

Mission Innovation

Joint Research and Capacity Building

Executive Summary

Collaboration on joint research and capacity building can help accelerate progress on clean energy innovation by leveraging the combined knowledge, capabilities and resources of partners towards more impactful outcomes. Under the Mission Innovation initiative, the Joint Research and Capacity Building sub-group, which includes the Governments of Canada, China, Denmark, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have worked together to draft a Working Paper on Joint Research and Capacity Building.

The purpose of this Working Paper is to:

- (1) Provide an overview of existing mechanisms for collaboration;
- (2) Establish common principles and best practices to enable collaboration; and
- (3) Present recommendations on advancing joint research and capacity building.

There are many examples of collaborative mechanisms that advance clean energy technology innovation. These mechanisms span a wide variety of stakeholders, including different levels of government and the private sector, and include bilateral, multilateral, global, and regional relationships. As a whole, existing mechanisms cover nearly all aspects of collaboration on energy technology research, development and demonstration. The International Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Ministerial, alone, have approximately 40 programs encompassing over 100 initiatives. This Paper describes a selection of mechanisms in order to provide an overview of current initiatives.

Common elements for success exist amongst these collaborative mechanisms. This Paper draws from these mechanisms, as well as case studies and analysis conducted by the European Commission, the Carbon Trust, the International Energy Agency, the United Kingdom, Canada and Israel, to establish three common principles for enabling collaboration between countries:

- Share information on priorities for research, development, and technology demonstration collaboration and improve innovation analysis;
- Take actions aimed at reducing common barriers to collaboration; and
- Encourage international collaboration when developing research, development, and technology deployment projects and programs.

Under these principles, a number of best practices are provided in the Paper, as guidelines for improving collaborative research, development, and demonstration efforts amongst countries.

Recommendations for Endorsement

The Working Paper makes three recommendations, which are reflected in the Mission Innovation Enabling Framework, to be tabled for Mission Innovation countries to endorse, at their inaugural meeting in San Francisco, California, May 31 – June 2, 2016:

(1) Leverage the Mission Innovation platform to facilitate partnerships and collaborations.

- Mission Innovation can be used as a platform to facilitate mutually beneficial collaboration and partnerships between member countries, the private sector, and other stakeholders in the clean energy technology innovation system.
- Research and development collaboration can be enhanced by adopting common principles and best practices (as mentioned in section 8 of the Working Paper).

(2) Leverage the Mission Innovation platform to facilitate capacity building.

- Mission Innovation can also be used as a platform to enhance collective global clean energy research, development, and deployment capacity by considering actions to align efforts, develop knowledge and skills, structures, and processes; to share resources; and to reduce duplicative efforts.

(3) Seek to facilitate collaborative research and development partnerships, with funding from national programs.

- Mission Innovation countries have already pledged to double funding for clean energy research and development over 5 years. As part of this effort, funding collaborative research and development projects amongst Mission Innovation partner countries will allow for greater acceleration of clean energy technology innovation.

Should Ministers agree, following the endorsement of these recommendations, the Joint Research and Capacity Building sub-group will proceed to develop a Work Plan that will inform future activities.