

## Japan's Evaluation of the Doha Climate Change Conference

December 8, 2012  
Delegation of Japan

### 1 Overview and Evaluation

(1) During the period of November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup>, the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was held in Doha, Qatar. Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama, Minister of the Environment, headed the Japanese delegation, accompanied by representatives from the government, businesses, trade unions, and NGOs.

(2) Following official-level talks in the ADP, AWG-KP, AWG-LCA, and the two subsidiary bodies, issues were taken into consideration at the ministerial level during the high-level segment from December 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> after which a series of COP and CMP decisions indicated below were adopted as the Doha Climate Gateway.

- ① COP decision including a work plan for the ADP
- ② CMP decision regarding the adoption of the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol
- ③ COP decision concerned with agreed outcomes of the AWG-LCA
- ④ Series of COP decisions regarding climate finance
- ⑤ COP decision regarding loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

(3) With this, the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA were terminated upon completion of works and the process of negotiations from next year onwards under the ADP was agreed upon (see 3). This outcome is in line with the aim of the Japanese delegation which was to signal that “basic arrangements on negotiations have been set up toward an agreement by 2015 on a new legal framework from 2020 and onwards”.

## 2 Conduct of the Government of Japan

- (1) Japan's aim for this conference was to send a clear message to the world that "basic arrangements on negotiations have been set up" towards an agreement by 2015 on a new legal framework from 2020, which was decided at COP17 in Durban last year. To this end, the Government of Japan strived to create a shared understanding among Parties on the negotiation process under the ADP from next year onwards as well as to finish the remaining work under the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA for the termination of the two working groups.
- (2) In the speech delivered by Minister Nagahama during the high-level segment, Japan pronounced its position on the negotiations as well as its willingness to continue to tackle climate change and to support developing countries, including through the promotion of the Joint Crediting Mechanism/Bilateral Offset Crediting Mechanism (JCM/BOCM). Especially notable was our announcement that Japan provided over 17.4 billion USD of financial assistance over the last 3 years and ending this October and fulfilled its pledge to provide developing countries a total of 15 billion USD of public and private financial assistance. This means Japan alone provided about 40% (13.3 billion USD) of the Fast Start Finance by developed countries (Developed countries as a whole pledged to provide developing countries 30 billion USD from 2010–2012. The actual amount provided reached 33.6 billion USD.)
- (3) During the conference, Minister Nagahama conducted bilateral talks with other Parties to explain and cultivate an understanding for Japan's position on the negotiations as well as to reaffirm further cooperation for the success of COP18. Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama, Minister of the Environment of Japan and Ms. Sanjaasuren Oyun, Minister of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia signed the "Joint statement on Environment Cooperation, Climate Change and Joint Crediting Mechanism", confirming mutual recognition on starting

operation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism by early 2013 and affirming that both sides will concur on the bilateral document as soon as possible. Talks with Bangladesh also resulted in both sides asserting that there is substantial agreement on BOCM.

## **2 Outcome of the conference**

(1) At this conference, there were 5 main outcomes: 1) decision including a workplan of the ADP toward the formulation of a new international framework; 2) amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and the closure of the AWG-KP; 3) decision concerning long-term cooperation under the Convention and closure of the AWG-LCA; 4) decisions regarding climate finance; 5) COP decision regarding loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

(2) For the ADP, a workplan for next year onwards as well as chairing arrangements were adopted. The ADP will be held twice next year, though the possibility of additional sessions in April and/or September will be considered. At least two sessions will also take place in 2014 and 2015 for which details including the possibility of additional sessions will be decided in 2013 and 2014 respectively. In 2013, roundtables and workshops will be held on the two workstreams (“post-2020 future framework” and “pre-2020 ambition”) based on submissions by Parties, and the ADP would move to a more focused mode of work with substantial discussions. Furthermore, elements for a draft negotiating text will be considered before COP20, which will take place at the end of 2014, with a view to making available a negotiating text before May 2015. With this, the negotiation process from next year was made clear.

(3) Regarding the establishment of the second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol, a decision was adopted including an amendment to Annex B with Parties’ quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments inscribed for the second commitment period. The length of the second commitment period was decided upon as 8 years, and it was also

agreed upon that Parties will revisit their commitments to increase ambition at the latest by 2014. As a result, the AWG-KP completed its work and was closed.

Japan's position of not becoming a part of the second commitment period was reflected in the amended Annex B. In addition, Japan, along with Australia, EU member states, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Norway, and Switzerland, made a declaration that it will not purchase surplus AAUs carried over from the first commitment period.

In relation to the Clean Development Mechanism, it was clarified that Parties who will not join the second commitment period will be able to participate in CDM project activities and receive CERs (to forward CERs from the CDM registry to National Registries) from 2013 and beyond. However, only Parties who join the second commitment period will be able to participate in joint implementation (Article 6) and international emissions trading (Article 17) and internationally transfer and acquire credits. (During the additional period for the first commitment period from 2013 and 2015, Japan will still be able to participate in international emissions trading) In addition, it was agreed that all Parties including those who will not join the second commitment period will calculate and report for LULUCF activities in accordance with rules for the second commitment period.

- (4) For the long-term cooperative action under the Convention, a series of decisions were made covering all issues under the Bali Action Plan, in order to make operational the new institutional arrangements and processes established last year in Durban. As a result, it was decided that the AWG-LCA made much achievement and reached an “agreed outcome,” leading to the termination of the working group. Some of the remaining issues are to be discussed technically under the subsidiary bodies.

Regarding various approaches including the Joint Crediting Mechanism or Bilateral Offset Crediting Mechanism (JCM/BOCM) proposed by Japan, it has been decided to conduct a work programme to elaborate a “framework” for such approaches. Under the work programme, the purpose and scope of the “framework” as well as technical specifications to avoid double counting which arise from international transfer of credits will be considered. Furthermore, in preparation of biennial reports, which developed countries must submit every two years in accordance with the Cancun decisions, a common tabular format that includes reporting guidelines for new market-based mechanisms such as JCM/BOCM was agreed upon.

- (5) In a series of decisions regarding climate finance, the collective fulfillment of the FSF commitment by developed countries was acknowledged, an in-session high-level ministerial dialogue at COP19 concerning long-term finance was agreed to, the work programme on long-term finance was extended to the end of 2013, the work programme of the Standing Committee for 2013–2015 was endorsed including the organization of the forum, and the decision of the Board of Green Climate Fund to select the Republic of Korea as the host of the Green Climate Fund was endorsed. Although no numerical target for financial assistance for the next few years was written in the decisions, the decisions encourage developed country Parties to further increase their efforts to provide resources of at least to the average annual level of the fast-start finance period for 2013–2015. Moreover, in order to achieve the joint goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year, developed country Parties are urged to scale up climate finance from a wide variety of sources and are invited to submit information on their strategies and approaches for such scaling-up by COP19. The work programme on long-term finance was also extended for one year.
- (6) Regarding loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, a decision was taken to establish institutional arrangements such as an international mechanism at COP19 to address loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

(7) The offer by Poland to host COP 19 in Warsaw was accepted.