

## **The 18<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change**

### **Chairpersons Summary**

March 3, 2009

1. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the Department of Climate Change, Australia, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Vietnam, and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC) jointly organized the Eighteenth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change in Hanoi, Vietnam from 2-3 March, 2009.

### **Organizations of the Seminar**

2. The Seminar was participated by 45 experts from 14 countries and 11 international organizations and research institutes. The Seminar was co-chaired by Mr. Taka Hiraishi, senior consultant, Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES), and Ms. Amber Cernovs, Second Secretary, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and substantive sessions were chaired by Ms. Joyceline Goco, Inter-Agency Coordination Committee on Climate Change (IACCC), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Mr. Nguyen Khac Hieu, Deputy Director, Department of Hydrometeorology and Climate Change, MONRE, Vietnam and also by Mr. Hiraishi.

3. For the substance of the Seminar, participants discussed the following four items: 1) Science-based adaptation to climate change, 2) measureable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV) measures and actions, 2) greenhouse gas inventory, and 4) co-benefits approach to climate change and development.

4. The Seminar was initiated with keynote presentations on *establishing a low carbon society, and a climate-resilient society*, which illustrated a long-term goal of countries in the region. The Seminar contributed to sharing useful information and experiences, and confidence-building among the countries, which would create an enabling environment for negotiations in view of agreement on a future framework of climate change at COP15-COP/MOP5 in December, 2009.

## Substantive Sessions

### Session I: Integrated Adaptation Measures based on Scientific Knowledge

5. Session I was structured with 3 segments with presentations on key issues, namely, 1) Rationale, Concept and Tools of Science-based Adaptation, 2) Support Measures and Networking, and 3) Good Practices in Developing Countries. Through the discussion, participants raised the following key findings.

6. Mainstreaming is supported and may be driven with:

- Appropriate scientific information, to which most developing countries need enhanced access.
- Policy actions taking consideration of national development planning process, mobilizing domestic resources with supplementary inputs through international cooperation.
- National adaptation plan, which involves strategies and prioritization of measures and actions.

7. In order to guide/inform policy-makers of adaptation options at concrete level, the following approaches are useful:

- Timely no-regret response to be made to urgent needs that are given by extreme events, especially in LDCs and SIDS, while careful consideration should be given for mid-to-long term investments
- Cost-benefit analysis of options , which will help illustrate cost-effective measures and actions
- Use of understandable languages
- Step-wise efforts to plan and implement adaptation measures

8. Following Tools and Vehicles are available

- Earth Simulator, which helps access to information that are vital for vulnerability assessment
- Use of a common screening tool, which supports development planners
- Networking approach is useful to exchange information and different networks working on climate change in the region could explore possibilities to collaborate. The experiences of Montreal Protocol with networks can provide useful approaches

9. Current status of efforts in developing countries includes:
- Domestic initiatives to develop national climate change plans including adaptation strategies.
  - Good practices of adaptation studies using the Earth Simulator, development of master plans, supported by multilateral and bilateral donors.
  - Some financial schemes that were started being disbursed to support concrete activities and others are waiting for operationalization.
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**Session II: Measureable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV) measures and actions**

10. Session II was structured with 1) an introductory presentation on current proposals on MRV, and 2) presentations on perspectives of countries. Session focused on following sub-topics, and participants pointed out key findings:

11. In order to highlight the current status of Parties' proposals on MRV, a stock-taking presentation provided an overview of current commitments undertaken by Parties, and several proposals on NAMAs/MRV by countries and constituencies, some of which were elaborated in a more concrete manner.

12. On ideas on matters subject to be monitored, reported and verified,
- There are a variety of proposals on subject to be MRV-ed, that includes QELROs for developed countries, national action plans for developing countries, finance and transfer of technologies.
  - It was argued that such subject matters should be different between developed and developing countries and among developing countries because their capabilities differ substantially.

