

US and China to cooperate on energy and climate change

The United States and China, representing the world's two biggest producers and consumers of energy, have negotiated a memorandum of understanding agreeing to enhance their cooperation on climate change, energy and the environment. "This MOU affirmed our commitment to reaching a successful international agreement on climate change and will expand our cooperation to accelerate the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy," says US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. She says the US and China face common challenges and share common interests in developing clean and efficient energy, combating global climate change and ensuring energy security. The MOU commits the two countries to "respond vigorously through ambitious domestic action and recognise that cooperation between the US and China is critical to address these challenges". Both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to work together to further promote the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to achieve a successful outcome in Copenhagen at the end of this year. In addition, the MOU expands and enhances cooperation between the US and China on clean and efficient energy and environmental protection to help both countries achieve environmentally sustainable and lowcarbon growth and meet national economic and development goals. Both countries have pledged to strengthen cooperation on renewable energy, the cleaner use of coal – including carbon capture and sequestration – smart grids, shale gas, second and third generation biofuels and advanced nuclear. The two powers will also continue their practical cooperation through the Energy Policy Dialogue and the new US-China Clean Energy Research Center, and on increased transparency in energy markets.

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