

SCIENCE – POLICY INTERACTION AND THE LOW CARBON TRANSITION

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Development challenges of Vietnam

- Significant progress in economic development during the last decades (7% per annum on average), but slowing down recently and low quality growth
- However, the country also heavily relies on natural resources exploitation for development; capital intensive, low technology and relatively cheap labour; under-developed infrastructure
- High energy intensity use in production and for a unit of GDP
- Impact of climate change on socio-economic development and food security is increasing, costing at least 1.5% of the country GDP per year.
- Unsaved habit of population in energy consumption

Science/research – Policy interaction

- In policy formulation: Issues raised by both policy makers and research community. However, lack of communication is still present though the think-tanks are often asked for policy draft comments.
- In policy implementation: Scientists/researchers discover problems/issues but lack of up-to-date information and policy insights, while the policy makers more focus on practical implementation measures. Once again, more dialogues between the two are really in need.
- Too many policy documents vs. enforcement and the overlap among policy documents. More careful policy formulation with research-policy interaction is important. Researches should be back-up and given scientific evidences during that process.
- In low carbon development and green growth policies in Vietnam: In September, 2012, the government has promulgated the Green Growth Strategy. Good communications between policy-makers in MPI, MONRE and line ministries, donors and research institutions in the policy formulation. However, the timing gap between the researches made and corresponding policies should be filled.

Next steps for the interaction

- Policy-demanded issues for researchers/scientists vs. research-raised issues matching with practical aspects in low carbon development: e.g. financial mechanisms for low carbon development including pricing and taxing, subsidy issues etc...
- International experiences in science-policy interaction are especially helpful for Vietnam.
- Researchers should more actively approach policy makers, not only rely on “theoretical backgrounds” but also and very importantly look at practical aspects including institutional ones of the issues so that their recommendations could be more useful for policy making. Low carbon transition is not an easy path requiring consensus of different groups of the society. This point should always be in mind of research community.



**Thank you very
much !**