

# The Multiple Co-Benefits of Transformational Change: Energy, Land use and Climate Change

**Date:** Monday 6 December 2010

**Time:** 15:00 – 16.30

**Venue:** Cancunmesse, Room Monarca Hall D

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*Are our present energy systems adequate to resolve the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century such as climate change, poverty alleviation, energy security, and food security?*

Presentation of preliminary findings of the Global Energy Assessment, a multi-year global initiative involving some 500 analysts, reviewers and authors from throughout the world and on IIASA research findings on forestry and land use options to reduce GHG emissions.

**Introduction:** H.E. Georgina Kessel Martínez: Minister of Energy Mexico

## **Speakers:**

- Nebojsa Nakicenovic: Deputy Director IIASA and Professor Vienna University of Technology
- Thomas B. Johansson: International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, University of Lund
- Michael Obersteiner: Research Scholar IIASA

## **Commentators:**

- Kandeh Yumkella: Director General UNIDO and Chair Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC) for the UN Secretary General.
  - H.E. Georgina Kessel Martínez: Minister of Energy Mexico
  - H.E. Ogunlade Davidson: Minister of Energy Sierra Leone
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## Content

*Are our present energy systems adequate to resolve the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century such as climate change, poverty alleviation, energy security, and food security?*

- Many of the global challenges that confront us today are the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution caused by the continuing use of fossil and other “dirty” fuels.
- Energy systems are an appropriate entry point for addressing climate change and other global problems while achieving multiple benefits in health, energy access and food security.
- Stabilizing the global mean temperature below 2 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels will require a peak to be reached in GHG emissions immediately and a decline toward zero emissions and beyond in the second half of the century.
- To achieve this goal while addressing these and other pressing global challenges, such as universal energy access, requires transformative changes to, and decarbonization of, energy systems.
- This side event will present IIASA’s new research agenda and preliminary findings of the Global Energy Assessment.
- A core finding of the Global Energy Assessment is that with the right mix of technologies, policies and management, the next energy transformation can address poverty, development, sustainability, and climate change objectives in a cost-effective and sustainable way.
- A key finding from IIASA’s land use research is that by integrating bioenergy and carbon capture and storage with REDD imperatives at a global level, food security issues can be more readily resolved.

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