

Post-2012 Climate Regime and Bilateral/Multilateral Agreements for Climate Mitigation

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Rational

- Increasingly efforts to enter into '**outside the UNFCCC**' agreement/polarization
 - **US-China, US-India, US-Brazil, US-Mexico-Canada**
 - **EU-China, EU-India, EU-Russia**
 - **Japan-China, Japan-India, Japan-Indonesia**
- Concerns expressed by DCs
 - **Weakening** the multilateral UNFCCC process ?
 - Splitting some DCs through **bilateral tactics** to dilute multilateral/international obligations. Make DCs commit to more **rigorous actions under the bilateral agreement** ?
 - Does it really help DCs (e.g., technology transfer) ?

Panel discussion questions:

Will bi-lateral agreements help or ruin the global climate regime under UNFCCC ?

- Why bi-lateral agreements have started gaining importance?
- What opportunities these bi-lateral agreements provide to the climate regime under UNFCCC in specific and sustainable development in general?
- What threats these bi-lateral agreements provide to the climate regime under UNFCCC in specific and sustainable development in general?
- How can the future climate regime solve this conflict (if any)?

Increasing Interest toward bilateral cooperation with emerging economies

	India	China	Others
U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ministerial meeting (Visit by Clinton; 2009.7) -Presidential meeting as part of “Strategic Partnership” (Visit by Prime Minister Singh; 2009.11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -U.S.-China Ten Year Framework Agreement on Energy and Environment (2008.6) -“Initiatives for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate: Low energy cooperation” (5 priority areas: low emission coal technology, and its quantification/ financing, EE, advanced electric grid. RE)(Asia Society Center on US China Relations et al.; 2009.1) -MOU on climate change, energy, and the environment -U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (2009.7) -Presidential meetings (2009.9) -Bilateral agreement at presidential meeting (2009.11)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 【Mexico/Canada】 Initiatives for CCS, EE, gas flaring reduction, smart grids/Cooperation in ETS, aviation (2009.8) 【Brazil】 Joint Statement on scientific and technological cooperation (climate science and modeling; energy and technology; LULUCF and agriculture, inventories and modeling; and impacts, vulnerability and adaptation) (2009.5)

	India	China	Others
EU	-Discussion on energy and climate policy since 6th EU-India Summit as part of Strategic Partnership (Joint Action Plan: CDM, clean technology, adaptation)(2005.9)	- EU and China Partnership on Climate Change as part of 8 th EU-China Summit (e.g., China-EU Action Plan on Clean Coal, China-EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies) (2005.9) -EU-China CDM Facilitation Project (2007-8) -Platform for low carbon technologies for SMEs (2009; in progress)	【Russia】 -EU-Russia Energy Dialogue (2000) -Bilateral cooperation on the environment (e.g., climate change) (2006) -First joint meeting of the EU-Russia Working groups on EE and CC (2008.2)
Japan	- Strategic Global Partnership (2006.12) (e.g., EE, nuclear: 2007.3) -Presidential Meeting: further cooperation (2009.9)	-Statement of intent on environmental protection through the co-benefits approach (2005) -Joint declaration on technology cooperation (2007.12)	【Indonesia】 -Decided program loan through Cool Earth Partnership for the Presidential meeting (2008.7) -Presidential meeting (2009.9)

Multilateral or bilateral ?

	Multilateral	Bilateral
Pros	-Unified standard -Stronger legitimacy -Mutual monitoring -Appropriate for global goods	-More flexibility and mobility -Less difficulty in negotiation and reaching agreement -Better reflection of bilateral interest -Leverage multilateral agreement -Improvement and enhancement of bilateral relation -Expansion of bilateral market
Cons	-Less flexibility and mobility -Difficulty in negotiation/agreement	-Fragmentation of the multilateral regime with different standards -Biased- promotes bilateral interest -Not always applicable to other countries

Concluding Thoughts

- **Lessons from other regimes**
 - **Trade**
 - Failure to agree on multilateral regime (WTO) created too many bilateral cooperation (FTA/EPA), but multilateral regimes still being pursued
 - **Trans-boundary air pollution**
 - Preference for regional/multilateral (EU) and bilateral (US-Canada, Asia) approach?
 - **Water**
 - Bilateral/regional cooperation more effective for local/regional environmental issues?
- **Impact of bilateral cooperation on a multilateral regime**
 - Initial stage: could accelerate the formation of multilateral regime
 - Mature stage : **Fragment/complement the multilateral regime**
- **Implications for post-2012 regime**
 - Bilateral cooperation should supplement/complement the agreed multilateral regime