

Introduction of the Workshops on Greenhouse Inventories in Asia (WGIA)

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1. Introduction

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are required to prepare and submit GHG inventories as part of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Reports/Biennial Update Reports (BRs/BURs) to the Conference of the Parties (COP). All Parties are also required to enhance transparency under Paris Agreement. Inventories show a Party's status of emissions/removals; they are used as a basis for mitigation measures. Therefore, compiling reliable inventories are important for all Parties.

The "Workshops on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (WGIA)" has been organized on an annual basis since 2003 by Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the National Institute for Environmental Studies. The aim of the workshop is to support non-Annex I Parties in Asia in developing and improving their inventories through discussions and exchanging information among experts from both member and non-member countries. So far, WGIA have not only contributed to inventory improvement of member countries but also have helped build a regional network of experts.

The member countries are Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (15 countries).

2. History of WGIA

The first WGIA which 30 participants from 11 countries attended was held in Phuket, Thailand in 2003. The following WGIA have been held in member countries since 2005.

Brunei has joined in since WGIA13 in 2015, and the number of WGIA member countries rose to 15 countries.

The latest 15th WGIA was co-hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Myanmar, and held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 11th -13th July 2017. Participants were 120 government officials, researchers, and compilers from 14 countries in Asia; Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; and International Organizations such as the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC/TFI/TSU), the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and others.

In 15th workshop, we discussed how to deal with issues on biennial update reports which were submitted in recent years, and their ICA processes, especially with regard to national GHG inventories. In order to enhance transparency, fluorinated gas reporting experiences were shared. Furthermore, some activities related to GHG inventories, such as projections and mitigation actions were discussed. In addition, "Mutual Learning (ML)" sessions for methodological discussion between two countries and a "poster session" for sharing sector specific issues were held.

3. Conclusions

In WGIA, in order to develop capacity for compiling GHG inventories in Asia, the information and the good practices related with GHG inventories issues, such as NCs, BURs, and its ICA processes were shared. In addition, Mutual Learning was recommended to be continued because of its usefulness to improve participating countries' inventories. The network of inventory experts in Asia was also strengthened through these annual events.

References

<http://www-gio.nies.go.jp/wgia/wgiaindex-e.html>