

Japan's Experience: The International Assessment and Review (IAR), with a Focus on Multilateral Assessment (MA)

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WGIA13, Bali, Indonesia

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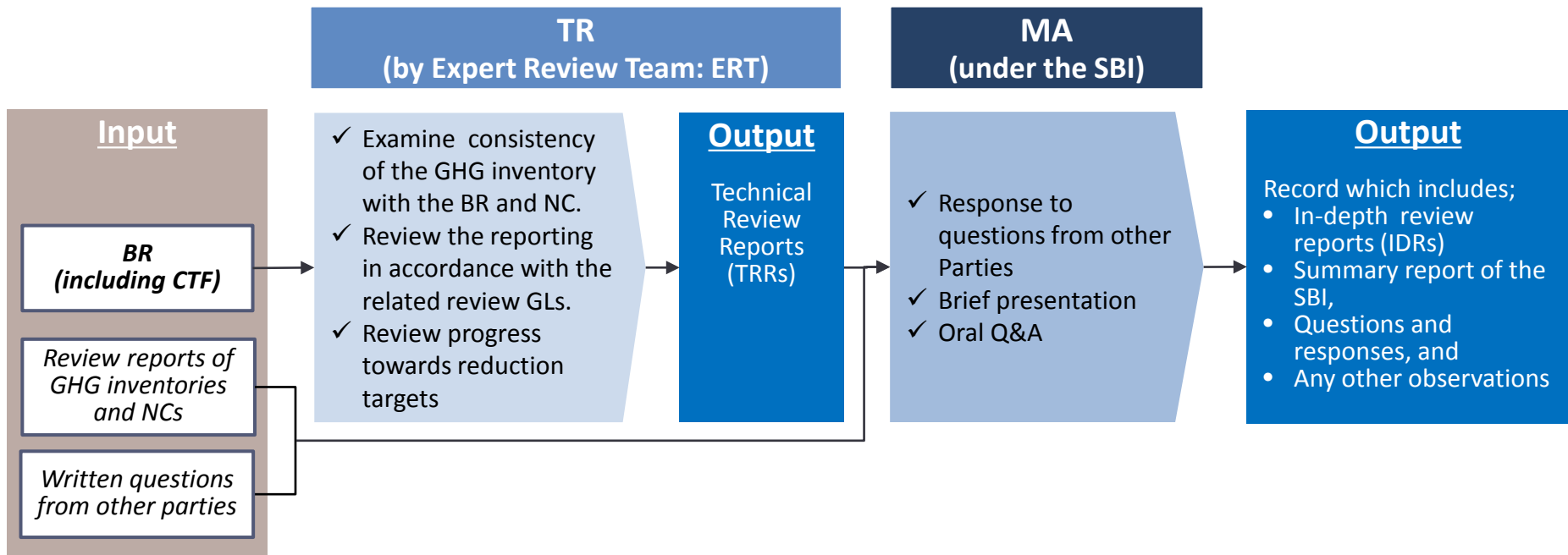
Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN (MOEJ)

Outline

1. Overview of IAR process (Technical Review (TR) & Multilateral Assessment (MA))
2. Japan's Experiences with regards to the response to Technical Review for the BR
3. Japan's Experiences with regards to the response to Multilateral Assessment
4. Lessons learned from IAR process

Overview of IAR process

- ◆ Biennial Reports (BR) submitted by Annex I Parties are subject to **the International Assessment and Review (IAR)** in accordance with the Decision 2/CP.17.
- ◆ The IAR consists of two processes which are **Technical Review (TR)** and **Multilateral Assessment (MA)**.
- ◆ The objectives of the IAR are, with a view to promoting comparability and building confidence,
 - ✓ **Review of the progress made in achieving emission reductions,**
 - ✓ **Assessment of the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries, and**
 - ✓ **Assessment of emissions and removals related to quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets under the SBI.**

