

International Conference on ‘Climate Change Paradigms’

20th & 21st November, 2015

The Riviera Suites, Kochi

CPPR- Centre for Strategies Studies organizes a two-day International Conference on “Climate Change Paradigms” as a precursor to the 2015 UN Global Climate Change Summit to be held in Paris later this year. The conference will explore and debate on the various issues and challenges that would be featured at the Paris Summit.

The Indian position on and commitment towards climate change initiatives is crucial considering the nation’s economic trajectory, and influence in world affairs. The forthcoming Paris agreement will decide on the future climate resilient agendas that will be implemented from 2020; India must seize this opportunity and clarify its stance. The government of India has recognized the issues and potential impact of climate change while simultaneously seeking help from the United States of America and European countries to assist them in its efforts to tackle the issue. India is in the process of engaging with strategic channels to chart out its path towards clean energy initiatives with an impetus upon renewable energy. India needs to reflect upon and envision its climate change policy while developing a beneficial negotiating strategy ahead of the Paris agreement. Clearly national interest persuades the decision-makers to ally with both the developed and developing world. So far the Indian approach to climate change initiatives has been aligned with those of developing nations. Climate change initiatives such as emission cuts, transition to clean energy, climate finance and adaptation strategies, and preparation of its ‘intended nationally determined contribution’ or INDCs needs to be compatible with our growth engine. India is well positioned as a conduit for enabling cooperation amongst the member countries towards fair debate on global climate change discourse.

In its pursuit of ambitious climate and clean energy goals, the Indian engagement with the United States of America is notable. The U. S. -India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), an umbrella program to expand policy dialogues and technical work on clean energy and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies is a welcome step. Bilateral climate change cooperation commitments such as the U. S. -India Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (PACER), a \$125 million program jointly funded by the U.S. and Indian governments and the private sector are a noteworthy accomplishment. Pilot programs on promoting clean energy initiatives, technical cooperation on super-efficient off-grid appliances, and the transportation of fuels & heavy duty vehicles besides implementing air quality operations and accelerating clean energy finance are other joint endeavors with the United States.

The developing world is grappling with the dynamics of nontraditional security threats and attempts to address them through cooperation. Climate change is a major threat that needs to be addressed in Asia-Pacific region. A recent (2015) Pew Research center survey measuring perception of international challenges identified climate change as the biggest source of worry. It is indicative of trans-national threats assuming an increased significance in the region. In the Asia-Pacific region over 41% consider Climate change as the major threat. With the militaries of several nations building the capacity to respond and actively engaging with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) operations, the perception of Climate Change as a strategic threat becomes even more pronounced.

Climate resilience assumes great importance for all countries at the Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris this year. The INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution) will largely determine whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 agreement on a path toward a low-carbon, climate resilient future. It pairs national policy-setting — in which countries determine their contributions in the context of their national priorities, circumstances and capabilities with a global framework that drives collective action toward a low-carbon, climate resilient future. The increased frequencies of natural disasters bear testimony to the disruptions in the physical and ecological systems of our planet. Scientific studies also validate the negative outcomes of anthropogenic contributions to global climate change over the years.

Global collaboration across S&T communities in terms of adaptation to the phenomenon of global warming is inevitable. The situation warrants a transition to high-performing, low emissions, and energy secure economies. The viability of existing clean energy technologies to increase energy access and security needs to be probed.

Climate finance will be the key to delivering funds to implement such mitigation and adaptation activities. This necessitates participation from both public and private institutions for setting up dedicated green funds, given the funds are limited for renewable energy sectors of the developing nations. Emissions intensity in the absence of climate action can be severe, and it puts climate change initiatives on the national priority of both developed and developing worlds alike.

Centre for Public Policy Research - Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) which has been in the forefront of activities in strategic domain in India, is attempting to place itself to discuss and debate India's position in global Climate Change initiatives. We intend to channelize enhanced civil society participation by acting as a

catalyst in the process with such involvements and deliberations for a climate-resilient future. With its strong emphasis on internal challenges and focus on policy action; CPPR CSS lends a distinct approach towards contributing to the knowledge base in each areas of interest.

In this context, CPPR-CSS organizes an International Conference inviting key stakeholders from India and US to deliberate on India's strategy in the area of Climate Change. CPPR -CSS earlier initiatives in Non-Traditional Security and Energy Security, and U.S Rebalance and Asia-Pacific region were widely appreciated. It has been active in policy circles and have initiated serious and data based research initiatives to develop key information to assist the governments in the security and strategic domain.

The Conference features four main sessions wherein panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session. The themes will explore the different dimensions namely – *Climate Change as a Strategic threat in Asia-Pacific, Building Partnership for Climate Resilience- Foreseeing Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, Access to Modern Innovative Technology, and Financing Climate Change Initiatives.* This conference is supported by US Consul General Chennai.

The Conference will deliberate on India's position in global Climate Change initiatives. This conference expects to clarify this strategy as an antecedent to the Paris agreement in December 2015. CPPR-CSS aims to bring in leading strategists, think tank leaders, leading experts and academicians to involve in the deliberation process and arrive at a futuristic mapping of Climate Change Initiatives for India.