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VIDEO MESSAGE AT THE SINGAPORE ENERGY LECTURE, SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WEEK 2009

Hello everyone, I'm very sorry I can't join you in Singapore for International Energy Week where I know you are discussing some of the most significant issues facing the world today, and for many generations to come. I am of course referring to the drive to tackle climate change by getting the world onto a low carbon path, whilst maintaining economic competitiveness and securing a steady energy supply for the future.

In Asia and across the world, many areas of economic activity are underpinned by a steady energy supply. Securing stable sources of energy is therefore vital and important. These challenges face every one of us, and we can only tackle them if countries work together for that low carbon future. I founded the Breaking the Climate Deadlock initiative with The Climate Group 18 months ago to work specifically with world leaders to build a new consensus for a comprehensive international climate policy framework.

Clean technology development transfer is a key part of the solution. Major carbon emission reductions are achievable even by 2020 if we focus action on certain key technologies, deploy policies that have already been proven to work and invest now for the development of those future technologies that are going to take time to mature. So, if we invest in such technologies now, we will reap the benefits in the future, both environmental and economic.

Just as investing in electrification, railways and the Internet led to economic growth in the past, I believe investing in clean energy can help reignite the global economy now, and also help provide the energy security this continent needs. With the necessary decisions now, I think there is a credible, practical, realistic as well as radical way to act. Not only is this vital, that each and every one of you continue to act, but that we all act together. No one country can tackle climate change on its own. The challenge remains formidable, but it is doable. This is not mission impossible. And just as this great continent has grasped the opportunities that the global economy in years gone by, it can grasp now, the opportunities of collective global action on climate change.

So good luck with your deliberations this week, and the actions you take in the future. Thank you.