

High-level Symposium on the United  
Nations Conference on Sustainable  
Development

# Green Economy: the Win-Win Strategy Going Forward

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Sept 8-9, 2011 Dr. Sarah Liao ,  
Beijing

# Environmental Sustainability and economic growth

- ▶ Chekov :
- ▶ *“man has been endowed with reason & power to create....but he is only a destroyer. Forests keep disappearing, rivers dry up, wild lives become extinct, the climate ruined and the land grows poorer and uglier everyday! “*

# Green Economy :

- ▶ Economy can thrive without necessarily leading to environmental degradation
- ▶ Instead of narrow focus of GDP growth, Green Economy makes reference to alternative indicators of well being, delivery social & environmental goals simultaneously : poverty eradication and sustainable development
- ▶ Relevance in the urgency to combat climate change and energy security

# RIO +20

- ▶ 1992: Earth Summit:  
Sustainable Development : Agenda 21
- ▶ RIO Summit: SD is a process of enhancing prosperity within the ecological limits of the planet earth. **Green Economy is the vehicle to achieve that.....**
- ▶ RIO+20 non legally binding, accelerate action to bring about sustainable development (5)

# Green Economy

- ▶ Reduce GHG (Carbon) and pollution emission
- ▶ Energy conservation in Buildings, industrial processes
- ▶ Sustainable transport
- ▶ Renewable energy
- ▶ Circular economy – reuse, recycling, reduce
- ▶ Water conservation
- ▶ Sustainable agriculture
- ▶ Afforestation / ecological protection

# Funding packages in 2008,2009

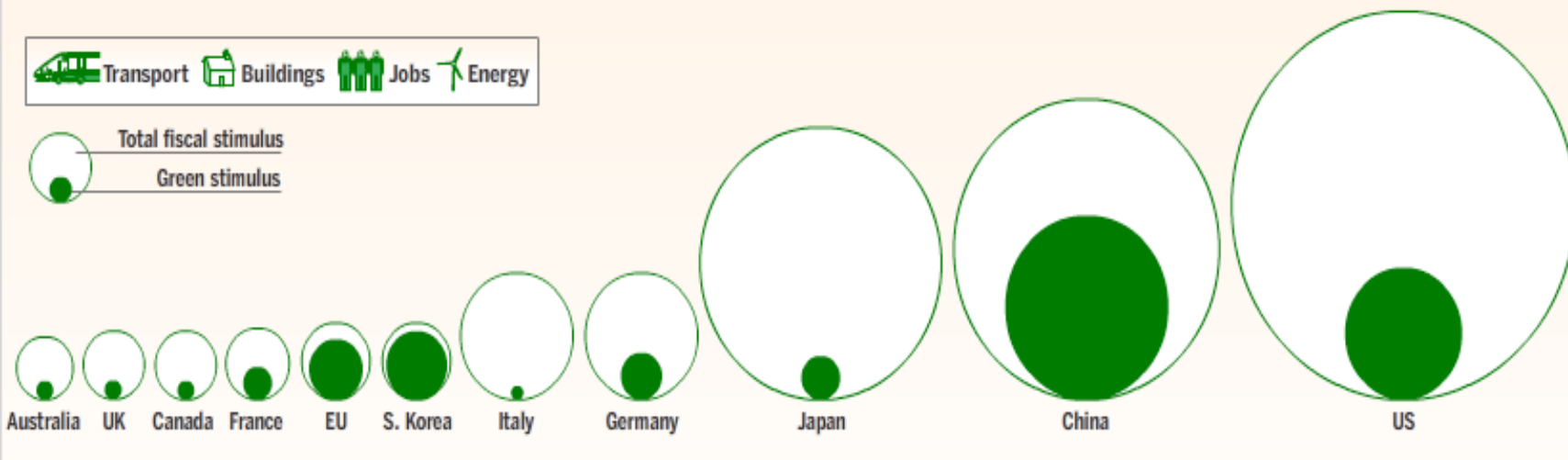
Which country has the greenest bail-out?

