

**Country Statement of the United States
Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development
and Climate
Policy and Implementation Committee
May 19, 2008**

Thank you all for coming to the United States.

We are very pleased to be in Seattle, one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the United States, and a fitting venue for this meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

The Asia-Pacific Partnership continues to be a key element of the U.S. strategy for combating climate change and promoting a clean energy future.

We see it as complementing and supporting efforts under the UNFCCC to promote practical efforts to address efforts that achieve multiple benefits in particular, and the Partnership's focus on more efficient practices and the promotion of clean technologies is a model that we think is informing discussions on future climate change approaches.

I would note that from a U.S. perspective, we are very much in an implementation phase of the Partnership at this point.

The Partnership spent its first year agreeing on a structure and priority activities for each of the Task Forces.

The nature of our budget process means that U.S. program funding for Partnership activities has been in place for about a year now, and we have dozens of projects in the pipeline and are starting to see significant results from our investments. We have put into

place rigorous performance measurement criteria so as to get the, as we say, “most bang for our buck” in these activities.

I want to express our appreciation for the continued commitment of our industry partners in promoting clean energy solutions. Our industry is very actively involved in our task force activities, and importantly, in implementation of project activities, which are the heart of our work in the APP. A successful series of Best Practice exchanges is in effect in the Power Generation, Coal and other task forces. Alliant Energy in Wisconsin recently hosted some 90 engineers to see first hand best practices, and we have upcoming activities in Australia and California. The Coal Task Force members have undertaken similar efforts. Our energy efficiency teams are working with China on clean buildings and on testing for fluorescent light bulbs, both of which offer opportunities for substantial low-cost energy savings and climate benefits.

This public-private collaboration is a unique feature of the Partnership and will remain a basic aspect, as will the government-to-government collaboration we have developed in many task force activities.

I want to highlight that we also are working to extend our APP activities to other key constituencies. Let me highlight a couple of examples.

- 1) Through U.S. partnership activities, we are working to engage the financial sector to promote clean energy projects in Partner countries. In India, the US APP program is supporting efforts by the World Resources Institute, a U.S. NGO, to promote local investment capacity building. The goal of this \$500,000 project is to leverage \$125 million in private investment into at least 20 small and medium enterprises in the clean and renewable energy sector, so as to deploy 130 megawatts of renewable power. So far, Yes Bank has announced a \$50 million fund for sustainable small

medium enterprises (SMEs), including renewable and energy efficiency. Eight SMEs have been identified, and have had due diligence meetings with investors through an investment forum.

2) We also have developed innovative state-to-state collaboration. Under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Partnership, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories has facilitated a partnership signed last December between the Indian State of Maharashtra and our state of California to help the citizens of Maharashtra meet their electricity growth through energy efficiency goals. Maharashtra has a 5000 megawatt shortfall in energy production, which represents 30% of its power. California will share its energy-efficiency programs and practices, which have allowed it to become one of the most efficient in our Nation. Lawrence Berkeley experts believe that energy efficiency practices can eliminate the shortfall, with investments will pay for themselves in increased revenue, and that the state's fiscal deficit could be reduced by 17%.

We are also funding city-to-city cooperation. U.S. APP Partners are facilitating collaborations between one to two cities in India that are planning to invest a minimum of \$200 million over the next five years. They will be involved in helping them design measures such as building codes, energy efficient equipment, renewable and distributed generation, methane capture for landfills, and purchase GHG friendly cement products for roads and buildings. The result will be a comprehensive and multisector clean development strategy. We are also pursuing the Sister Cities Program trying to link APP Sister Cities to our APP Program activities, starting with discussions with Spokane, Washington.

We hope these programs will be models for other state-to-state and city-to-city collaborations. These constituencies are essential to success in the effort to develop more cleanly, and their efforts are very much in keeping with our focus on market transformation activities in support of national energy and climate cooperation.

Thus far, the US has appropriated over \$70 million to the APP. Many of these funds are in the pipeline, and we have been working with Partners to ensure that the funding is spent efficiently and reflects ongoing Partnership priorities.

We have requested \$52 million for the coming fiscal year, and I am pleased that work that we have done with our colleagues in Congress means we have secured support from both our political parties for the Partnership and its objectives.

After two years of hard work, these activities will continue to put the APP on the map for the foreseeable future.

We are pleased that the APP is routinely cited as an example of collaborative sectoral strategic efforts, as an example of integration of climate actions and expertise with those relating to energy implementation, and of cooperation between diverse countries to achieve common goals.

This of course highlights the fact that outreach is a key part of our efforts, and our team will give a presentation of the activities we have been involved in to get the word about APP tomorrow.

This meeting of the PIC offers an opportunity to take stock of our efforts to date and make any adjustments we identify to make the Partnership work even better in the future.

In our own stocktaking, we have concluded that the Partnership is on very sound footing. It has introduced a unique collaborative effort to advance our common climate and energy goals.

It has moved from gestation to implementation very quickly, and we are already seeing results – which we are sure will be markedly as the Partnership matures in the coming years.