

Session Title: Policy innovation

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Abstract title: China Races to Carbon Neutrality: Rethink Policy Innovation in the Age of Resilience

Abstract text (within 100 words):

The current China black-out and power outage offers a real-life case that showcases the disconnect and misalignment of policies driving the shift towards carbon neutrality. And coal seems at the heart of the “curse”. On one side, China has been steering its energy mix away from coal, achieving impressive progress by reducing the percentage of coal in power generation from more than 70% to now 56% in the last decade. On the other, failing to connect energy security, energy economics and environmental integrity goal endangers to slow down the planned clean energy transition this decade when the government has committed to capping emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. And geopolitical factors further complicate the situation when China decides to stop import coal from Australia.

Resetting policy for innovation in the age of resilience becomes a fundamental task for governments around the world, shifting from siloed specialized modelling and analysis towards an integrated systemic redesign that is based on biosphere consciousness, with a humanity-shared destiny, and a clear purpose of people and planet positive. China somehow holds the “make-it-or-break-it” key to deliver the aspired 1.5C goal by mid-century. And the 10 billion tons challenge becomes a global collective and collaborative endeavor. Such an opportunity is more promising than ever, enabled by increasing technologies and new infrastructure and steered by a younger generation for change.