

# Item (h) of the Forum's Work Programme

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**Joint SBI/SBSTA Forum on the Impact of the  
Implementation of Response Measures  
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# Item (h)

**“building collective and individual learning towards transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society”**

***Important to understand this in the context of the mandate and purpose of the Forum:***

**“ ... with the objective of improving the understanding of the impact of the implementation of response measures.” (8/CP.17)**

# Defining “transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting society”

**From *Shared Vision* in I/CP.16:**

**...addressing climate change requires a paradigm shift towards building a low-carbon society that offers substantial opportunities and ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, based on innovative technologies and more sustainable production and consumption and lifestyles, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs;**

# The Need for Focused Discussions

- What measures are governments using to transition to a low-GHG-emitting society?
- Which of those measures have impacts? What kind, what magnitude of impacts? On which should we focus as a priority?
- Are there measures that would be as effective, with fewer such impacts?

# Countries in transition

- China: 12<sup>th</sup> FYP:
  - One third of targets relate to natural resources/environment
  - Cut carbon intensity by 17% by 2015
  - 15% non-fossil fuel energy by 2020 – ambitious targets
- Korea: green growth as national development strategy
  - 80% of 2008 fiscal stimulus to green initiatives
  - First national smart grid by 2030
  - Increased share of renewables to 11% by 2030
  - Reducing GHG emissions 30% by 2030

# What measures employed?

- Some less relevant to our work:
  - National targets, broad energy policies
  - Science and innovation policies, education
  - Creation of institutions (e.g., GGGI)
  - Export taxes
- Others potentially more relevant
  - Subsidies: outright cash grants, land grants, preferential tax treatment, R&D support, feed-in-tariffs, concessional lending, loan guarantees
  - Classic industrial policy

# What is best practice in the pursuit of a low-GHG emitting society?

Take subsidies to renewable energy, for example:

- ▣ Benefits:

- ▣ Increased dissemination of critically needed technologies
- ▣ Mitigation of climate change on a massive scale
- ▣ national-level economic development

- ▣ Impacts:

- ▣ Potential loss of innovative capacity in RE
- ▣ Loss of competitive markets, consolidation of RE
- ▣ Loss of market share for RE producers
- ▣ Loss of markets for substitutes such as fossil fuels

# Concluding thoughts

- These are very complex issues –will take time
- Not all measures of equal priority for the Forum
- Need to examine specific policies in depth, find best practice
- Need to examine both positive and negative impacts

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