Significance of MRV in driving a low carbon future in ASEAN countries

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Climate and energy policies towards a low carbon future in Asia and Europe
Korea Pavilion
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Measurement, Reporting & Verification (MRV)

- **National Communications (NCs)**
  - Guidelines for preparation of initial NCs for non-Annex I adopted in COP2 in 1996 (Geneva) – Article 4, para 1 & Article 12, para 1
  - Review of guidelines initiated at COP5 in 1999 (Bonn)
  - Revised guidelines adopted at COP8 in 2002 (New Delhi) - FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.2

- **Biennial Update Reports (BURs)**
  - Modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis (ICA) adopted at COP17 in 2011 (Durban) - annex IV of decision 2/CP.17, FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1
  - Composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts (TTE) adopted at COP19 in 2013 (Warsaw) - decision 20/CP.19, FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.2

(Source: UNFCCC Handbook on MRV for Developing Countries)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992/94</td>
<td>The Convention establishes reporting obligations for all Parties and timelines for the initial national communications from developing country Parties (Article 12, paragraph 5, and Article 4, paragraph 3)</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>The guidelines for the preparation of national communications from developing country Parties: scope, structure and content (decision 10/CP.2)</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>The first reporting under the Convention by developing country Parties through the initial round of national communications</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) is established to assist countries in their reporting obligations</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>COP 8 adopted the revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications (decision 17/CP.8) and extended the term of the CGE for the period 2003-2007 with a broader mandate for technical assistance (decision 3/CP.8)</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>COP 13 agreed to the principle of applying measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) to developing country Parties in the context of undertaking enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change (decision 1/CP.13)</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>CGE is reconstituted for the period 2010-2012 to continue providing technical support and enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to prepare their national communications</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>COP 16 defined the frequency of the national communications every four years, and introduced additional elements of MRV (decision 1/CP.16): enhanced reporting in national communications, including inventories, on mitigation actions and their effects, and support received; biennial update reports (BURs) every two years; international consultation and analysis (ICA) of BURs; and domestic MRV of domestically supported mitigation actions</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>COP 17 adopted the guidelines for the preparation of BURs and the guidelines and modalities for ICA: the first BUR to be submitted by December 2014, consistent with the capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting; least developed country Parties and small island developing States may submit this report at their discretion; the first BUR is to cover, at a minimum, the inventory for the calendar year no more than four years prior to the date of submission; ICA will commence within six months of the submission of the first round of BURs; ICA will include a two-part technical analysis and facilitative sharing of views</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>COP 19 adopted several decisions on the elements of the MRV framework: composition, modalities and procedures for the team of technical experts under ICA (decision 19/CP.19); general guidelines for domestic MRV (decision 21/CP.19); seven decisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus; and the term of the CGE continued for the period 2014-2018 with a broader mandate</td>
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(Source: UNFCCC Handbook on MRV for Developing Countries)
Key elements of the MRV framework

**International MRV**
- **National communications**
  - Measurement of GHG emissions and sinks (GHG inventory)
  - Steps to implement Convention
- **BURs**
  - GHG inventory report
  - Measurement of mitigation actions and their effects
  - Reporting on domestic MRV system
  - Needs and support received
- **ICA**
  - Technical analysis of the BURs
  - Facilitative sharing of views

**Domestic MRV**
- **Determine arrangements for domestic MRV of domestically supported NAMAs (voluntary)**
  - Decision 21/CP.19

**MRV for REDD-plus (voluntary)**
- **Report REDD-plus results in a technical annex to the BUR**
  - Applies to Parties seeking to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions
  - Decision 14/CP.19

(Source: UNFCCC Handbook on MRV for Developing Countries)
National Communications

• NCs are at the heart of reporting on implementation progress towards the objectives of the Convention

• Core elements:
  ▫ General description of the national circumstances and institutional arrangements;
  ▫ Emissions and removals of GHGs through the national inventory;
  ▫ steps taken or envisaged by the non-Annex I Party to implement the Convention; and
  ▫ any other information relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention

