

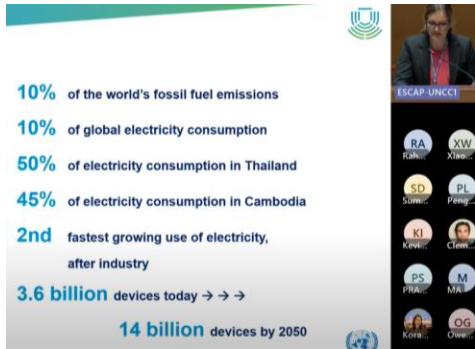


79th Commission Session – Side Event

Cooling: The Unseen Climate Challenge

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- As we head into a very uncertain future in the Asia-Pacific region, we know two things. **The region will get much hotter, and much more urbanized.** We expect **600 million more people to be living in Asia-Pacific cities by mid-century.**
- In **Thailand**, where we are today, **50% of electricity is used for air conditioning, not counting refrigeration.** In Cambodia, where most households have no air conditioning, the figure is 45%. Air conditioning is responsible for **10% of global fossil fuel emissions, and these could double by 2030.** Without intervention, demand for electricity for air conditioning is set to triple by 2050.
- Air conditioning is the fastest-growing electricity consumption after industry, and the 3.6 billion air-conditioning appliances we have today, including fans and air conditioners, will need to almost **quadruple to 14 billion by 2050 if access to cooling is to be provided to everyone who needs it.**

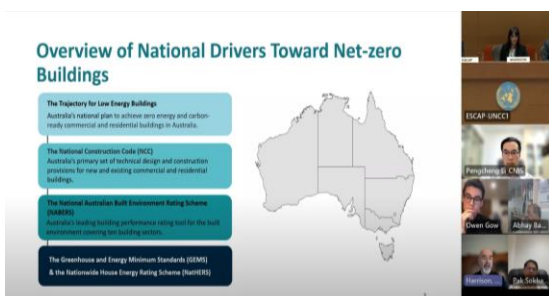


- When the Cool Coalition was established, sustainable cooling was described as a **blind spot in the global approach to climate and energy.** We can also speak of a **double-blind spot** because **energy efficiency** is a blind spot in policy-making, and **climate-friendly cooling** is a blind spot in this global effort to improve energy efficiency.
- It's **not an impossible challenge.** We need a **holistic, comprehensive approach that can help us reduce energy demand and cooling emissions,** improve access to cooling services and strengthen climate resilience.

Friday, 19 May 2023
12:45 to 13:45 (GMT+7)
Conference Room 3, UNCC, Bangkok,
Thailand



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- For these reasons, the **United Arab Emirates COP28 Presidency** and the **Cool Coalition** have introduced the [Global Cooling Pledge](#). The pledge **opens the door and the eyes of state and non-state actors to start addressing the issue of cooling in a holistic way**. UAE welcomes the support of all in the development of this Pledge and hopes that this initiative will benefit from the contribution and support of the widest possible ecosystem.
- Governments committing to this Pledge will need tools and resources that enable them to design investment-ready cooling projects and create heat action plans tailored to local contexts.** Developed by Arsht-Rock, the [Heat Action Platform](#) provides a **comprehensive framework for heat planning**, including learning modules focused on urban heat risk assessment, heat identification, vulnerable communities, heat action plan development and project financing and monitoring, as well as platforms.
- The key is to **turn to implementation**. In collaboration with UNEP and ESCAP. **Cambodia** has gone from [NCAP announcement](#) to **actual implementation**, attracting climate change funding in the process.. In **Australia**, where nearly 80% of homes are now equipped with air conditioners, **cooling is a major issue and is receiving a great deal of attention**.
- India believes that the **time has come for concerted, cooperative action on cooling**, and is considering proposing a **Global Center of Excellence** where we can **institutionalize these exchanges**. The aim is to create a permanent institution where we can have a series of focused dialogues, including the outcomes of the Pledge.
- The first thing to do is to **get governments on board**. It's about knowing how to **break through market barriers and using policy-making as an important means of bringing about change on the ground**. We see wonderful solutions. We see nature-based solutions such as urban forests. We see green roofs on buildings, passive cooling, shading. We see thermal mass, all these technologies that we can package, but unfortunately the markets aren't providing them, and **we need to start with better policies and better joint action to realize all these benefits**.

Access the Side Event recording at this [link](#).

