

multi-stakeholder partnerships - acting on climate change

Climate change is one of the foremost global issues about which civil society, business and G8 governments are seeking to engage. In response to this demand, a series of high level public-private partnership projects on climate change has been created within the World Economic Forum's Centre for Public-Private Partnership. These partnerships are currently progressing on two tracks, one pushing for better reporting standards on GHG emissions, and the other feeding into the greater process of the Gleneagles Dialogue. Randall Krantz, elucidates.

THROUGHOUT EACH OF these initiatives, there is an acknowledgement, even a demand that the voice of business is necessary to ensure long-term success. Historically, business and governments have operated in separate spheres, perhaps influenced by one-way demands or lobbying efforts. Greater understanding and real two-way communication at the highest level is promoted through public-private dialogue, which allows more informed decisions by both business and governments as they better understand their respective stakeholders.

Government dialogue

Business interest in climate change is growing, as are sectoral initiatives and voluntary carbon reductions. These steps send strong signals to government that the business community is looking at long-term solutions and is willing to take positive actions to combat climate change. Business will require support and structure from governments in the form of policy frameworks, and will need to be engaged in ongoing processes which establish the principles behind future regulation.

The Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development is a unique G8/G20 governmental process involving the world's largest energy producer and consumer nations. It is a public-private dialogue that will deliver recommendations on policy as well as practical GHG emission reductions to the G8 Summit in Japan in 2008. The Gleneagles Dialogue operates outside of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or other more formal climate change

negotiation processes, and explores fresh and innovative public-private solutions.

A series of work streams has been commissioned under the auspices of the Gleneagles Dialogue, e.g. Sir Nicholas Stern's Review on the Economics of Climate Change and the 2006 IEA Energy Technology Scenarios review. The World Bank and other development finance institutions have also been asked, as part of the Gleneagles Dialogue process, to develop clean energy investment frameworks to stimulate investment in low-carbon options for energy and infrastructure investments.

