

## Session SBI42 (2015)

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A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Japan  
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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Targets will be reviewed based on the progress of discussions about forthcoming energy policy and energy mix etc., and energy-originated CO2 emission reduction effect through each policy will be scrutinised as well.

In addition, emission reduction of GHGs except energy-originated CO2 as well as removals by sinks are being scrutinised.

Japan plans to report these values in BR2.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Credits acquired from the JCM will be used to achieve Japan's emission reduction target. The exact amount of JCM credits to be used is not estimated.

Japan has been constructively engaging in the UNFCCC negotiations on market mechanisms over several years, aiming at developing proper accounting rules, including how to avoid double counting. The issue of double counting may occur in all market mechanisms including the CDM in which mitigation outcomes are transferred internationally and, therefore, it should be dealt with internationally.

These accounting rules need to be developed under the UNFCCC as soon as possible and Japan is willing to contribute to the processes for establishing such rules.

Several approaches are introduced in the JCM for assuring its impartiality and independence as well as transparency. For example, in the process of approval of methodologies and registration of projects under the JCM, proposed methodologies and project design documents (PDDs) are made publicly available for public inputs for a certain period of time comparable to the CDM. The methodology proponents and project participants are required to respond to the comments received. In addition to that, the third party entities (DOEs under the CDM and/or ISO 14065 certificated bodies) independent from the government of Japan and partner countries conduct the validation of proposed JCM projects, and project participants can proceed to the request for registration to the Joint Committee only with the validated projects. Also the third party entities conduct the verification of emission reductions or removals achieved by JCM projects, and project participants can proceed to the request for issuance of JCM credits only for verified amount of emission reductions or removals.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Since FY1990, emissions of methane in Japan are decreasing constantly. This is mainly because of the emission reduction from Waste sector through decrease of waste disposals on land, as well as the emission reduction from Agriculture sector through decrease of numbers of livestock.

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**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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>” 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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Following the Kyoto Protocol target achievement plan under the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, Japan is steadily implementing measures described in BR1 to achieve its 2020 target. Progress of policies and measures is to be checked by Global Warming Prevention Headquarters, which is headed by prime minister and consisting of all members of the cabinet.

Noted 3 mitigation actions related to the “Emissions Reduction of Energy-Originated CO<sub>2</sub>” are sector-wide actions, and policies and measures for energy-originated CO<sub>2</sub> are not confined to these 3 actions. Policies and measures listed in “Actions by sectors (Industrial, Commercial, Residential, and Transportation etc.)” are also the mitigation actions relevant to emissions reduction of energy-originated CO<sub>2</sub>. Japan plans to improve the table format in BR2 to make it plain.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

With regard to the “appropriate evaluation” in a “quantitative manner” under the JCM, methodologies to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions are approved by the each Joint Committee established by Japan and each partner country. JCM methodologies are developed to maintain simplicity and practicality while ensuring transparency and the environmental integrity based on the guidelines adopted by the Joint Committee. Please refer to the JCM web site (<https://www.jcm.go.jp/>) in which all the adopted JCM methodologies as well as the proposed methodologies are uploaded.

Japan together with the JCM partner countries intends to share all the information on the implementation of the JCM including methodologies, registration of projects and issuance of credits through the JCM web site. Japan will also report any updated information including the use of JCM credits in its future BRs.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Regarding the 2020 target, a firm target, based on further review of energy policy and energy mix, will eventually be set at a later stage.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Because FY2020 emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O including LULUCF were not estimated, the value reported in the "Total including LULUCF" of FY2020 is the total of only HFCs, PFCs and SF<sub>6</sub> emissions, which was calculated automatically in the CTF. The value in "Total except LULUCF" of FY2020 was estimated by using emission intensity in FY2012, so it shows the increase of 1% compared to 2005 level. However, to achieve the target of 3.8% reduction, Japan plans to implement the measures in a comprehensive way, including improvement of emission factor of electricity by introducing renewable energy, strengthening fluorocarbons countermeasures based on amended law on fluorocarbons, and JCM, in addition to the forest management and other sinks measures.

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**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 CO<sub>2</sub> eq in the base year to 1,364,000.00 kt CO<sub>2</sub> 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- CO<sub>2</sub>), 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-CO<sub>2</sub>)”.

