

The 11th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA11)

- Capacity building for measurability, reportability and verifiability -

5-7 July 2013, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

Executive Summary

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) convened the 11th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories in Asia (WGIA11) on 5-7 July 2013 in Tsukuba, Japan, as a capacity building workshop for Measurability, Reportability and Verifiability (MRV). Ever since 2003 the workshops have aimed at supporting Non Annex I (NAI) Parties in Asia to develop and improve their GHG inventories. The 11th workshop was attended by over 110 experts from thirteen WGIA-member countries (Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam), as well as the representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC/TFI/TSU), the Regional Capacity Building Project for Sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems in Southeast Asia (SEA GHG Project), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education of the Australian Government (DIICSRTE) and Japanese relevant institutes. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory Office of Japan (GIO) at the Center for Global Environmental Research (CGER) of NIES functioned as the WGIA10 Secretariat.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To enhance sector-specific capacity for inventory compilation (mutual learning)
- To facilitate periodical national GHG inventory preparation for national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs)
- To discuss the possibility of inventories as a supporting tool for mitigation measures/NAMAs
- To explore issues on measurability, reportability and verifiability (MRV) at various levels.

In the morning of 5th July, the mutual learning sessions, in-depth methodological discussion between two countries by means of studying the partner country's latest inventory in advance, were conducted for a limited number of participants. A SEA GHG Project informal meeting for Phase II was also held in parallel with the mutual learning sessions as a side event of WGIA11.

In the afternoon of 5th July, the Opening Session and Session I were held, and participants in WGIA11 shared information on Japan's climate change policies in the Opening Session, as well as Myanmar's national communication, Viet Nam's progress on preparing its first biennial update report (BUR) and Mongolia's progress, barriers and necessary supports for its first BUR in Session I.

In the morning of 6th July, the participants shared information on the UNFCCC Biennial Update Reporting Guidelines and various supporting activities for BUR preparation provided by IPCC/TFI/TSU, UNFCCC, SEA Project, JICA and USAID LEAD Program in Session II. In the afternoon, the participants shared information on national systems for periodical national GHG inventory preparation in Session III and relationships between inventory and

mitigation measures/NAMAs in session IV.

In the morning of 7th July, the participants exchanged information on enhancement of network for supporting measurement, reporting and verification at various levels in Session V. Finally, the participants summed up their discussions during sessions in WGIA11 in its Wrap-up Session.

In WGIA11, the participants discussed various issues by focusing on discussing how to periodically prepare their national GHG inventories, which comes to be necessary for preparing once every two years as a part of Biennial Update Reports (BURs). The BURs also will be verified through international consultation and analysis (ICA) under the UNFCCC, and non-Annex I Parties have not experienced such verification so far. Hence, the participants were very interested in the process of actual implementation of the ICA. Moreover, the participants confirmed that national GHG inventories take an important role for planning and verifying Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) by developing countries. As a result, the network among WGIA participating countries was enhanced through WGIA11; the participants reaffirmed the importance of the inventories as a key tool for mitigation actions; and all participants agreed to continue holding WGIA in the future. In addition, those who joined the mutual learning sessions reconfirmed usefulness of the activities and supported its continuation.

The overview of presentations and discussions on each subject are summarized below.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Satoshi Tanaka, Deputy Director-General of the Global Environment Affairs in the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, stated that climate change is a critical issue for all mankind, and addressing and resolving it is our responsibility for coming generations, and that we must address the challenges involved in facing up to climate change by means of our collective "human wisdom" as members of the human race so that climate change does not have fatal and irreversible consequences for security, welfare, and the economic development of humanity. He also mentioned that it is important for Parties under the UNFCCC to enhance MRV so that the Parties can ensure transparency and accuracy of their mitigation actions.

Progress on National Communication and Biennial Update Reports

Myanmar reported overview of its initial national communication (INC) and explained that it has already started preparing its second NC (SNC). Myanmar also mentioned that it is addressing improvement of quality of its national GHG inventory through the SNC preparation process. Mongolia and Viet Nam made presentations on progress of their first BURs preparation. During discussions on this issue, it was emphasized that establishing national system is an urgent issue in order to efficiently collect data for GHG emission/removal estimation and compile GHG inventories.

COP Decisions and International Supporting Activities for Preparation of Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties

Information on the UNFCCC Biennial Update Reporting Guidelines and various supporting activities for BUR preparation provided by IPCC/TFI/TSU, UNFCCC, SEA Project, JICA and USAID LEAD Program was shared through Session II. After the representative of the UNFCCC Secretariat explained the Guidelines on BURs, the participants actively exchanged their opinions on contents and other matters of BURs. In addition, effectiveness of software applications and emission factor database provided by IPCC and other institutes was confirmed.

National Systems for Periodical National GHG Inventory Preparation

Representatives of Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Japan made presentations on progresses of developing their national systems for national GHG inventory preparation. After the presentations, the participants in WGIA11 exchanged comments and inquiries about arrangements and roles of organizations which formulated the national systems. As a result, the participants confirmed information helpful for developing and improving each country's national system.

Relationship between National GHG Inventories and Mitigation Measures

Examples of and future plans for utilizing national GHG inventories for implementing mitigation measures were presented by representatives of Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan. National GHG inventories provided inclusive data on past national GHG emissions and removals; hence, it was confirmed that the data were an important resource for considering mitigation measures comprehensively. In addition, the necessity of cooperation between members of administrative organizations, between national level and provincial ones and between inventory compilers and experts on mitigation measures was emphasized in order to comprehend achievements of mitigation measures at various levels, such as national, provincial and project levels.

Enhancement of Network for Supporting MRV at Various Levels

The participants in WGIA11 shared information on activities for supporting MRV at various levels. Presentations on activities by the team of Asian Pacific Integrated Model (AIM), the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), the Global Environment Center Foundation (GEC), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet), the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC) were provided in this session. Through discussions in the session, the participants recognized that sharing information on MRV at various levels was effective for developing methods of MRV for nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMA).

Mutual Learning

Mutual Learning (ML) sessions were conducted in order to improve the individual countries' inventories through exchanging inventories between two countries to learn from each other. The target sectors in WGIA11 were: Energy (Lao PDR and Thailand), Agriculture (China and Myanmar), and Waste (Malaysia and Vietnam). In the sessions, participants in the past ML sessions in the previous WGIAs mentioned that the ML activities offered opportunities to re-examine GHG emission/removal estimation methods. As a conclusion in the wrap-up session, the participants in WGIA11 reconfirmed to continuously implement the ML activities in the future WGIAs.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Hideo Harasawa, Vice President of the National Institute for Environmental Studies, mentioned that the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii observed that the daily mean concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels surpassed 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in May 2013, and stated that all of us on the globe have been making more efforts than ever in both scientific and political fields in order to address mitigation and adaptation on the climate change.