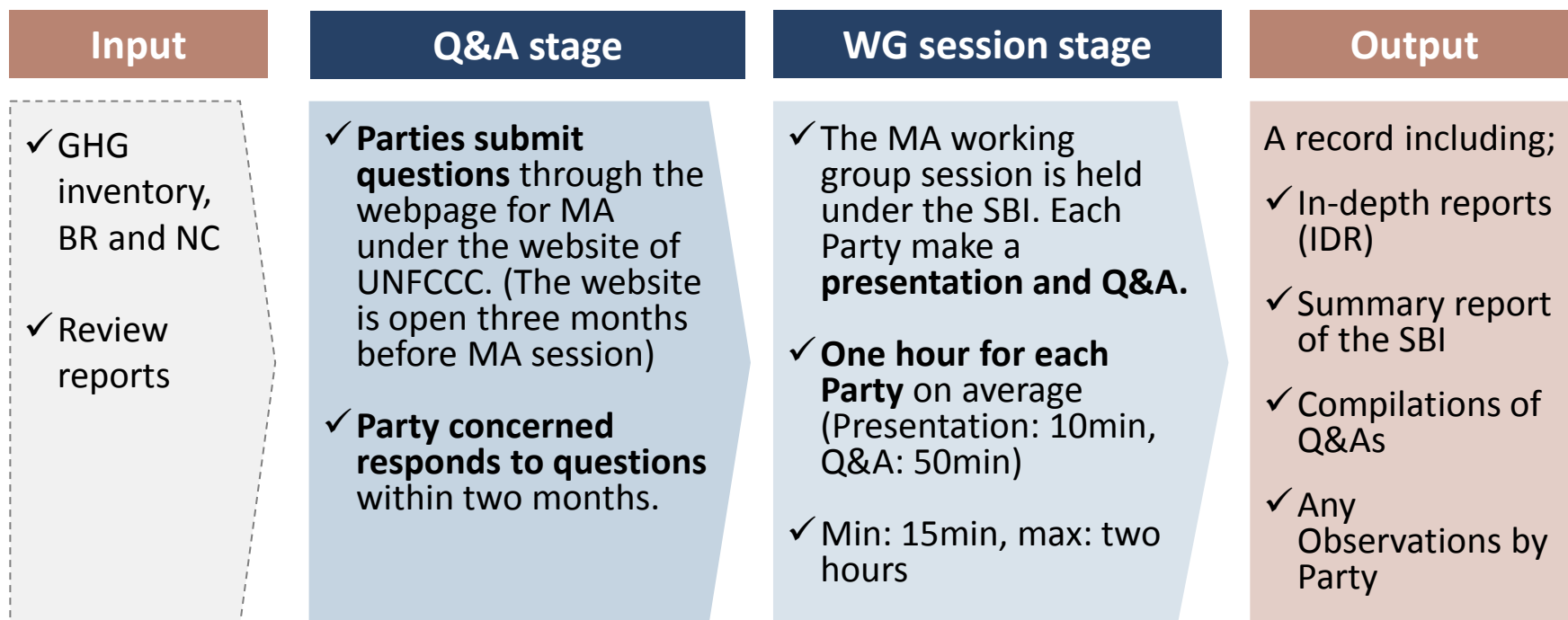


Overview of Technical Review for the BR

- ◆ The technical review (TR) for the BRs is conducted by the **Expert Review Team (ERT)** nominated from the UNFCCC roster of experts. The ERT produces **Technical Review Report (TRR)** as an output of the TR.
- ◆ The main purposes of TR are the following;
 - ✓ Provide a **thorough and comprehensive technical review of BRs** that are not covered in the annual GHG inventory review,
 - ✓ Examine whether information was submitted **in accordance with the BR reporting GLs**,
 - ✓ Undertake **an examination of the Party's progress in achieving its reduction targets**, and
 - ✓ Ensure that the **COP has reliable information on the implementation of commitments** under the Convention by each Annex I Party with a view to **promoting comparability and building confidence**.
- ◆ As a result of TR, the matters identified as “issues” are;
 - ✓ **Transparency**
 - ✓ **Completeness**
 - ✓ **Timeliness**
 - ✓ **Adherence to the BR reporting GLs**
- ◆ In the years when NCs and BRs are submitted together, both the NC and BR will be subject to an in-country review. In the years when only BR is submitted, the BR shall be subject to a centralized review.