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

[Answer by Japan](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

The value in “Total except LULUCF” of FY2020 was estimated by using emission intensity in FY2012, so it shows the increase of 1% compared to 2005 level. However, to achieve the target of 3.8% reduction, Japan plans to implement the measures in a comprehensive way, including improvement of emission factor of electricity by introducing renewable energy, strengthening fluorocarbons countermeasures based on amended law on fluorocarbons, and JCM, in addition to the forest management and other sinks measures.

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[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](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Targets will be reviewed based on the progress of discussions about forthcoming energy policy and energy mix etc., and energy-originated CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction effect through each policy will be scrutinised as well.

In addition, emission reduction of GHGs except energy-originated CO<sub>2</sub> as well as removals by sinks are being scrutinised.

Japan plans to report these values in BR2.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Targets will be reviewed based on the progress of discussions about forthcoming energy policy and energy mix etc., and energy-originated CO2 emission reduction effect through each policy will be scrutinised as well.

In addition, emission reduction of GHGs except energy-originated CO2 as well as removals by sinks are being scrutinised.

Japan plans to report these values in BR2.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Japan is taking action, taking into account the importance of making efforts to minimize economic and social impacts of response measures. On the other hand, Japan notes the difficulty of assessing the specific economic and social consequences of response measures to address climate change.

Difficulties were encountered on the assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures during the preparation of the BR due to inherent uncertainties regarding the causal relationship of such measures with their effects. At the same time, Japan notes that annual reports on measures taken to minimize the adverse effects of response measures have been provided pursuant to



Decision 15/CMP.1 (see Chapter 15 of NIR 2015), and these should also be referenced.

Japan will continue trying to provide, to the extent possible, information on the assessment of the economic and social impacts of response measures in its future BRs in accordance with relevant guidelines.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

After the change of its national circumstances, Japan decided to review its 25% reduction target. The new 2020 target (3.8% reduction below FY2005 level) is a target at this point, which has not yet taken into account the emission reduction effect resulting from nuclear power. The target is ambitious, for instance, because the energy intensity which is the world's highest level will be further improved by 20% while attaining economic growth.

A firm target, based on further review of energy policy and energy mix, will eventually be set at a later stage.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Credits acquired from the JCM will be used to achieve Japan's emission reduction target. The exact amount of JCM credits to be used is not estimated.

Japan has been constructively engaging in the UNFCCC negotiations on market mechanisms over several years, aiming at developing proper accounting rules, including how to avoid double counting. The issue of double counting may occur in all market mechanisms including the CDM in which mitigation outcomes are transferred internationally and, therefore, it should be dealt with internationally. These accounting rules need to be developed under the UNFCCC as soon as possible and Japan is willing to contribute to the processes for establishing such rules.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

"Other such conferences" are supposed to be, for example, COP19 in which GHG inventory reporting guidelines with gases being specified were decided.

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**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](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Japan has not decided whether to use units from mechanisms other than the JCM. Given the challenges of mitigating climate change, it is crucial for the Parties to establish a wide variety of approaches which best reflect their national circumstances while ensuring the environmental integrity, to learn lessons from their own and other Parties’ experiences and to improve approaches as they progress. Japan believes that the JCM contributes to emission reductions and sustainable development in developing countries in an efficient manner. Japan also believes that experiences of the JCM will provide a good basis for implementing various approaches in other countries.

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[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](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Regarding the 2020 target, a firm target, based on further review of energy policy and energy mix, will eventually be set at a later stage.

[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](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Japan is developing A-USC thermal power generation technologies to enhance the power generation efficiency (from approximately 39% to approximately 46%) by raising the steam temperature of the boiler and turbine of coal-fired from 600 degrees Celsius to more than 700 degrees Celsius by ultra-supercritical pressure. The budget is allocated for that purpose.(FY2008～FY2016)

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[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](#) at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

The government aims to make the sales of next-generation automobiles (Electric Vehicle(EV), Fuel Cell Vehicle(FCV), Hybrid Vehicle, Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle(PHV), Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle and Clean Diesel Vehicle, etc.) 50 to 70% to total new car sales by 2030.