• Submitted every 4 years

• Financial support for NC preparation provided through Global Environment Facility (GEF)


(Source: UNFCCC)
Key elements of national communications

- National circumstances and institutional arrangements
- National greenhouse gas inventory
- General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention

As a National communication from a non-Annex I Party:

- Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the convention
- Constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs
- Technical annex (optional)

Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change
Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change

- Transfer of technologies
- Research and systematic observation
- Education, training and public awareness
- Capacity-building
- Information and networking

(Source: UNFCCC Handbook on MRV for Developing Countries)
Biennial Update Reports

• Non-Annex I Parties, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should submit their first BUR by December 2014

• Take into account their development priorities, objectives, capacities and national circumstances

• Shall cover, at a minimum, the inventory for the calendar year no more than four years prior to the date of the submission, or more recent years if information is available, and that subsequent BURs shall cover a calendar year that does not precede the submission date by more than four years

• Requests for support to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility
  ▪ Up to US$405,000 made available to each non-Annex I Party for the preparation of its NC
  ▪ Additional US$15,000 per country for stocktaking exercise and stakeholder consultations in preparation of the project proposals

• Enhanced support should be ensured by developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II to the Convention

(Source: UNFCCC)
Key elements of the International Consultation and Analysis process

SUBMISSION OF BURS → INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION AND ANALYSIS

→ TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Composition of TTE
Technical analysis of BURs by TTE
Draft summary report (SR)
Review and comment on draft SR by the Party concerned
Final SR by TTE and the Party concerned

→ FACILITATIVE SHARING OF VIEWS

Final SR noted by SBI and posted on UNFCCC.int
Record of the facilitative sharing of views

A workshop under SBI — a one- to three-hour session for each Party or group of Parties
A brief presentation by the Party or Parties concerned on their biennial update report, followed by oral questions and answers among Parties

OUTPUTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION AND ANALYSIS

Principles

The ICA will be conducted in a manner that is:
- Non-intrusive;
- Non-punitive and;
- Respectful of national sovereignty.
The timeline for the preparation and finalisation of the summary report capturing outcomes of the technical analysis.

- **Draft summary report**: To be prepared by the TTE no later than 3 months from the start of the technical analysis of the BUR.
- **Comments on the draft summary report by the Party concerned**: Comments to be provided to the TTE by the Party concerned within three months of the receipt of the summary report.
- **Final summary report**: Within three months of the receipt of the comments.

(Source: UNFCCC Handbook on MRV for Developing Countries)
Facilitative Sharing of Views – Format, Org, Output

- Chaired by SBI Chair, or if not available, Vice-Chair or Rapporteur of SBI
- 3 hour sessions, up to five Parties in each session in alphabetical order
- 35 mins for each party consisting of: Opening – 1 min, Presentation – 15 min & Q&A – 20 mins
- Parties usually represented by a person competent in both policy & technical issues
- FSV Workshops open to Parties and observers; but only Parties can pose questions and seek clarifications
- Sessions are webcasted and slides/video available on UNFCCC website
- Parties can submit written questions in advance of the FSV workshop (refer to Annex IV, para. 6 of decision 2/CP.17)

FSV Workshops calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>SBI session</th>
<th>FSV workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 - 21 May 2016</td>
<td>Bonn, Germany</td>
<td>SBI 44</td>
<td>First workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 11 Nov 2016</td>
<td>Marrakech, Morocco</td>
<td>SBI 45</td>
<td>Second workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May 2017</td>
<td>Bonn, Germany</td>
<td>SBI 46</td>
<td>Third workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November 2017</td>
<td>Bonn, Germany</td>
<td>SBI 47</td>
<td>Fourth workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(Source: UNFCCC)
Update & Outlook of ICA

• Total of 38 first Biennial Update Reports (BUR1)
  ▫ Most recent submissions are Togo, Mongolia, China

• Total of 9 BUR2
  ▫ Most recent submissions are Lebanon, Argentina, Andorra

• At May 2017 Update by the Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme Team, UNFCCC, said to be 14 teams of Technical Experts (TTEs) with total of 93 experts

