

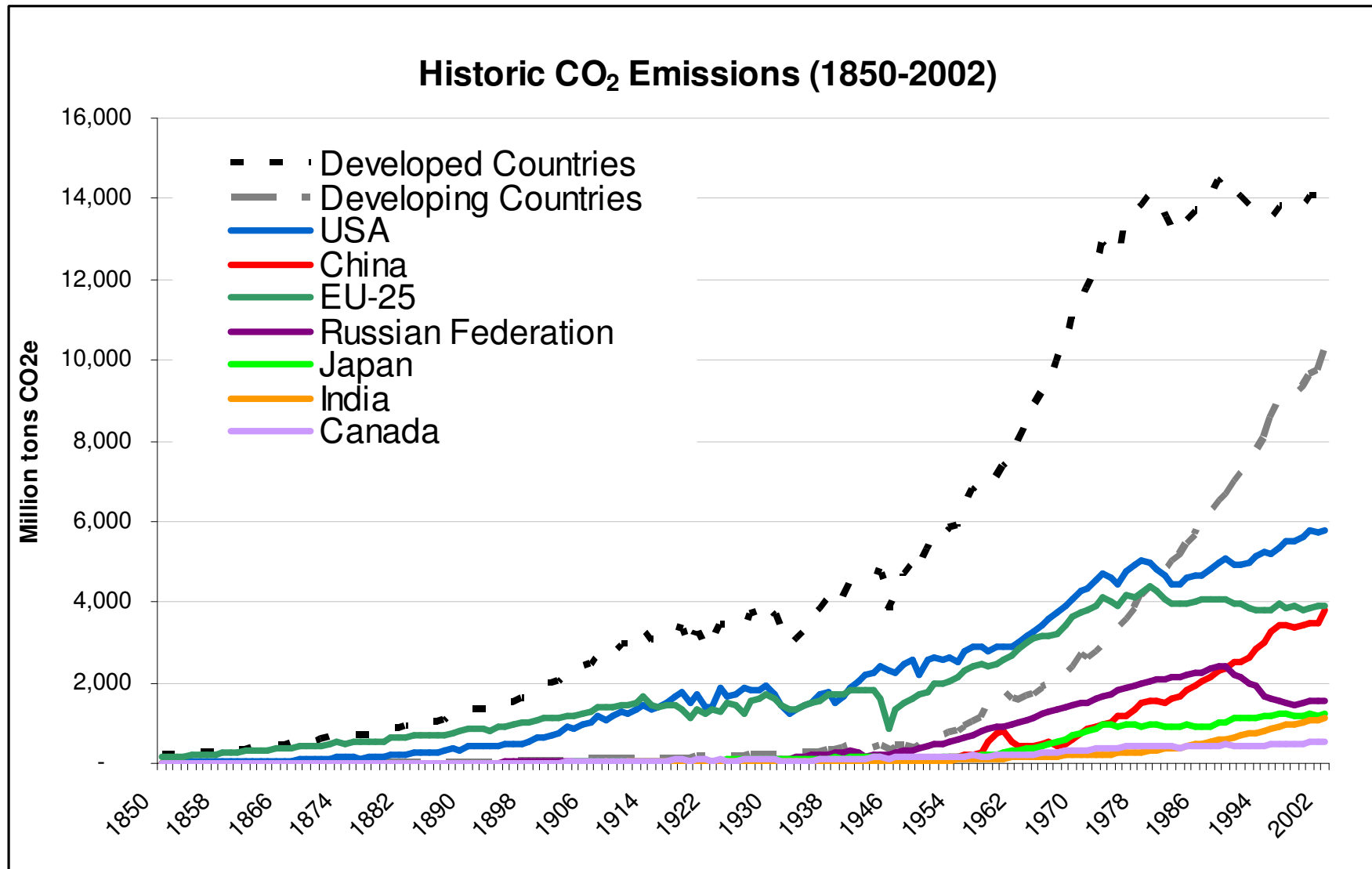
# **Background Briefing: International Climate Issues**

