

Berkeley-Stanford Cleantech Conference – April 9, 2011

Panel Topic: So What? Implications of Businesses, Professionals, and Students

Purpose: The purpose of this panel was to discuss what implications the differing trajectories that US and China are following in the cleantech industry will have on businesses, professionals, and students.

Design, Methodology, Approach: Expert opinions from panelists.

Moderator – Michael Kanellos // Editor-in-Chief, Greentech Media

Panelists –

- Andrew Chung // Principal, Lightspeed Venture Partners
- Charlie Gay // President, Applied Solar, Applied Materials
- Zach Gentry // Co-founder & Chief Strategy Officer, Adura Technologies
- Puon Penn // SVP, Head of National Cleantech & Emerging Tech Markets, Wells Fargo
- Polly Shaw // Director of External Relations, Suntech America

Findings: This final panel discussion was not very cohesive and many of the points that were brought up in the last two panels were just reiterated. A couple of new concepts were introduced, however. In regards to the United States, the cleantech industry is currently providing 8.5 million jobs. This number is projected to grow, even though manufacturing jobs will be moving overseas. However, as the US cuts its funding for research and development, China will become the new entrepreneurial leader of the industry and the Silicon Valley will begin to lose its competitive advantage. Only those companies that diversify their financing will survive. It was suggested that with the current federal budget cuts, the United States is best off choosing a couple cleantech sectors to focus on and pursuing their development aggressively.

Practical Implications: The practical implications of these findings are that businesses, professionals, and students should be aware that the federal government will not be a reliable source of funding in the near future, especially when it comes to R&D. Either state government will have to step up, or many of the cleantech R&D will move to other countries, especially China where central funding is both aggressive and dependable.

Originality/Value:

After listening to the last two panels, there was not much value in this panel, as many of the topics were repeated.

Keywords: cleantech, jobs, China,

Paper type: Review of conference panel.

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