By volume

By percentage

Transport Buildings Jobs Energy

Total fiscal stimulus  
Green stimulus



Globally: \$ 2,7 trillion

# Asia : Europe: Americas

23.1 : 16.7 : 11.4

**Table 1:** Green elements of economic stimulus plans<sup>12</sup>

Country/Region	Fund \$b	Period	Green Fund \$b	% Green
<b>Asia Pacific</b>				
Australia	26.7	2009–12	2.5	9.3%
China	586.1	2009–10	221.3	37.8%
India	13.7	2009		0%
Japan	485.9	2009–	12.4	2.6%
South Korea	38.1	2009–12	30.7	80.5%
Thailand	3.3	2009		0%
<b>Subtotal Asia Pacific</b>	<b>1,153.8</b>		<b>266.9</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
<b>Europe</b>				
EU	38.8	2009–10	22.8	58.7%
Germany	104.8	2009–10	13.8	13.2%
France	33.7	2009–10	7.1	21.2%
Italy	103.5	2009–	1.3	1.3%
Spain	14.2	2009	0.8	5.8%
UK	30.4	2009–12	2.1	6.9%
Other EU States	308.7	2009	6.2	2.0%
<b>Subtotal Europe</b>	<b>634.2</b>		<b>54.2</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
<b>Americas</b>				
Canada	31.8	2009–13	2.6	8.3%
Chile	4.0	2009		0%
US EESA	185.0	10 years	18.2	9.8%
US ARRA	787.0	10 years	94.1	12.0%
<b>Subtotal Americas</b>	<b>1,007.8</b>		<b>114.9</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,796</b>		<b>436</b>	<b>15.6%</b>

# Employment impacts

- South Korea: spending 30 billion\$ in “green“ areas: protecting 700000 workers from unemployment
- US (Center for American Progress): 100 bill \$ in green investments, saving 2 million jobs.
- Creation of Green collar industries – estimate 5million jobs with proactive searching.
- Japan : sustainable development special areas in Yokahoma : circular economcy for vehicles, white electric goods, making use of obsolete steel plant – government stimulus based on employment numbers.



# Green Technology : Intellectual property rights and Technology transfer

nanotechnology

Rare earth metal potential in battery development

Wind energy :

- scaling up , environmental impact
- territorial arguments

Solar energy:

- solar concentrate
- photovoltaic : beyond silicon

Recycling of waste materials: technically not so challenging  
but behavioral and social challenges :  
creation of green collar workers

# Implementation Strategy

- ▶ Equal but differentiated responsibilities.
- ▶ Brazil decarboned its economy with biofuel
- ▶ USA – corporate America : USCAP
- ▶ Europe: legislation to cut carbon emission
- ▶ Sweden : Carbon tax at \$150per ton
- ▶ Others : Testing grounds at Mega–events
- ▶ E.g low carbon economy: Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games – Demonstrated zero emission at Shanghai Expo.

# USA

- ▶ Existing subsidies for fossil fuels.
- ▶ Transport policy: SUVs to more efficient cars, public transport.
- ▶ LEED certification for buildings, manage people's expectations.
- ▶ Agriculture&forestry

# China

- ▶ Incentive for clean energy, tariff change
- ▶ Public transport continues, car ownership barriers, electric vehicles
- ▶ New urban building energy saving models, people's acceptance.
- ▶ Sustainable agriculture :key to poverty eradication

# Win-win Strategy –International

- ▶ LEVEL PLAYING FIELD
- ▶ Clear goals: set targets & indicators to allow civil society to easily hold government to account.
- ▶ Promote and educate public awareness: showcase success stories
- ▶ Building capacity and institutionalize
- ▶ Sustainable agriculture : poverty reduction

▶ 1993 : Vaclav Smil:

▶ *“During the past four generations..... humans have learned more than all humans learned in all the preceding millennia about the complexity of the Biosphere, about its amazing resilience, about the ways of using and managing the ecosystems in sustainable ways.....In the long run, the rise of environmental consciousness will have effects comparable to the consequences of the last three great Western transformations – the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Industrial Revolution.....”*

Best wishes for RiO+20  
Thank you !

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