



PacificMUN 2018

Dare to Speak | February 23-25

LEGAL
Backgrounder Guide

LEGAL - Topic B

PacificMUN 2018

Dare to Speak.



Dear delegates,

My name is Linda Dai and I am ecstatic to be serving as the Director of LEGAL at Pacific Model United Nations 2018. Currently, I am a Grade 11 student at Crofton House School and have been an active participant in Model United Nations since my first conference in Grade 8. Pacific Model United Nations will be the first Model United Nations (MUN) conference that I will direct at and I am honoured to be running such an enriching committee. Each of my MUN experiences have created new learning environments and networking opportunities that caused me to fall in love with MUN. Through engaging debate and interesting resolutions, I have been able to explore the world of politics and international relations. I have met amazing friends, drank countless caramel macchiatos, and developed a more cognisant global awareness. I genuinely hope that this weekend provides a similarly positive yet challenging experience. The dais for LEGAL is extremely excited for the approaching conference. Elizabeth Vaz is a first-year student at UBC studying life sciences and business management. She will be serving as the Chair of LEGAL and has been involved in Model United Nations since she was in Grade 9. Ever since she was on Secretariat Team of PacificMUN during its first iteration in 2017, Elizabeth has held this conference in a special place in her heart. Additionally, Jonathan Song is a Grade 11 student at Vancouver College who is serving as your Assistant Director. Although he only started Model United Nations in his Grade 10 year, Jonathan has developed a strong love for MUN's invigorating debate. The LEGAL staff team greatly looks forward to seeing you all at PacificMUN 2018.

The topics for debate in LEGAL are critical for the development of the international community. Over the course of the weekend, we will be debating on The Issues Regarding Diplomatic Immunity and The Implementation of an International Carbon-Tax. Both topics reflect a diverse range of conflicts that are currently being combatted on a global scale. Each member-State will have different perspectives in regards to tangibly solving the complex array of problems that surround each subject. As your director, I look forward to meeting you and wish delegates the best of luck in their preparation for this conference! If you need any assistance or have any questions feel free to contact me at legal@pacificmun.org

Sincerely,
Linda Dai, LEGAL

Committee Description

LEGAL originated as the United Office of Legal Affairs in 1946. It was created as a separate department within the United Nations and later formed an individual office. This office became the sixth committee of the General Assembly in the United Nations. This committee acts as the primary forum for legal questions and provides a platform for debate surrounding international law. At its latest conference, the seventy-second meeting in 2017, Legal discussed numerous topics such as International Terrorism, Universal Jurisdiction, and The Responsibility of International Organizations. One of the most notable actions of LEGAL was creating the International Trade Law Branch which was established to manage the international trading of products and goods between countries.

Comprised of 193 delegations, LEGAL commonly collaborates with other UN bodies on a series of conflicts. Although law-making and similar reinforcements also take place in other specialized agencies, conflicts that fall under the general umbrella of reform in regards to international law are usually negotiated within the Sixth Committee. LEGAL has continually devoted its efforts to global progressive development and its member-States meet annually to discuss the most critical issues. From negotiating treaties to combating social stigmas, LEGAL has the general authority to recommend and influence lawful resolutions on a universal scope. The Sixth Committee can also provide advice to other UN bodies, excluding topics that fall under the Security Council's mandate.

Topic Overview

Rising economies and industrial production throughout the years, especially in present times, has resulted in a threatening strain on the surrounding environment and air quality in these regions. Particularly in developed nations who rely heavily on mass production, the greenhouse emissions that these large factories produce have created irreversible effects on the natural welfare of the aforementioned countries. These consequences have since caught the attention of the United Nations and its respectable delegates as well as the adoption of an International Carbon Tax which has been suggested and continuously debated on as a possible and necessary element to solving the pressing issue.

A carbon tax is most commonly defined as a tax based on the greenhouse gas emissions (also known as GHG) that are the result of burning fuels.¹ An international carbon tax suggests the implementation of a universally acknowledged price cap on each tonne of GHG produced. The hope is that this will ripple and eventually stabilize the economy and alleviate the relevance of mass production in the market by reducing the overall emissions over a period of time. Many nations have already taken steps in enforcing a carbon tax and there are countries who have begun to seek out both carbon pricing readiness as well as related activities along with production instruments. In order to successfully recognize this as a tangible solution, delegates will need to have an in-depth understanding of their member-State's foreign policy, especially in regards to their country's view on the production of GHG. Furthermore, individual delegations will need to negotiate specific tax caps that are reasonably applicable on an international scale and adaptable to the multitude of economies that exist within the committee. This is a result of the price set as the foundation for forthcoming initiatives that will measure progress on an ecological and economic scale.

