

ISAP SESSION SUMMARY 11

PL-5: Structuring a New Climate Regime toward the Two Degree Target

Tuesday, 23 July 2013, 14:45

While the international community agreed on the long-term target of holding the increase in global average temperature below two degrees Celsius, it has been difficult to achieve such a goal. In the current negotiations over the post-2020 regime, the idea of nationally-determined commitments has received a great deal of attention. However, it is critical to establish a mechanism to link the nationally-determined commitments and emissions reduction required to achieve the two degree target. This session discussed the future climate change regime with its aim of achieving the two degree target.

Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the Board of Directors, IGES, moderated this session and raised some points to facilitate the discussion. Dr. Toshihiko Masui, Chief, Integrated Assessment Modeling Section, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), presented the way forward to keep the increase at two degrees Celsius from the point of view of scientific research. He mentioned that GHG emissions should be reduced to the half the current level of GHG emissions by 2050. Dr. Kentaro Tamura, Leader of Climate and Energy Area, IGES, focused his presentation on the overview of future climate regime negotiations. He explained the background of international climate negotiation and raised the issues on the gaps among the countries to meet the two degree target. Mr. Takahiro Ueno, Researcher, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry explained the views of EU and US on a possible hybrid approach and raised the issues on post-2020 mitigation commitments. He outlined the difficulty in reaching an international agreement in a G-zero world. Dr. Yasuko Kameyama, Head of Section, Center for Social and Environmental Systems Research, NIES, introduced the outcomes and implications of her research project “Possible Structure and Components of a Future Climate Regime.” Her analysis implicated that the two degree target should be clearly indicated in the new institution for a post 2020 period. Prof. Yukari Takamura, Professor, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University, presented a discussion on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are not covered by the Montreal Protocol. She called for more aggressive approaches and further legal and institutional coordination at the international level.

Key messages of the session

- In order to achieve the two degree target, there needs to be consideration on how to reduce GHG emissions from various points of view such as scientific research, international politics on climate change and other regimes outside UNFCCC.