• In 2017, 2 rounds of technical analysis planned for 22-26 May and 4-8 December for 7 BURs submitted during timeframe; to be covered by 3 TTEs with total of 18 experts

• FSV Workshop on 10 November 2017
  ▫ Armenia, Ecuador, Georgia, Jamaica, Serbia

(Source: UNFCCC)
Regional BUR submission trends (BUR1)

(Source: UNFCCC Secretariat)
FSV Question Analysis

SBI 46 – FSV Question period

- A total of 71 questions were submitted in the following categories: 14 General, 2 on National circumstances, 31 on National GHG inventories, 11 on Mitigation actions, 1 about Constraints, Gaps, FTC needs and 9 about Domestic MRV.
- Only 6 countries submitted questions through the FSV Portal: European Union (42), France (4), New Zealand (11), Palestine (1), Switzerland (6) and United States of America (7).

(Source: UNFCCC Secretariat)
ASEAN Countries

- 5 ASEAN countries have submitted BUR1 (out of 38)
  - Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia

- 1 ASEAN country has submitted BUR2 (out of 9)
  - Singapore
The Handbook for ASEAN Member States’ Government Officials on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals was developed by the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum).

- Resource on climate change for ASEAN government officials and other government officials involved in climate policies;
- Presents the outcomes and next steps following what was achieved at the COP21 Summit; and
- Elaborates on the climate cooperation in the ASEAN community, describing the climate policy profile of the ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN Countries & the TA process (1)

- Singapore and Vietnam were the second and third NA1 countries to submit their BUR on 8 December 2014 and both participated in the first FSV from 20-21 May 2016

- Singapore’s TTE report:
  - commended Singapore for the comprehensiveness of the update with most elements of ICA guidelines being covered;
  - Specific mention about the lack of information on constraints and gaps, financial, technical and capacity-building needs for Singapore’s climate change activities; but
  - Singapore later informed the TTE in a communication about the benefits of other capacity-building exercises like GHG inventory, MRV methodologies workshops, etc. and that it would strive to support an enhanced transparency approach in the next BUR submission.

- Vietnam’s TTE report:
  - lauded the structured approach to the BUR reporting and concluded that Vietnam had demonstrated a clear prioritization of actions and funding needs for climate activities as well as Vietnam’s progress in creating policy frameworks and institutions;
  - but pointed out inadequacies in discussing the expected outcomes of certain policy enactments and the muted reporting on the implementation of NAMAs; and
  - noted that the reporting could be further enhanced in completeness by covering (a) emissions of F-gases and (b) international bunker fuels.
See:
ASEAN Countries & the FSV process (1)

- Singapore and Vietnam were the second and third NA1 countries to submit their BUR on 8 December 2014 and both participated in the first FSV from 20-21 May 2016.

- Singapore delegation led by National Climate Change Secretariat:
  - presentation on the progress of the country’s mitigation actions;
  - shared approach on developing and implementing its mitigation actions;
  - how emissions are measured, reported, and verified in accordance to UNFCCC reqs;
  - explained its efforts to enhance reporting processes; and
  - answered questions by Australia, Canada, China, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.

- Vietnam delegation led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment:
  - announced that its national MRV system would be operational before 2020;
  - reported challenges, including securing timely funding, quantifying technological and capacity building support;
  - noted the importance of integrating the ICA process into domestic training and workshops on BUR preparation to facilitate wider participation of institutions in BUR preparation; and
  - answered questions by Malaysia, Japan, Australia, United States, Latvia, Czech Republic and Singapore.
ASEAN Countries & the TA process (2)

- Thailand and Malaysia submitted their BURs on 3 March 2016, Indonesia on 18 March 2016 and all participated in FSV on 15 May 2017

- Thailand’s TTE report:
  - commended for adding info regarding domestic crediting mechanisms and establishing institutional arrangements for GHG database repository; and
  - suggested that Thailand add info on respective roles of institutional entities, descriptions of methodologies used and data on marine bunker and aviation fuels.