Overview of Multilateral Assessment process

- ◆ The scope of Multilateral Assessment (MA) is;
 - ✓ **All emissions and removals related to reduction targets,**
 - ✓ **Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of reduction targets,** and
 - ✓ **Progress towards the achievement of reduction targets**
- ◆ The process of MA entails “**Q&A stage**” and “**WG session stage**”.



Comparison between IAR and ICA

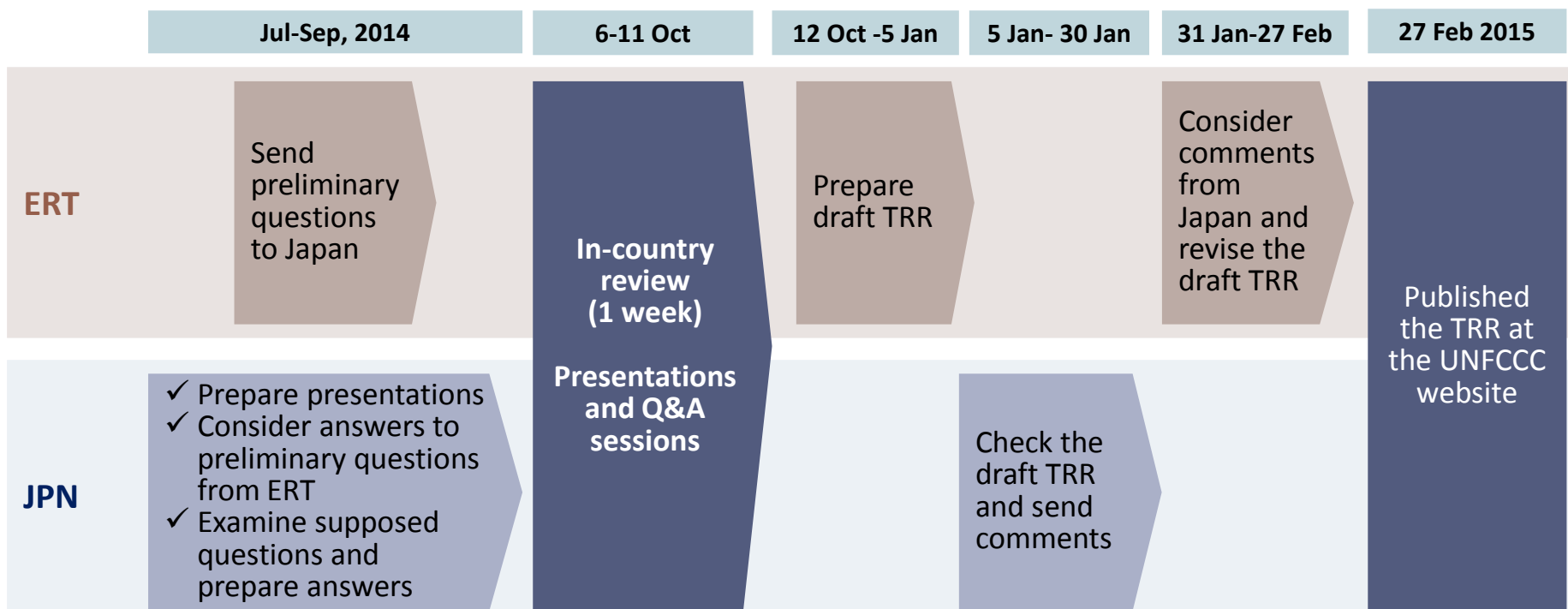
Elements	IAR for Annex I Parties	ICA for Non-Annex I Parties
Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Review (TR) 2. Multilateral Assessment (MA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Analysis (TA) 2. Facilitative Sharing of Views (FSV)
Objective	Assessment of reduction target	<p>Increase of transparency of mitigation actions and their effects</p> <p>* non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty</p> <p>** Appropriateness of such domestic policies and measures is out of objective.</p>
Implementation body of review/analysis	Expert Review Team (ERT) , consists of UNFCCC Roster of Experts	Team of Technical Experts (TTE) , consists of UNFCCC roster of experts and member of CGE (Consultative Group of Experts)
Output of review/analysis	Technical Review Report (TRR)	Summary report
Input to multilateral process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GHG inventories, BRs and NCs - Review reports of GHG inventories, BRs and NCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BUR - Summary report of TA
Output of multilateral process	<p>A record including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-depth report (IDR) - Summary report of the SBI - Compilation of Q&As - Any Observation by Party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary report - Record of FSV

