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East Asia Low Carbon Growth Dialogue Side Event Report

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)
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This is a report of a side event held at 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) from November 30th to December 13th 2015, in Paris, France.

- Title : East Asia Low Carbon Growth Dialogue
- Date : 18:45 - 20:00, Monday, December 7, 2015
- Organizer(s) : Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), National Institute for Environmental Strategies (NIES)
- Venue : Observer room 04 , the Conference Centre (Blue Zone), Le Bourget, Paris, France
- Presenter(s) : Ambassador Masahiko Horie (MOFA), Datuk Loo Took Gee (Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia), Prof. Ho Chin Siong (UTM), Prof. Hironori Hamanaka (IGES), Nguyen Van Anh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, Dr. Junichi Fujino (NIES)

■ Summary

1. Masahiko Horie, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MOFA): “Achievements and a proposal from East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue. Transformation to Low Carbon Growth”

- Ambassador Horie introduced the East Asia Summit (EAS) region which is composed by 18 countries including ASEAN countries, Japan, the United States, etc. He explained that the region represents 63% of the world's CO₂, and given its importance, this is one of the reasons why Japan wanted to form this partnership.
- It already held 3 meetings since 2012 aiming at building “Asian models” for low carbon growth. The first pillar refers to the development and the implementation of each country's low carbon growth strategy. The second pillar refers to utilization of technologies and market mechanisms. And the third pillar refers to the development of effective networks among various stakeholders.
- After the first meeting in 2012, the East Asia Low Carbon Platform was formed. In the second dialogue held the following year, members discussed the importance of

technology and public-private partnerships (PPP), transfer of appropriate technologies, and market mechanisms. In the 3rd dialogue held in 2014 the focus was on “cities” and “actions” and policies beyond PPPs.

- Mr. Horie informed that the dialogue served to launch the 4th East Asia Partnership Dialogue through a MOFA document titled “A Proposal from East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue”, aiming at CO₂ emissions reduction at regional and global level.

2. Nguyen Van Anh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam: “NAMA / MRV Framework in Vietnam”

- The presenter made an exhaustive description of Vietnam, the policies that they have enacted, and what kind of achievements they have made in relation to compliance with requirements from the UNFCCC.
- The Second National Communication submitted in 2014 and the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution was presented in 2015. The aim of 25% of total emission reductions has been mentioned in the latter.
- As for NAMAs, a national policy and the National Climate Change Strategy has been issued in 2011 in order to facilitate the implementation of NAMAs.
- Since then, MONRE acts as the national focal point for NAMAs, and it already established a working group for NAMA with line ministries.
- As an example, the presenter mentioned 2 proposals completed in relation to a support program for wind power development in Vietnam in 2015, which will be sent to the UNFCCC NAMA Registry. A fund for renewable energy development and a national inventory system was mentioned.
- Still, understanding of NAMA is still limited in the country and the MRV system is still under the development phase. A lack of effective coordination mechanism among line ministries was also mentioned.

3. Kamal Uy, Ministry of the Environment, Cambodia: “Joint Crediting Mechanism in Cambodia”

- Mr. Uy talked about their INDC submitted in October 2015. In such document, they are stating that it is possible to reduce GHG emissions by 27% from 2020 to 2030. He also mentioned that they need to pay attention to emissions reduction especially in the LULUCF sector
- He mentioned that they have three activities to facilitate emissions reduction, namely NAMAs, CDM and JCM.

- However, he explained that they still need to have an appropriate institutional arrangement. So far, the General Secretariat for Sustainable Development of the National Council for Sustainable Development was formed in order to discuss all mitigation projects. As a result, they currently have 11 CDM projects and 2 NAMA proposals.
- Mr. Uy finalized explaining that the JCM is a win-win approach for them and also a tool to achieve INDCs of the country.

4. Kazuhisa Koakutsu, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES):
“Implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in Asia”

- Mr. Koakutsu gave a broad description of the JCM schemes. He informed about joint committees that have been organized by 13 countries, and also the establishment and operation of dedicated websites, and progress with the establishment of a Registry.
- He emphasized that JCM projects can be considered as concrete examples of technology transfer on the ground. He mentioned 14 energy efficiency projects but overall, JCM financed projects have increased.
- He concluded indicating that many countries will utilize market mechanisms for the accomplishments of INDCs. Specifically, about 65% of INDCs mention utilization of market mechanisms, and there are countries that want to use market mechanisms through the JCM. The issue now is to think how we can implement INDCs.