To this end, the government has been creating initial demand of EV and FCV etc. by R&D, purchase subsidy for next-generation automobiles, tax benefit measures etc as shown below.

-Examples of R&D : "Low Carbon Technology Research and Development Program , 2015FY Budget:6.5 billion JPY" Development of large scale & fixed route Fuel Cell Bus, Development of wireless charging service for EV Bus etc.

-Examples of purchase subsidy for next-generation automobiles : "Subsidy for Clean Energy Vehicle Promotion Program, 2014FY Supplementary Budget:10.0 billion yen,

2015FY Budget:20.0 billion yen" Subsidy for EV(passenger car), FCV(passenger car) etc. , "Spread and acceleration of electric motorcars with increasing speed through greening regional transportation, 2015FY Budget:299.0 million yen" Subsidy for EV(bus, taxi and truck), FCV(bus, taxi and truck) etc.

- Examples of tax benefit : Next-generation automobiles can enjoy tax exemption regarding tax cut for eco-friendly cars (vehicle weight and acquisition taxes), also enjoy about 75% tax reduction regarding the green tax reform program (vehicle tax and light vehicle tax), which receive highest favorable treatment. (Hybrid Vehicle, Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle and Clean Diesel Vehicle are desired under certain conditions)

The total number of EV&PHV in Japan has reached about 110 thousand as of the end of 2014FY. The government aims to make the sales of EV&PHV 15 to 20% to total new car sales by 2020, and 20 to 30% by 2030.

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**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 2020target, and can Japan provide any information of how many units it is intending to use to meet this target?

**Answer by** Japan at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Credits acquired from the JCM will be used to achieve Japan's emission reduction target. The exact amount of JCM credits to be used is not estimated.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Under the JCM, methodologies to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions are approved by the each Joint Committee established by Japan and each partner country. JCM methodologies are developed to maintain simplicity and practicality while ensuring transparency and the environmental integrity based on the guidelines adopted by the Joint Committee.

In the JCM, emission reductions to be credited are defined as the difference between reference emissions and project emissions. The reference emissions are calculated to be below business-as-usual (BaU) emissions which represent plausible emissions in providing the same outputs or service level of the proposed JCM project in the host country. This approach ensures a net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions.

A net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions can be realized in an alternative way. Using conservative default values in parameters to calculate project emissions, instead of measuring actual values, leads the calculated project emissions to be larger than actual project emissions. This approach also ensures a net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions, as well as reduces burdens of monitoring from project participants.

Please refer to the JCM web site (<https://www.jcm.go.jp/>) in which all the approved JCM methodologies as well as the proposed methodologies are uploaded.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Chapter 4.1.6 in BR1 provides the projection and target of forestry sector only among LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol. Projection of forestry sector is estimated based on numerical targets in 2020, such as forest areas, prescribed in the Forest and Forestry Basic Plan of Japan, using methodologies of GPG-LULUCF. The information on LULUCF projections is in the improvement process taking into account the new/revised accounting rules and methodologies, such as 2006 IPCC guidelines. Based on this improvement, more information on LULUCF projections is expected to be provided in the BR2.

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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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

The basic procedures of the JCM are designed based on the CDM, which ensures comparability between the two mechanisms, while ensuring simplicity and practicality as well as transparency and the environmental integrity.

Under the JCM, methodologies to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions are approved by each Joint Committee established by Japan and each partner country based on the guidelines adopted by the Committee. In the JCM, emission reductions to be credited are defined as the difference between reference emissions and project emissions. The reference emissions are calculated to be below business-as-usual (BaU) emissions which represent plausible emissions in providing the same outputs or service level of the proposed JCM project in the host country. This approach ensures a net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions. A net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions can be realized in an alternative way. Using conservative default values in parameters to calculate project emissions, instead of measuring actual values, leads the calculated project emissions to be larger than actual project emissions. This approach also ensures a net decrease and/or avoidance of GHG emissions, as well as reduces burdens of monitoring from project participants. Also, the rules and guidelines necessary for the implementation of the JCM, have been developed by the Joint Committee. Please refer to the JCM web site (<https://www.jcm.go.jp/>) in which all the adopted JCM rules and guidelines are uploaded. Japan believes a wide variety of approaches which best reflect national circumstances of developing countries is crucial to mitigate climate change and that the JCM contributes to emission reductions and sustainable development in developing countries in efficient manner.