Japan's Experiences with regards to response to TR (Overview of TR for Japan)

- ◆ Japan submitted its **6th National Communication (NC6)** and **1st Biennial Report (BR1)** to the UNFCCC at 27th December, 2013.
- ◆ The TR for BR1 and in-depth review for NC6 were conducted **from 6 to 10 Oct, 2014**, in Tokyo (in-country review).



Overview of schedule of Japan's TR and in-depth review



Japan's Experiences with regards to response to TR (Details of the preparation)

- ◆ In advance of the TR, the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ) conducted the following work as preparation for the TR.

Preparation item	Details
Analysis of other Annex I parties' TRR	Examine what recommendations and encouragements were provided in other Parties' TRR.
Mock technical review by Japanese reviewer	Asked Japanese reviewer who has experiences of TR for other Party to review the Japan's BR1 and provide supposed questions from the ERT.
Joint meeting with the relevant ministries	Held a joint meeting with the relevant ministries to share the objective, process and schedule of the TR and consider what preparation was necessary for upcoming in-country review week.
Preparation of answers to preliminary questions from ERT	Considered and prepared answers to preliminary questions raised by ERT in cooperation with the relevant ministries.
Preparation of presentations for each reporting elements	Prepared and/or asked the relevant ministries to prepare presentations for each reporting elements of BR/NC for the presentation sessions during review week.
Consideration and preparation of answers to supposed questions from ERT	Considered and supposed questions which may be asked by the ERT, and prepared answers to them.

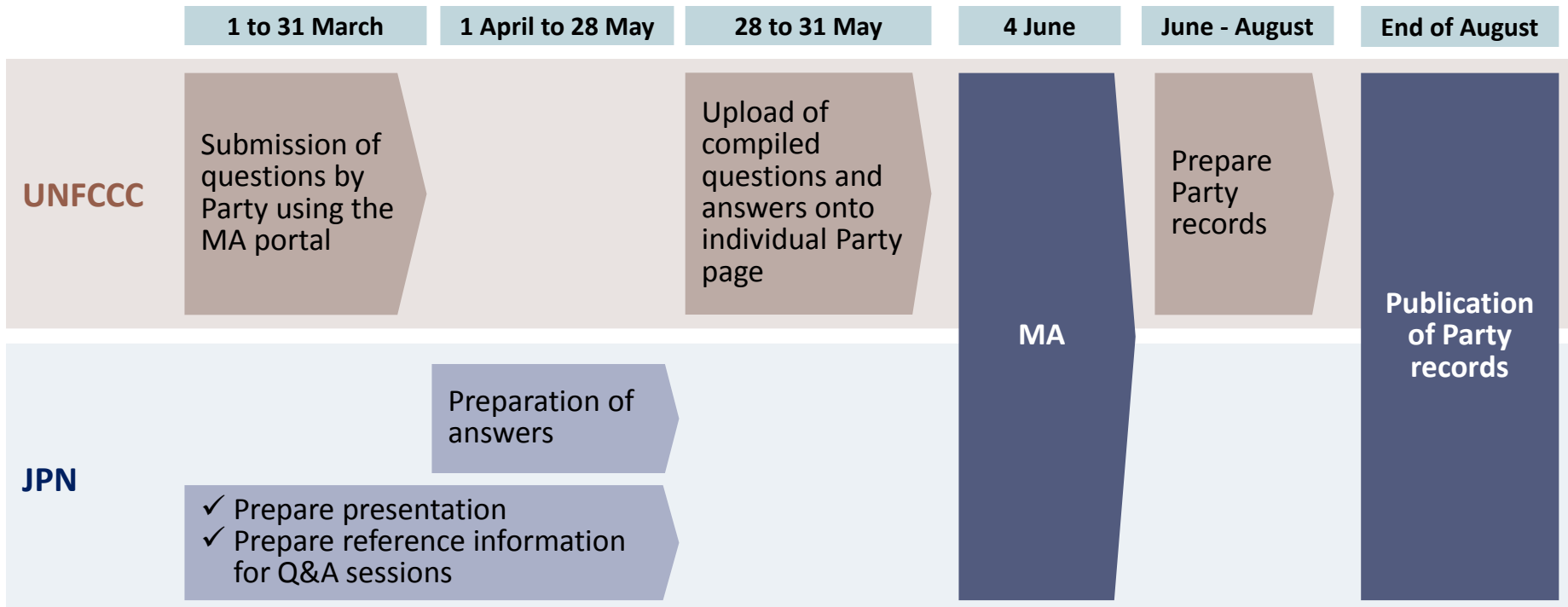
- ◆ Approx. **25 presentations** were made by Japan and **20 Q&A sessions** for each reporting element of BR/NC were held during the review week.
- ◆ More than **120 persons** from the MOEJ (Ministry of the Environment) and relevant ministries participated in the in-country review session.