1 <http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/tp/climate/A1.htm>

Timeline

1700-1800's: The Industrial Revolution

During the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels were treated as the ideal source of energy. Steam locomotives were the most common machines used and they used coal as fuel because of the lack of firewood and charcoal at the time.

1868-1912: Meiji Era in Japan

When the Meiji emperor returned to the throne in 1868, Japan was primarily dependant on agriculture and had seen little to no technological advancement because of past treaties that limited trade. After regaining control and fighting two wars, one of which against Russia, Japan began to invest in new industries.

Japanese governments during this period in history began to take advantage of the coal in the region and encouraged the development of coal mines in the nation in hopes that it would lead to industrialization.

1991: European Union Proposes European Carbon Tax

An incentive similar to a Europe-wide carbon tax was brought up by the EU when the global warming crisis first began to gain awareness. If imposed, each member nation would adopt an instrument to combat the perceived threat of climate change, primarily from the natural gas and carbon-emitting fossil fuels. The political optics were discussed along with the economic merits of additional taxation. This marked the first conversation between member-States of an initiative created to address global warming.

1993: Clinton Administration Proposes General Tax on Energy

The primary focus of former President Bill Clinton's first budget proposal was a monumental tax on energy. This BTUs (British Thermal Units) that would have been priced was predicted to cost around \$30 billion annually, approximating to \$300 per family of four.² Economists stated that this tax would have terminated over one million jobs in the United States. Although the energy tax was repealed, the negative stigma that surrounded the possible implementation continues to follow current proposals.

March 1995: First UN Conference on Climate Change

The first Conference of Parties (COP) took place in Berlin, Germany in March of 1995. This was the premiere session under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference voiced perspectives and concerns in regards to individual countries' ability to meet and set commitments. An important outcome of this UN discussion was the agreement on "activities implemented jointly"; this means that sovereign nations agreed to take a united stance and joint measures in climate action.

1997: The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was the first international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It recognized that developed nations were primarily responsible for the damaging levels of greenhouse gas emissions because of continuous industrial actions in the past 150 years³. This protocol was fostered in Kyoto, Japan on December 11th, 1997 and officially was published February 16th, 2005.

2 <https://cei.org/news-letters-cei-planet/clintons-stealth-btu-tax>

3 http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

2007: Caring for Climate Business Forum

Launched by then-Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, this forum increased the spectrum of business's role in fighting global warming. "Caring for Climate" provided a structural framework for industrial leaders to develop tangible options in their businesses, reform public policies, and create positive public perspective. Chief executive officers within this forum are expected to take on authoritative responsibilities such as measuring and disclosing emission data. Under the UN Global Compact, 350 companies from 65 different countries have stated their support, while measurements in 2009-2010 reveal that the signatories' total carbon dioxide emissions were lower than that produced by the European Union's economies.⁴

2008: Canada Introduces Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax

The energy tax was introduced in British Columbia by the provincial government at the time. In order to maintain neutrality and offset the revenue, there were governmental cuts to personal and business taxes. Additionally, there was also a new form of tax credit for low-income groups. The generation of values from these tax reductions balanced the carbon tax revenue.⁵

2010: Climate Conference in Cancun

At this conference, member-States passed the Cancun Agreements. The Cancun Agreements were a set of decisions passed by the international community at the climate conference that addressed long-term consequences of global warming and environmental harm. The resolutions reached included ensuring international transparency, mobilizing and transferring clean technology, and providing scaled-up funding⁶. In particular, this United Nations Climate Change Conference presented key steps that helped LEDCs plan and build sustainable futures protected from the impact of climate change.

2011: Sustainable Energy for All Initiative

The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership and agreement between sovereign governments, private businesses and sectors, and civilian communities. This United Nations initiative set three main objectives for 2030: ensure universal access to current energy resources, double the improvement rate of energy efficiency globally, and double the share of sustainable and renewable energy.

