



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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FUTURE IPCC ACTIVITIES – NEW SCENARIOS

Report from the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium Expert Group regarding RCP3-PD

(Submitted by Richard Moss and Ismail Elgizouli on behalf
of the Steering Committee for the Expert Meeting on New Scenarios)

The full report of the evaluation panel is available in electronic form on the
IPCC website as document IPCC-XXX/INF.6

Report from the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium Expert Group regarding RCP3-PD

(Submitted by Richard Moss and Ismail Elgizouli on behalf
of the Steering Committee for the Expert Meeting on New Scenarios)

Dear Dr. Pachauri,

We are writing to complete the work of the Steering Committee for the IPCC Expert Meeting on New Scenarios. You may recall that the Steering Committee was formed to convene an expert meeting to complete several tasks following from IPCC's decision not to create and publish new scenarios. These tasks included: identify a proposed set of "benchmark concentration pathways" to be used in initial climate model runs; elaborate a description of key scientific and technical issues for coordinated development of new integrated scenarios; facilitate development of plans for the relevant research communities to coordinate, organize, and communicate further actions towards the development of new integrated scenarios, including institutional arrangements for coordinating and scheduling activities; and propose a plan for increasing involvement of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the development of new scenarios, including funding and organizational aspects.

The expert meeting was held in the Netherlands on 19-21 September 2007. The Expert Meeting Report was completed in April 2008 and can be downloaded at the IPCC website, <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/supporting-material/expert-meeting-report-scenarios.pdf>.

As described in the Expert Meeting Report, the sole issue not resolved during the meeting was whether the lowest Representative Concentration Pathway, RCP3-PD, would be realized with the IMAGE 2.9 or IMAGE 2.6 "peak and decline" scenario. We agreed in an exchange of letters with the Integrated Assessment Modeling Consortium (IAMC) that a panel comprised of Mikiko Kainuma, Nebojsa Nakicenovic, John Weyant, Christian Azar, Gary Yohe, Kejun Jiang, P.R. Shukla, and Emilio La Rovere would evaluate whether the 2.6 scenario was robust enough for this purpose. This assessment was to be based on two criteria, technical soundness and replicability.

The panel has now completed its work and has submitted the attached evaluation report. As stated in the summary of this evaluation, "The panel concludes and hereby recommends to the IAMC that the conditions of technical soundness and replicability (as defined in Moss, et al., op cit.) have been met by the current 2.6 watt/m² IMAGE RCP scenario." It should be noted that the IMAGE RCP scenario referred to is the modified one described in Box 1, page 42 of Appendix B of the Panel report.

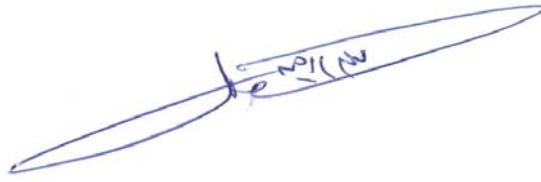
The steering committee has reviewed the report and confirms the selection of IMAGE 2.6 as the realization of RCP3-PD because it now meets the criteria established in the expert meeting, technical soundness and replicability. We recognize the considerable amount of analysis that has been provided by the evaluation panel.

We note that because the report was received later than originally anticipated, final selection of RCPs for climate modeling has been delayed compared to the schedule developed during the expert meeting. The IPCC should take stock of the implications of this change in schedule for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) process. A mechanism such as the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) will need to be identified for gathering information for review by IPCC. We also note that in transmitting this report to the IPCC, the Steering Committee is simply confirming selection of IMAGE 2.6 as an RCP and makes no judgment regarding other conclusions or observations of the evaluation panel.

The report of the IAMC evaluation panel will be publicly available through the IAMC website at <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/ENE/IAMC/docs/RCP-Report.pdf>. In addition, the data and additional information regarding the RCPs will be publicly available at the IAMC website, www.iamconsortium.org, once the data sets are finalized. We propose that the IPCC Data Distribution Centre also include a link to the data.

As Co-Chairs, we believe that this completes the work of the Steering Committee for the Expert Meeting and acknowledge all those who have contributed to development of the new scenario process and identification of the RCPs including the members of the Steering Committee, the meeting participants, reviewers of the draft Expert Meeting Report, and the members of the IAMC evaluation panel.

Sincerely,



Richard Moss
Co-chairs of the Steering Committee on New Scenarios

Ismail Elgizouli