

## Workshop 2: Energy, climate change and environment

The 2014 WPC takes place at the exact same time as the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Delegations from all nations are meeting in Lima to further advance the negotiations towards a binding global commitment on cutting carbon emissions. Adopting such agreement in Paris in 2015 is an ambitious goal and success is not guaranteed at this stage. However, there is clear evidence that climate change is a growing concern all over the world and a global action is becoming urgent. This workshop will aim at reflecting how the climate challenge is currently taken up, through the UN climate talks and regional/national measures. The session will also address non-governmental initiatives and the extent to which these actions, seen as a burden for long, could actually yield opportunities.

### **I. State-of-play of the international climate negotiations: can COP 21 be successful?**

*Expectations for the COP21 in Paris are high. Climate change being a global issue, there is a strong case for a coordinated response at the international level, but finding an agreement under the multilateral negotiation scheme has proven a difficult exercise. The speakers will share their views on the key elements of the coming discussions, on the shifting alliances and on the potential results of the Paris Conference.*

### **II. Climate actions in a context of rising energy demand in Asia**

*To be successful, the fight against climate change needs to take on board all major emitters but it is a clear challenge for the areas of the world experiencing strong economic growth, such as Asia, where energy demand is expected to rise. Furthermore, scientists have warned about the devastating impacts climate change could have if strong action is not taken in time. Whether these are direct effects, such as the increase of natural disasters, or connected issues, such as air pollution, they are already becoming concrete, triggering policy reactions and changes in the way climate change is being considered.*

### **III. The fight against climate change goes beyond governmental commitments**

*Civil society, cities and the private sector are all taking initiatives to reduce GHG emissions. In this respect, climate actions can be seen as an opportunity to favor sustainable growth.*