



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

GAPS AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON LOW-CARBON ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

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International Energy Agency Headquarters, 9 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris

Around 50 participants from 15 international and regional initiatives, together with IEA Member and non-Member countries, gathered at the IEA on 27 February to share views on the current landscape of international initiatives for low-carbon energy technologies. The meeting was structured into three main sessions: an overview of international and regional organisations; an overview of international partnerships and fora; and a cross-cutting session on gaps and strategic opportunities for international collaboration.

A number of themes emerged. The need for and value of international collaboration on low-carbon energy technologies was made clear, not only for the objective of addressing climate change concerns, but for other important policy objectives such as increasing diversification of energy supplies and contributing to energy security, as well as global efforts to foster universal access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy.

There is considerable variation in the international institutions and initiatives that exist, from their institutional bases, memberships, technological and geographical focus, type of activities, overall size and approaches to partnering with, and drawing on data from, other entities. Most such initiatives have made a concerted effort to define a niche within this wider context. Surprisingly few overlaps between the initiatives were found, with most identifying opportunities for complementarity and collaboration. The value of sharing information among such initiatives was pointed out, with several noting that the workshop itself was worthwhile in that regard, both in terms of the plenary sessions and in terms of the opportunities for networking in the margins. A number of participants also highlighted the importance of, and different approaches to, the assessment of the impact of such international efforts. At the same time, such communication and impact assessment activities must be balanced with the primary importance of implementing actions for technological change. In all instances, participants shared practical examples from the work programmes and priorities of their own initiatives.

The IEA Secretariat indicated that as a follow-up to this workshop, it would publish an IEA Insights Paper on the topic of international collaborative initiatives for low-carbon energy technologies in mid-2014. This summary was drafted by the IEA Secretariat.