



Chair's Summary

The second Clean Energy Ministerial took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 6–7 April 2011. Participants welcomed the UAE's leadership in convening the Ministerial. Ministers and senior officials from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States attended the meeting. Observers from the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation were also present. The series of Ministerials grew from the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) Leaders' decision in July 2009 to launch the MEF Global Partnership to drive transformational low-carbon and climate-friendly technologies, as well as from dialogues among countries interested in accelerating the transition to clean energy technologies.

Following welcoming remarks from the UAE, Japan provided an update to the group on the challenges they have been facing following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Participants expressed support for Japan and noted their appreciation for Japan's continued engagement in the CEM despite extenuating circumstances.

Participants discussed smart policies for clean energy supply, focusing on opportunities for expanded cooperation on renewable energy and carbon capture, use, and storage. They noted progress on resource assessment and capacity building efforts underway through CEM initiatives in wind & solar energies, hydropower, and bioenergy. Many participants also endorsed recommendations from the carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) action group on the need for international cooperation to advance policies and financial mechanisms and develop regulatory frameworks for safe, long-term geologic storage of carbon dioxide.

Participants discussed smart policies for energy efficiency in their economies. Market and energy consumption data were shown to make the case that implementation of appliance energy efficiency standards not only increases energy savings but does so without driving up product costs. The net result is tremendous improvement in life-cycle costs, which helps consumers and the global economy. There was agreement on the need for ambitious domestic action on appliance and equipment efficiency. Participants endorsed the Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) initiative as a means of facilitating and tracking international cooperation on information sharing and best practices on standards, labeling and other policy tools. UAE noted their intent to join the SEAD initiative.

Participants noted the establishment of groups focused on energy efficiency in specific sectors (power, steel, and cement) under the Global Superior Energy Performance (GSEP) initiative. These activities will build on and expand the efforts in these areas initiated under the recently concluded Asia Pacific Partnership. GSEP working groups on combined heat and power and cool roofs were also announced. Participants noted the importance of continued efforts to drive efficiency in commercial buildings and the industrial sector.

Participants discussed the importance of smart grids to achieving both greater end-use efficiency and increased integration of renewable energy resources. They noted the establishment of the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) as an IEA Implementing Agreement and expressed support for its work plan, with its focus on inventories, case studies, toolkits, and insights for policymakers. Participants also discussed progress in the Electric Vehicle Initiative (EVI), including EV demonstrations in pilot cities, the data collection plan and the importance of providing data to achieve the aim of enabling greater coordination of RD&D efforts. The upcoming first International EV Pilot Cities Forum in Shanghai was highlighted as an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned from EV demonstration and deployment programs in urban areas. India announced its intent to join the EVI initiative.

Participants discussed the strategic deployment of public finance for clean energy. They emphasized the need for smart allocation of public funds to catalyze clean energy market development, including the importance of leveraging private sector investment. The Solar and LED Energy Access (SLED) initiative was highlighted as an example of how relatively modest but targeted investments can create new self-sustaining markets while providing vital clean energy services. Participants noted that it would be helpful to have increased engagement by energy ministries with multilateral development banks and finance and development ministries. An upcoming opportunity for such engagement, a meeting on “International Cooperation on Smart Mitigation Policy” hosted by the World Bank, was highlighted. Participants also emphasized the importance of improving the understanding of global R&D spending in clean energy innovation and deployment in order to prioritize national investments to accelerate the pace of the clean energy transition. The value of international cooperation on demonstration projects was also highlighted.

The UK noted that the theme of smart public finance for clean energy would be an important topic area for the third Clean Energy Ministerial in London in 2012. Reflecting upon the private sector engagement in the roundtables that preceded the Ministerial sessions, they emphasized the importance of continuing stakeholder engagement in the run-up to CEM3.

Building upon the discussion in the Sustainable Cities roundtable, UAE and Sweden announced their intent to establish a sustainable cities network over the coming year.

India announced that they would host CEM4 in 2013, and Korea announced that they would host CEM5 in 2014.