2014: US-China Agreement to Avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2014, the United States and China presented a previously negotiated deal to reduce GHG outputs in their nations. This marked not only the first time the Chinese government agreed to cap emissions and increase its use of green energy (to 20% by 2030,) but also a heavy commitment to deep reductions by 2025 on behalf of America⁷. The agreement between the two separate governments provided a significant boost to international efforts to reach a global pledge at the Paris Climate Conference the following year.

2015: The Paris Climate Conference

This conference was one of the most important negotiations regarding an international consensus to diminish environmental destruction and global warming. For the first time in history, The Paris Climate Agreement united all of the world's nations in a single agreement. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol attempted a similar feat, but the United States revoked their agreement and there was overall a lack of compliance from the handful of developed nations involved. Key elements of the signing of the Paris Agreement in New York City included a 5-year emissions cut plan, matching a number of CO₂ emissions caused by human activity to the level of natural absorption between 2050 and 2100, and establishing a "climate finance" infrastructure.⁸

4 <http://www.un.org/climatechange/the-secretary-general/>

5 <http://business.financialpost.com/opinion/how-b-c-s-formerly-revenue-neutral-carbon-tax-turned-into-another-government-cash-grab>

6 <http://unfccc.int/cancun/cancun-agreements/>

7 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/12/china-and-us-make-carbon-pledge>

8 <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35073297>

Historical Analysis

The historical growth of fossil fuel emissions throughout the world can be seen and documented in the process of industrialization. The Industrial Revolution in the 18th century marked the beginning of high quantity fossil fuel usage in economic industries. Although energy extraction from organic can be seen from as early as 1000 B.C, large amounts of fuel consumption for the purpose of economic gain and privatized wealth began when mass production became a common method in many industries. Since the humble beginnings of the oil industries in the 19th century, developments in technology that extract fuel such as petroleum greatly sped up to feed society's consumption of energy. The faster machines were able to collect and gather fossil fuels, the more fossil fuels were used to power modern devices like automobiles, ships, planes, etc. Throughout history, the use of energy and fossil fuels has been synonymous with economic growth. Nonrenewable fossil fuels were preconditions for the new transformative industrial civilization.

Oil, coal, natural gas, natural energy, and nuclear power are collectively categorized as primary energy. Overall, the international community's consumption of primary energy and similar resources has increased exponentially; 3.8 billion tonnes of oil in 1995 is equivalent to 11.1 billion tonnes of oil in 2007⁹. These values continue to fluctuate in different nations. Members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) accumulated for more than half (69%) of the world's energy consumption in 1995, but this figure surprisingly fell to a steady 50% in 2007¹⁰. Analysts attribute this decrease to a low population growth, changes in industrial infrastructure, and most importantly, the increased presence of clean technology and renewable energy. In contrast, developing countries have begun to account for a higher percentage of global energy usage. Sovereigns such as China and other Asian nations revert to unsustainable forms of fuel because of the overall price difference between extracting fossil fuels and implementing green technology. Rising populations and ongoing advancement also contribute to this growth.¹¹

The release of carbon dioxide emissions has been rapidly increasing since 1900. Primary fumes went unnoticed because of the seemingly positive impact fossil fuel usage had on the economy. The growth has been parallel to the use of harmful energy resources in national industries. Although a great majority of emissions are from a concentrated group of countries, reducing consumption in order to balance carbon emissions and countermeasure global warming has been historically agreed on to be a crucial international effort. The Kyoto Protocol of 1997 along with various other acts have attempted to globally diminish greenhouse gases, but carbon taxes on an international scale have only been recently discussed as a possible solution.

Current Situation

An international carbon tax has been considered the main topic in many present-day discussions as a targeted method. The idea of an economic incentive to reduce and fight against the growing threat of global warming has risen amidst the significant increase in carbon dioxide emissions in present times. With the release of CO₂ due to human activity and man-made production at a record high compared to historical emission rates, data in recent years have revealed that global CO₂ emissions were 150 times higher in 2011 than they were in 1850.¹²

9 http://large.stanford.edu/publications/coal/references/docs/statistical_review_of_world_energy_full_review_2008.pdf

