The 19th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change Co-chairs' Summary

1. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE), Australia, and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC) jointly organized the Nineteenth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, in close cooperation with the Kitakyushu City Government, in Kitakyushu, Japan on 20-22 July, 2010.

Organization of the Seminar

2. 52 experts from 15 countries and 11 international organizations, research institutes and other relevant entities participated in The Seminar. The Seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Kazu Takemoto, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, MOEJ. In his opening address, he stressed the momentum of the substance of discussion and expressed his hope that the unique format of the Seminar would provide countries with an excellent opportunity for better understanding of the most updated information on negotiation topics. Also, Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu City, in his welcome remarks, expressed his hope that the City Government would contribute to establishment of a low carbon society in the Asia-Pacific region, through cooperation by the newly established Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society.

3. For the substance of the Seminar, participants discussed the following two items at day1 and day2; 1) measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and 2) science and technology-based adaptation to climate change. The Seminar was co-chaired by Ms. Alexandra Borthwick, Director, Mitigation Negotiations Section, DCCEE, Australia and Mr. Taka Hiraishi, Senior Consultant, Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES). Participants were invited to make presentations on their current efforts and challenges followed by the "Questions for Discussion" by the secretariat with background information and interactive discussion among participants.

4. At the day 3, the participants visited key environmental facilities, including Eco-Town, Next Generation Energy Park, Photovoltaic Facility, Home appliances recycling facility, Kitakyushu Environment Museum, to learn more about the environmental initiatives by the City of Kitakyushu..

5. The Seminar contributed to sharing of information through exchange of views, useful information and experiences, and confidence-building among the countries, which aims to create an enabling environment for negotiations in view of agreement on a future framework of climate change. Also, the study tour contributed to better understanding of technology cooperation in the area of low carbon development.

Substantive Sessions

Session I: Measurement, report, and verification (MRV)

Recent developments in NAMA elaboration

5. Participants at the Seminar were pleased to note that many countries have recently embarked on their own new initiatives to develop nationally appropriate mitigation actions in conjunction with the Bali Action Plan (BAP) and the Copenhagen Accord. It is also noted that many such actions took into due consideration their possible Sustainable Development contribution, including future adaptation needs. In this regard, the Seminar noted that Non-Annex I National Communications have the potential to provide the opportunity for development of integrated NAMAs because National Communications are supposed to cover a wide range of issues, including information on country situations, GHG inventories, mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, National Communications would, if properly designed and prepared, significantly improve the value of NAMA reporting.

Different NAMA types

6. Experts recognized that there are a variety of types of NAMAs, such as unilateral NAMAs, internationally supported NAMAs and "others" (e.g., "credited/marketable NAMAs), which would require different considerations.

7. There are already some concrete experiences of NAMA developments, which reflect a wide variety of country situations, and indicate associated technical challenges, including difficulties in identification of responsibilities, and in coordinating actions among different agencies (e.g., State, Province, or Municipalities). NAMA MRV actions may differ depending on different policy tools employed. These cases might require special consideration in MRV system design.

From National Communications to NAMA

8. Many participants re-confirmed the continued difficulties in the National Communications preparation process, e.g., absence of relevant activity data or emission factors and difficulties in stakeholder participation (information gathering and involvement in report preparation), insufficient funding for underlying research and development or for sustained institutional setup. All of these difficulties will be similarly but probably more profoundly felt under a future NAMA/MRV process.

9. However, participants appreciated that the future elaboration of the NAMA/MRV system could significantly benefit from lessons learned in the National Communications process and recognized the possibility of using the National Communications experts, expertise and system as a first building block for a future NAMA/MRV system.

10. Regarding the question of MRV for international support, some participants highlighted the need for information on the amount of financial resources and technical support provided by developed countries, while others emphasized the value of information on actions taken as a result of such international support. The participants were in a broad agreement that providing guidance on MRV for international support would be beneficial for the purpose of building up of reporting capabilities.

11. Participants noted that there are some functions or aspects of National Communications that would need to be expanded, strengthened or changed.

