

Introduction to the meeting

**Fourth Researchers Meeting of the International Network
for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)
St Anne's College, Oxford
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Ten key findings from the 3rd Annual Workshop (1)

1. Nature of the desirable paradigm shift

Instead of being framed in terms of burden sharing, the climate policies necessary to launch a long run transition towards a low-carbon society must be designed so as to respond the short term demands for poverty alleviation, jobs and protection of welfare benefits.

2. The risks of lock-in

Without active climate policies, humanity will be locked-in to carbon intensive development paths.

3. Supply-side responses: decision-making against a background of controversy

Feasible transition pathways compatible with desirable climate objectives, environmental concerns and social requirements are available. Controversies about the performance, economic viability and environmental soundness of major technical options need to be managed through public debate

Ten key findings from the 3rd Annual Workshop (2)

- 4. Demand-side response: energy efficiency and beyond**
Technological change will not be sufficient by itself for the low-carbon transition.
- 5. Energy policies and beyond**
Energy policies need to be placed in a broader context encompassing urban policies, transportation policies and agricultural policies.
- 6. Innovation and beyond**
Technical change will not come as manna from heaven and depends on the development of knowledge and human capital along the chain from fundamental research, R&D and pilot projects through to industrial diffusion.
- 7. “Green growth” and sustainable development in different contexts**
Transforming “green growth” from a slogan to an operational concept means using the low carbon objective to define the frontier for technical and structural changes in view of more sustainable development patterns and lifestyles.

Ten key findings from the 3rd Annual Workshop (3)

8. Tailoring low-carbon policy packages for sectors and countries

National level packages that set the framework for the low-carbon transition are essential. However, these must be reinforced by policy packages which are country and sector specific.

9. The need for international arrangements

Policies will not be fully effective without international arrangements that complement and leverage domestic climate and development initiatives. These are needed to provide the necessary financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries and to mitigate concerns about distortions in international competition.

10. Upgrading climate finance in the context of the financial crisis

Carbon finance must be upgraded if the paradigm shift implied by the Cancun agreement demands is to occur. The emergence of a recognised carbon value is needed to ground this upgrading.

CoP 17: Durban outcomes

- Cited the goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C or 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels
- Launched a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties
- Established a subsidiary body known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to develop the protocol/instrument/outcome
- Decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group should complete its work as early as possible but no later than 2015
- Decided that the protocol/instrument/ outcome should have legal force at CoP 21 (2015) and come into effect and be implemented from 2020

Science into policy: the IPCC 5th Assessment

- September 2013: IPCC Working Group I (Science) approval session. Stockholm
- March 2014: IPCC Working Group II (Impacts) approval session, Japan
- April 2014: IPCC Working Group III (Mitigation) approval session
- Cut -off dates for material that WG-III can cite: submission by 31 January 2013 ; acceptance by 3 October 2013
- October 2014: AR5 Synthesis Report approval session

The 4th LCS-RNet Researchers Meeting

Day 1

- Transforming the energy system
- Decarbonising supply/decarbonising demand
- Science–policy interaction
- Future of LCS-RNet

Day 2

- International co-operation and finance
- Regional co-operation/global approaches
- Low carbon transitions and sustainable development
- Debate: financial recovery and a sustainable future