



Tuesday, April 14 2015

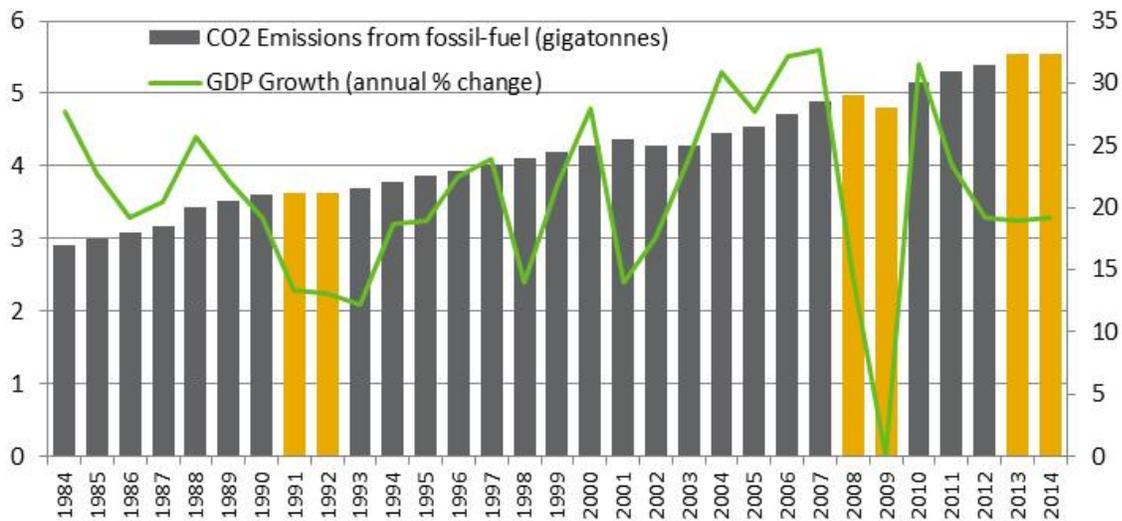
CO2 Emissions Stabilize

Carbon dioxide emission levels remained steady at 32.3 billion tonnes for 2014, unchanged from 2013 levels. This occurred despite a 3% rise in the global economy. Previous emission reductions from one year to the next had been attributed to major economic downturns.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released preliminary results of an upcoming (June 2015) report showing that, for the first time in 40 years, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel remained stable while the economy grew. This might indicate that GHG reduction initiatives are having an effect, either from reduced use of oil, coal and gas or increased use of renewables (solar, wind, hydro and biomass).

GHG reduction efforts have always targeted a decoupling of greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth. The IEA states that most gains were realized in China due to increased energy efficiency and programs focusing on the production of fuels and electricity from renewable sources. As an example, APP is to install 200 mega-watts (MW) of rooftop solar capacity on eight of its mills in China. It is anticipated to be the largest solar project within the pulp & paper industry, and amongst the largest rooftop solar projects anywhere in the world.

It remains to be seen if recent major worldwide drops in fossil fuel prices will invert these promising results. However, this data could indicate that the world is starting to gain some control over its CO₂ emissions.



Sources : IEA, Financial Times, RISI, KSH Consulting

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