country climate pact rather than pursuing expensive renewable energy options, John Howard has said.

The Prime Minister said the Asia Pacific climate deal -- signed yesterday by the US, Australia, China, Japan, India and South Korea -- would be fairer and more effective than the Kyoto Protocol because it allowed Australia to develop and transfer coal-based greenhouse reduction technologies to poor countries.

"I have never seen the logic of Australia unreasonably penalising herself by saying in effect we're going to try to move away from the use of fuels in which Australia has a natural advantage," Mr Howard said.

"We are the largest coal exporter in the world and it is in our interests that we try and find a way of coal being considered in a manner that doesn't add as much as it does now to greenhouse gas emissions."

The new alliance, revealed exclusively by The Australian on Wednesday, was launched yesterday at an ASEAN conference in Vientiane by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and US Deputy Secretary of State Bob Zoellick.

Japan -- which hosted the 1997 Kyoto climate change conference and invested much political capital in the deal to see the industrialised world cut greenhouse emissions by 5per cent by 2012 -- joined the other Asian powers South Korea, China and India in the new agreement.

China and India are also signatories to Kyoto, but as developing nations were not required to set a greenhouse reduction target despite their industrial potential -- a significant factor in the US and Australia's decision not to ratify the agreement.

The countries have not set emission reduction targets in the new deal, but instead will focus on developing low emissions technologies and transferring them from developed to developing countries. Private industry will be given incentives to invest.

A fund will also be established by partner members to help develop technology-based solutions. These include liquified natural gas, civilian nuclear power, hydrothermal power and renewable energy options such as solar power.

But Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane said the focus would be on perfecting "clean coal" technologies such as geosequestration, in which carbons are captured and buried underground.

Mr Macfarlane said it was significant that Japan had decided to join the new technology-based alliance.

"Japan is now spreading its options in terms of its role in global greenhouse reduction," he said.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned world temperatures could rise by 1.4C to 5.8C by 2100.

US president George W Bush said the partnership would aim to address global warming while promoting economic development.

Mr Downer said the pact was not intended to undermine Kyoto but to complement it. "This is not about setting targets ... technology is going to be central to resolving the climate change issue," he said.

"Given time, with this approach countries like China and India will adopt newer and cleaner technologies."

Opposition environment spokesman Anthony Albanese said the pact would deliver nothing new, as countries were already embarking on agreements to share gas-reducing technologies.

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July 29, 2005 Friday All-round Country Edition

SECTION: FEATURES; Leader; Pg. 14

LENGTH: 489 words

HEADLINE: **A regional plan for greenhouse**

SOURCE: MATP

BODY:

JUST as the dithering over Doha spawned a spaghetti soup of regional trade agreements, the collapse of Kyoto, post-2012, has spawned the first regional greenhouse agreement: an Asia-Pacific partnership in clean development and climate including Australia, the US, China, India, Japan and South Korea. While the terms of the vision statement released yesterday are vague, the advantages of this approach over Kyoto, especially for Australia, are crystal clear. For a start, the regional partnership includes the two economies, China and India, that look set to become the industrial engines of the 21st century. Kyoto, essentially a system of mandatory greenhouse emission targets, does not include developing countries and that is why it would be a job-killer for Australia, an industrialised nation set among developing ones. The political reality of Kyoto is that it was a power grab by the nations of old Europe -- unrepentant polluters all -- against the high-growth economies of the Asia-Pacific, especially the US. This campaign has now collapsed.

Another flaw of Kyoto is that it would punish Australia as the world's highest per capita greenhouse source -- an accident of our low population and huge resource sector -- despite the fact we create only 1.4 per cent of global emissions. China, by contrast, is responsible for 14.8 per cent, India for 5.5 per cent. Anyone who stares out of an office window in one of our major cities at a clear blue winter sky can see the lunacy of branding Australia a climate vandal. There are common practices in the developing world -- such as the use of cow dung for fuel in villages, or the 50 million two-stroke engines belching out carbon dioxide -- that are a much better place to start to address climate change. The partnership will do precisely that, along with developing sunrise technologies such as carbon capture and "clean" coal that will allow the new industrial mecca of North and Southeast Asia to burn more of our mineral resources in its factories and power stations without compounding global emissions.

Naturally, the greenhouse hysterics have already started to denounce the partnership as window dressing. But their incessant overreacting -- witness the blockade of Newcastle's coal port by the Rainbow Warrior on Wednesday -- has been more part of the greenhouse problem than the solution. There is no reason to twiddle our thumbs on greenhouse, which scientists say will raise the temperature of the Earth by between 1.4C and 5.8C over the next 100 years. But neither is there any reason to panic. As a report from Allen Consulting, commissioned by the federal Government and released this week, points out, what we need is a process that will allow us to adapt a whole range of our social and economic practices, from what we choose to grow to how we plan for and deal with bushfires. The new Asia-Pacific partnership is another part of the same process.

