

**Plenary Session – Enhancing energy efficiency to address air pollution and atmospheric problems, combat climate change, and promote industrial development
Tuesday 2 May 3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Australian Statement – Energy efficiency – labelling and standards
Helen Grinbergs (Australian Greenhouse Office)**

The Australian Government recognises the benefits of more efficient use of energy and energy assets, including the contribution it can make to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving productivity and enhancing energy security. One of the most successful measures we have applied in Australia has been minimum energy performance standards for appliances.

In 2000 the Australian Government took the approach of matching our standards with world's best regulatory practice in order to meet trade objectives as well as improved energy efficiency and greenhouse abatement outcomes. Australia is a small market and imports the majority of its consumer products, which generally are designed for the European or Asian markets. As a small market there is a danger that if we set our performance criteria too high, suppliers may simply opt out of this market, including Australian manufacturers looking to compete domestically and globally. This is why the policy to match the performance of the best in the world makes more sense for Australia at the current time.

Most recently Australia has been active in working with other countries and multinational industry to establish an agreed world best regulatory practice, under the banner of a communities of practice. Australia sees benefit in minimising variations through aligning global energy performance standards as far as possible and as a result minimising for industry the costs of implementing energy performance standards for a range of globally traded products and helping avoid creating a divide between developed and developing countries where less efficient products may be redirected to developing countries which do not have a viable standards and labelling scheme.

Our experience suggests it is possible to reduce unintended trade barriers imposed by differing national and regional standards under a community of practice. While the economic circumstances of differing countries will impact on their capacity to set the same performance standard, it is possible for a set of aligned efficiency levels to be set within global performance standards and labelling schemes that take account of country specific factors such as energy process, climatic factors and broader energy policy considerations (eg. energy self-sufficiency) while still working towards alignment over time.

In May 2005 we launched in china the International CFL Harmonisation initiative. This initiative is supported by more than 80 participants from 20 different organisations and 13 economies. Those included in the initiative have agreed on 5 general priorities for moving towards a harmonised test method and a number of performance requirements for CFL's to aid testing comparisons and facilitate trade; and to call upon others in the

international community to contribute to this common goal over coming years. Work on this initiative is ongoing – the international working group has created a website to aid in sharing of the work we are undertaking: <http://www.apec-esis.org/cfl/www/>

In conclusion, we have learnt that it is not enough to just develop new technologies to improve energy efficiency – they need to be supported by sound national policy frameworks and international goodwill. They need strong technical support and well as policy support; and they need to be accessible, available, cost effective and reliable.