National Press Club  
September 19, 2007



**EMISSION TRENDS OF  
THE MAJOR ECONOMIES**

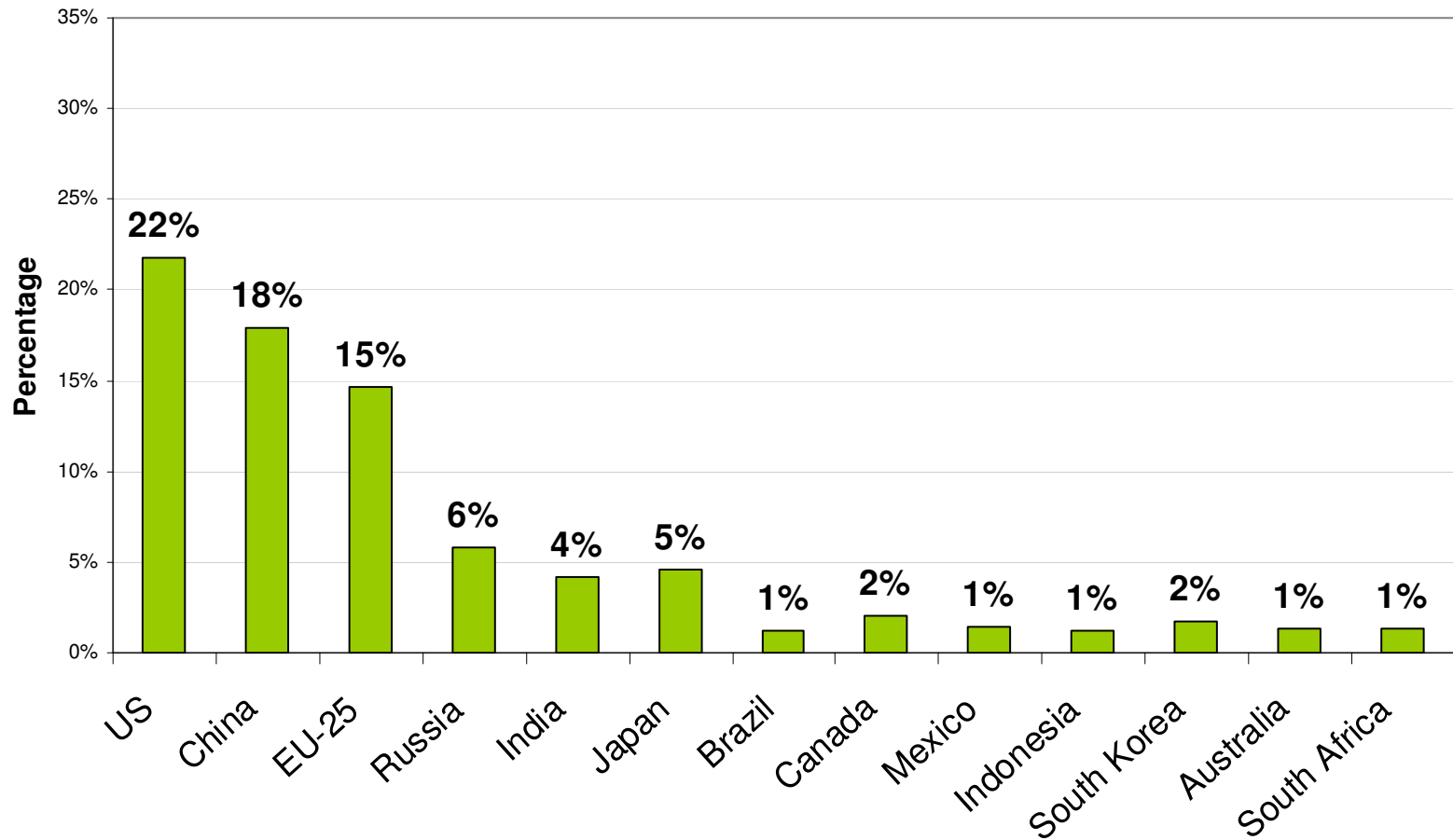
# Historic Emissions



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy-use and cement only. Source: CDIAC, 2004; WRI, 2006.

# Annual Emissions

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions\* (2004)

