

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. The ACP serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>.



Highlights

The private sector's approach to reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs)



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A number of research institutes and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have made efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). In this interview, Emilie Pratico discusses some of the work that Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) has undertaken to engage the private sector in SLCP mitigation.

Please summarise some of the main private sector activities in which you are involved to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs)?

Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) is a non-profit organisation with over 150 staff located in eight offices across the world (Copenhagen, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Tokyo). The mission of BSR is "we work with business to create a just and sustainable world." BSR concentrates on environment and social issues in 11 industries with 250 member companies that themselves work with a range of government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). BSR typically partners with its members to develop sustainable business strategies and solutions through consulting, research, and cross-sector collaboration. BSR is pursuing several activities to help mitigate SLCPs. One of these activities is engaging in action-oriented partnerships like the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

BSR joined the CCAC this year to assist in harnessing private sector knowledge and resources to help reduce SLCPs. BSR is currently working in the CCAC initiatives on oil and gas, diesel, waste, and agriculture. BSR is also authoring reports on relevant themes, including: 1) a business case report that is intended to help CCAC partners understand sectoral approaches to SLCP reductions; and 2) two sectoral reports on oil and gas as well as transport that are intended to communicate the benefits of reducing methane to the private sector. Those reports provide climate and sustainability strategies that business leaders can then incorporate into their business activities to help lower SLCP emissions. BSR hopes the three reports will provide solutions for CCAC and businesses.

Can you tell us about the main opportunities and challenges for businesses to work with government and other stakeholders (i.e. public private partnerships) to scale up SLCP reduction activities?

Collaboration is the key to our work with government and other stakeholders. When policymakers and businesses have misunderstandings or do not know what the others are doing, it is mainly the result of limited

information flows. To improve communication, information sharing is crucial. Greater information can also help companies identify investment opportunities or understand market risks.

According to the latest science, SLCPs are integral to combating short term climate change; however, they can pose a challenge for businesses because they come from many different sectors. To involve businesses in SLCP mitigation activities, we need to understand what companies care about and convince them why they should care about SLCPs. This often involves tailoring communications to different sectors and companies. From BSR's experience, companies are often attracted to innovative strategies that achieve multiple benefits. But achieving those benefits also often involves good collaboration between the private sector and policymakers.

To help business leaders and climate experts, BSR hosts its annual BSR conference where 1000+ experts in business, sustainability, and civil society are invited to discuss practical steps needed for a more sustainable world. In its 23rd year with the theme of "resilience", the conference not only showcases global strategies that are changing the nature of business but also engages policymakers in a discussion of business activities and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as (the likely results) of COP21.

Although business and politics are often seen as operating in two distinct worlds, there are many similarities between these two areas. Governments are increasingly working with peer groups, learning from case studies, and showcasing best practices. Businesses are similarly thirsty to know what others are doing and eager to acquire knowledge from each other. Sharing information and understanding common concerns can lead to the collaboration between the public and private sector needed to scale up activities like priority SLCP mitigation measures.

Featured Publication: *Japan's Experience with Short-Lived Climate Pollutants-The Case of Black Carbon*

Naoko Matsumoto of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) recently published a report that discusses policy measures implemented by the Japanese government to control black carbon emissions from stationary and mobile sources, including: (1) the regulation of soot and dust from stationary facilities; (2) the stepwise development of vehicle emissions standards and fuel quality standards to address diesel emissions; and (3) special vehicle emissions control measures introduced in highly populated metropolitan areas.

The report also presents two examples of metropolitan-level undertakings, one involving industrial emissions and the other vehicle emissions. The case of Kawasaki is considered for its pioneering emissions reduction measures for industrial pollution. Tokyo's innovative regulation of diesel vehicles is also discussed. In both cases, ambient suspended particulate matter (SPM) concentrations have decreased significantly, suggesting the effectiveness of the efforts. The report can be downloaded here: <http://pub.iges.or.jp/modules/envirolib/view.php?docid=5992>
See other publications related to co-benefits below.



Other Publications



Activities

■ **The Co-benefits Approach at the Local Level Legal Perspectives** (November 2015)

Magali Dreyfus, United Nations University

<http://i.unu.edu/media/ias.unu.edu-en/news/11145/UNU-IAS-Policy-Brief-No.-3-2015.pdf>

■ **Placing Water At The Core Of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Why An Integrated Perspective Is Needed** (March 2015)

SHIVAKOTI Binaya Raj and BENGTTSSON Magnus, IGES

http://pub.iges.or.jp/modules/envirolib/upload/5652/attach/PB_31_E_FINAL.pdf

Find out more at **our website:** <http://www.cobenefit.org/>

■ **6th Advisory Group meeting** (Yokohama, Japan, 29 July, 2015)

About twenty representatives from government agencies, international organisations and research institutions joined this meeting and discussed: the Work Plan 2014-2015, extended contribution and collaboration; and the Second ACP White Paper.

