



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

3rd GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY SYSTEM TRAINING WORKSHOP

16:00-18:00 (in Seoul, Korea) 14:00-16:00 (Bangkok, Thailand),
3-4 March 2021 (two hours each day)
via Zoom

Organizers: United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), and Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Centre of Korea (GIR)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and SDG 13 on Climate Action urges the Member States to take action to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Climate crisis is disrupting national economies and affecting lives everywhere. The confirmation by the World Meteorological Organization that 2020 was one of the warmest years on record is a stark reminder of the relentless pace of climate change, which is destroying lives and livelihoods across our planet¹. Due to the interlinked nature, achieving SDGs heavily relies on addressing the climate crisis. The urgent action for saving lives and livelihoods is necessary to address both the pandemic and the climate emergency.

The global fossil fuel emissions in 2019 totaled record emissions of 36.7 gigatons of CO₂². Although the 2020 emissions are expected to dramatically drop by 7 percent due to travel bans and economic slowdowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this is only temporary. In 2019, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for nearly half of the global total, emitting 17.6 gigatons of greenhouse gases³. It is therefore obvious that the Asia-Pacific countries plays a crucial role in achieving GHG reduction goals.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by limiting warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Nationally determined contributions (NDCs), the heart of the Agreement, define efforts by each country to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. All Parties agreed to submit the new/updated NDCs by 2020 and communicate the updates every five years, representing a progression compared to the previous NDC and reflect its highest possible ambition.

A national greenhouse gas inventory is a cornerstone of the country's reporting obligations to the NDCs. It is also essential for understanding development trends, improving resource management and energy efficiency, and developing policies and programmes to address climate changes. Training activities on GHG inventory system and NDCs contributes to implementation of SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement by raising awareness and strengthening institutional capacities.

¹ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's 2021 New Year's video message <https://www.un.org/sg/>

² Global Carbon Project <https://www.globalcarbonproject.org/>

³ Global Carbon Atlas: <http://www.globalcarbonatlas.org/en/content/welcome-carbon-atlas>

Within this framework, UNOSD has played an active role in the capacity building of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to tackle climate change by hosting the GHG Inventory System Training Workshops in 2018 and in 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. Thailand is one of the leading nations of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) when it comes to energy and environment policies. A good example is their Low Carbon City (LCC) programme, which provides data and information that can feed the national GHG inventory and the monitoring of mitigation actions. Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea (GIR), established under 'Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth', has taken pivotal roles in GHGs management, climate change mitigation, and low emission development in Republic of Korea since 2010, systemizing statistics and information in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutes across the country and establishing networks with various domestic and international stakeholders.

This year's workshop is designed to share the recent experiences and the lessons learned in preparation/update of NDCs recently submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat by the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This workshop will be an excellent opportunity for country representatives, practitioners, and experts for an informal exchange on their views and experiences on the role of national inventory systems in the light of developing their NDCs to implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The 3rd Greenhouse Gas Inventory System Training Workshop aims to provide a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing through presentations and discussions on key aspects on developing NDCs and utilizing national GHG inventories for the implementation of SDG 13. The workshop is expected to have the following outcomes:

- Capacity development of country representatives, policymakers, practitioners, experts, think tanks and civil society in the Asia-Pacific region on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with a special focus on SDG 13;
- Contribution to the implementation of greenhouse gas inventory system in different countries and understanding related policies and methodologies toward enabling environment of greenhouse gas reduction;
- Exchange of experiences and lessons learned on addressing climate change through national GHG inventories and NDCs and advancing networks among participating organizations, countries, and regions to promote the implementation of the SDGs and Climate Action.

Target Audience

This workshop aims to engage government officials and representatives, and national institutions, particularly from the Asia-Pacific countries, concerned with development of national GHG inventory systems. It will also welcome non-government experts, academia, youth, and other interested stakeholders in the areas of SDG 13. Participants in this year's online workshop will be given priorities to take part in the in-person training workshop scheduled next year.

Schedule and Format

Unlike the previous editions of the Greenhouse gas Inventory System Training Workshops, this year's workshop will take place online from 3 to 4 March 2021 (approximately two hours per day) via Zoom considering the current situation of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Various

speakers mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, including government officials and climate change experts, will highlight the GHG inventory system and NDCs by sharing their knowledge and experiences with the participants.

Organizers

This workshop will be organized by United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), and Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea (GIR).