THERE ARE MANY ROADS TO PARIS

Kornelis Blok

Until a few years ago, taking action to mitigate climate change was primarily seen as a responsibility of national governments. They should agree together on ambitious targets and timetables, and subsequently implement this in national policies.

In recent years, we have seen what could be called a paradigm change. There are many parties now that propose to take actions. Prominent groupings are cities/regions and companies/business associations. Also, there are so-called international climate initiatives, in which international organisations, countries and companies work together. An example is the UNEP-led en.lighten initiative, aimed at phasing out inefficient incandescent lamps. Several new initiatives were launched at the recent UN Climate Summit in New York, 23 Sept. 2014. In my lecture, I will give an overview of all these pledges and initiatives, and how they interact.

The million dollar question of course is: will all this action together bring us to a pathway compatible with a maximum temperature increase of 2 degrees C?