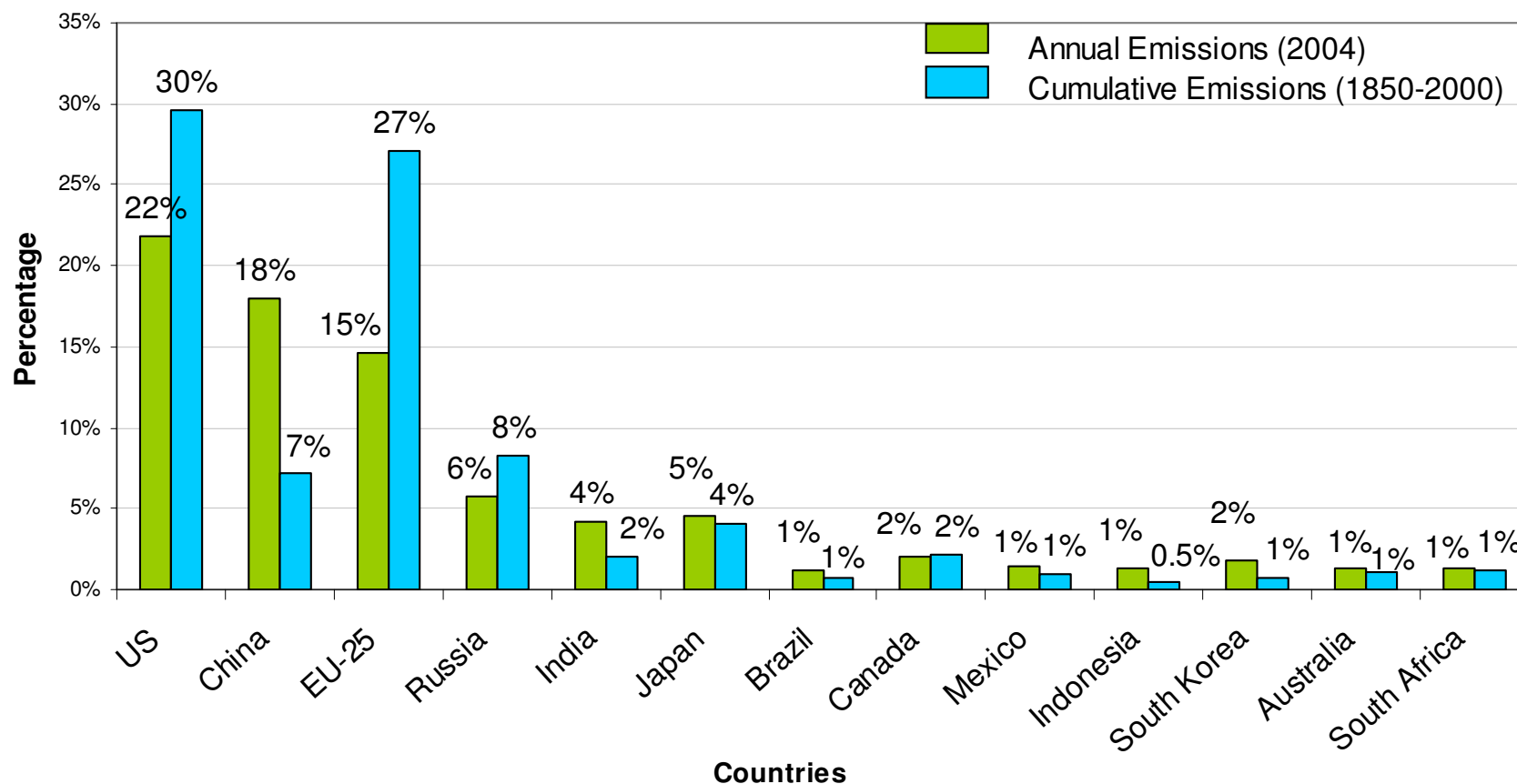


\*Energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> gases only

Source: IEA (2006) CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion .

