Remarks at IGES Working Group on the Future Climate Regime

September 12, 2012

Mark Elder
Director, Governance and Capacity Group, IGES
Some key themes from S-7

- Co-benefit / Co-control approach
- Linkage of air pollution and climate change
- Regional approach

- How to apply to climate change negotiations?
  - Regional approach
  - Global approach
Consider a regional approach

- Consider integrating climate change, air pollution & cobenefits into strengthened (or new) regional frameworks

Several existing Asian air pollution frameworks
- EANET, ASEAN Haze Agreement, Male Declaration, Joint Forum, LTP, NEASPEC

All are very limited in scope
- Mostly focus on monitoring, modeling, awareness raising
- Little emphasis on reduction strategies
- All are voluntary
- Limited pollutants, difficult to add new ones

Generally, limited effectiveness in addressing pollutants under their current mandates
Existing Air Pollution Frameworks in Terms of SLCFs and HFCs

- Do not address SLCFs or HFCs
- Would be difficult to add SLCFs or HFCs to existing frameworks
  - Already difficult to add other air pollutants
- Significant restructuring or a new framework would be necessary to combine air pollution and climate issues at regional or subregional levels in East Asia
- Asian Cobenefits Partnership is a good start, but it is a network
  - Needs more integration with national policies
S-7 Proposal: Asian Science Panel on Air Quality (ASPAQ) (Tentative)

**Structure (tentative)**

- **WG1:** evaluation on emission, concentration level, monitoring
  - Evaluation on the state of scientific knowledge on Asian air pollution
  - Produce a Summary for Policy Makers
- **WG2:** (health) impact of air pollution
- **WG3:** mitigation technology and scenarios
  - Concentrate on technological and technical issue
  - No SPM, but rather a discussion forum

- SLCFs, HFCs, could be included
- Focus: assessment of existing research, not producing new research
Emerging positive conditions supporting potential improvement of regional frameworks

- **China**
  - Air pollution has become a high domestic policy priority
  - New, stronger policies are being implemented
  - Interested in cobenefit approach

- **Russia**
  - Newly interested in subregional cooperation on Air pollution in Northeast Asia

- **South Korea**
  - Newly open to restructuring air pollution cooperation frameworks
  - MOEK may prioritize climate change over air pollution
LRTAP as an Example

LRTAP amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol (Executive Body’s 30th Session April 30 – May 4 2012 in Geneva)

- Emission reduction commitments for fine particulate matter
  - Black carbon specifically included as a component of particulate matter

- Updated sets of emission limit values (emission standards) for key stationary and mobile sources

- LRTAP can incorporate additional pollutants into the existing framework
Consider a Global Approach: Link Air Pollution, Climate Change, & Co-benefits

- Some air pollutants are global (hemispheric); some local air pollution problems occur globally in many places.

- A global approach could be beneficial

- However, a global approach may be more difficult, politically and organizationally, compared to a regional approach
Global Air Pollution (GAP) Forum has discussed options for a global approach

Overall, GAP Forum (Discussion Paper) takes a cautious approach, suggesting incremental measures (e.g. cooperation among regional networks) with global support measures as more practical.

But it also mentions more ambitious options

- New global instrument
- Incorporate relevant air pollutants within UNFCCC
- Expand geographical scope of LRTAP
Option of linking and building on existing regional frameworks

- Increased coordination or integration of LRTAP and related UNEP activities
- Establish a joint secretariat
- Global data and information coordination
- Global scientific and policy assessment
- Global negotiating platform (regional networks develop a framework agreement)
Air pollutants which are climate forcers are mainly regional or hemispheric

Therefore, policies should be regional or hemispheric

But priorities and targets can be set by UNFCCC

Therefore “regional air pollution networks could act as implementing agents for relevant aspects of global climate change policy.” (p. 9)

Need not involve difficult procedures or obligations

An incremental strategy building on existing networks can be more feasible