

Where Have We Been and Are We Going?

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February 19-21, 2011

The 16th AIM International Workshop
National Institutes for Environmental Studies
Tsukuba, Japan

Comments in Honor of Mikiko Kainuma



Are you sure you're old enough to retire?

Where have we come over the last 20 years?

- ▶ The AIM program has come a very long way!
- ▶ The National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan is home to one of the premier integrated assessment modeling teams in the world.
- ▶ Two contributions that I want to point out:
 - Creating an international research community.
 - Articulating the concept of a Low Carbon Society

Creating an international research community

- ▶ It all began with a dream that Morita-san had, which he shared with the world, and turned into reality.
- ▶ It started with a small number of researchers and has grown into a major intellectual force in the world.
- ▶ It supports researches throughout Asia and the Pacific.
- ▶ Every year it brings those researchers together to share results and to explore new idea.
- ▶ Without AIM projects like the Asia Modeling Exercise would have been impossible.



The AIM Team 2010

Articulating the concept of a Low Carbon Society

- ▶ Yogi Berra said that if you don't know where you're going, you'll wind up somewhere else.
- ▶ The Low Carbon Society is about defining where the world should go.
- ▶ Through its research, which has looked at many aspects of the climate problem, the LCS has had a profound effect of thinking around the world.
- ▶ If you Google low carbon society you find that virtually everyone now feels they own this idea. That's success!
- ▶ Mikiko may not be a Yogi Berra, but she has shown the world which way to go.



What about the future?

- ▶ WWMD—What would Mikiko do?

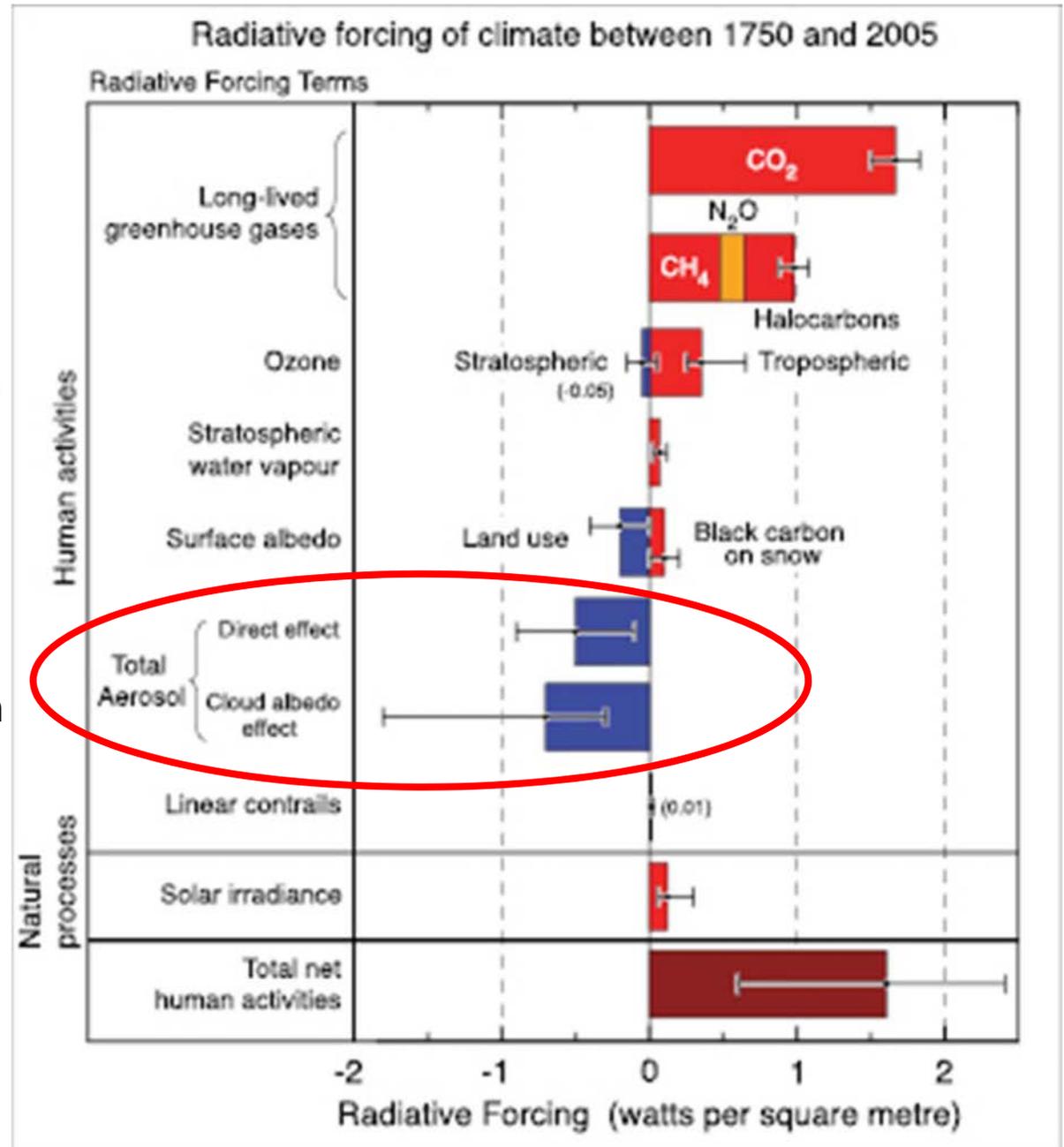
- ▶ First of all, don't change what's working. (If its not broken, DON'T fix it.)
 - Building an international community.
 - Thought leadership (e.g. LCS).
 - Maintaining a world-class team of interdisciplinary researchers (necessary to understand the many-faceted issue of climate change).

What about the future?

- ▶ One place where opportunities exist is in the modeling, not the individual models, which are excellent, but in the integration of those models and their constituent knowledge into a more facile and fully integrated framework.
 - Could make it easier to do the kind of work that is required by international exercises such as the RCPs.
 - That's a huge challenge, but one which will pay huge dividends in the future.

What about the future?

- ▶ A second opportunity exists in helping the world prepare for the rapid climate change that is coming the next few decades.
 - Major sulfur emitting economies will begin to reduce sulfur emissions in the future.
 - Combined effects of GHG build up, unmasking of climate change by S, layered on a decadal oscillation will ultimately lead to a decade with global temperature rises $>0.3^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$.





THANK YOU, MIKIKO!

END