

U.S. Country Statement at APP PIC Meeting
Gold Coast, Australia 5/19/09

- The United States would like to join our colleagues in thanking our Australian hosts for selecting such a hospitable setting to discuss some very important topics over the next two days and extend our greetings to our friends and colleagues from our partner countries.
- Since we last met in Vancouver, our work has continued at a brisk pace, and we've achieved much.
- For example, we launched 8 projects in China for a total of \$6.7 million to work on such varied themes as building efficiency, combined heat and power, demand-side management (or DSM), and carbon capture and storage guidelines. This funding is provided on a cost-share basis, so while the U.S. State Department's contribution is \$6.7 million, these projects' total value reaches more than \$13 million.
- Also since Vancouver, we have successfully completed quite a number of the U.S.-led projects begun in 2006. For instance:
 - Work carried out by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory resulted in a detailed and comprehensive solar radiation map of Rajasthan, India. This map will be used to identify optimal configuration for solar power systems there.
 - Another now-complete project resulted in resources now freely available at the International Energy Agency's website that identify opportunities to mitigate and reduce methane emissions in the natural gas and petroleum sectors. As you all know, although methane only lasts roughly a decade in the atmosphere, it has a greenhouse effect 20 times that of CO₂. This helps underscore the importance of the work we are doing here within the APP.

- The United States has committed \$65 million to the APP, inclusive of the activities I have just addressed.
- By far our largest area of focus thus far has been the Buildings and Appliances Task Force, with 10 U.S.-led projects ranging from development of standards and labeling in India to implementation of building energy codes in China.
- We have also had a national election since our last meeting, with some fairly important implications on the climate change front. Our new President, Barack Obama, has quickly set about putting together a strong U.S. Government climate team.
- Hillary Clinton was appointed the Secretary of State, and she rapidly announced Todd Stern as the United States' Special Envoy for Climate Change, with Jonathan Pershing his Deputy. Special Envoy Stern accompanied Secretary Clinton on her first trip as Secretary – a trip that took her to the Asia-Pacific region. It was a trip in which the Secretary emphasized that facing the climate change challenge is at the top of the U.S. agenda.
- Throughout the U.S. Government individuals with strong expertise have been placed in key positions: Nobel laureate, Dr. Stephen Chu, was named our Energy Secretary, for instance, and Carol Browner, former EPA Administrator, was made Energy Coordinator at the White House. Also, John Holdren, long term expert on energy and climate change, is now serving as the President's Science Advisor.
- Even in the face of economic crisis our commitment to engaging climate change remains unfazed, with fully \$80 billion in economic stimulus funds dedicated to clean energy development.

- At the same time, our Congress is preparing a Bill that stands to be the first climate change legislation to become U.S. law. The final draft of the Waxman-Markey bill was released late last Friday, and will now be debated within the Energy and Commerce committee.
- While we have already begun gearing up to engage on climate change, our full team is still forming. A number of important positions within the U.S. Government remain to be filled – at the State Department, at the Department of Energy, in the EPA, and others.
- Therefore while it is true that we are clear on our commitment to climate change and clean technology development and deployment, it is also true that the leadership that will ultimately define our engagement strategy is still coming together.
- About a year ago in Seattle we discussed the future of the APP, and we were all comfortable that the APP was moving along on the right track.
- After three years of hard work, and now that the first round of projects have reached their completion, we believe that the APP has been a success.
- We look forward to the opportunity today and tomorrow to discuss our continued cooperation under this model and how past and present work will contribute even more to our collective endeavors in the future. Thank you in advance to the Task Force Chairs and Co-Chairs for their updates on their splendid work they are doing in this regard.