The JCM is one of various approaches which are acknowledged by the COP in accordance with Decision 1/CP.18 which stipulates that Parties, individually or jointly, may develop and implement various approaches, including opportunities for using markets and non-markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries.

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**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 2005 level, 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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

After the change of its national circumstances, Japan decided to review its 25% reduction target. The new 2020 target (3.8% reduction below FY2005 level) is a target at this point, which has not yet taken into account the emission reduction effect resulting from nuclear power. The target is ambitious, for instance, the energy intensity which is the world's highest level will be further improved by 20% while attaining economic growth.

A firm target, based on further review of energy policy and energy mix, will eventually be set at a later stage.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

F-gases emissions in 1990-1994 have been also estimated and reported since the 2014 GHG inventory submission.

In LULUCF sector, most of the information noted as missing in 2013 Annual Review Report (ARR) has been solved in the 2014 and 2015 GHG inventory submission by reporting estimated values and using proper notation keys. For issues remaining unsolved such as categories where the IPCC guidelines' methodologies and data are inadequate, and areas where mid-term research for domestic data is necessary,



Japan intends to continue technical research and review, and make continuous efforts to solve them.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Based on the recommendation of ERT, Japan has made improvements to enhance transparency in the 2014 and 2015 GHG inventory submission by presenting additional background information on estimation and relevant parameters. Details are given in the latest Japan's national inventory report (NIR) submitted in 2015.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Japan has been constructively engaging in the UNFCCC negotiations on market mechanisms over several years, aiming at developing proper accounting rules, including how to avoid double counting. The issue of double counting may occur in all market mechanisms including the CDM in which mitigation outcomes are transferred internationally and, therefore, it should be dealt with internationally.

These accounting rules need to be developed under the UNFCCC as soon as possible and Japan is willing to contribute to the processes for establishing such rules.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

The largest GHG emitting sector is the energy sector. Measures to give impact on the sector are listed in 3.1.2.1.a.a) and table 3-1 of Chapter 3 of BR1 as sector-wide actions and actions by sector (Industrial, Commercial, Residential, Transport etc.).

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

As described in para 45 (c) in the technical review report of the BR, additional measures include introduction of renewable energy, strengthening fluorocarbons countermeasures based on the amended law on fluorocarbons, and JCM. Japan has been implementing these measures to achieve its 2020 target.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Regarding the 2020 target, a firm target, based on further review of energy policy and energy mix, will eventually be set at a later stage.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Credits acquired from the JCM will be used to achieve Japan's emission reduction target, but it has not decided whether to use units from other mechanisms. The exact amount of JCM credits to be used is not estimated.

Japan will report any updated information including the use of JCM credits in its future BRs, but it has not decided to provide expected use of units ex ante in its next BR.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Japan is in a trend of decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions. GHG emissions per GDP in FY2013 decreased by 10.2% compared to FY1990.

As a whole, existing policies and measures have contributed to the decrease of emissions.

The main deviation from expected results is that energy-originated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased significantly after FY2011. This is due to significant increase of fossil fuel-fired power generation, following the suspension of nuclear reactors after Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011.

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**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 at Wednesday, 27 May 2015

Chapter 4.1.6 in BR1 provides the projection and target of forestry sector only among LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol. Japan estimates net removals from living biomass among LULUCF sector from 2013 to 2020 based on numerical targets such as forest areas, forest stocks and wood supply, prescribed in the Forest and Forestry Basic Plan of Japan adopted in 2011, using IPCC GPG LULUCF. Japan includes this estimation in the achievement toward the QEWERT, and therefore it is important to implement measures described in the BR1 for managing forest carbon sinks properly.

The accounting approach of LULUCF activities for the 2020 target of Japan is to be in line with the accounting provisions agreed under the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Japan intends to submit the KP-LULUCF information including the CRF tables as a part of the national GHG inventory submission each year in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision 2/CMP.8. Japan does not prejudge the outcome of the negotiation on the matter of Article 8 review under agenda item 9 (b) of SBSTA42, and will follow future CMP decisions.

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