

Finding new sustainable economic models

The Bangkok Outcome Document urges policymakers to respect social and planetary limits to mitigate climate change impacts.




The world has reached planetary and social limits and needs to adopt a major policy change to recreate the delicate balance between economic needs and the environment. “Governments and decision makers around the world need to recognize the need for a change in the present economic model and move away from the conventional short-term supply vision,” recommended the recently released APO Bangkok Outcome Document.

The document is based on deliberations at the International Asia EnviroEconomics Conference organized by the APO, along with the Thailand Productivity Institute and Federation of Thai Industries, as part of the Eco-Products International Fair 2016 in Bangkok from 8 to 10 June.

Calling upon global economies to explore and adopt new business models to achieve Green Productivity (GP) and long-term business sustainability for a low-carbon future, the document lists three key strategies and several steps for mitigating climate change. It calls upon APO members and world economies to develop sustainable, smart, green communities and cities and targets 50% reductions in water, waste, and carbon emissions per capita in cities by 2030. The document recommends that this be achieved through recycling water and waste and doubling renewable and bioenergy use. It also suggests that by 2020 the world

should double the number of eco-smart cities, reduce traffic congestion by 50% by increasing the volume and share of public transportation, and establish standards and criteria for eco-smart cities.

The document emphasizes the need for world economies to adopt multifunctional approaches to increase GP and calls for production chains that minimize emissions and waste by undertaking 100% recycling of biomass and other renewable energy sources. It also calls upon governments to provide plans and fiscal incentives for GP and ethical consumption at all levels.

Raising awareness of the need for sustainable development and GP at the social and business level is the third key strategy recommendation. The document recommends the use of mass media, social media, and education to do this and to create GP business models for climate change mitigation. It also recognizes the important role public policy can play in setting standards and criteria, and in promoting renewable energy use for closing the gap between short-term economic priorities and long-term sustainable development goals. 

Go to the APO website at www.apo-tokyo.org/publications/outcome_documents to access this document.