

US-Japan Workshop on Climate Actions and Co-benefits: Objectives and Expected Outcomes

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Past Workshops and Their Themes

- **12-13 Feb. 2004 (with RFF)**
 - Domestic climate policy updates
 - Views on international climate regime
- **28 Mar. 2005 (with CCAP)**
 - Evolution of domestic emissions trading schemes
 - Updates on local government initiatives
- **11-12 May 2005 (with RFF)**
 - Domestic climate policy updates
 - Stakeholders' perspectives (NGOs and Industry)
 - Technology development and diffusion
 - Lessons from international climate policy discussions

Objectives of the 2006 Workshop

- To **exchange information** on effective ways to maximize co-benefits from key policies on climate change in the US and Japan
- To **examine their implications** for facilitating GHG mitigation efforts in **Asian developing countries**
- To **identify research gaps** on co-benefits and make such analysis more useful for policy-makers, especially in the US and Japan

Rationale

- A co-benefits approach is increasingly recognized as
 - a **practical starting point** for addressing climate change at various levels in both Japan and the USA, and as
 - an **effective tool to encourage developing countries** to be more proactive (**politically, financially and technologically**) in GHG mitigation.
- While GHG mitigation benefits are often global and long-term, **co-benefits are often local, immediate and tangible** to the current generation.
- Co-benefits may amount to a **substantial proportion of mitigation costs** - 30% to over 100% [IPCC 2001] Each ton of C mitigated can yield between \$11-\$55 in health and environmental co-benefits (EPA 2002)

What are co-benefits?

Benefits of climate actions **in areas outside the framework of UNFCCC**

such as

- **Reduction in pollution** and associated health problems and costs; wastage of natural resources and energy;
- **Improvement and conservation** of natural environment; energy security; production efficiency
- **Enhancement of social** (employment, community development) **and economic benefits** (access to environmentally friendly technologies, services and finances);

Barriers for realizing co-benefits

- **Social** (e.g., lack of awareness)
- **Technical and Methodological** (e.g., lack of availability of suitable tools for assessment of co-benefits)
- **Institutional** (e.g., poor coordination among sectors; Many co-benefits are considered long-term, and are perceived only as philosophical advocacy!!)

Workshop Structure

- Session I: **Climate policy update**
- Session II: Perspectives on co-benefits
- Session III: **Co-benefits in different policy areas**
- Session IV: Measures for strengthening cooperation in co-benefits
- Session V: **Panel discussion**

Panel Questions

1. What lessons can be learned from current domestic climate actions and their co-benefits in the US and Japan?
2. **Which sectors and/or policy areas have high potential for co-benefits in the US, Japan and developing countries?**
3. How can CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) investors and project developers be encouraged to consider co-benefits in assessing the costs and benefits of such projects?
4. **Which aspects of capacity building are crucial to promote awareness on co-benefit potentials in various sectors and to enhance harmonization of methods in evaluation and communication of co-benefits?**
5. How can the national governments, local governments, and the private sector in the US and Japan play a catalytic role in promoting co-benefits of GHG mitigation in developing countries of Asia?

Expected Outcomes

- A better understanding of on-going climate policies and co-benefits programs in the two countries;
- Exchange of experiences on opportunities for co-benefits potentials, and policy measures for promoting co-benefits; and,
- Generation of innovative ideas for facilitating collaboration on co-benefits initiatives in Asian developing countries

Thank you!