27 September 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Seventeenth session
New Delhi, 23–29 October 2002
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

GUIDELINES UNDER ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

Possible technical standards for national registries, the clean development mechanism registry and the transaction log under the Kyoto Protocol

Addendum

Submission from a Party

1.   In addition to the submissions included in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.20, a submission has been received from Japan.

2.   In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and is reproduced[*] in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

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[*]   This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.20/Add.1

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JAPAN

Japan's comments on technical standards for national registries

As a response to the conclusions at the sixteenth session of the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/6, paragraph 24 (n)), Japan submits its comments on technical standards for national registries as follows;

General Comments

First, we should determine the timetable of developing the technical standards for national registries so that each Annex I Party can design its national registry efficiently. In this regard, we should bear in mind that CER from project activities, which started as of the year 2000 and prior to the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, could be issued in a year or less and should be registered. Accordingly, technical standards required to register CER should be decided at COP8.

Next, the technical standards for national registries should be consistent with those of the CDM registry and the independent transaction log. For instance, the design of the system that enables the transaction log to check transactions between national registries automatically could be related to the technical standards for national registries and to specification for data exchange between national registries. In addition, the transaction log is to be established no later than COP/MOP2. Hence, the schedules of designing and constructing the CDM registry and the transaction log should be put forth as well as their technical specifications which have been fixed or envisaged so far.

With regard to the system comprised of national registries, the CDM registry and the transaction log, it should be initially designed with adequate flexibility. Without flexibility, additional changes of the system afterwards could bear a heavy burden. For example, the formats of serial numbers and messages should have flexibility so that they have some reserved areas for future use.

Furthermore, we should bear in mind that the technical standards are minimum ones to ensure compatibility. Therefore, the technical standards should not be affected by circumstances limited to some Parties, such as domestic or regional emissions trading schemes.

Japan believes that the detailed technical specification for national registries should be considered, as soon as possible, beyond COP8. Japan is ready to send technical experts for the work on technical standards.

Technical Comments

Check by the transaction log

The transaction log needs to check the total of transactions for each national registry at a regular interval in addition to its real-time checking of each transaction. Thus, a procedure and interface for the regular check should be elaborated.

Public accessibility

What information should be accessed to public is important to determine information stored in repositories for public accessibility and detailed formats of messages to users in public accessibility. In addition, some types of information could be disclosed by obtaining and referring to information in other national registries. Since decision -/CMP.1 (Modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts) clarifies publicly accessible information in national registries, further consideration on the technical standards should be based on the provision.

It is also essential to further discuss security measures to ensure the security of information which is not subject to public access, and to prevent falsification of data.

Language interfaces

Some Parties use their own languages other than English in their national registries. In such cases, some contents need to be input in parallel in both English and their own languages. Therefore, language interfaces should be discussed further.

Responses in emergency or errors

In cases that the system is unusually closed in emergency or errors, procedures for restart should be considered. For instance, the consideration would be given to a requisite checking process, such as sending test data, in restarting the systems.

Operational management

There are chances that a new national registry enters into the system or that some trouble occurs in a national registry. In those cases, it is necessary to halt a minimum part of the system rather than the entire system. Therefore, a mechanism, which enables to conduct such operation management, should be developed. Moreover, consideration should be given to how maintenance and regular inspection of the system will be conducted.

Time certification

Since the mechanism to certify exact time of each Party is required, a matter of time certification should be discussed further.

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