

Session SBI42 (2015)

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A compilation of questions to - Japan
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[Question by Brazil](#) at Wednesday, 01 April 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Mitigation actions

Regarding Table 3, does Japan plan to estimate the impact of mitigation actions that have not been estimated (NE)? If not, what are the main reasons? If possible, give the explanation by mitigation action or by cluster/sector.

[Answer by Japan](#)

Not answered

[Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Use of credits generated through the JCM towards Japan's target

Japan foresees the use of units from market-based mechanisms and LULUCF to achieve its target. What share of these units will be attributed to the JCM? Secondly, how will Japan ensure that emission reductions generated through the JCM and counted towards Japan's target, are also correctly accounted for in the host country's pledge? And thirdly, can Japan please elaborate on the governance of its JCM mechanism (quality assurance of units, verification etc.), and how can it ensure its impartiality and independence from the government of Japan?

[Answer by Japan](#)

Not answered

[Question by United States of America](#) at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Methane Emissions

Japan's methane emissions have declined steeply since 1990. Could Japan provide additional details on Japan's success in mitigating methane emissions?

[Answer by Japan](#)

Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: 2020 target

Under chapter 3, there is a list of Policies and Measures for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in the Energy sector. Nevertheless, the CO₂ emissions from energy sector increased more than 11% in 2011 compared to the base year level. Considering that “the breakdown of GHG emissions and removals in FY2011 by sector shows the energy sector accounted for 91.3% of total GHG emissions”, what has been done to enhance the policies and measures towards the 2020 target?

In addition, in Table 3.1 “Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects”, only 3 mitigation actions related to the “Emissions Reduction of Energy-Originated CO₂” are listed. They could be considered too few in regard to the GHG emissions reduction. Are there additional actions to be presented?

Answer by Japan

Not answered

Question by Belgium at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: use of market mechanisms

In its BR Japan states that: “Japan is promoting the establishment and implementation of the “Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)” in which Japan facilitates the diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions, and contributes to sustainable development of developing countries. Following an appropriate evaluation of the contributions to GHG emission reductions or removals in developing countries in a quantitative manner, Japan will use them to achieve its emission reduction target. »

Question: Japan indicated the potential contribution of the Japanese crediting mechanism toward achieving its 2020 target upon appropriate evaluation. Could Japan explain how it will proceed to an “appropriate evaluation” in a “quantitative manner”? Does Japan intend to share the results of this evaluation within the UNFCCC including how emission reductions are being quantified and accounted?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Interim Target

The Expert Review Team reported that Japan's new emission reduction target is considered an interim target, and that a firm target will be set based on further review of Japan's energy policy and mix. Could Japan clarify when the new target will be developed and communicated?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Emission reduction target

Japan's emission reduction target is 3.8% below 2005 by 2020. However, based on Table 4- 4 "Information on greenhouse gas projections under a 'With Measures' Scenario", the GHG emission reduction, considering Total with LULUCF, is only 2.4%. Please explain possible actions being taken in order to close this gap between the target and projections. How Japan is planning to achieve the referred target of 3.8% (Additional policies and measures, KP mechanisms or account for other LULUCF activities not included up to now)?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Emission reduction target 3

In Table 3.1 "Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects", only a few

actions with estimated impact of mitigation in 2020 are listed. Can a more detailed quantified estimation be presented?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Emission reduction target 2

Based on Table 4-4 "Information on greenhouse gas projections under a 'With Measures' Scenario", the GHG emissions without LULUCF increase from 1,351,406.69 kt CO₂ eq in the base year to 1,364,000.00 kt CO₂ eq in 2020.

In addition, the BR states: "With regard to forest carbon sinks, the target was determined that the amount of removals by forest management for the period between 2013FY and 2020FY will be, on average, 3.5% of the total GHG emissions in 1990FY (approximately 44 million t- CO₂), which is the agreed upper limit of removals by forest management for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The level of removals will correspond with approximately 2.8% or more of the total GHG emissions in 2005FY (approximately 38 million t-CO₂)".

Please explain possible actions in order to close this gap between the target and projections.

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Mitigation Effects of Policies and Measures

Japan's Biennial Report provided information on mitigation actions organized by sector and by gas, but did not provide a quantified expected mitigation effect for each policy and measure for 2020. Could Japan provide estimates of expected mitigation effects for listed policies and measures, as recommended by the Expert Review Team?

Answer by Japan

Not answered

Question by Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures

Did Japan encounter difficulty in reporting on its assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures in the BR? Will Japan be providing information on this assessment in the next BR?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Level of ambition

Japan's initial communication to the UNFCCC was related to 25% GHG emissions reduction compared to 2005 by 2020. However, it has been replaced by a GHG emissions reduction target around 3.8% in 2020 compared to the 2005 level. Compared to 1990, this would actually be a 4% increase in emissions. What have been the reasons for the referred change regarding the target? Considering the low level of ambition presented till now, does Japan intend to change the target once again in order to increase the level of ambition?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Australia at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Joint Crediting Mechanism

How does Japan intend to use the Joint Crediting Mechanism towards meeting its target, and how will Japan avoid double counting with the host country?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Information on conferences

In item 4.2.1.1, there is the following statement: "Emissions for some HFCs, PFCs and NF3, which are additional gases for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as agreed at the COP17 and other such conferences, are not estimated and covered". Please explain the meaning of "other such conferences"?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Market based mechanisms

In page 45, it is stated: "Japan is promoting the establishment and implementation of the "Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)" in which Japan facilitates the diffusion of advanced low carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions, and contributes to sustainable development of developing countries. Following an appropriate evaluation of the contributions to GHG emission reductions or removals in developing countries in a quantitative manner, Japan will use them to achieve its emission reduction target".