Japan's Experiences with regards to response to MA (Overview of MA for Japan)

- ◆ Japan experienced the first-time **MA process** at **SBI42 in June 2015**.
- ◆ Timeline of the MA and preparation by Japan is the following.



Overview of schedule of MA



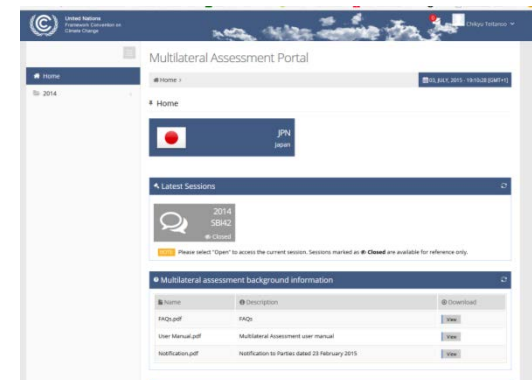
Japan's Experiences with regards to response to MA (Response to preliminary questions)

- ◆ During between 1 and 31 March 2015, Japan received **32 questions from 10 Parties**.

Category	Number of Questions
Details of JCM	9
Prospects in achieving 2020 target	5
Revision of interim 2020 target	5
Emission trends	4
Effects of policies and measures	3
Details of policies and measures	2
Projections of LULUCF	2
Other	2

Party	Number of Questions
Brazil	8
China	5
EU	5
NZ	5
US	3
Switzerland	2
Australia	1
Belgium	1
UK	1
Saudi Arabia	1

- ◆ The MOEJ analyzes all questions, and asks relevant ministries/departments to prepare the draft answers.
- ◆ The MOEJ compiles and finalizes all answers after the coordination between relevant ministries/departments, post them using the MA portal at 27 May.



