Non-State and Sub-National Actors Climate Pledges and their Role at Paris COP21

Dr Angel Hsu

Director of the Yale Data-Driven Environmental Solutions Group

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College and

Adjunct of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Thursday, 14 April 2016

3.00 pm to 4.30pm

ESI Conference Room

29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace

Block A, #10-01, Singapore 119620

Please send us your name, organization and email address via the ESI website here. For enquiries, please contact Ms. Jan Lui at 65162000.

Synopsis

Climate change success will require moving beyond the 20th Century focus on nation-state targets and timetables to emphasize a broader base of action on a more bottom-up basis. Cities, regions, businesses and investors are taking action to address climate change. The Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA), Platform highlights the 12 action areas of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and showcases over 10,000 global commitments that span almost every sector. The growing leadership of cities, states, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society organizations is evident in the fact that nearly 5,000 companies, hailing from more than 88 countries, and representing over $38 trillion USD in revenue, have pledged to mitigate their emissions, support adaptation efforts, or finance climate action. As these efforts continue to grow, efforts to understand and quantify their contributions to national and global goals are increasingly vital.

This presentation will address the significance of sub-national government and non-state actors by analysing and contextualising their efforts alongside those of nation states based on research findings by the Yale's Data-Driven Environmental Solutions Group (Data-Driven Yale). The role of non-state and sub-national actors in the Paris COP21 talks in December 2015 will also be discussed.

About the Speaker

Dr Angel Hsu is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College and Adjunct of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She is Director of the Yale Data-driven Environmental Solutions Group and Principal Investigator of the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) – a global ranking of national environmental performance that is jointly produced with Columbia University and launched at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos. Her research explores the intersection of science and policy and the use of data-driven approaches to understand environmental sustainability, particularly in the areas of climate change and energy, water, and air quality.

Previously, Dr Hsu was a Research Analyst at the World Resources Institute (WRI), a non-profit environmental think-tank in Washington, DC, where she developed corporate greenhouse gas accounting and reporting initiatives in developing countries, including Mexico, Brazil, India, Philippines and China, where she managed and led WRI's efforts. She has written in and been cited by major media outlets, including The Economist, The Atlantic, and The Guardian and has provided expert testimony for the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

She holds a PhD in Forestry and Environmental Studies from Yale University, an M Phil in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, and a BS in Biology and BA in Political Science from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.