10 <http://www.oecd.org/>

11 <https://www.wri.org/blog/2014/05/history-carbon-dioxide-emissions>

12 Ibid

The public's increased awareness of global warming, with significant help from media outlets and other resources, has greatly benefitted the support behind an international carbon tax. The effect of combusted fossil fuels on the environment can cause ground-level ozone, acid rain, climate change, along with a wide array of other issues.¹³ A carbon tax is a major player in market-based choices that can lower release rates. Many consumers and economists have rallied in support of this idea because of its overall neutrality and simplicity. However, politicians have been noted to be more in support of the international carbon tax's counterpart: the cap-and-trade system. The basis of a global adaptation instrument that will lower pollution rates, amongst other things, is built on the economic principle of negative externalities. When goods are produced and manufactured, the generation of externalities is inevitable because of the costs that come from the production services. Negative externalities in the present-day are the sums that are not accounted or paid for. Consumption rates of fossil fuels occur at high values daily because of utilities; when businesses create harmful fumes at a societal cost, the long-term outcome negatively affects society as a whole. Because of this, many modern-day proponents of a carbon tax perpetrate the concept that the price of fossil fuels like CO₂ should account for the detriment.

By 2014, around 40 national and over 20 sub-national jurisdictions have established emissions trading schemes or carbon taxes implemented or scheduled for implementation.¹⁴ In total, these sovereignties make up for more than 22 percent of the world's accumulative carbon emissions. As global warming becomes an increasingly pressing issue in today's society, more countries are beginning to prepare advanced systematic methods in pricing carbon. If governments commit to these plans, these nations would represent almost half of GHG emissions. When broken down, a total of 14 countries and 1 province (British Columbia, Canada) are in the process of or have already established a direct carbon tax; moreover, 18 countries are expected to be ready to implement a form of carbon pricing by 2020 while 35 nations and 20 subnational jurisdictions have fostered emissions trading programs (ETS).¹⁵

When analyzed further, present-day statistics show that out of ten of the international community's largest economies, there are merely two, the United States and Russia, that have not taken measures to adopt a carbon tax system. In nations where an energy taxation is already in place, the general structure surrounds the level of carbon dioxide emissions produced by the industry. Explicit pricing is directly connected to the amount of GHG released, and although it can not be guaranteed that the maximum amount of emissions are being reduced, the cost-effectiveness of this economic instrument has secured itself as a tangible tool in many multi-national industries.

Looking ahead to international carbon pricing readiness, cost-efficient policies are necessary in order to support taxations on an international degree. Diverse industrial advances in different countries diverge in their unique circumstances and economic goals. For example, developing nations may look to focus more on advancing their industries and stabilizing their national economy on a global scale rather than adopting a tax that would limit and slow down their development. Countries' actions towards using an international carbon tax on their production rates range from steady improvement to already existing designs to trialing a multitude of pricing instruments. Realistically, many nations are unable to instill a tax right away; therefore, a primary focus of some sovereigns is to improve "carbon pricing readiness." Carbon pricing readiness lays a foundation for the possibility of an upcoming emissions tax. In other cases, governments are simultaneously attempting to pursue economic adjustment initiatives and taxing techniques. The stage of implementation is dependant on the nation's priorities. Some are trying to maintain a guaranteed level of security and transitioning to greener technologies while others are simply at the readiness stage only.

13 <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/carbon-tax.htm>

14 <http://11bup83sxdss1xze1i3lpol4-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Carbon-Tax-Intl-FINAL.pdf>

15 Ibid

Past UN Involvement

The possibility of enforcing a worldwide energy tax has been deliberated both within internal sovereigns and during United Nations committee sessions. One of the most historic deliberations within the UN body was the climate change conference that took place in Paris in 2015.

The Paris Climate Conference is also officially known as COP21, derived from the 21st Conference of the Parties, and falls under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹⁶. The UNFCCC is based in Berlin, Germany and is responsible for all climate-based discussions. Annually, the COP meet to pass resolutions that further support the foundation of the Convention and the general goal to combat climate change. The agreement adopted in 2015 sets an ambitious goal for containing global warming than in the past by stating that all member-states involved will take concrete and legitimate measures to minimize carbon emissions that have contributed greatly to planet-warming and similar problems. The main goal of the Paris Agreement is to create a unified effort amongst the 195 parties who have signed and recognized the commitment in not only fighting the detrimental changes that are taking place in the world's environment but also in adapting to its effects and supporting developing nations to do the same. The conference marked the beginning of a new outlook in the global warming effort and its initiatives include preserving forests, maintaining transparency, and bearing costs.