5. Datuk Loo Took Gee, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia (KeTTHA): “Towards Putrajaya Green City 2025”

- The presenter introduced the background of the Putrajaya Green City 2025, and the importance of Putrajaya as the federal government administrative centre of Malaysia.
- He gave an example of initiatives in the building sector called “The Putrajaya building sector carbon emission monitoring and reporting programme”, which is based on the Tokyo government experience. This expertise has been provided by Kyoto University, NIES, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Mizuho Information and Research Institute, to develop the programme of Putrajaya.
- A description of initiatives in the transport sector has been presented.

Second Part: The way forward

1. Masahiko Horie, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MOFA):

- He underlined a strong impression from the COP21. He remembered that in COP16

(Cancun), Japan did not join the 2nd commitment period of the CDM but agreed upon a new framework for all parties. In parallel, in the East Asia Summit, during this 3 years time, many countries started to work very hard on green growth or trying to reduce GHG emissions as much as possible.

- He underlined the importance of INDCs that now cover 96% of what it is looking for, and how JCM is very important in transferring leading technologies.
- He concluded by praising all the recent efforts in recent years especially in East Asia.

2. Kentaro Tamura, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES):

- He mentioned that the main point now is how to accelerate mitigation actions, and what actually matter now are actions on the ground.
- He was impressed on the seriousness of many effort to make real actions, as for example projects on NAMA and MRV systems, or how to utilize market mechanisms. He pointed out that remaining challenges need to be analyzed on how these lessons should be shared to move forward.
- Specifically, the Asia model for low carbon growth can be drawn from these examples, since Asia has many diverse countries and different growth patterns. He concluded by indicating that the Asia model can have a huge potential to make global efforts to combat climate change.

3. Prof. Ho Chin Shong, UTM, Malaysia: “National planning and city actions of sustainable low carbon city region – the case of Iskandar Malaysia”

- He mentioned how the partnership between ASEAN and Japan proved that it is possible to come up with proper policies. In the same way, he mentioned that Putrajaya and Iskandar Malaysia are also working.
- He highlighted the importance of a network of stakeholders. How the business community, NGOs, and even school children are connected in this network and how each stakeholder contributes in this network. In relation to this, he mentioned that LoCARNet is a very important platform to educate people.
- He finished by indicating the importance to build Asia model through this partnership between Japan and Asian countries.

■ Q&A

Q. Representative from Germany:

Can you please clarify if China and the US are part of the dialogue? Is this compatible to other decarbonization efforts?

A. Prof. Ho Chin Siong (UTM, Malaysia):

In Malaysia, we are working on how to calculate baselines. We need to start to come up with good inventories, etc. in order to move forward.

A. Ambassador Masahiko Horie (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan):

Under the UNFCCC the CDM is existing but the JCM is complementary to the CDM. JCM will be an easier and more effective way to transfer leading technologies to developing countries and both of countries reduce CO₂ emissions. Whether or not will be approved by the UNFCCC is yet to be seen, but we are keeping notes.

USA, China and India are members of EAS. Some countries are more active to create low carbon societies than others, but we are always inviting for more active participation.

Q. Unidentified:

I believe not only GHG emissions reduction is important. For example, third party certification in urban systems is also important. Do you have any examples in this area?

A. Ambassador Masahiko Horie (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan):

Of course energy efficiency is an important area. Under the SE4All initiative we are working on the improvement on energy efficiency. Innovation and transfer of technology in this area is very important.

Q. Representative from Zimbabwe:

Can you turn your heads to African countries. Especially about involvement of women, since women want to learn how to deal with climate change, training for adaptation is needed.

A. Ambassador Masahiko Horie (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan):

Women empowerment and adaptation is very important. Japan and other members are discussing not only mitigation but adaptation as well. Many supporters and donors are studying how to transfer know how to the people.

A. Nguyen Van Anh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam:

We need to work in both adaptation and mitigation. Developing countries need to know how to implement INDCs and how to MRV different targets.



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English:

http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/info/event/details_oecc_COP21report.html