

## Developing ideas

*Developing countries from Latin America and Asia are meeting in a new initiative to share policies that reduce greenhouse gases and could be eligible for United Nations financing.*

The sharing of policies and project ideas that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and might be eligible for UN funding is behind a new initiative to bring developing countries together from Latin America and Asia.

- **Developing nations in new initiative**
- **Aim to find best practices for GHG cuts**
- **Program could help UN talks**

which reduce GHGs and foster sustainable development.

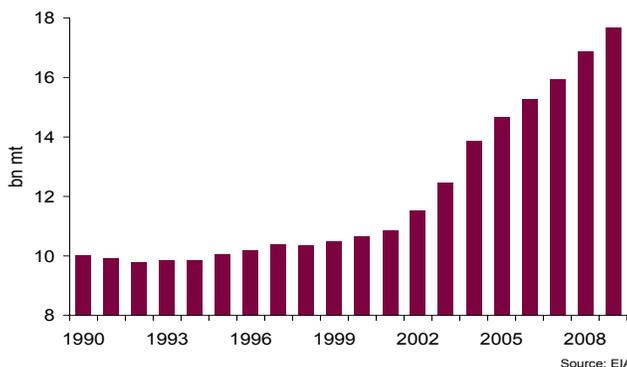
The project provides an opportunity to showcase “best practice” proposals currently operating on the ground to help with UN efforts to flesh out the details of

The Mitigation Action Implementation Network (MAIN) initiative is being coordinated by the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), in partnership with the World Bank Institute (WBI) and INCAE Business School.

NAMAs, CCAP director of transportation and adaptation Steven Winkelman said. MAIN is looking for projects that are “transformational” and “replicable” elsewhere, he said.

The project's goal is to promote the exchange of best practice policies among developing countries that are preparing Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) or seeking financial support for such actions. NAMAs are broadly defined as voluntary developing-country-specific policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions and were approved at last year's UN climate talks in Cancun, Mexico.

**Energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: Non-OECD nations**



### MAIN launched

The MAIN project was launched in March with a Latin American regional dialogue in Costa Rica attended by representatives from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Panama, Peru and Caribbean nations. A second regional Latin American dialogue is scheduled in Chile in October.

Participants in the Asian grouping have yet to be finalized but are likely to include Thailand

and Vietnam, with the first meeting scheduled this summer. The initiative may also be extended to Africa. The initial expectation is that participating countries will talk monthly via video-conferencing or electronic links and meet face-to-face every six months. Presentations by larger developing country representatives are key to the MAIN initiative. The recent Latin American dialogue included presentations by Mexico. Mexico shared its experience in developing policies that provide incentives to develop small-scale renewables and to establish low-cost energy-efficient housing.

While the UN has yet to finalize the formal criteria for NAMAs or the reporting, verification and measurement aspects of the countries' GHG mitigation efforts, it is expected that qualifying projects would be eligible for financing from a fund supported by developed countries.

NAMAs were among the many issues discussed at the recent UN Framework Convention on Climate Change talks in Bangkok, Thailand, in preparation of the next major climate summit at the end of the year in Durban, South Africa.

Coordinators of the MAIN initiative hope it informs negotiations on the UN's definition of NAMAs by highlighting concrete projects

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China is likely to be invited to provide presentations to the first Asian group meeting. "The aim is to connect the people, have them talk to each other, develop a common understanding, see how common features can be translated into criteria or standards which can be helpful to others," said Kai-Uwe Barani Schmidt, team leader with the WBI's carbon finance-assist program.

An integrated bus rapid transit system in Bogota, Colombia, and a Brazilian auction for renewable energy are nominated by MAIN coordinators as the types of projects that could fall under the NAMA definition.

Unlike the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects – where developed countries invest in specific developing country emissions reduction projects – MAIN coordina-

tors see NAMAs as broader policies that impact entire sectors or a country as a whole.

Coordinators of MAIN stress there is "real money" on the table for these projects. Initial financing for NAMAs will come from the \$30bn pledged to the UN by developed countries for developing country climate change mitigation and adaptation from 2010-2012. Industrial nations have also agreed to mobilize \$100bn/yr in public and private funds by 2020 for the same purpose – some of which will benefit NAMAs. Potential NAMA donor countries will attend MAIN meetings to inform developing countries about their financing priorities.

In the absence of formal UN definitions of NAMAs, there is an expectation that trial "bilateral" projects between developed and developing countries will experiment with different models, said Marcos Castro Rodriguez, environmental specialist with the WBI's carbon finance-assist program.

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