

Bilateral Cooperation for BTRs under the Support Initiative for Transparency in Asia (SITA)

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Abstract

Climate change is not a problem that can be solved solely by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in one country; all countries must implement effective climate change countermeasures. In order to effectively implement emission reduction measures in each country, it is crucial to accurately estimate GHG emissions and removals, formulate GHG emissions reduction targets, monitor reduction efforts, and strengthen reduction measures. It is also essential from the perspective of understanding the status of global emission reductions to establish a national system that enables each country to report the actual status of GHG emissions and removals and the implementation of climate change policies in a transparent and appropriate manner. In this context, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan has implemented the Support Initiative for Transparency in Asia (SITA), which provides various forms of technical support to help other countries establish such a system and develop relevant capacities to promote transparency activities.

Bilateral Cooperation for the Biennial Transparency Report (BCB) under the SITA has provided technical support for the development and improvement of GHG inventories and BTRs, which are required to be reported under the Paris Agreement. Those activities have been conducted in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia since 2024.

The BCB aims to continuously strengthen the technical capabilities related to transparency of partner countries, support substantive work on GHG inventories and BTRs, and build a network of practitioners engaged in transparency activities. The BCB is not ad hoc support but rather close-following support, providing ongoing support while accompanying partner countries in preparing BTRs and GHG inventories. Also, it provides flexible customizability, enabling a support plan to be tailored to the partner country's specific support needs, schedule, and national circumstances.

In the support project for the Lao PDR, the BCB has provided technical support in developing a GHG inventory for its BTR1, preparing a manual for GHG inventory preparation that includes all background information used for the BTR1, and identifying potential improvements to be considered for the BTR2. In the support project for Cambodia, the BCB has provided national experts involved in the preparation of the GHG inventory for its BTR2 with basic knowledge of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF), modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs), and the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, technical support for the actual preparation of GHG inventory for its BTR2, as well as instructions on the use of Cambodia National GHG inventory estimation file system (CNGI) that has been developed in this project.

Support for these two countries continues in FY 2026. Taking into account the challenges faced by these partner countries, the BCB intends to provide more appropriate and effective technical support and contribute to improving transparency in the Asian region.