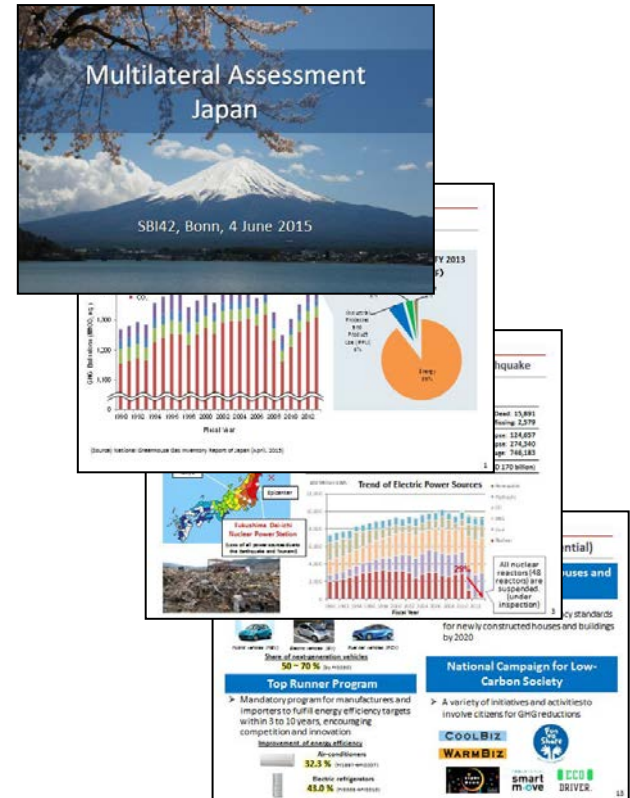
Japan's Experiences with regards to response to MA (Preparation of the presentation)

(Preparation of Presentation)

- ◆ Japan **considers the contents of presentation** which Japan would make at the MA session using presentations of other Parties which were made at SBI41, December 2014 as a reference.
- ◆ The concepts of presentation are;
 - ✓ Including information on each reporting element of the BR in a comprehensive and well-balanced manner.
 - ✓ Explaining Japan's circumstances that we are facing in a careful manner.
- ◆ The MOEJ prepared the first draft presentation, and finalized after coordination with the relevant ministries.

(Preparation for Q&A session)

- ◆ The MOEJ **considers supposed questions** based on examples of Q&A at the previous MA session at SBI41 for other Parties.
- ◆ The MOEJ prepares answers to the supposed questions and reference information in cooperation and coordination with the relevant ministries.



Japan's Experiences with regards to response to MA (at SBI42, 4 June 2015)

- ◆ The MA session for Japan was held at **4 June 2015** during the **SBI42** in Bonn, Germany.
- ◆ Mr. Hideaki Mizukoshi, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a presentation* as the representative of Japan.
- ◆ The time for Japan's MA session was about **50 minutes**. Japan received **a lot of questions from 10 Parties** such as China, Brazil, UK, Canada, NZ etc.
- ◆ The main questions from other Party are the follows;
 - ✓ Timing and method of revision of 2020 target
 - ✓ Prospects of restart of nuclear power plants until 2020 and their effects
 - ✓ Possible amount of use of credits from JCM
 - ✓ Use of credits from market based mechanism under the UNFCCC
 - ✓ Details and their mitigation impacts of individual policies and measures
- ◆ **The preliminary preparation** such as consideration of supposed questions and answers **was very helpful** for answering questions at MA.



* Japan's presentation file can be downloaded from <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/sb42/events/2015-06-03-15-00-sbi-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session/japan-4>

Lessons learned from IAR process

- ◆ Japan could **obtain useful suggestions on the quality improvement of BR2** which will be submitted by the end of 2015 through communication with the ERT and other Parties during the IAR process.
- ◆ Japan could **explain Japan's climate change policies to the international society** through the presentation and Q&As at MA. MA is a valuable opportunity that a Party can explain its climate change policy and national circumstances at an official and open place under the UNFCCC.
- ◆ **Japan's institutional arrangement such as the cooperation and collaboration between MOEJ and relevant ministries** for the reporting and policy development **was enhanced**. Furthermore, staffs who are in charge of the preparation of reporting could better understand the UNFCCC process and domestic circumstances on climate change policy.



- ✓ **Party could gain various fruitful learning from the IAR process** by trying to utilize this opportunity positively.
- ✓ The objective of ICA for developing countries is different from that of IAR. However, **developing countries could gain useful experiences through the ICA process** in the same way as Japan since the process of both are similar.
- ✓ **It is preferable that each country aim to introduce its actions to tackle climate change to international society as much as possible**, enhances its institutional arrangement and capacity related to the reporting, and improves the quality of the future BUR and NC using this valuable opportunity.

Thank you for your attention !