Past presentations that have had to do specifically with carbon tax include Susanne Åkerfeldt's presentation at the 13th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on December 5th, 2016 in New York City, USA. Åkerfeldt is the Senior Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in Sweden and her talk at this conference centered around Sweden's implementation of a carbon tax, one that has been in place since 1991¹⁷. The global outlook that was the focus of her method of persuasion highlighted the benefits of a carbon tax, with reasons including low administrative costs and a flexible step-by-step approach. In regards to revenue, the Swedish ambassador presented options to fossil fuel use that could be enabled in addressing short-term distributional consequences. Sweden's energy taxation has generated funds that have greatly benefitted the nation as a whole; the nation carries a success story that has developed multiple other programs along with its reduction of carbon emissions in the sovereign's existing industries. Åkerfeldt leads the discussion with the other delegations who were present at this session and the debate represented the United Nations' continued interest in preserving environmental wellness.

Past Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has launched many sustainable development initiatives in the past as well. A particularly notable one is his creation of the Caring for Climate Business Forum, which utilizes the foundation of both the UN Environment Programme and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to advance the role of business in climate change reduction. Mr. Ban has called on world leaders in the past, encouraging them to utilize their political commitment to long-term preservation and sustainability.

16 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/09/the-paris-agreement-faqs/>

17 http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/13STM_Presentation_Akerfeldt_5Dec16.pdf

Potential Solutions

Pricing carbon by utilizing a carbon fee is perhaps one of the most powerful stimulants that governments can control and use to discourage pollution in their nation. The solution to place a charge on GHG emissions (mainly from burning fossil fuels) can be done by placing a surcharge on all fuels that have a carbon foundation, along with other industrially-processed sources of pollution. If implemented, an international carbon tax would put a monetary price on the costs a country's economy produces based off of a number of harmful emissions created in the process.¹⁸ Under the proposed system, the expense of releasing carbon dioxide and polluting not only determines the economy's strength signal and reliance on mass production and related procedures but also finalizes the degree to which cleaner alternatives are fostered. Realistically, a higher price on emissions will eventually lead to increased investments in green energy sources such as solar power. In the long term, it would hopefully act as a catalyst for a shift to cleaner technologies and diminish pollution in a unified effort. In places like Canada and Sweden, a carbon tax has successfully reduced rates of carbon dioxide pollution. However, a risk to implementing a carbon tax, especially on an international scale, is the strain it puts on industrial production and trade. Critics claim that the damage caused to the economy may leave some nations unable to recover, particularly LDCs who do not yet have economic stability.

The main competitor to a carbon tax is a system commonly known as cap-and-trade. In a cap-and-trade system, governments place a strict limit on the amount of carbon pollution from industries. This "cap" would steadily decrease over the years and cut the industry's accumulated GHG emissions to the regulated boundary. As the limit continues to lower, polluters are forced to exceed their emissions quota in order to purchase available quota from other companies. The government distributes these quotas through fair methods and auctions, creating an incentive for companies and firms to contain their production of emissions in hopes of selling more pollution quotas. The price would be set by the market, therefore ensuring that CO₂ air contamination rates go down. Cap-and-trade has seen success in the U.S in reducing chemical emissions that caused acid rain. The main obstacle to this system is that it requires the presence of an emissions trading market, which means that more time is needed in establishing a working structure.

The main advantage a cap-and-trade system holds over a carbon tax is the certainty it provides in regards to specific pollution reductions. On the other hand, a carbon tax is less complicated and can be implemented in a shorter period of time as it relies on existing taxation structures. The key component in both options is the economic signal as this factor will measure the growth and success. Both approaches are equally as feasible if designed properly. The two options could be used in tandem, combined into one complex arrangement, or not used at all, depending on what the committee chooses to prioritize and adapt as an international community.

Bloc Positions

Europe

This bloc is divided in its implementation of reduction initiatives. Some European nations have installed a CO₂ tax where the price per tonne of carbon emitted is set by the government. In other sovereigns, a cap-and-trade system where a limit gradually reduces over time by a scheme. In nations where this is in place, the pace at which the limit decreases is set by the authoritative body, whilst the market determines the price. The European Union's emissions trading scheme (ETS) is the world's largest cap-and-trade plan, covering about half of the bloc's total carbon dioxide emissions¹⁹. However, it is struggling to regain stability after it fell to a record low in 2013.