- More rigor in checking their completeness, QA/QC, gap analysis or key category analysis, and standardization of necessary documentation.
- While the periodicity of National Communications could be with 4-6 years of interval, it might be worth considering more frequent NAMA reporting (with a narrower range of contents, and with the shorter interval of, e.g., each 2-3 years). In this context, participants noted that continuity of the inventory exercise would reduce the burden of data gathering and consistency checks.

12. For the above, participants recognized the eventual need for increased funding, including from GEF or other international sources, in particular for MRV of the internationally supported NAMAs and other NAMAs.

13. Participants broadly agreed that MRV guidelines, if they are to be prepared, should be facilitative by nature and not used for compliance purposes. In the elaboration of such guidelines, a number of considerations would be required.

- Eventual need of guidance on project-, programme-, sector- or policy-based actions, which would be additional to IPCC inventory guidelines.
- Harmonization, among countries, about estimation methodologies and systems.

Capacity-building for MRV

14. There are various capacity-building activities in the GHG inventory area, which include promotion of information & experiences with other countries, provision of technical support, and provision of specific advice through consultations. To enhance capacity to cope with MRV, experiences and lessons learned can be useful resource and capacity building for MRV should be built upon them. In this connection, the continuous efforts of organizing the Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventory Development n Asia (WGIA) was highly valued as a good example.

15. It was pointed out that further consideration would be important on mutual learning between countries, consideration of how to link GHG inventory with NAMAs, and improvement of institutional arrangements. Also, during discussion, some participants highlighted the current activities of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on Non-Annex I National Communications, and expected roles to be played by the CGE in future on NAMAs/MRV. In that case, better coordination with bilateral or multilateral

programmes is important.

16. In order to enhance capacity of stakeholders and domestic institutional arrangements, some countries organized national committees consisting of relevant ministries and institutions/agencies, prepared manuals for GHG inventory and made practical efforts. Early voluntary efforts are important, even before MRV guidelines are established, since such guidelines are expected to draw inputs from the practical experiences from such early efforts.

17. Common challenges are found especially in availability of quality data, weak management system of GHG inventories, domestic coordination and human, technical, financial resources etc. In order to launch and operationalize MRV, these challenges should be addressed though capacity-building. As to domestic arrangements, some participants emphasized domestic arrangements for review (checking or verification) should also be established or strengthened, and where appropriate, capacity-building should be provided.

18. Participants felt that it would be useful to showcase similar efforts related to measurement, reporting, and (verification already in operation in developed countries, and, if any, developing countries.

19. From experiences introduced by countries, participants stressed the importance of recognizing the climate change agenda, in particular, actions to prepare and maintain GHG inventories and National Communications in a domestic legal framework (which facilitates coordination among ministries, and data collection by relevant stakeholders as a regular activities, rather than ad hoc/non-mandated work). Some countries showed their interest in exploring of possible cooperation/capacity-building activities in establishing or strengthening the domestic legal (or legislative) basisfor these activities.

Issues requiring further discussions

20. Due to the shortage of time the Seminar was unable to carry out detailed considerations on the following.

- Contents of the more frequent NAMA reporting.
- Possible procedures and elements of International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process.
- Guidance on future projection, which appears to be required as an essential element for NAMA purpose.
- Sectoral, programme- or project-based NAMAs and how they can be MRVed?
- MRV for National/Provincial/Municipal actions (Such MRV would require substantive involvement of government bodies concerned, that have different governance responsibilities).
- Registry of NAMAs (national and international)
- Requirements for NAMA-credits (experiences from gold standard, JBIC GREEN guidelines, and CDM may be useful.)
- Core indicators which might be useful for overview of NAMAs.
- Informal consultation among regional experts.

Session II: Science and technology-based adaptation to climate change.

Stocktaking of adaptation activities -good practices, lessons learned and needs identified

21. It was stressed that countries need to elaborate a strategy for mainstreaming adaptation concerns into sustainable development, particularly in implementation of climate risk assessments, analysis of past development projects, and to prioritize projects taking into consideration different risks, available resources, timeframes, etc.

22. Data collection and modeling for adaptation is a challenge in developing countries, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDs). To address this, various approaches are being developed, including national and sub-regional wide data observation & sharing networks. In developing countries, especially in SIDs, enhancement of human and institutional capacity is a matter of urgency. To address such needs, some governments are working with educational institutions, such as in recruitment of workforces with requisite skills.

