

Summary of the 23rd Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change

Title: “Technical Dialogue: Sharing the knowledge of, experience in, and lesson learned from mitigation and relevant strategies/program/activities, taking into account the 2015 agreement”

Place and Time: Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, on 25-26 August, 2014

Funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

Co-organized by the MOEJ, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia (DFAT) and

Ishikawa Prefecture

Secretariat by the OECC

[Background]

The 23rd AP Seminar served as a forum for a Technical Dialogue that promoted sharing the knowledge of, experience in, and lesson learned from mitigation and relevant strategies/program/activities, taking into account the 2015 agreement.

The Seminar was attended by 20 government officials from 15 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao P. D. R., Mongolia, Palau, Philippines, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam), 15 experts from 10 international organizations and research institutes (Ecofys, the European Union, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kanazawa University, Nagoya University, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the OECC).

The Seminar was co-chaired by Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto, Principal Fellow and Secretary-General and IGES, and Mr. Ken Xie, Climate Policy Office, Mitigation and Negotiation Groups Section, Sustainability and Climate Change Branch, DFAT, Australia.

Participants discussed issues relating to mitigation actions in a technical manner, and made the following findings through the Seminar.

[Key Findings]

1. Overviews of the scientific facts and the discussion on the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) relating to the post-2020 regime under the UNFCCC
(Updated scientific facts of climate change)

✓ According to the 4th and 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC), and the Emission Gap Report (UNEP), it has come to be clear that there is still a gap between 2 degree target and collective reduction efforts from the Cancun Agreement, and therefore it is necessary to further aim at mitigation efforts participated by all countries. Delayed mitigation actions will significantly increase challenge to reach low concentration targets, while emission levels in cost-effective mitigation strategies are lower than the current level, which requires not to exceed 50 Gt CO₂e on a global scale. The more GHG emissions in the short-term, the higher risk of having an overshoot in the long-term, so that increased efforts toward global GHG reduction at the earlier stage is extremely important.

(UNFCCC negotiation process toward 2015 agreement)

- ✓ An agreement relating to the post-2020 climate regime will be agreed in 2015 by Parties to enhance various efforts to address climate change beyond 2020. To develop this agreement, Parties are invited to express their intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) to it, especially in mitigation aspects. In order to ensure its effectiveness, it is essential to improve transparency and accountability, through information submission and international reviews (ex-ante and ex post consultation).
- ✓ At the same time, INDCs may provide countries with a good opportunity to clarify their vision for a low carbon society in the mid and long term, with a view to enhancing climate actions at the national and local levels.

(Report from the UNDP/UNFCCC Regional Workshops on INDC)

- ✓ To facilitate such preparatory works and to support capacity building of countries, regional workshops on INDC have been funded by multiple donors and held by the UNDP and UNFCCC. As the 23rd AP Seminar played a complementary role to mutually reinforce such efforts, the results of these workshops, including those of the recent Asia-Pacific and Eastern European Regional Workshop were outlined.¹

(Updates of NAMAs, LCDS/LEDS, and other mitigation related efforts)

- ✓ After the Cancun Agreements, countries, in particular developing countries, have developed nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), low carbon/emission development strategies (LCDS/LEDS) and other mitigation related efforts, supported by their development partners.

2. Lessons learned from experiences with mitigation efforts

¹<http://mitigationpartnership.net/undpunfccc-regional-technical-dialogues-intended-nationally-determined-contributions>

(Continuity of current mitigation actions to INDC)

- ✓ While the term “INDC” emerged quite recently in the UNFCCC negotiations after NAMAs, generally speaking, countries have already started to develop and implement mitigation efforts and other climate-related actions. To prepare for mitigation efforts in the UNFCCC context, building upon such existing efforts is useful. Countries presented their ongoing mitigation efforts, including information, knowledge and experiences relating national and sectoral development plans, LCDS/LEDS, national communications, renewable resources promotion policies such as feed in tariffs, and market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). What is necessary is that countries enhance and strengthen such efforts for the post-2020 period, and integrate relevant information in a package for submission to the Convention as an INDC.

(Key efforts ongoing in countries in the Asia-Pacific Region)

- ✓ Countries in the region are in the process of elaborating and implementing mitigation actions, and forms of such actions are diverse, including national and sectoral targets, strategies and programme, as well as projects. They are also preparing emissions projections, business as usual and mitigation scenarios, analysis of mitigation costs and potential, institutional arrangements, and MRV systems, in the context of their respective mitigation efforts.
- ✓ In selecting and prioritizing mitigation efforts, consideration of co-benefits facilitates the process of decision making and consensus building among domestic stakeholders.

3. Review of up-front information and integration of existing elements into the INDC

(Integrating efforts to prepare and operationalize INDC)

- ✓ There are many useful efforts already in place, and with a view to developing a low carbon society in a robust way. Integrating them is key. For example, there has been low carbon related research, compiling GHG inventory, conducting integrated assessment, and economic assessment, elaborating policy and measures and mobilizing resources. While originally, these were not necessarily started in an integrated manner, now these have been coordinated in a holistic way, which is expected to support preparation of INDC.

(Types of mitigation actions and related elements)

- ✓ Current mitigation actions, (LEDS/LCDS, NAMAs and other policies and measures) can be summarized as certain types. For INDCs, countries should provide information to help understand and clarify their actions, in particular the following elements:

- time frame, reference point (e.g. base year emissions, emissions intensity or BAU emissions projections)
- coverage (sectors, greenhouse gases, geographical boundaries)
- methodologies and metrics used
- assumptions (e.g. approach to land sector accounting and markets, if appropriate)
- expected emissions impact,
- expected emissions pathway (e.g. peaking year).

While these are important and useful information, it is practical for countries to see what kind of information available, and if not, to prepare for them gradually.

(Current practices and challenges in countries in the Asia-Pacific region)

- ✓ Many countries have covered major sectors of GHG emission. Some countries have covered relatively specific coverage, mostly the energy sector. But they have realized that as GHG emissions from forestry and agriculture sectors are increasing, they are expected to make efforts to reduce such emission. Also, many countries have strengthened existing institutional arrangements, and accelerated the process of consensus building, for instance through their national committees on climate change.

(Support related efforts by donors)

- ✓ In activities by donors to support mitigation actions, there are useful experiences that can be applied to preparation for INDC. For example, support for NAMA development, GHG inventory, national and local low carbon planning, training center, and mitigation project in major sectors. There are emerging efforts also for INDC, and communication between countries seeking support and donors should be promoted.

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All presentations and other materials of the 23rd Seminar are available at <http://www.env.go.jp/en/earth/ap-net/index.html>