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Regional Collaboration Centre – Bangkok
Promoting Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific



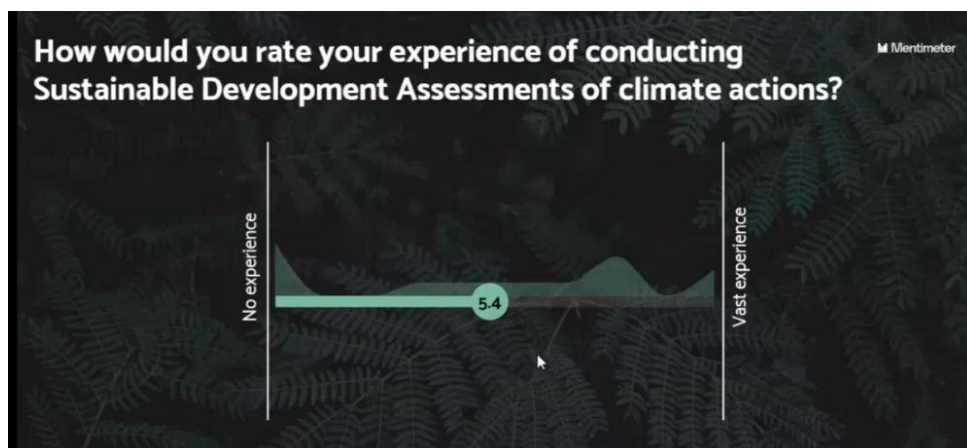
Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai
Promoting Climate Action in the
Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

Workshop Report: Fourth Episode of the DNA Virtual Workshop Series: “Sustainable Development Assessment of Climate Actions”

The Virtual Workshop Series for Designated National Authorities (DNAs), introduced by UNFCCC/IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Bangkok) and UNFCCC/WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (RCC Dubai) in 2020, aims to enhance the preparedness of DNAs in the transit to the post-2020 climate change regime. This series has successfully offered virtual workshops to preserve knowledge, experiences and lessons learned from the Clean Development Mechanism through four different episodes since June 2020. Almost 30 participants from 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa attended **the Fourth Episode of the DNA Virtual Workshop Series**, focusing on the topic of “**Sustainable Development Assessment of Climate Actions**”.

Mr. James Grabert, Director, Mitigation Division and Acting Director, Communication and Engagement Division, UN Climate Change Secretariat delivered the opening remarks. He highlighted that the Paris Agreement emphasizes the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty. In this regard, the DNA representatives’ are mainly responsible to ensure that the proposed CDM projects are in line with and will contribute to sustainable development in the host countries.

The participants responded to an interactive poll regarding their experiences of Sustainable Development Co-benefits. The image below extracted from the poll shows that there are different levels of knowledge and experience with the SD assessments, and the aggregate value of the poll stood at 5.4 out of 10. Hence, peer-learning platforms and experience sharing from countries with more or more recent CDM activities that are aligned with processes and systems to assess sustainable development is valuable for other countries with little activities





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As an introduction to the virtual workshop and to keep DNAs informed on latest developments in the CDM, an overview of decisions from the recent CDM Executive Board meetings EB 108 and EB 109, mainly related to the operation of the CDM from 1 January 2021 onwards was shared with the participants. In addition, information on the upcoming Regional Climate Weeks as the lead up to COP26 was shared with the DNAs.

Key information from the current texts of the Paris Agreement Article 6 negotiations was shared, where relevant requirements to Sustainable Development contributions have been reflected, including A.6.1; A.6.4, A.6.4 (A) and A.6.8. In addition, a brief overview of the role of sustainable development in the CDM and experiences that Parties have gained on making sure CDM activities demonstrate their contribution to sustainable development of the host country was shared. Examples of other mechanism such as CORSIA or voluntary carbon offsetting schemes were also part of the of the presentation.

A presentation from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan highlighted the linkages between Joint Coordination Mechanism (JCM) and Sustainable Development and showcased with specific examples how JCM contributes not only to energy, environmental and economic goals but also to social dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

An interactive moderated session provided opportunity to the DNAs to share their experiences about the processes and approaches used in the host countries to assess CDM projects contribution to SD. Some of these are highlighted below:

- Institutional arrangements, including the establishment of national CDM Steering Committee Board, the development of document templates and the adoption of procedures for conducting SD assessments of CDM projects have been established. However, challenges remain as the capacity to formulate and review criteria for conducting assessments of such procedures is still limited.
- CDM projects in general have contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals in host countries. Established legal arrangements, wherein project developers sign an agreement to share CER proceeds with the government for the sustainable development of local communities have a positive impact.
- To ensure that co-benefits are derived from CDM projects at the ground level, developing a Sustainable Development Benefit Description form (SDBD), which need to completed by the project participants (PPs) as a documentary requirement for project approval has also proved beneficial.

For more information on the Virtual Workshops for DNAs please contact Muhammad Taimur (MGandapur@unfccc.int) or Jens Radschinski (JRadschinski@unfccc.int)