Side Event: Briefing, Discussion and Reception

Interactive LIVE Webcast: https://webconf.vc.dfn.de/doha_slcp/

The Science and Policy of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Role of methane, black carbon and other short-lived climate pollutants in meeting temperature goals

Friday 30 November 2012, 8.15pm (Doha time)

This event will provide an authoritative and up-to-date synopsis of the science and policy issues surrounding Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) mitigation. Potential relationships between SLCP mitigation, carbon dioxide mitigation, and global temperature goals will be central to the briefing and discussion.

This session provides a valuable opportunity for delegates and observers to familiarize themselves with the science and policy issues surrounding SLCP mitigation prior to the Ministerial-level side event introducing the new SLCP-focused Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) on Thursday December 6th. Opportunities and challenges facing the relationship between the CCAC and UNFCCC will be included in the discussions.

QNCC Side Event Room 6

Program

8.15pm - Expert Briefings (Broadcast Live)
8.45pm – Plenary Q&A (Interactive Online)
9.15pm - Catered Reception with Panelists

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs), such as methane, ozone and soot particles, are potent atmospheric warming agents that have substantial impact on global and regional climate. Ozone and soot also do considerable harm to human health and agricultural productivity. But unlike carbon dioxide, these pollutants only stay in the atmosphere for a "short" time (from days to a decade). Reducing emissions of these SLCPs could thus have a more immediate effect on limiting climate warming than reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

Recent UNEP studies have indicated that mitigation of SLCP emissions could be achieved at very low cost, with rapid benefits for climate, air quality and agricultural yields. This has led to a major new international initiative – the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) – exploring ways of promoting international collaborative action to mitigate SLCPs. On Thursday December 6th a Ministerial-level side event will introduce the CCAC to COP 18 delegates and observers.

However the relationship between the mitigation of SLCPs and carbon dioxide is technically complex and politically sensitive. Creating a policy framework that ensures the complementarity between both mitigation strategies will require a realistic appraisal of their different effects on climate, and the navigation of important political challenges. This event will provide an authoritative briefing on the latest science of SLCP mitigation, and outline the policy issues surrounding the relationship with carbon dioxide mitigation. Potential avenues for the CCAC and UNFCCC to shape this relationship will be discussed.

Drew Shindell (NASA GISS) is the author of the UNEP report and the key scientific paper making the case for near-term reductions in short-lived pollutants. Drew will provide a briefing on the climate impact and considerable co-benefits of immediate action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.

Myles Allen (Oxford University) is the author of the first paper to observe that cumulative carbon dioxide emissions over all time are the principal determinant of dangerous climate change. Myles will explain how the impact of reductions in short-lived climate pollutants on the risk of dangerous climate change depends heavily on near-term progress in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Adrian Macey (University of Victoria, Wellington) is the former Chair of the Kyoto Protocol. Adrian will discuss the challenges of addressing short-lived and long-lived climate pollutants in single or multiple international policy frameworks.

Jason Blackstock (Oxford University), Co-Chair of the Interdisciplinary Global Working Group on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, will Chair the discussion.

*An additional expert with a perspective on SLCP mitigation from a development context may join the panel.

This side-event is led by the Environmental Change Institute of the University of Oxford and New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute of the University of Victoria, Wellington, and supported by the Oxford Martin Programme on Resource Stewardship of the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford. The live webcast is being organized by the Interdisciplinary Global Working Group on SLCPs, and video of the event will be available afterwards on its website.