

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE REGIME IN 2020 AND INITIATIVES IN ASIA: MITIGATION ACTIONS AND A MEASURING, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION (MRV) SYSTEM

1 Context/Rationale

This session discussed the current status and the future challenges for international climate change and its impacts on developing countries' mitigation policies and actions with special reference to Indonesia. The presentations were made on international climate regime, mitigation actions and environmental challenges of Indonesia at the national as well as local levels, and new research on measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) system in Indonesia.

Following the presentations, panel discussion addressed the three questions, namely, 1) What is the impact of evolving international climate regime on developing countries' mitigation actions at the national and the local levels?; 2) How can national and local environmental initiatives be enhanced through international cooperation? and 3) What are the challenges and the way forward for developing countries to enhance their mitigation action in a measureable, reportable and verifiable manner?

2 Objectives

The objective of this session was to discuss the current status and the future challenges for the collaboration of international climate change and its impacts on developing countries' mitigation policies and actions with special reference to Indonesia.



3 List of Speakers

[Moderator]

Naoya Tsukamoto Principal Researcher / Secretary-General, IGES

[Keynote Speakers & Discussants]

Vinda Damayanti Ansjar Head Division of Environmental Sound Technology, Standardization and Technology, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

Rizaldi Boer Executive Director, Centre for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management in Southeast Asia and Pacific, Bogor Agriculture University

Tsuyoshi Fujita Director, Center for Social and Environmental Systems Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)

[Speaker & Discussant]

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

[Discussant]

Yasuko Kameyama Head, Center for Social and Environmental Systems Research (Sustainable Social Systems Section), National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)

4 Key Messages

MRV of mitigation actions will provide an opportunity in terms of multiple benefits such as GHG emissions reductions and sustainable development. Challenges include incentives and costs to promote the advanced technology to the industrial sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises.

MRV is an important subject because there are several types of NAMAs. In order to develop a new MRV system which can meet international standards, it is important to consider the customisation of its system while taking into consideration the national circumstances in developing countries.

5 Summary of Presentation

To begin the session, the moderator, Naoya Tsukamoto introduced objectives of this session and raised several points on the MRV and climate policy in Asia. His questions were as follows: 1) Would MRV be burden for developing countries? 2) Would climate change policy and measures be meaningful investment in the context of sustainable development? 3) How could we make an action to implement those policies and measures? and 4) What would be the role of scientific research and what's the role of the MRV system?

Kentaro Tamura firstly explained the current situation of international negotiations under the UNFCCC on NAMAs and MRV. He stressed the dilution of differentiation in terms of mitigation initiatives and also explained why MRV is needed in terms of NAMAs concept that is developed by developing countries. Currently 55 countries submitted NAMAs to the UNFCCC secretariat as of May 2014 and there are a variety of NAMAs. He also stressed the variety of MRV systems depending on the different level, (institution, project-level, policy level and national and sub-national level). He suggested that it is necessary not only to have a linkage with national development plans to ensure NAMAs but also to reflect national priorities, commitment and coordination among line ministries. Finally he pointed out the necessity of concrete MRV systems in line with specific purpose of NAMAs.

Vinda Damayanti Ansjar introduced the background and current status of climate change policy of MRV in the context of environmentally sound technology (EST). She shared three steps (1. triple track strategy,

2. mitigation agenda (GHG and energy intensity) from economic growth and 3. adaptation agenda) for setting the strategy. She stressed that it is important to set up the technology benchmarking for registration and verification of EST. MOEI has started several policies and initiatives. One of the activities in MOEJ is to set up the working group on EST to recommend the suggestion to MOEI. In addition, legislation is prepared for water pollution control, air pollution and hazardous waste management in order to set the criteria for EST. MOEI will launch its Cleaner Production Center at the end of August.

Rizaldi Boer firstly explained the current status of historical emission and BAU projection in Indonesia. Secondly, he also shared the RAN/RAD GRK (climate change action plan in Indonesia) and relevant guidelines and process for future MRV system. According to his presentation, there are several types of mitigation activities in Indonesia which could be classified as Non-NAMA, NAMA and supported NAMA. He concluded by emphasising that there are spectral challenges on MRV issues such as a reliable baseline including Reference emission level, capacity building for inventory, data collection and QA/QC at sectoral and local level, measuring impact of mitigation policies, RS/GIS and information technology and modelling tool.

Tsuyoshi Fujita introduced his research plan and objective which will be in cooperation with MOEJ and IGES. One of the objectives is to disseminate an integrative modelling (AIM model) for low-carbon society in Indonesia. Another objective is to conduct simulation research for designing a model for urban and regional eco-city. His research plan showed that it could contribute to monitoring the gap between the current situation and innovative technology. He said that a monitoring system developed using his research could be part of the infrastructure to support local government in terms of enhancing data reliability. He also emphasised that low-carbon cooperation bilaterally can give more support for Joint Crediting Mechanism in terms of a monitoring and verification system.

Yasuko Kameyama raised several point for facilitating the discussion. Her question was related to the level of future agreement on the UNFCCC negotiation and asked the speakers what kind of elements such as co-benefit and poverty eradication are needed for future agreement.

6 Summary of Discussion

The audience and speakers actively discussed mitigation costs, MRV and environmental sound technology. Kentaro Tamura suggested that an internal coordination should be facilitated among the ministries in the host country so that they could have an improved MRV system. It was also pointed out that it is required to explain the rationale behind the data collection to function successfully in the host country. The audience raised points regarding Japanese environmental technology for export. It was pointed out that Japanese technology is very expensive in comparison to other countries. There are two reasons. The first is that Japanese companies do not take into consideration the specific circumstances of the host country. Another reason is that most Japanese technology is difficult for small and medium enterprises to accept despite the fact that it is very effective and environmental sound in terms of life cycle assessment. The audience further asked speakers how the host country side could improve this situation in the future. For this question, Vinda Damayanti Ansjar from MOEI said that mitigation of CO₂ emission in SMEs is very difficult in terms of cost. It was also pointed out that the cheaper technology is needed because the incentive to introduce EST to reduce CO₂ emissions is quite limited. In addition, the audience pointed out that international standards must be met, such as the level of scrutiny and data collection, whereas MRV level is very different depending on the country. It was emphasised that it is important to consider how an international MRV system could be established. Tsuyoshi Fujita said that his research could be a platform to establish a new MRV system in the future. In this aspect, he stressed that there is a need to promote cooperation among governments, business and academia.