# Annual vs. Cumulative Emissions

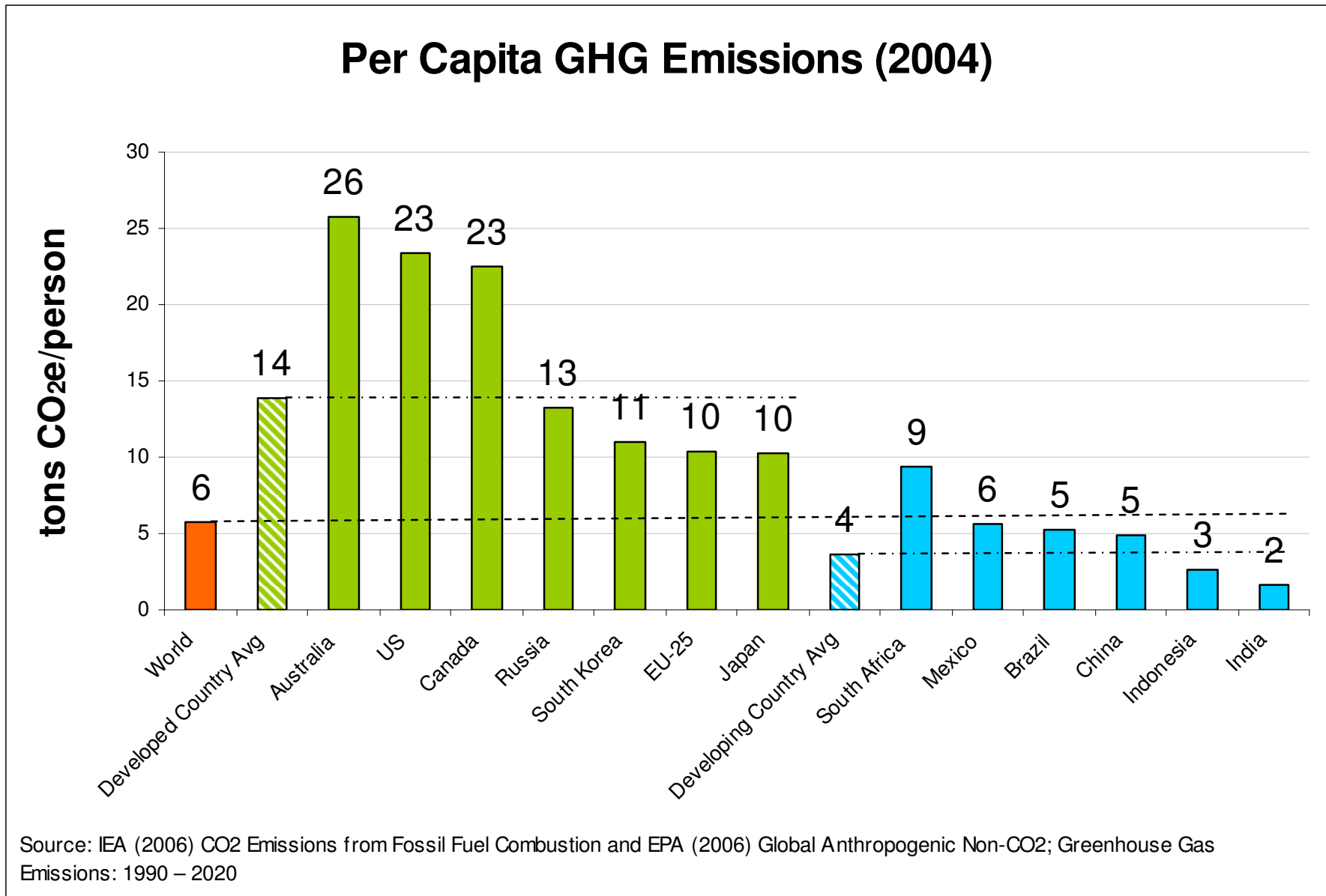
## Comparison: Annual\* & Cumulative\*\* CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions



Source: \* Annual Emissions for the year 2004 from IEA (2006) CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion

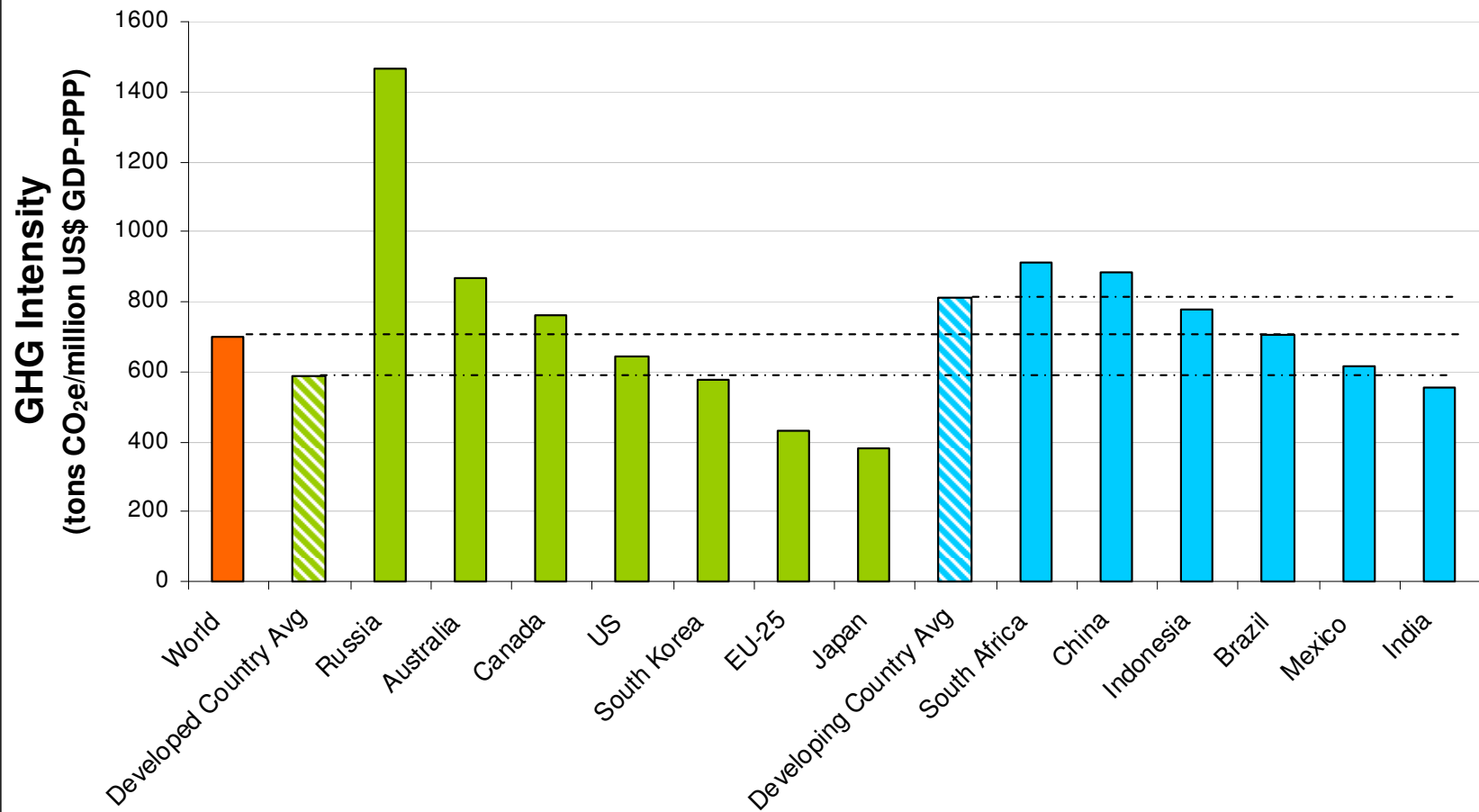
\*\* Cumulative Emissions from 1850-2000, CAIT WRI