Cooperative actions for enhanced adaptive capacity

24. Some participants reiterated that types and levels of vulnerability to negative impacts are in context (site specificity) and a comprehensive approach (integrated into other development actions) to addressing such impacts may provide a more durable solution. Cases of early actions already taken show that adaptation efforts dramatically reduced the cost of negative impacts. Some case studies demonstrated how scientific and technological information were utilized in designing and implementing adaptation projects in the region, and as a next step replication of such efforts in the region can be expected.

25. As a key issue, how countries can mobilize financial resources was discussed, with estimates of the amount of necessary resources. Regional Networks are being developed as an effective way to promote information sharing, and replication of good practices.

26. There were substantive discussions on policy formulation on adaptation, and the Seminar noted that there are a variety of situations which might lead to different priority setting on adaptation strategies. For instance, some countries might opt to carry on their national development plans which have been established to address well-known, near-term climate impacts only and to accommodate better their urgent development needs, using scarce available development resources. Other countries might rather consider that their current development plans need to be urgently re-formulated, taking into account the eventual climate change risks because, though climate change might not cause significant impacts in the near term, they foresee profound impacts on their future development paths and enormous resources might eventually be required to address the impacts, particularly the irrecoverable ones, once they occur. However, the participants broadly re-confirmed that national development planning and climate adaptation policy formulation should be carried out as an integrated process, taking into account such national situations and

development priorities.

27. Some participants emphasized the urgency of the situation, which would require immediate actions. Given the high-level of uncertainty, such actions could be based on learning-by-doing and from a bottom-up basis.

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(Attachment 1) Questions for Discussion

Discussion 1: MRV depending on the type of NAMA

- ✓ How to measure the NAMAs?
- ✓ How to report the NAMA through National Communications?

Discussion 2: GHG Inventory and National Communications (NC)

- \checkmark What are the objectives and benefits of inventory and NC?
 - Domestically / Internationally
- \checkmark In order to fulfill the objectives and benefits, how should they be reported?

Contents (Inventory, Implementation status, Methodologies, Needs of Support, Result of Domestic

verification, Any other key information)

Frequency

Accuracy / Quality requirements

Discussion 3: Accuracy and Transparency

 \checkmark What are the objectives and benefits to enhance accuracy and transparency?

Domestically / Internationally

✓ Are the current systems for developed countries applicable to developing countries? If no, how should they be improved?

Discussion 4: Needs for enhanced MRV

- \checkmark How to identify the needs to enhance MRV capability?
- \checkmark What are the effective functions at international level?
- \checkmark What are the necessary arrangements at domestic level?

(Attachment 2) Current and Proposed Requirement on National Communications

		Developed Countries	Developing Countries			
Frequency	Current	N/A	N/A			
	Proposed	2 years	2 years			
Contents	Current	(correspond to reporting items)	(correspond to reporting items)			
	Proposed	(correspond to reporting items)	(correspond to reporting items)			

Table 1 Measurement

Table 2 Reporting

		Developed Countries	Developing Countries	
	Current	3-5 years	Irregular	
Frequency	Proposed	- 2 years (streamlined)	- 2 years (streamlined)	
		- 3-5 years (full)	- 4-6 years (full)	
	Current	-GHG inventory	-GHG inventory	
Contents		- Implementation	-Support received etc.	
		- Support provided etc.		
	Proposed	<streamlined version=""></streamlined>	<streamlined version=""></streamlined>	
		-GHG Inventory	-GHG Inventory	
		-Progress of emission reduction and	-Implementation Status	
		sink -Methodology		
		- Achieved emission reduction	-Support	
		-Methodology	-Result of domestic Verification	
		-Financial Support Provided		
		- Offset		

Table 3 Verification (Proposed)

	Developed	Countries	Developing Countries	
	GHG Inventory	NC	unilateral NAMAs	supported NAMAs
Domestic	QA/QC	-	Verification	(to be discussed)
Inter-	Annual expert	Periodic expert	Consultations and	Verification
national	Review +SB review	review+SB review	Analysis	