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“Inspiring Mitigation Ambition: Experience from the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme” SB38 Side Event report

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC)
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This is a report of a side event held at the 38th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC from June 3rd to 14th 2012, in Bonn, Germany.

- Title : Inspiring Mitigation Ambition: Experience from the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme
- Date : 15:00 - 16:30, Tuesday, 11 June, 2013
- Organiser(s) : United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Venue : Room Wind at the Ministry of the Environment of Germany
- Presenter(s) : Yamil Bonduki (UNDP), Friedrich Barth (UNDP), Chebet Maikut (Uganda), Vakakn Kabakian (Lebanon), Julia Martinez (Mexico), Julia Wolf (Germany), Etienne Coyette (European Commission), and Gregory Andrews (Australia)
- Abstract: UNDP’ s LECB Programme, funded by the European Commission and governments of Germany and Austria, is supporting 25 developing countries to achieve low-emission development through the elaboration of LEDs and NAMAs, as well as the underlying MRV and GHG inventory systems. Countries will share experiences.

■ Summary

1. Yamil Bonduki: “The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme: A global initiative to support mitigation action – LEDs, NAMAs & MRV”

- Mr. Bonduki stated that the objective of the programme is to build capacities to design and implement Low Emission Development Strategies and national mitigation actions in the public and/or private sectors. There are five main work areas of the programme: GHG inventory management systems, NAMAs, LEDS, MRV, and mitigation actions in selected private sectors. The program started in January 2011 and is scheduled to end in December 2016, covering 25 countries with the total funding of \$40 million.
- They have several principles for capacity development, such as a multi-stakeholder framework, maximised use of national experts, focus on institutional capacity building needs, encouragement of consideration of gender issues, and building on existing

experience within the UNDP (e.g. lessons from UNDP-GEF's climate change mitigation portfolio and its National Communications Support Programme). To conclude his presentation, Mr Bonduki announced that they are disseminating information on the programme in several UN official languages.

2. Vakakn Kabakian: "The NAMA Governance Structure in Lebanon"

- Mr. Kabakian discussed the Lebanese experience in building a national institutional framework for NAMA development in cooperation with the UNDP.
- As for institutional arrangements for NAMAs in Lebanon, the National Council for the Environment (NCE) was established in 2012, which comprises representatives from the relevant ministries, the private sector and civil society. And the Ministry of Environment was appointed as the national coordinator of NAMAs in 2013, thus requesting it to start preparation work for NAMAs. The NCE is supported by the Research/Technical Support Group, the Governmental Group and five working groups in charge of different sectors.
- They envisage 6 concrete steps for developing NAMAs: 1) building solid GHG emissions inventories; 2) NAMA identification and scoping with small groups of stakeholders; 3) NAMA prioritization and selection with large groups of stakeholders; 4) NAMA preparation; 5) NAMA registry; and 6) implementation and MRV. They have not designed a concrete MRV system yet.

3. Julia Martinez: "Low Emission Capacity Building Programme in Mexico"

- Ms. Martinez outlined the low emission capacity building programme that is being undertaken in Mexico.
- The goal of the programme is to assist Mexico's private sector in the designing of sectorial low-emissions development strategies (LEDS). According to Mexico's estimated baseline emissions until 2020, emissions from the industry sector accounts for roughly 15% of the total emissions. In some sub-sectors, such as cement as well as iron & steel, mitigation activities have already been taken. But Mexico also evaluated the potential of other sub-sectors within the industry sector, thus selecting the mining and chemical industries as the participants of the UNDP programme.
- Ms. Martinez noted that the lessons learned so far include: synergies between Mexico's existing institutional arrangements and the programme among other benefits.

4. Chebet Maikut: "NAMA framework & prioritisation process in Uganda"

- Mr. Maikut discussed institutional arrangements for NAMA development as well as NAMA prioritisation process in Uganda.

- He outlined relevant national legislation and policies at the beginning of his presentation. For example, the key priorities of the National Development Plan include developing capacity for adaptation and mitigation activities among others. The NAMA development process in Uganda started in 2012 and they identified 32 potential NAMAs in different economic sectors. With the help of the African Development Bank, they prioritised some potential NAMAs over the others with specific selection criteria, such as GHG emission reduction potential, contribution to sustainable development, alignment with national development goals, market and technological potential, potential co-benefits, and financial/social feasibility. The ten highest ranked NAMAs thus selected comprise actions in the energy and forestry sectors.
- They have also identified specific challenges in each sector. For example, the waste sector does not receive a lot of domestic budgetary support. The agriculture sector is marked by lack of technical capacities to undertake NAMAs and issues related to land/tree tenure. The energy sector attracts particularly large attention from different donors, which makes donor coordination a challenging task.

5. Brief remarks from the donors of the UNDP programme

- Representing the donors of the UNDP programme, Ms Wolf (Germany), Mr. Coyette (European Commission) and Mr Andrews (Australia) respectively made brief remarks.
- Ms. Wolf noted the following:
 - ✓ Raising the level of mitigation ambition is one of the key objectives in this programme.
 - ✓ Germany and the UK announced at COP18 the establishment of the NAMA facility with the total budget of \$ 70 million. They are now calling for proposals from developing country governments.
- Mr. Coyette remarked the following:
 - ✓ Their support for the UNDP programme is fully in line with their sustainable development objective.
 - ✓ They are impressed by the diversity of projects currently being implemented within the framework of the programme.
 - ✓ Sustainable development and mitigation are high on the EU agenda. They are planning to spend 20% of its budget on climate change.
- Mr. Andrews stated the following:
 - ✓ He welcomes the recent trend that private financing is increasing its share within the total climate financing
 - ✓ In regard to Australia's domestic climate change policy, they introduced carbon tax

last year and developed renewable energy targets, making, for example, new generation wind power more commercially viable than new generation coal power (despite that fact that Australia is very richly endowed with coal).

■ Q&A

Q. (Mr. Barth): What were the difficulties in working with the industry sector?

A. Ms. Martinez: The companies were reluctant to disclose some of the key information.

Q. (Mr. Barth): How do you plan to finance NAMAs in Uganda?

A. Mr. Maikut: Efforts are underway to select one priority sector for NAMAs.

Q. (Egypt): What kind of MRV system do you envisage in Lebanon?

What are the requirements for the private sector to participate in the NAMA program in Mexico?

A. Mr. Kabakian: They do not currently have basic information, such as baseline emission scenarios. We will have to collect such basic information before designing an MRV system.

Ms. Martinez: They have introduced a mandatory reporting system for the private sector among other obligations.

Q. (Environment Defence Fund): Do you plan to use independent verification bodies for MRV of NAMAs?

A. Mr. Kabakian: We are not certain yet, but CDM verification bodies might be able to play a role.

Q. (Zambia): An Australian company is mining coal in Zambia, devastating its pristine environment. How would it be possible to stop this act?

A. Mr. Andrews: It is Zambia's responsibility to enact legislation for environmental protection. This argument is valid not just for Zambia but also for any other country.

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English:

http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/relation/details_oecc_SB38report.html