#### Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Climate and Energy Area

NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions) as a Tool for Low Carbon Societies and Sustainable Development

Kentaro Tamura, PhD Area Leader/Principal Policy Researcher Climate and Energy Area

## NAMAs as a tipping point toward low carbon development

- Low carbon development serves as an integral part of sustainable development, while its emphasis on energy and departure from fossil fuel utilization distinguishes the low carbon development concept from more general sustainable development paths.
- NAMAs as a policy tool to linking them



## NAMAs as a tipping point toward low carbon development

- Low carbon development could provide various leapfrogging opportunities.
  - LDCs: Opportunity to take the late comer's advantage, thereby avoiding the carbon lock-in associated with conventional modernization and urbanization
  - Middle-income countries: Opportunity to escape from the "middle income trap" by transforming resource-intensive economy to more efficient and competitive one
- These opportunities are recognized by developing countries.
  - Thailand: low carbon economy as part of the national development strategy under the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2011-2016,.
  - Vietnam: low carbon development as key strategy under the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2011-2020

# NAMAs as a tipping point toward low carbon development

- Two approaches to realizing such opportunities and national vision
  - 1. Approach 1
    - Putting NAMAs in a longterm horizon toward sustainable, low carbon development
    - Embedded in national developmental priorities
  - 2. Approach 2
    - Putting NAMAs in shortterm vision and goals
    - linkages with existing policies and measures put in place



### **Reflecting Developing Countries' Priorities: Diversity and Sectoral Comprehensiveness**

Category 1 Enabling Conditions <sup>1</sup> Afghanistan Georgia Tajikistan	Category 2 Projects-level Activities Ethiopia Jordan Mongolia Morocco The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Category 3 Sector/policy-level Activities		Category 4 Economy-wide Targets			
		Base Year	BAU	Carbon Neutrality <sup>2</sup>			
		Benin Botswana Cambodia Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Colombia Congo Côte d'Ivoire	Antigua Barbuda (1990) Marshall Islands (2009) Republic of Moldova (1990)	Brazil Chile Indonesia Israel Mexico Papua New Guinea Republic of Korea Singapore South Africa	Bhutan Costa Rica Maldives		

Note: <sup>1</sup> Category I includes such mitigation related actions as preparation of Initial National Communications (INC), GHG Inventories, identification of BAU emission path, and identification of NAMAs itself, among others.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Carbon neutrality refers to achieving zero net GHG emissions by balancing total anthropogenic GHG emissions and total amount of carbon sequestrations, emission reductions, and offsets.
Source: Fukuda and Tamura (2010)

## Reflecting Developing Countries' Priorities: Diversity and Sectoral Comprehensiveness



Source: Status Report on NAMAs (2013)

- Unlike the CDM, significant coverage of transport and buildings sectors
- Like the CDM, limited coverage of forestry
  - → To harness NAMAs, CDM and REDD+ in a complementary manner to capture and realize broader mitigation potentials and needs at scale

#### **Essential Elements of Formulating a NAMA: Three Dimensions**



## **The Way Forward**

- If designed well, NAMAs could serve as an effective tipping point for transforming countries towards low carbon development, which is an essential component of sustainable development.
- While the flexibility attached to country interpretation of NAMAs allows developing countries to tailor to and incorporate different national circumstances, however, it also poses a risk of poor design if not planned well.
- Strategic thinking is therefore highly recommended over how to best seize such opportunities. Linking upstream national vision/target to on-the-ground activities can be one of approaches for NAMAs formulation.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations (3)**

#### For international donors

- More attention to human resources development: More consideration should be given to how best domestic knowhow can be accumulated in recipient countries
- Facilitating mutual learning within the region: Each country's effort to formulate NAMAs can provide good lessons from which neighboring countries could learn.
- Ensuring coordination and complementary relationship among various NAMA-related support: More effort to support coordination should be made. It is also important to consider how each NAMA-related support can fit into national grand design toward low carbon development

## Thank you very much!