

June 8, 2017

Chair's Summary for Second Ministerial Meeting of Mission Innovation

On 7 June 2017, Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Members”), gathered for the Second Ministerial Meeting of Mission Innovation (MI) in Beijing, China. The Meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People’s Republic of China and took place in conjunction with the 8th Clean Energy Ministerial. The MI meeting was chaired by China’s Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang and co-chaired by the European Commission’s Vice President of the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič.

The purposes of the meeting were to: (a) take stock of progress since the Inaugural Ministerial Meeting of MI on 1 June 2016; (b) reaffirm Members’ commitment to the importance of innovation in advancing and realizing energy security and environmental objectives; (c) support and advance MI Members’ voluntary national, bilateral, regional and multilateral efforts to accelerate the pace of clean energy innovation, reduce costs, and make clean energy widely accessible and affordable; (d) provide updates on research and development plans and priorities, and announcements from MI Members; (e) discuss Members’ views on how MI can continue to engage in research and development collaborations among Members and with the private sector; and (f) provide guidance to the MI Steering Committee and MI Secretariat on plans and priorities.

Members welcomed Netherlands and Finland as the 22nd and 23rd Members of MI.

Host and Chair Minister Wan Gang opened the meeting by emphasizing the importance of national efforts to accelerate the pace of innovation and make clean energy widely accessible and affordable worldwide. He highlighted the collaborative nature of the MI platform, which brings together many of the world’s major public-funding actors in clean energy research and development (R&D), and which attracts and encourages private sector engagement. He also underscored the uniqueness of the MI platform, where Members share information on R&D needs and priorities; participate in joint research collaborations; and independently determine their own paths to a clean and secure energy future.

Co-Chair Vice President Maroš Šefčovič reported that progress among Members has been robust. Members have updated their country narratives and data on national R&D priorities, investment plans, and country baselines. Additionally, the MI Secretariat developed a [Guide for MI R&D Opportunities Workshops](#), compiled an online “[Roadmap and Reports Library](#)” and conducted [seven webinars](#) on clean energy innovation policies and programs. Breakthrough Energy Ventures, an investor-led clean energy innovation fund under the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, was also launched in December 2016. Updates on national clean energy progress were provided by selected Representatives of all MI Members.

Members then turned to work planning and organizational matters. Minister Wan Gang, as Chair, called on Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources, James Gordon Carr, to introduce an initial round of voluntary joint research initiatives, called [Innovation Challenges](#). Minister Carr noted

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that, as part of the ongoing work of Mission Innovation, Members have initially identified seven of areas of interest for collaboration, namely: (1) smart grids; (2) off-grid access to electricity; (3) carbon capture, utilization and storage; (4) sustainable biofuels; (5) converting sunlight to fuels; (6) clean energy materials; and (7) affordable heating and cooling of buildings. These Challenges present opportunities for MI Members to participate in efforts to enhance cutting edge research, development and demonstration of technologies that Members have identified as likely to benefit from increased international attention and with that, would make a significant impact in advancing clean energy innovation.

Members co-leading each of the 7 Challenges provided updates on [progress and plans](#) for the future of each Challenge. Further details on these plans, with dates and locations of announced workshops, may be found in an accompanying Fact Sheet.

Co-Chair Vice President Maroš Šefčovič chaired the discussion on business and investor engagement, where select representatives provided updates. Mexico informed Members that a [new partnership](#) between MI and the World Economic Forum (WEF) will be launched at the Public-Private Action Summit on June 8, 2017, at MI-2. Canada announced the launch of an “Investor Scan” that identifies key players in the field of clean energy finance. Canada indicated that they are exploring the possibility of an awards program that would recognize innovative individuals who are accelerating the clean energy revolution.

Co-Chair Vice President Maroš Šefčovič introduced the [MI Action Plan](#) and called on the Chair of the MI Steering Committee, Patrick Child, to outline its key features. These include encouraging public sector support for clean energy research and innovation; promoting private sector engagement and investment in key energy Innovation Challenges; boosting international collaboration via Innovation Challenges; and engaging MI Members with the broader clean energy community. The Plan is voluntary and MI Members may opt to participate in any one or more parts of the plan.

Chair Minister Wan Gang and Co-chair Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, along with Chair of the MI Steering Committee, Patrick Child, then led an open discussion on MI’s forward strategy, its multi-year action plan, and how to frame success in the context of MI. There was broad acknowledgement of the usefulness of the MI action plan.

The European Commission and Sweden, representing the Nordic Council of Ministers, announced that they will jointly host the third MI Ministerial Meeting (MI-3) in 2018. Canada announced that it will host the fourth MI Ministerial Meeting (MI-4) in 2019.

The Chair closed the meeting by summarizing the discussion, noting the progress that has been made to date, and urging continued momentum. The Chair thanked the MI Secretariat, the MI Sub-Groups, and all MI Members for their contributions.

Attachment:

[Fact Sheet -- China Hosts Second Mission Innovation Ministerial, 7 June 2017](#)