



International Conference

on

“A Global Green New Deal?- Towards Green Energy Policies for Sustainable Development”

A 1 ½ day international conference by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and IRADe (Integrated Research and Action for Development (India))

Date: Sept. 24th -25th 2010

Venue and Accommodation for international Guests: The Claridges Hotel, New Delhi

Background:

Today world is facing multiple global crises which influenced the debate on climate change and sustainable energy policies: Incidents such as the global food and fuel crisis in 2008 or the recent oil disasters in the Gulf of Mexico and China have shown once more that the current dependency on oil leads to a dead end. In addition the rise in severe weather phenomena such as hurricanes, excessive rainfalls, floods and droughts put economic development at risk in many countries. On the one hand the financial and economic crisis has pushed climate and energy policy from the top of the agenda and also lowered the willingness of many states to provide funds for sustainable energy policies. On the other hand, the crisis nurtured hopes for a green recovery, that is, substantial investments into efficient and sustainable energy structures, green-tech industries and technologies in order to fight the recession, to enhance energy security and to combat climate change at the same time.

At the international level a Global Green New Deal could help to overcome the manifold global crises by actions and policy measures. Similar to the New Deal of former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s, a Green New Deal should stimulate economic recovery (where needed), create jobs, enhance livelihoods of the world's poor

and lessen carbon dependency and environmental degradation. Many political leaders, such as the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have acknowledged that there is “no escaping the truth that the nations of the world have to move to lower greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficient development paths”.

Amongst the Western industrialized and emerging countries one sees increasing signs of a paradigm shift towards a “greening of industries”, which are occasionally considered to be the third industrial revolution. This is for instance shown by the willingness to promote green innovations and to provide financial resources for renewable and sustainable energies, for example in the United States or by launching environmental stimulus programmes such as in China or Korea. Emerging and developing countries hope that the transfer of low-emission technologies and foreign investment in efficient energy systems offer improved energy security and easing of environmental problems and bring the co-benefits of improved agriculture, freshwater management and better sanitation.

A guideline figure for a Global New Green Deal and green investments was set by UNEP at 1% of the global gross domestic product (GDP). At present the spending of G20 is up to 0.7% of their combined GDP. Particularly against this background and due to the fact that policy reforms in the agricultural sector or cutting subsidies in the energy sector come at high political and financial costs, it is essential to ask if these investments are worthwhile. Is it really true that investments on Green energy projects at this juncture will make countries better equipped to develop and absorb new technologies and provide competitiveness in the years to come? Will a global Green New Deal contribute to boosting local economies? What is the role of new technologies? Could cash be raised through carbon taxes? What new national and international policies will have to be adopted to make a global Green New Deal? These are only some of the questions this conference will aim to address.

Main guiding question: Which incentives will have to be formulated globally to make a Green New Deal appealing to emerging and developing countries as well as Western and industrialized countries.