- Malaysia’s TTE report:
  - Commended for providing detailed info on adaptation, use of specific progress indicators for each mitigation action and providing transparent data on GHG emissions at a sub-sector level;
  - Suggested improvements in providing info on indirect GHG emissions, reasons for the inability to apply certain methodologies, and to strengthen institutional arrangements for development of domestic MRV system especially on tracking deforestation and land-use change.

- Indonesia’s TTE report:
  - GHG inventory data mentioned as the BUR had showed Indonesia’s plans to improve data collection mechanism and had detailed description of mitigation actions in agriculture; and
  - Suggested improvements to implement a domestic MRV system and include data on F-gases and indirect GHG emissions for all sectors
FACILITATIVE SHARING OF VIEWS
MALAYSIA
15 MAY 2017

FACILITATIVE SHARING OF VIEWS
INDONESIA
15 MAY 2017

INDONESIA FIRST
BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT (BUR)
ASEAN Countries & the FSV process (2)

- Thailand and Malaysia submitted their BURs on 3 March 2016, while Indonesia submitted theirs on 18 March 2016 and all participated in FSV on 15 May 2017

- Thailand represented by officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning:
  - explained its Climate Change Master Plan, which aims to support socio-economic growth while cutting GHG emissions by 2050; and
  - answered questions by questions from the EU, Korea, Japan, India, China, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia

- Malaysian delegation led by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment:
  - Outlined multiple policies in sectors such as waste, LULUCF
  - Pointed out challenges including lack of technical capacity in BUR preparation and developing a robust MRV system; and
  - answered questions by EU, Japan, China, Germany, Austria, Korea, Luxembourg, USA and India

- Indonesia represented by Ministry of Environment and Forestry:
  - Covered mitigation actions including National Energy Policy; and
  - Answered question by the EU, Korea, Czech Republic, India, Japan, Brazil, Australia, China and Germany
ASEAN Countries & the MRV process - Analysis

• 5 ASEAN countries have undergone a full cycle of ICA
  ▫ i.e. BUR → TA → FSV → Summary Report

• Key Success Factors:
  ▫ ICA process designed to be “non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty”
  ▫ Emphasis on capacity building while accommodating for national circumstances
  ▫ Regular video-conferencing between parties and the assigned Team of Technical Experts (TTE)
  ▫ Availability of finance and support by GEF, Annex I and Annex II countries
  ▫ Regular updates by UNFCCC Secretariat, panel discussions and “learning-by-doing” encouraged
  ▫ Regional capacity building workshops by UNFCCC, Singapore-Australia, etc.
  ▫ Availability of all reports (BURs, TAs, final summaries) and video records/slides of FSV are posted on the UNFCCC website e.g

• Delays in submitting remaining BURs/BUR2 might be attributed to a combination of socio-economic priorities and the lack of capacity, funding and for some, a current dependence on fossil fuels
Concluding Remarks

• Southeast Asian countries can and will continue to benefit from peer-to-peer interactions under the existing and future UNFCCC MRV process
  ▫ But what about the remaining 5 Southeast Asian countries?
  ▫ Useful to see how the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) can help build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020 (11 donors have pledged >USD50 million to the CBIT, which will be disseminated through GEF)

• Acceptability of the existing transparency process is growing but an evaluation of the successes and gaps of the ICA process is necessary as the Paris rulebook is being developed, particularly on matters relating to Mitigation (Agenda Item 3) and Transparency (Agenda Item 5)

• Uncertainty now around the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement
  ▫ i.e. to build on International Assessment & Review (IAR) and International Consultation & Analysis (ICA) processes and have one single Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP) approach or separate approaches for developed and developed countries (differentiated approach)?
References

Melissa Low and Jonathan Ren “Climate Transparency among Southeast Asian Countries: Developments since COP16”, ESI Policy Brief 19, 18 July 2017


Ho Juay Choy, Melissa Low, Gautam Jindal, Dora Almassy, Handbook for ASEAN Government Officials on Climate Change and SDGs, 2016
Thank you!
Questions?

You may also email me further questions at esimlyx@nus.edu.sg