

Workshop on GP and greenhouse gas emission reduction

The Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding agreement that evolved from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. As of February 2006, 162 countries had ratified the protocol, including all APO member countries except for the Republic of China, and therefore it is essential for them to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Japan is listed among the Annex II countries, which represent developed countries that will pay for greenhouse gas reduction projects in nonannex countries.

The APO organized a workshop on Green Productivity and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction, 6–10 March, in New Delhi, India. The workshop was attended by 17 participants from 15 member countries. The workshop experts were deputed from the National Productivity Council, Ministry of Non-conventional Energy, and Bureau of Energy Efficiency, all of India, and the German Technical Corporation to elaborate on various energy efficiency measures, the potential for nonconventional energy in member countries, and benefits of greenhouse gas reduction projects through the clean development mechanism (CDM). During the deliberations, it was pointed out that energy efficiency is important, since otherwise CDM cannot result in money saving. CDM will be an added advantage to energy efficiency projects. The significance of renewable energy and energy from biomass was also underlined. APO member countries have a high potential to utilize both.

The Republic of Korea has a few projects on wind and tidal energy requested for registration under the Kyoto Protocol and aims to reduce methane by reducing/diverting waste to landfills. Bangladesh is focusing on cleaner fuels like compressed natural gas and recently drafted an energy policy emphasizing energy for sustainable growth. In Fiji, initiatives have been taken to improve demand- and supply-side management through energy conservation measures and the promotion of renewable energy. Malaysia is emphasizing energy from landfill gas and palm oil industry waste to reduce methane emissions. In Sri Lanka, biothermal energy is being promoted to meet increasing energy demands, and wind energy and mini-hydro projects are being planned for greener investment. With so many activities taking place in different countries, the discussions at the workshop were complex and participants had ample opportunities to learn from experiences in other member countries.

The expert from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency explained the Energy Conservation Act notified in 2001 in India. The act is comprehensive and mandates energy managers and energy auditors in industries. Another expert from the NGO the Gaushala Society spoke on innovative ways of using animal power to generate



Participants examining organic household products made using renewable energy

energy, particularly in rural areas, with examples of water pumping and even electricity generation. He displayed various products made utilizing organic materials and cow dung, including flame-retardant tiles.

The participants visited a vermicomposting site in Agra where organic waste is converted by earthworms into biofertilizer. This prevents methane generation, which is a greenhouse gas. Problems in the calculation of CO₂ emissions when using different fuels in a boiler were solved by the participants under expert guidance, illustrating how switching to cleaner fuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 