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July 29, 2005 Friday All-round Country Edition

SECTION: FEATURES; Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 15

LENGTH: 1003 words

## HEADLINE: **Changes in the air post-Kyoto**

SOURCE: MATP

BYLINE: Dennis Shanahan, Political editor

BODY:

Climate change may be real, but that pact is dead

THE Kyoto Protocol is over. Get over it. It doesn't have a future if the US-inspired Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate gets off the ground. The ballast on the issue of global warming and climate change is shifting to the New World -- now including China and India -- and away from the punitive system of limits and targets set by Old Europe for 2008-12.

The shifting of emphasis to the Asia-Pacific region is angering the politicians of the environmental movement, but that shift has been coming for some time and they have preferred to ignore the signs as the Kyoto signatories prepare for their first meeting in Paris later this year. The real world is preparing for a post-Kyoto world of environmental control before the protocol starts.

There are two keys to this post-Kyoto protocol: the first is the involvement of India, China and US; the second is an acceptance within the US administration that global warming is a problem and must be addressed.

The refusal of the US and Australia to sign the Kyoto Protocol, with all of its penalties, targets and emissions trading, has been the core target for criticism by the supporters of Kyoto. Australia, we are told, is an international pariah for not signing and we are placing ourselves against some of our strongest friends internationally, Japan and Britain.

This is the basis for the criticism of moves by the US and Australia to work with India, China and South Korea on the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate using the latest technologies to limit emissions and to spread those technologies to where they are most needed.

Responding to a report in The Australian this week -- disclosing the plans for a regional environmental agreement -- Opposition environmental spokesman Anthony Albanese was quick to the barricades to defend the popular view and ALP policy that we should sign the Kyoto agreement. "The reality is the Kyoto Protocol has come into force and Australia won't have a seat at the table," he says.

The reality is the recent G8 meeting at Gleneagles in Scotland unanimously agreed the "UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the appropriate forum for negotiating future action on climate change" and explicitly acknowledged "those of us who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome its entry into force and will work to make it a success", he says. But even in Albanese's words there are undercurrents hinting at a momentous shift.

The phrase "those of us who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome its entry into force" was a less than subtle hint of some of the deeper problems. And the comments of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, one of Europe's leading proponents of the Kyoto Protocol, were even blunter.

Blair pointed to the futility of the EU meeting emission reduction targets "if we don't have America, China, India taking the action necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, then we won't solve climate change". The British PM did not offer any prospect beyond 2012 for Kyoto-style limits; he was highlighting the problem that the challenge for greenhouse gas emissions is not the signatories to the Kyoto protocol, it is those who aren't and can't be signatories.

At the time US President George W. Bush knew the negotiations for his Asia-Pacific alternative had been under way for months and were close to getting that crucial agreement from China and

India. Europe, able to cash in on environmental credits by closing down antiquated, dangerous and uneconomic industries in the old Eastern bloc countries, has always been comfortable with the Kyoto demands.

But it has not just been the US and Australia that have opposed the European-friendly limits. The developing economies of India, China and others were never going to give up their chance to gain economic parity for the sake of world pollution and were left out of the agreement. Others who did sign, Canada and New Zealand -- facing an embarrassing and potentially costly miscalculation -- may regret rushing in.

Aware of the need not to be seen as recalcitrant, John Howard has pledged that Australia will achieve the greenhouse emission reduction targets set out in the Kyoto pact without being bound by its penalties.

Last week in London, Howard repeated Australia's intention to meet the targets. "Australia will actually meet the targets set for it under the Kyoto Protocol," he told a business breakfast. The PM also foreshadowed the policy of relying on technology to limit greenhouse emissions, which is at the heart of the US plan to encourage cleaner industries in the countries accounting for more than one-third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, rather than allow them to burgeon forth unchecked or to cut economic growth through penalties.

"We therefore think there is more to be gained economically by limiting the environmental negatives from the use of coal and gas and oil with a focus on technology," he says.

While this may be seen as a practical defeat for the green boosters of the Kyoto Protocol, it will alarm those at the other end of the spectrum who don't believe greenhouse gases and global warming are a problem.

While conceding global warming is a problem, Bush and Howard fudge the language and still challenge the root causes of global warming. But they have crossed that dwindling Rubicon as their own reports talk about worsening storms and water shortages. Bush is saying there is a problem and so is Howard. They are merely looking at the problem from a different direction, one that not only suits their philosophies but also their economies.

