
Brazilian steel sector contribution in relation to climate change

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Steel and climate change have been published recently in the press about the contribution of steel in relation climate change. Among these, was the possibility of the government program to establish all the charcoal used in steel production is coming from planted forests, which is positive. Such measure already is, however, implemented by the steel industry in Brazil, which now owns 75% their forests certified.

The serving of the possible replacement of the entire consumption of coal and coke coal plant, technical and economic evaluations attest that this is a viable alternative. Among others, highlight the following reasons:

1. About 70% of the Brazilian steel production uses coal / coke as a reducing agent using blast furnaces large that for technical reasons can not be operated on charcoal. Charcoal is used as a reduction in only 5% of the Brazilian steel. In the remaining 25% predominant production based on scrap, 100% recycled
2. Steel production and as a reducing charcoal, technology applied only in Brazil, is attractive option under the environmental point of view, but is constrained by application related issues scale production, logistics, timber transport and high demands of areas for planting. The profile of production of steel mini mills by the base of coal in Brazil is the average world. Thus, the substantial migration of steel production for the route to coal based plant Apart from technical restrictions mentioned above, calls into question both the competitiveness of steel Singapore in the international market as the country's attractiveness for new investments in the sector.

Brazil Steel Institute and its members recognize the need and urgency of adopting measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. Such measures must comply with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities so as not to impede economic growth and improving social conditions in developing countries, provided that an environmentally sustainable manner.

In this sense, it is worth noting the efforts that the Brazilian steel industry has been developing for reduce CO2 emissions, such as:

1. The coke oven gas and blast furnace route generated in the coal is recovered for cogeneration electricity. The installed capacity of co generation is a little above 1,000 MW per hour, allowing to generate the amount of electricity than 7.8 million MW per hour per year
2. 100% of the slag of blast furnaces are used for production of cement, replacing the clinker, significantly reducing CO2 emissions from this process
3. The Brazilian steel industry currently has 11 Clean Development Mechanism Clean operation or in advanced stage of development
4. The steel producers in Brazil part of cooperation projects worldwide to develop innovative technologies to reduce CO2 emissions in the steelmaking process

Thus, Brazil Steel Institute, considering that the steel industry in the country operates under the best technologies available means that the sector is fully in line with the efforts of Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, without prejudice to the requirements economic growth and quality of life of the Brazilian population.

(Sourced from www.acobrasil.org.br)

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