

### 1. Organizer

Office of International Strategy on Climate Change, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

### 2. Title

How to Evaluate & Review the Commitment of Each Country in the Post-2020 Framework

### 3. Theme

To present Japan's initial proposal on the assessment and review system and to engage in discussion with the audience in order lay ground for the formal discussion among the Parties of the post-2020 framework, while also discussing initiatives of existing UNFCCC arrangements and reviewing lessons learned from other international agreements to facilitate the implementation of necessary actions

### 4. Agenda and speakers

- Opening remarks:  
**Mr. Junichi Shiraishi**, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Japan
  
- Briefing of the objectives:  
**Mr. Yoshihiro Mizutani**, Negotiator for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Japan
  
- Presentations:
  - *MRV – Current Situation and Issues*  
**Mr. Kiyoto Tanabe**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
  - *Mainstreaming Scientific Knowledge into the Process for Nationally Determining Contributions*  
**Dr. Kentaro Tamura**, Climate and Energy Area Leader/Principal Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
\* This presentation was made in place of the originally planned presentation by Mr. Kunihiko Shimada of MOE, Japan
  - *Assessment and Review under Other Multilateral Agreements*  
**Prof. Yukari Takamura**, Nagoya University
  
- Discussion, Questions & Answers

### 5. Outline of presentations and discussions

#### Actual Proceedings:

- In his opening remarks, Mr. Shiraishi greeted his audience from a wide range of countries to this side event while underscoring the importance of evaluating and reviewing the commitment by each country to achieving an effective post-2020 framework. Referring to transparency as one of the key elements in this aim, Mr. Shiraishi presented Japan's affirmative stance on the evaluation and review process, as this would facilitate each Party's effort to reduce GHG while taking the country's capacity and needs into consideration.
- After briefing the audience on the objectives of this side event, Mr. Mizutani concisely explained the ex-ante consultation process and the following international evaluation and review of the performance (ex-post) as proposed by Japan. He also mentioned key issues that remain to be discussed – namely, how to effectively utilize the existing arrangement, how to facilitate compliance by some countries rather than simply imposing obligations, and how to apply lessons learned from other international frameworks.
- The three presenters shared their useful insights for devising a viable assessment and review process in the post-2020 framework.
- The audience and the presenters engaged in active discussion, pointing out the following challenges:
  - Difficulty in building a new assessment and review process based on the existing MRV process, considering the difficulty in adjusting the mandates and lack of sufficient support to countries needing support to submit BURs

- Political implication associated with involving only limited countries such as the G20 - to complete the common template for making commitment
- Difficulty in devising a single indicator to satisfy or serve all Parties and in creating a consortium to lead the assessment and review effort
- Constraint of domestic politics in countries like Japan to submit any proposal of commitment to the secretariat
- Fear of failure to achieve the 2°C target or reaching any agreement in 2015 due to lack of clarified commitments
- Trying to address these challenges, some presenters stated that:
  - Japan should try to devise a framework for supporting developing countries and thereby help the MRV process work.
  - A benchmark range is one way to incorporate various indicators. A consortium representing a wide range of nations over a vast geographic scope would help to establish a reliable benchmark range.
  - Parties including Japan should avoid being content with submitting only low-level commitment to the secretariat. That's why some kind of peer review is considered necessary for the next framework.
  - Clarification of commitments is indeed important. As we have only 2 years to go, we have less chance for reaching a drastic agreement. One possible solution might be a device to address the diversity of countries that can evolve over time and be used for reviewing both the target level and the scheme.

## 6. Photograph