13. On ideas about methodologies, procedures, steps and governance for MRV
- Many participants pointed out quantitative methods (such as GHG emissions, finance and technologies) would ensure effectiveness of NAMAs implementation in a MRV manner, while in some areas, feasibility of quantification must be examined.
  - Guidelines, methodologies, and indicators needs to be agreed upon, and used to facilitate MRV process.

14. On elements to enable MRV and other keys
- Issue of funding for NAMAs/MRV was discussed, and some participants proposed a linkage between support and actions to provide incentives for effective mitigation actions. Other participants introduced an idea on categorization of actions (e.g. autonomous with own funding, additional with support from developed countries, carbon markets and early actions), which may be funded by different sources. It may require different quality, components, and may be subject to different evaluation/verification procedures.
  - While it is commonly felt that MRV process should be transparent and objective, process burden should be minimum, so that it should be build upon the current system (e.g. National Communications, GHG Inventory, and Technology Needs Assessment (TNA)). In case where additional cost process would occur (for data collection and report development), some participants mentioned it would be helpful that developing countries would be supported through international funding.
  - Verification needs to be done by experts. Some participants proposed autonomous actions are subject to self-review and supported actions to COP review.

### **Session III: Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

15. Session III focused on 1) developing country efforts, challenges and opportunities, 2) support for developing countries, and 3) GHG Inventory as a key to NAMAs in a MRV manner. Through the discussion, participants exchanged views as follows;

16. As challenges of developing GHG inventory in developing countries
- Many countries in the region face the weakness in database management, the sustainable national GHG inventory system and institutional and adequate financial arrangement.

17. The following good practices and opportunities inform a direction to future cooperation;

- In some countries in the region, a manual for GHG inventory was developed, which can be shared by other countries.

- Also, some countries exchange technical data and other practical information by GHG inventory experts. During the session, some specific sectors were highlighted for information exchange, given the commonality in economic sectors (such as CH<sub>4</sub> emission from agriculture).
18. On support for developing countries to develop GHG Inventory
- Cooperation through capacity-building and technical information exchange are in place, such as WGIA, and through capacity-building activities, it is expected that technical challenges should be addressed.
19. GHG Inventory in the context of MRV was discussed and following key comments were raised:
- Future MRV discussion may lead to additional requirements of quality, predictability, uncertainty management, which might require new international actions.
  - In this connection, routinizing work of developing GHG inventory may be necessary in order to utilizing it for MRV. Experiences in implementing the Montreal Protocol can be a useful reference.
  - It was pointed out that incremental task to develop a GHG inventory for MRV should be supported by capacity building.
  - GHG inventory facilitates identifying emission reduction potentials and developing a long-term strategy.

#### **Session IV: Co-benefits approach to climate change and development**

20. Session IV focused on 1) needs and prospects of co-benefits in developing countries, 2) current practices to promote co-benefits, and 3) current status of CDM and ways to encourage co-benefits in the future. During the discussion, the following points were stressed by participants:
21. As needs and prospects of co-benefits in the Asia-Pacific region,
- There are potential activities which may combine GHG emission reduction and developmental benefits, including local environmental improvements, energy efficiency, transport, HCFC phase out etc.
22. Good practices of co-benefits approach were introduced and could be replicated,

as follows:

- Utilizing various existing schemes (ie CDM and ODA), many co-benefits projects are being planned, developed and implemented. Scaling up such efforts is expected, through expanding countries initiatives, including those in future climate change regime.
  - Lesson-learned should be shared to promote co-benefits actions
24. Support to co-benefits approach is being strengthened.
- Developed countries and the donor community deploy international cooperation to support co-benefits activities, through bilateral and multilateral channels. This includes financial supports and capacity-building. It was also introduced an idea of technology research and development that may maximize co-benefits.
25. Co-benefits in a future regime were discussed and useful ideas were introduced.
- Currently the co-benefit issue is being discussed as part of agenda for future regime. Ideas were expressed to introduce a fast-track procedure, discounted fee, and financial support.

**Chairperson of the Eighteen Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change**  
(Taka Hiraishi)

