



Carbon dioxide emissions to fall in 2009 due to economic crisis

Bangkok, Thailand (PANA) - The financial and economic crisis of the past 18 months has created a unique window of opportunity, with Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions expected to fall this year, the International Energy Agency (IEA) revealed here Tuesday.

Fatih Birol, IEA chief economist, disclosed at the UN climate change talks in Bangkok, Thailand, that investment in polluting technologies had been deferred and CO₂ emissions could fall in 2009 by as much as 3 percent - steeper than at any time in the last 40 years.

Birol spoke at the release of the special early excerpt of the World Energy Outlook 2009, a contribution from the energy sector to the UN climate change negotiations in Bangkok leading into Copenhagen, Denmark, where a climate change deal is to be sealed.

According to the report, CO₂ emissions are expected to fall in 2009 and this would lead to emissions in 2020 being 5 percent lower - even in the absence of additional policies than the IEA estimated just 12 months ago.

"The economic downturn has thereby created an opportunity to put the global energy system on a trajectory to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions at 450 parts per million (ppm)," the report said.

It also sets out key countries and regions, including the United States, Japan, the European Union, Russia, China and India, and the energy transformation that each might undertake, sector by sector, if the world were to adopt 450ppm trajectory.

The report also describes the current trends in energy use and emissions in a fully updated reference scenario, detailing the implications of current policies and taking into account the global financial and economic crisis.

About 4,000 delegates are gathered in the Thai capital to negotiate the new climate treaty ahead of the Copenhagen UN climate change conference, scheduled for December, where an ambitious deal is expected to be clinched.

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