

### **AP6 Allocates \$60 Million**

Prime Minister John Howard last week announced Action Plans from the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6) and Australia's allocation of \$60 million for collaborative projects.

The projects cover a range of areas including renewable energies, improving environmental performance of fossil fuels, energy efficiency and best environmental practice in sectors such as coal mining and aluminium production.

Climate change strategies have been developed by eight task forces covering cleaner fossil fuels, renewable and distributed energy, power generation and transmission, aluminium, buildings and appliances, cement, coal and steel.

Cleaner fossil energy task force projects have been allocated almost \$20 million of the Australian Government's in-principle funding allocation. Included is an \$8 million provision for testing the CSIRO's mobile post combustion capture plant to develop the technology for commercial application.

"There is a lot of debate about climate change ... and there will be a lot of well-meaning injunctions to people to sign things and negotiate things. But side by side with all of that meritorious endeavour, there needs to be practical applications of technology," the Prime Minister said at the AP6 launch at CSIRO last week.

"We are getting on with the job of practical investment in technologies which are going to, in a sensible way, bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions," said Howard. Further funding includes \$5 million under the renewable generation and distributed energy task force to support the pilot of solar concentrator photovoltaic technology and facilitate planning and approval processes for deployment of the power stations across AP6 countries, in particular China and the United States; \$2 million to support an integrated coal production and methane extraction project; and \$2 million to align national stand-by power approaches across participating countries.

The Australian Government has committed \$100 million to the AP6. The balance of the funds will be available for new projects brought forward as the AP6 progresses.

[Source esaa news]