Why Japan is not envisaging the use of contributions from market based mechanisms under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Finalising the 2020 target

We fully appreciate that in the wake of the great east Japan earthquake and tsunami, energy and emissions policy development in Japan is on-going. Japan's biennial report states that its 2020 target of 3.8% below 2005 emission levels is yet to be finalised. This is because it has "not yet taken into account the emission reduction effect resulting from nuclear power, given that the energy policy and energy mix, including the utilization of nuclear power, are still under consideration". Can Japan please provide any further information on finalising its 2020 target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Measures to improve generating efficiency

In its 6th National Communication, Japan stated that the Government aims to achieve practical use of advanced ultra-supercritical (A-USC) thermal power generation in 2020 and improve its generating efficiency from the current value of approximately 39% to approximately 46%. Could you please explain what measures will be applied to improve the efficiency?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Electric vehicle policies

Regarding the promotion of the use and diffusion of vehicles with lower environmental load, how much Government support will be necessary to realise Japan's objectives for electric vehicles and fuel-cell vehicles? What is the current and projected uptake of electric vehicles in Japan?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

[Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Role of the joint credit mechanism

What role is the joint crediting mechanism going to play in meeting Japan's 2020 target, and can Japan provide any information of how many units it is intending to use to meet this target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

[Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Methodologies for the joint credit mechanism

What methodology is Japan using to estimate emissions reductions or removals achieved through the joint crediting mechanism that Japan will apply to meeting its target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: projections for LULUCF sector

Japan has not provide complete information of sectoral projection, particularly for LULUCF sector. However, the LULUCF sector is included in the target. Could Japan provide more information of on the projection of LULUCF sector?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: market mechanism

Japan will use the units from JCM to achieve the QEWERT, could Japan provide more information on the robustness of the mechanism and comparability with other mechanisms under the KP, and the legal status of JCM under the UNFCCC?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: ambition of the target

Japan has announced to achieve a 25% emission reduction in 2020 compared with 1990 level, well in 2013, Japan change its target to a 3.8% increase compared with 2005level, which equals to a 1.5% increase compared with 1990 level. Could Japan provide more information on what caused the change of target and the target year?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: F-gases

The mandatory reporting information of F-gases from 1990-1994 and part of emission information from LULUCF sector are missing, could Japan clarify on this issue?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: transparency of GHG emission information

The ERT pointed out that the transparency of the GHG national Inventory 2013 is not sufficient with 40 specific recommendation, how will Japan improve the transparency of the inventory?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by Switzerland at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Use of market-based mechanisms

How will double counting be avoided by the Party when using units from market-based mechanisms for the achievement of the 2020 target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by Switzerland at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Measures to reverse emission trends

What potentials and associated measures in the most relevant GHG emitting sectors have been identified by the Party to address the need to reverse emission trends with a view to reaching the 2020 target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by European Union at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Planned policies

The review report of the BR1 states that the projections provided indicate that Japan will only achieve its 2020 target if additional policies are adopted and implemented or if units from market-based mechanisms will be used. Is Japan planning additional policies in this respect? If yes, what elements do they cover and when will their implementation start?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by European Union at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Firm target

The biennial report states that the emission reduction target to reduce emissions to 3.8 % below the 2005 level until 2020 is considered to be an interim target and that a firm target will be set based on further review of Japan's energy policy and the finalization of a plan for global warming prevention (chapter 2). Has the interim target for 2020 meanwhile been adopted as firm target or has it been changed? If this did not yet occur when do you expect to adopt a firm target?

[Answer by Japan](#)
Not answered

Question by European Union at Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Use of market mechanisms

Japan foresees the use of units from market-based mechanisms and LULUCF to achieve its target. However, it is not clearly indicated which mechanisms and unit types will be used (CERs, ERUs, AAUs, JCM or other mechanism). Could you explain which flexible mechanisms Japan expects to use and provide an indication of the scale, in particular related to the Japanese crediting mechanism? What is the associated effect on the emission level projections for the period up to 2020? Is use of international credits foreseen and if so, to what extent? Will Japan provide related expected contributions in its next BR?

[Answer by Japan](#)

Not answered

Question by European Union at Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Decoupling of economic growth from GHG emissions

To what extent is economic growth decoupled from GHG emissions?

What have been the main effects of the existing policies and measures on the emission trends? What have been the main deviations from expected results and what in your view has caused this?

Answer by Japan
Not answered

Question by European Union at Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Estimation of LULUCF emissions and removals

How does Japan estimate its LULUCF emissions and removals in its emission levels' projections over the period? What are the methodological approaches used and how do they impact on the assessment of the progress to the QEWERT?

Japan reports the accounting of Article 3.3 and 3.4 activities for 2010 and 2011 asunder the Kyoto Protocol. Does Japan intend to use the accounting provisions agreed under the Kyoto Protocol for the 2nd commitment period for the accounting of LULUCF activities as part of the 2020 target?

Will Japan use the KP-LULUCF tables to report related quantitative information?
Does Japan expect that this information undergoes the review under Article 8?

Answer by Japan
Not answered