Compromises at COP26 - and an Urgent Call to Foster Energy Innovation

Future Cleantech Architects at COP26
Upon invitation of UN Climate Change, Future Cleantech Architects hosted two events at the Global Innovation Hub in collaboration with UNIDO.

Co-moderated by FCA founder and CEO Dr Peter Schniering and UNIDO ITPO Germany’s Deputy Head Vanessa Voelkel, the events highlighted FCA’s work during the past two years and summarized those areas in research and development that need to be accelerated immediately in order to close the innovation gaps in climate technology. Beginning with an overview of the most challenging sectors that will need to be decarbonized, the presentations discussed technologies such as less-intermittent renewables or hydrogen storage as well as new industrial processes such as innovations in cement production or shipping and aviation while placing a particular emphasis on the scalability of solutions still in early development stages.

“No matter whether you consider the Glasgow Climate Pact a success or not – there is an interdisciplinary challenge that needs to be pursued at the national and international level: breakthrough energy innovation needs to be fostered in a comprehensive, well-designed, and massive R&D effort.”
Dr. Peter Schniering, Future Cleantech Architects

Drawing upon results from the UNIDO Global Call for Innovative Solutions in Cleantech and Sustainable Land Management, the events also highlighted the privat sector innovators behind some of the technologies we will need to reach net-zero. Winners of the Global Call were invited to the Innovation Hub via videocall so that they could present their award-winning applications to an audience of stakeholders and decision-makers.

What we should prioritize beyond COP26: R&D efforts with leverage
Continuous efforts to foster energy innovation are indispensable to ensure that desperately needed technological solutions are on track.

“The resolutions of COP26 have received a lot of praise and criticism. Important but rather overlooked: The private sector is on the brink of bypassing politics. This gives hope for implementation of existing and innovation of energy technologies for tomorrow.”
Martin Hoyer, Roland Berger | FCA-Board Member

Many issues in hard-to-abate sectors such as hydrogen, cement, and carbon removal, for example, are not solved yet and it will take massive, comprehensive, well-designed R&D efforts to provide the necessary technologies on time. From a global perspective, international collaboration is vital to ensure that inexpensive, clean solutions are available to developing economies, thereby providing strong incentives to phase out polluting technologies such as coal entirely. One of the biggest levers developed countries have is funding R&D for new solutions that can be applied across developing countries and emerging economies alike.
Explaining the cement production process at the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

Dr. Peter Schniering being interviewed by NOWU (France Télévisions and WDR. Watch the Interview in German here.

Further Reading / Links / Resources

Watch the first session here (01:09:34)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvt7X_ydGzs

Watch the second session here (00:36:35)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssYjALePJM