

PhD Statements: Accelerating Large-scale Adoption of Low Carbon Cleaner Production Development in Asian Developing Countries

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1. Investment of over €100 million in international technical and financial assistance supporting adoption of cleaner production and clean technologies in Asian industrializing countries in the 1990s resulted in a number of firm-level and local-level success stories but with inadequate diffusion to improve national-level environmental quality.
2. International assistance and national priorities in Asia relating to the environment have shifted from improving local environmental quality to global climate change over the last 15 years, thereby, diminishing support for cleaner production initiatives.
3. Barriers to cleaner production including policy, regulatory, financial, and/or technical barriers at the international, national or local levels are largely the same as the emerging barriers to low fossil-carbon development thus providing an opportunity to integrate low fossil-carbon and cleaner production policies and programs for potentially transformational impacts.
4. Policy integration is most critically needed at the national level to bring policy, regulations, technical and financial assistance for both cleaner production and low fossil-carbon development together to achieve both objectives at a large scale, efficiently and quickly.
5. Overcoming the barriers to low fossil-carbon, cleaner production is a complex challenge because of the diverse range of stakeholders at the local, national, and international levels, but these barriers are sufficiently understood to support a transition management approach framework for collaborative partnerships to successfully implement transformative large-scale low carbon, cleaner production programs.
6. Much greater cohesion of international environmental agreements and national environmental policy frameworks that fully integrate climate action and finance with global, national and local environmental policies and programs would strengthen the ability of local/urban governments and private sector to scale-up relevant action.
7. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Global Fund for health, are needed that include new and traditional partners to build on the emerging international climate finance architecture in order to support actions for local environmental improvement in tandem with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
8. The landmark international agreements reached in 2015 on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals and the initial action responses by most developed and developing countries are grounds for optimism, but the limited action by developed countries to provide the related financial and technical support required by developing countries for implementing Nationally Determined Commitments under the Paris Agreement and the SDGs puts both agreements in jeopardy.

9. Urban growth in developing countries presents the best opportunity for substantial and rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and improvements in local environmental quality but urban development experience in many developing countries to date indicates that the rapid urbanization could lead to even more disastrous environmental degradation.
10. During the last 15 years, development assistance has substantially shifted to short-term actions with often unrealistic expectations of short-term results leading to reduced support for sustainable global public goods.
11. The focus on low fossil-carbon CP in Asia, and in particular China, is fully justified since “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing noncompetitive” according to Donald Trump (November 6, 2012).