

## **COP22 UNFCCC Official Side Event Report Promoting Low Carbon Asia: National and Local Experience on planning and market mechanisms**

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan  
Prepared by Jun Watanabe

This is a report of a side event held at 22nd Session of the e Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP22) from November 7th to 18th 2016, in Marrakesh, Morocco

- Title: Promoting Low Carbon Asia: National and Local Experience on planning and market mechanisms
- Date: 9 November 2016, Wednesday, 11:30-13:00
- Organizers: The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)
- Venue: COP22 Blue zone, Area E, Bering (150)
- Facilitator: Dr. Junichi Fujino, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
- Opening remarks: Prof. Ho Chin Siong, University of Technology Malaysia (UTM), Mr. Yoshihiro Mizutani, Director, International Cooperation Office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- Presenters: Mr. Ranping Song, World Resource Institute (WRI), Mr. Yoshihiro Mizutani, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, Dr. Junichi Fujino, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Mr. Nguyen Van Huy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam, Mr. Datuk Hj Sahrom Ujang, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Malaysia
- Panelists: - Prof. Ho Chin Siong, University of Technology Malaysia (UTM), Mr. Nguyen Van Huy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam (MONRE), Mr. Boyd Joeman, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), Mr. Ranping Song, World Resource Institute (WRI)

■ Contents
------------

After the adoption of the Paris Agreement, while development of national level plans such as NDCs have been making progress, development of city level plans for the realization of low-carbon cities are also becoming active. With understanding this background and focusing on city-level activities, some actual examples of activities including city-to-city collaboration through the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and utilization of the Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) were introduced. In the discussion session, panelists discussed about activities to accelerate the movement to further achieve low-carbon or decarbonized

societies in the future. The event was attended by around 60 participants including but not limited to government officials and experts.

■ Session summary
-------------------

- This side event was co-organized by The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC).
  
- In the beginning of the side event, Mr. Ranping Song from the WRI shared the international trend of development of NDCs and regional initiatives.
  - Many NDCs submitted by countries include measures in various sectors and by civil organizations and local governments not only measures at the national level.
  - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and its scope overlaps with the Paris Agreement for some areas. Both regimes can complement each other in order to promote sustainable development and proceed climate change measures.
  - For instance, the NDC of Vietnam mentions about the food security issue and this target aligns with the second goal of SDGs; Zero-hunger.
  - There will be several challenges when developing countries will implement NDCs. Planning for implementation, Identifying policy levers and assessing impact, Setting up institutional arrangements, Getting ready for finance and investment, Broadening and deepening engagement, Aligning development and climate agendas, Building long-term in-country capacity, Coordinating international support to respond to national needs.
  
- Mr. Yoshihiro Mizutani from the MOEJ and Dr. Junichi Fujino from the NIES shared Japan's supporting activities on climate change in Asia.
  - The MOEJ is supporting some developing countries to promote development and implementation of NDCs. These supports are based on PDCA cycle which include planning of GHG mitigation scenario, implementation of measures, reporting and evaluation of implementation and revision of the plan.
  - As the supports for the implementation phase, MOEJ is conducting "City to City Collaboration JCM Feasibility Studies", "high-level Seminar and ASEAN ESC Model City Program" and "ASEAN ESC Model Cities Program"
  - In the City to City Collaboration JCM Feasibility Studies, MOEJ supports project formation to realize low-carbon society based on City-to-City collaboration between Japanese and foreign municipalities. Japanese cities, having overcome environmental

challenges in the past, can provide their knowledge and technologies.

- NIES supports developing GHG mitigation scenarios in developing countries to promote realization of low carbon society with developing and utilizing the Asia - Pacific Integrated Model (AIM). NIES is also working on transferring the know - how of the Carbon Reduction Reporting Program by Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) to developing countries. Those Countries supported by the NIES includes Hai Phong and Da Nang in Vietnam and Putrajaya and Iskandar in Malaysia.
  
- Mr. Nguyen Van Huy from the MONRE, Vietnam shared a case of the cooperation project on climate change measures between Ho Chi Minh City and Osaka City.
  - In this project, the MOEJ and Osaka City support to develop the “Climate Change Action Plan” in Ho Chi Minh City and promote the implementation of the action plan by developing mitigation projects including JCM projects.
  - There are 3 JCM projects developed so far and diffusion of low carbon technologies in the city is expected. 1) Eco-driving by Utilizing Digital Tachograph System Project, 2) Project of Introduction of Solar PV System at Shopping Mall in Ho Chi Minh, 3) Introduction of High Efficiency Air-conditioning in Hotel.
  
- Mr. Datuk Hj Sahrom Ujang from Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Malaysia shared activities to realize low carbon society in Kuala Lumpur.
  - Kuala Lumpur has some plans for city development until 2020 including “Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020” and “Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2020” with aiming to construct smart city. Currently, Kuala Lumpur is drafting “Kuala Lumpur Low Carbon Society 2030” with the cooperation of UTM and Japanese universities and research institutes to revise existing plans to promote more comprehensive climate change measures
  
- In the discussion session, panelists and the audience discussed about measure to promote further low carbonization and decarbonization.
  - (Ho Chin Siong) Now is the time that we have to work for not only planning but also implementation of climate change measures and the implementation of regional and city measures are important. Asian countries are continuing rapid economic growth, so it is necessary to realize both growth and low carbonization together by implementing the NDC. In order to achieve this purpose, we are implementing measures based on a concept called “Science to Action”
  - It is necessary to implement measures of the master plan with measuring and

evaluating impact of GHG emission reduction. It is also important to recognize that cities are major GHG emitter and at the same time engines for the economic growth. It is big challenge to implement climate change measures with ensuring job creation and economic growth. In addition, participation and supports from various stakeholders such as architects, NGOs, private sector and schools are important to promote low carbonization of regions.

- (Boyd Joeman) Iskandar is an economically developed region and the resource management is important to promote economic growth and environmental conservation. Iskandar developed “Low Carbon Society Blueprint” in 2012 and implemented some measures in the blueprint. It is necessary that every citizens should be involved in the process of climate change actions to realize low carbon society. We published “Green business guidelines” for private companies. Activities by private sector is particularly important for economically developed region such as Iskandar.
- (Comment: unknown [Finland]) Not only cities or companies can pledge their climate actions but also citizens should act for the climate. We started a project to reduce carbon footprint on an individual basis. Recently, this project became a pilot project co-organized with UN. I think this can be applied to communities all over the world.
- (Comment: Albert Magalang [Philippines]) Participation by private sector is important for full implementation of the NDC. I would like to know relevant activities or researches.
- (Unknown [Taiwan]) Economic situation and motivation for environmental issues are very different between Europe and South Asia. How can we promote low carbon behavior by general citizens?
- (Boyd Joeman) There are other way to promote participation by general citizens not to enforce them by regulation. We are conducting some activities with elementary schools and villages in Iskandar.
- (Ranping Song) Regarding the question from Taiwan, There is a research called “New coming economy”. This study shows that the decoupling of economic growth and low carbonization can be achieved. Regarding the question from Philippines, there is an initiative called “Science based targeting” and many companies are participating in this. It is expected in Asia that governments take leadership and show signal for the society in order to promote low carbonization.