# Per Capita Emissions



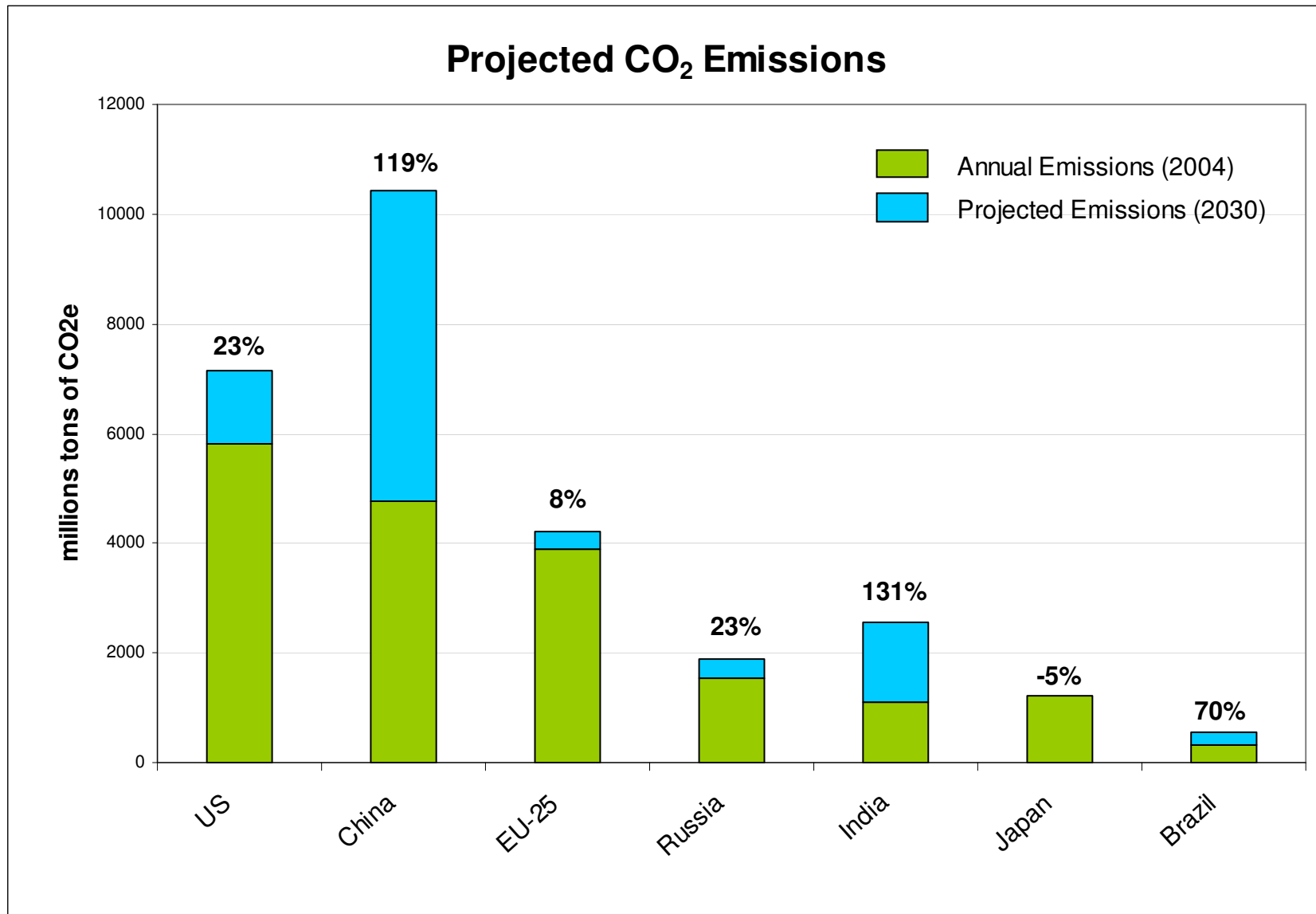
# GHG Intensity

## GHG Intensities for Selected Countries (2004)



Source: IEA (2006) CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion and EPA (2006) Global Anthropogenic Non-CO<sub>2</sub>; Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 1990 – 2020

# Projected Emissions



Energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions only. Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2006.



# **HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE EFFORT**



# International Climate Effort

- 1992 – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - 191 parties, including the United States (signed by Bush I, unanimously ratified by Senate)
  - Objective: stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to “prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”
  - A key principle: “common but differentiated responsibilities”
  - “Aim” of developed countries: 1990 emissions by 2000

# International Climate Effort

- 1995 – Berlin Mandate
  - To negotiate binding targets for developed countries
- 1997 – Kyoto Protocol
  - Binding emission targets for 36 developed countries
    - From -8% to +10%, average -5.2%, relative to 1990
    - Cover 2/3 of industrialized, 1/3 of global, emissions
    - If met, global emissions will be up 30% in 2012
  - Market-based architecture
    - With Europe's Emissions Trading Scheme, generating \$30 billion/year in greenhouse gas trades

# International Climate Effort

- Post-2012 Talks Under UN Framework
  - Kyoto Protocol – Ad Hoc Working Group
    - Open-ended negotiation of post-2012 commitments for countries with Kyoto targets
  - UNFCCC -- Dialogue on Long-Term Action
    - Series of workshops; not a negotiation
    - Reports to COP 13 in Bali
    - Explored “building blocks” of future agreement
    - In Vienna, many countries (not US) favored a formal Convention process building on the dialogue

# International Climate Effort

- Next Steps within the UN
  - High-Level Event on Climate Change (Sept. 24)
    - Convened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
    - 150+ countries, most with heads of state
    - Aim: A strong political signal to accelerate work under UNFCCC at Bali
  - Bali Climate Change Conference (Dec. '07)
    - Key issue: Launch negotiations under Convention?

## Other International Initiatives

- **G8 Summit in Heiligendamm (June '07)**
  - Called for global agreement on post-2012 framework under UNFCCC in 2009
  - Endorsed Bush proposal for major emitters' process, to report back to UNFCCC
  - Agreed to "consider seriously...at least a halving of global emissions by 2050"
- **APEC Summit in Sydney (Sept. '07)**
  - Agreed on aspirational goals to reduce energy intensity 25% by 2030 and increase forest cover by at least 20 million hectares by 2020

## Other International Initiatives

- U.S. Major Economies Meeting (Sept. 27-8)
  - G8: To consider “*regional and international policies, targets and plans...[and] an ambitious work program within the UNFCCC*”
  - White House: “...[A]gree upon a post-2012 framework that could include a long-term global goal, *nationally defined mid-term goals and strategies*, and sector-based approaches...”
    - “Aspirational” - “Bottom-up” – “Pledge and review”
  - Issue: Voluntary action vs. binding commitments