As Blair suggests, a solution to reducing greenhouse gases that does not include China, India and the US is no solution at all. And the prospect of some of the cleanest and greenest countries in the world, such as Australia and NZ, being expected to pay for the closure of a rusting East German industrial calamity isn't a solution either. It's a con.

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AAP NEWSFEED

July 28, 2005, Thursday 5:33 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 306 words

HEADLINE: **ASIA: Downer welcomes alliance to combat global warming**

BYLINE: By Rob Taylor, South East Asia Correspondent

BODY:

VIENTIANE, LAOS July 28 AAP - Foreign Minister Alexander Downer today said a new six-nation

alliance to combat global warming would be a "fresh new development" for the problem of climate change.

Mr Downer formerly launched the alliance, bringing together Australia, China, India, The United States, Japan and South Korea, at a regional summit in the Laos capital, Vientiane.

He said foreign ministers, energy ministers and environment ministers from the six countries would meet in Adelaide in November for the first time to discuss sharing new technologies which would make a real impact on global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.

The alliance, dubbed the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, would compliment rather than replace the 1999 Kyoto Protocol and would not have binding targets for greenhouse gas reductions, Mr Downer said.

"It is very important to understand that we are not trying to detract from Kyoto," he said.

"Climate change is a serious problem and it needs serious solutions.

"The serious solution first of all involves all countries, not just some countries, and we must ensure that developing and developed countries are all involved addressing these issues.

"In the end, the key to solving these problems is going to be in technology, adopting new technology, cleaner technologies, making those technologies work better."

Australia and the US are the only developed nations outside Kyoto, which both have criticised because it does not include developing nations.

The Kyoto Protocol calls on countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

Mr Downer said he had discussed the new alliance with South East Asian nations as the ASEAN Summit in Laos and expected several would join the new group in the future.

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AAP NEWSFEED

July 28, 2005, Thursday 4:24 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 398 words

HEADLINE: **Fed: Australia expects others to join greenhouse pact**

DATELINE: CANBERRA, July 28

BODY:

Australia expects other countries to join the greenhouse emissions pact it has signed with the United States, Japan, China, India and South Korea.

The pact, which has been developed in secret over several months, was unveiled at simultaneous media conferences in Australia and Laos today.

The nations have agreed to combat global warming by developing technology to cut greenhouse



gas emissions.

Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell said the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate showed optimism about the future in addressing climate change.

"We believe as a government that we can address climate change if we work in practical partnerships," Senator Campbell told reporters.

"The countries we have represented here today that have worked for so long to build this new partnership and will begin work today on the practical implementation of it can together make the difference the world needs on climate change.

"We will welcome in the future new partners to this partnership."

Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane said the partnership had been formed against the stark reality that Kyoto would not deliver the greenhouse gas reductions it set out to.

He said the key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions was in developing new technologies.

"If we look at the countries that ... represent not only half the population and economy, but also represent half of the energy consumption in the world, you've seen technologies adopted in those countries, particularly in the area of energy production and steel production, that will exceed the Kyoto reductions by 50 per cent and that is the reality of where we are now," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The future of greenhouse gas reduction lies in the introduction of new technologies."

He said those technologies were particularly in the area of clean coal.

"So we are going to see an economic development process running hand in hand with an energy security and environmental responsibility policy through this partnership," Mr Macfarlane said.

"We're going to see policy integration, cooperation and collaboration and we're going to see the new technologies that we know are already being developed, make the real impact on greenhouse gas emissions that we need.

"We will see affordable, reliable and cleaner energy become part of the modern world and that is an important part of this partnership."

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Agence France Presse -- English

July 28, 2005 Thursday 3:43 PM GMT

LENGTH: 167 words

HEADLINE: **Greenpeace rejects six-nation pact on climate change**

DATELINE: AMSTERDAM July 28

BODY:

Environmental organisation Greenpeace rejected the new pact announced Thursday between the United States and five Asia-Pacific nations aimed at cutting greenhouse gases in the future, calling it "absurd".

"This pact looks like yet another attempt by the US and Australia to derail (future international climate change) negotiations and condemn future generations to a world ravaged by climate change," Greenpeace said in a statement.

"The pact, rather than saving the climate, is nothing more than a trade agreement in energy technologies between the countries in question," it added.

In a "vision statement" issued on the sidelines of a regional forum in Laos, the United States, Australia, India, China, South Korea and Japan announced their initiative on a non-binding compact to reduce emissions.

The new initiative does not have enforcement standards or a specific timeframe for signatories to cut emissions, unlike the 1997 Kyoto Protocol which the United States and Australia have refused to ratify.