Is the Asia-Pacific ready for Climate Geoengineering?
An informal evening drinks reception hosted by the Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance initiative (C2G2)

17:00-19:00, Wednesday, 6 September 2017
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

The Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance initiative (C2G2) warmly welcome delegates to join an informal evening reception to learn about the latest thinking on climate geoengineering and the need to establish global governance around its development and deployment.

Why is climate geoengineering governance important?

Climate geoengineering – large-scale, deliberate interventions in the Earth system to counteract climate change – is the focus of increasing debate within the scientific community, but is still a relatively new issue of consideration within government policy circles. It has potentially huge implications for efforts to achieve a resource-efficient and pollution-free Asia-Pacific but there is currently no systematic, coherent set of global governance frameworks in place to guide research, facilitate decision making and guide its potential deployment.

What is climate geoengineering?

Geoengineering interventions are usually grouped into two categories: Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR); and Solar Radiation Management (SRM) techniques. While the former addresses the primary cause of climate change, CDR also presents serious trade-offs, particularly with land use, that could exacerbate migration flows and conflicts. SRM, the latter approach, could potentially lower average global temperatures and thus provide breathing space to undertake a radical decarbonization of the global economy. However, SRM presents numerous risks – both known and unknown. Moreover, given the relatively low cost of deployment and the absence of structured, international governance, there are fears that SRM might one day be unilaterally deployed – with regional and planetary wide consequences. As such, climate geoengineering raises many ethical questions, including its effects on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which in turn affect political stability.

The Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance initiative (C2G2)

The Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance initiative (C2G2) was established in early 2017 by Executive Director Janos Pasztor, who was previously Assistant Secretary General on Climate Change under United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. The C2G2 aims to catalyse the creation of effective governance for climate geoengineering technologies by shifting the conversation from the scientific and research community to the global policy-making arena, and by encouraging a broader, society-wide discussion about the potential risk, benefits and governance challenges raised by climate geoengineering. For further information see: www.c2g2.net

Key Questions

- What opportunities and risks does climate geoengineering pose for delivering a resource efficient, pollution-free Asia-Pacific?
- What implications does climate geoengineering have for governments in the region and globally?
- Why and how should governments engage in development of global governance of geoengineering?
Tentative Programme

Drinks and light appetizers served. Short speeches from speakers including:

- Janos Pasztor, Executive Director, Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance Initiative (C2G2)
- Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
- Neth Daño, Asia Director, Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)
- Ying Chen, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

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