



The International Low-carbon Energy Technology Platform: possible support to existing technology collaboration activities

Mark Radka
Chief, Energy Branch
UN Environment Programme



The proposed Platform

... should build on existing activities, clearly identify needs, and avoid duplication:

- **Optimise available resources** and avoid duplication of efforts and creation of new bureaucracies
- **Link with and strengthen existing technology collaboration initiatives** (coordination with other international organisations)
- **Focus on identifying technology collaboration gaps and needs** with countries, business and expert organisations.



“Mapping” is not easy

- There is no agreed definition for a technology collaboration activity
- Many exist, but these differ greatly by objective, membership, size, activities undertaken, degree of political connectedness, geographic scope, and so on
- **Functional categories in background paper:**
 - Public-private policy dialogue and cooperation
 - Government regulatory cooperation and policy learning
 - Database and information exchange
 - Collaborative technology innovation programmes
 - Technology specific initiatives
 - Skills and capacity building
 - Funding and project implementation
 - Public engagement and education



There are challenges

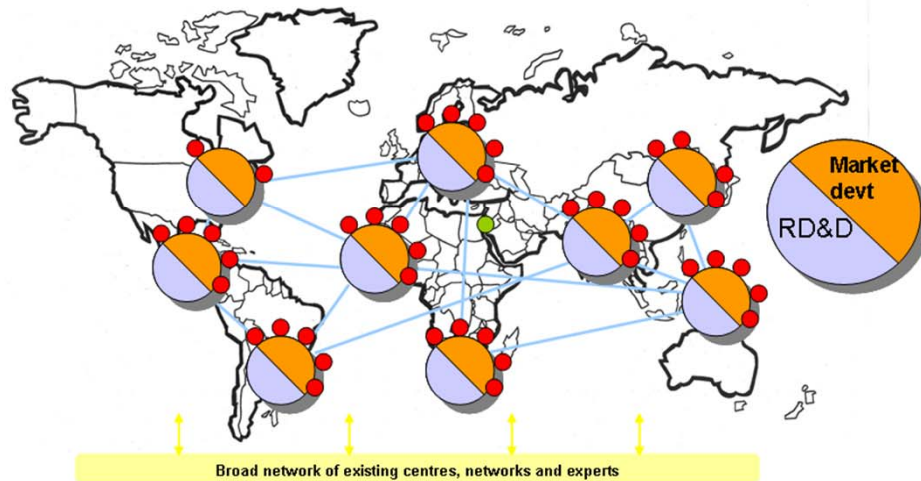
- 1) The proliferation of initiatives limits opportunities for effective collaboration
- 2) Policy initiatives often don't move beyond dialogue to achieving real policy change in practice
- 3) Limited private sector engagement
- 4) A focus on immediate needs means little long-term strategy, ill defined objectives and lack of measurable outcomes
- 5) Challenges in deploying funding quickly and strategically
- 6) Failure to achieve 'scale' due to resource and capacity constraints
- 7) Wavering public support undermines political commitment



... but successes as well

- APEC Energy Working Group - Over 250 projects funded and implemented between 1992-2007
- Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate - 8 public-private Task Forces in five energy intensive sectors: over 175 projects
- IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme - Over 200 technical studies published, 8 international research networks established, conference series, educational programme, annual international summer school
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership REEEP - Support for over RE/EE 130 projects in 56 countries
- UNIDO UNEP National Cleaner Production Centres – Promoting resource efficient and cleaner industrial production In 40 countries
- UN Energy – coordination mechanism for energy activities in the UN

Different structural options exist



Network of hybrid RD&D and national market development centres



Global technical centre working with multiple networks of centres and experts



Case studies hint at requirements

Attributes of successful centres and networks:

- Strong incentives for collaboration - shared interests among partners
- Stable, long-term funding support
- Commitment from senior managers
- Clearly defined missions and metrics
- Participation of both public and private sectors
- Flexibility to respond to evolving conditions
- Integrated approaches to R&D, demonstration and deployment
- Appropriately sized networks for effective cooperation
- Provision for capacity building of members where needed
- Open and efficient information sharing



Potential delivery mechanisms

Functions of a Low Carbon Energy Technology Platform could be implemented through several common delivery mechanisms, informed by effective approaches of existing centres and networks:

- Inventory, match-making, and strategic planning
- Expert assistance teams
- Technology forums
- Training and workforce development programmes
- Tools and best practice dissemination
- Strengthening of developing country centres and networks
- Coordinated implementation of specific RD&D and deployment programmes



Key questions for the Platform

- What can an international Platform achieve? What are its limitations?
- How should the technology Platform serve to create links between existing technology collaboration activities?
- What gaps exist in international technology collaboration that can be addressed through the Platform?
- How can the proposed technology Platform help address or avoid some of the existing challenges and limitations to existing initiatives?