¹⁸ <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/carbon-tax.htm>

¹⁹ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-state-of-carbon-pricing-around-the-world-in-46-carbon-markets>

In the nations in Northern Europe, carbon taxes or similar taxation methods are widely accepted and used in all jurisdictions. These countries include Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Sweden. As a result of pricing this source of energy in their sovereigns, GHG emissions have decreased significantly, while the money collected from these taxes have gone to housing programs and other areas of funding. Not only is this bloc one of the strongest supporters of an international carbon tax, they are one of the longest implementers of a CO₂ taxation; Sweden has had a limit and price on the release of carbon since 1991. The nation charges carbon at a price of \$168 per tonne, as a result the country has the highest carbon price in the world. France and Ireland also charge limited taxes on the release and usage of fossil fuels.

The UK put a minimum price on emissions in 2012 by introducing a carbon price floor; however, after negative media coverage and controversy surrounding high consumer bills, the policy was revoked by the UK Chancellor.

Canada

Canada is an evident supporter of carbon taxation and is been committed to establishing a carbon tax in all provinces by 2018. The main difference in the system used in this country is that they are introducing it per sub jurisdiction as opposed to an all-inclusive national tax. The federal government's plan to implement the tax on provinces that do not yet have a pricing system in place will mirror the structure of the Alberta carbon program. For example, rebate payments are expected to be sent directly to low and middle-income individuals. A price on carbon is part of Canada's plan to meet its international commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.²⁰

United States

The US has faced failure in the nation's numerous attempts in establishing a national cap-and-trade trade program. Despite this obstacle, there have been two regional schemes that are successfully in place in America. The first is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); this covers the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. The initiative has since been recognized for its symbolic importance but criticized for its lack of productivity and ambition. In these states, carbon is priced at \$2 to \$3, considerably low in comparison to other regions, including California's \$10 to \$15 taxation.²¹

China

The creation of six regional cap-and-trade schemes in China in 2014 caused ripples in the carbon trading community. Since its start, the nation has become home to the world's second-largest carbon market, with 1,115 megatonnes of CO₂ emissions covered by the project²². Ever since the country surpassed the United States in 2006 as the top carbon dioxide emissions producer, there has been debate surrounding the government's actions and perspective on preserving environmental wellness. China's legislature passed a new environmental tax in 2016 that will officially be established 2018, but the makers of this policy have refrained from explicitly including a carbon tax under its authority. As a sovereign that is heavily reliant on mass production and related industries, it is unclear as to how the government plans on committing to its promise to support environmental protection and wellness initiatives proposed by other nations and the UN, such as an international carbon tax.

20 <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/federal-carbon-tax-plan-to-follow-alberta-program-include-individual-rebates/article34939245/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

21 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-state-of-carbon-pricing-around-the-world-in-46-carbon-markets>

22 Ibid

Australia

Tony Abbott's role as the nation's Prime Minister from 2013-2015 greatly altered Australia's carbon taxation system. In contrast to China's growth in market value and early success, the governmental transition has led to an implosion in the nation's carbon market. A focus of Abbott and his party's campaign was to revoke Australia's carbon tax and put a halt to its integration into the ETS that is in place with the EU. Instead of an emissions taxation, the sovereign's past prime minister implemented a Direct Action plan. This plan is depicted to provide financial incentives for fossil fuel users and polluters to reduce emissions through an Emissions Reduction fund where companies bid on boundaries. The recent rumours that there will be a carbon tax on cars has since been rejected by The Federal Environment and Energy Minister, and it seems that Australia is committing to its Direct Action plan.

Discussion Questions

Is your nation able to adapt both economically and industrially to an international carbon tax?

How reliant is your country's economy on mass production-based industries?

Has your nation proposed carbon tax initiatives in the past? Why did they get the results they did?

What can governments do to ensure minimal negative impact of a carbon tax on the economy?

How has your government addressed the rising threat of global warming? Have there been any policy reforms as a result? How do these differ from a carbon tax?

What could be the long-term outcome of implementing either an international carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system in your country? Which solution does your nation favour?

In what way can delegations create a taxation system that is adaptable to the diverse industries that exist in the international community?

Further Reading

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cop21/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=2152>

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/pricing-carbon>

<http://www.oecd.org/>

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