Question: Are existing institutional frameworks adequate for addressing Climate Change issues?

Panel Discussion

Problem

- …concern about slow rates of progress with respect to addressing global climate change ….. and therefore it is important to explore possibilities for improving the global process
- (caveat …. *if it aint broke then don't fix it*) .

Health Warning

- no private agenda: open discussion: we are not seeking a particular outcome from this discussion (but maybe some recommendations)
- (for example) there is no European CC 'centre'. Might we make better progress in Europe if we had some sort of climate equivalent of ECMWF, or a European climate/energy policy partnership? Or what?
- (Comment: no new institutions, please: there are too many already)

What do we mean by an institutional framework?

- Institutional framework …… set of organisations, customs, working practices, conventions, laws, values, etc. **relating to a purpose** …. the socio-political environment in which people operate
- Institutions are structures and mechanisms of social order and cooperation governing the behaviour of a set of individuals. ...
- The word 'institution' is ambiguous in English ..

Examples of institutional frameworks pertinent to us today

- NATO for security/peace/water wars …… regional institutional framework … advanced study workshops …
- UNFCCC/UN/IPCC to address climate change issues (Oleg's ideology reference)
- Energy industry with its regulatory bodies …. Nuclear power, local planning processes and wind turbines, etc
- WMO to coordinate (regulate) national meteorology and climate activities

Most of us here today work within (or with) the climate change institutional framework (?)

Ozone Hole problem	Climate Change Problem
New, unprecedented problem (at the time)	New, unprecedented problem
Damaging Regional (polar) issue : few countries directly affected but all countries part of the solution	Damaging **Global** issue: many more countries directly affected and all countries are part of the solution
Clearly detected problem compared with natural variability:	**Less** clearly detected problem compared with natural variability
Urgent need to clarify and resolve	Urgent need to clarify and r esolve
Certainty in the science reached ……..after a while	Certainty in the science **not yet reached**
Largely enviro -technical problem: simulations ♉ models of solutions	**Major d evelopment problem** (economic, social, environmental) with **no easy options for r esolution**
Limited threat to status quo (a few chemical companies required to change their manufactured products)	**Major threat to status quo** with many powerful vested interests (e.g. oil, coal gas, automobile and airline industries)
Problem r elatively s traight forward – to understand and to resolve (substitute CFCs)	**Problem highly complex: radical changes in behaviour required**
Montreal Protocol : global solution agreed	**Global consensus difficult to obtain** through UNFCCC
Solution effective in short term : first hole not getting worse then reducing steadily depending on lags in the system	**Very long response lag ♉ slow response incentive and situation likely to get much worse before it stabilises**
Existing institutional infrastructure proved adequate to t he task	Existing institutional infrastructure **struggling** to cope.

The Core Issue

- **Energy considerations** are the critical issue in global warming … moving away from a carbon economy … so it is important to ask: ***Is the existing 'energy-climate' institutional framework adequate for addressing all the main issues at the scale of the problem?***

So …an appropriate institutional framework must …

- Perform at **all scales**: Need to consider global, regional, national and local parts of institutional framework…
- Meet the needs of **all stakeholders**: public, private and civil society
- At **all decision levels**: policy, planning, management …..
- Address needs in **all sectors**: Need to consider different knowledge requirements for policy development and coordination for planning purposes and for meeting management requirements in energy sector (and other climate affected sectors such as water, agriculture, health, infrastructure, and many others …. viz 'WeatherBill' presentation)

Example questions that we may need to address …

- Do we have confidence that the UN institutional framework (UNFCCC) will deliver in time? Is there any alternative?
- Is the current institutional framework in Europe adequate for the timely development of coherent and CC-effective energy policies? Are appropriate strategies for improving, sharing and using knowledge already in place?
- If we need to strengthen the existing climate change institutional framework in Europe? USA? Africa? then what kind of institution/organisations are required? Climate-energy policy centre? Would changes at European level answerable to Brussels? Part of the UN system? Independent but financed by the big polluters ? What would the relationship be with existing institutions?
- Is climate addressed as fully as it should be through WMO? Or is climate the 'poor sister' neglected by the meteorologists who run the institution? And consequently under-represented in terms of (e.g.) raising public awareness?
- And national meteorological services in different countries … Do the small countries have adequate climate services as well as the larger countries? Situation in Europe? Africa? Climate comparatively neglected? Why do we have so much duplication in European weather services?
- At present, Climate Risk Management is promoted in developing countries by IRI-climate and society at University of Columbia in New York: is this sufficient? How might CRM in developing countries be strengthened?

Example USA

- Over to John Dutton…..