

## **\$50 Million For Clean Development And Climate**

Prime Minister Howard has announced a new \$50 million commitment to the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

Australia and China have reaffirmed their commitment to the partnership and have agreed to continue developing low-emissions energy technologies, underscoring China's growing need for cleaner forms of power generation.

Australia's initial contribution of \$100 million announced in January 2006 has been fully committed to 63 regional projects.

Howard says Australia will commit a further \$20 million over the next four years to the joint work on clean coal technologies, and in particular a carbon capture project in Beijing and a combined cycle demonstration power plant in Australia.

He says the funding recognises Australia's role as a reliable and responsible major energy supplier, and China's continued dependence on coal, alongside other energy sources, for its economic development.

The two countries have welcomed the establishment of the Joint Coordination Group on Clean Coal Technology and agree it will enhance bilateral cooperation and make a major contribution to improving the economic and environmental performance of coal use globally.

Howard and Chinese President Hu Jintao have also agreed to continue other work on climate change, particularly coal mine methane recovery, energy efficiency, climate change science and agriculture.

In addition, they have agreed on the role that the safe and secure use of nuclear power can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as other energy sources such as geothermal and solar thermal energy.

In other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation discussions, Howard says that forestry is set to play a large role in addressing climate change.

Australia and China are both strong supporters of the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, with Australia supporting China's proposal for an Asia-Pacific Network on Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management. Australia also supports the proposal made by China for an Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, which has the potential to make a valuable contribution to regional efforts to address sustainable forestry management and climate change.

The Asia-Pacific Network on Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management will be a platform for information-sharing, practical cooperation, policy dialogue and capacity building among APEC economies.

The Howard Government has committed \$15.7 million over four years from 2007 to 2011 to a new program for Asia-Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building. This program is designed to complement the Asia-Pacific Network on Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management.

[Source esaa news]