



NATIONAL REPORT BY JAPAN – SEPTEMBER 2015

Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions
Reductions– an Arctic Council Framework for Action

Japan's National Report based on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions an Arctic Council Framework for Action

August 28, 2015

Based on the subject AC Framework for Action, Japan hereby submits its National Report to the AC Secretariat as follows to the degree possible as described in ANNEX B of the Framework for Action.

1. Summary of current methane emissions to UNFCCC and, if available, future projections

Methane emissions are 36.0 million t-CO₂eq in FY 2013. The target is set to reduce methane emissions in FY2030 by 12.3% compared to FY 2013 level (18.8% reduction compared to FY 2005 level) (approximately 31.6 million t-CO₂eq.).

Table Estimated emissions of methane

	Estimated emissions of methane in FY 2030	FY 2013 (FY 2005)
Methane (CH ₄)	31.6	36.0 (39.0)

[value : Million t-CO₂eq.]

2. Summary of National Actions, National Action Plans, or Mitigation Strategies by sector

The following are the measures to reduce CH₄ emissions.

- Reduction of CH₄ emissions from agricultural soils (reduction of CH₄ emissions from paddy rice fields)
- Reduction of municipal solid waste disposed of by direct landfill
- Introduction of semi-aerobic landfill system for final disposal site of municipal solid waste

3. Projects relevant for the Arctic

As a neighbor of the Arctic region, Japan has a long history of scientific observation and research in the Arctic for more than 50 years. National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are its main Arctic research institutes.

On 15 May 2013, Japan was admitted as an observer in the Arctic Council. Japan has enhanced its contribution to the international community with its advanced

scientific expertise and technology.

As the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) attaches its importance to the Arctic, it is launching a new project, called “Arctic Challenge for Sustainability” (ArCS) project in FY 2015.

This project includes the following three activities.

(a) Promoting international collaborative research in the following fields;

- Black carbon and methane
- Sea acidification in the Arctic
- Prediction of Arctic sea ice, etc

(b) Creating new research facilities in the Arctic countries (Russia, USA, Canada, Norway, and Denmark)

(c) Fostering exchanges of young researchers toward further international collaborative research

Through the above activities, ArCS seeks to understand the changes occurring in the Arctic holistically as well as its global impact in the fields of climate, physical-chemical-biological processes, biodiversity and human dimensions, by way of comprehensive and integrated research. It also intends to understand the mechanism and the cause of these changes, and to help predict future changes and to assess their potential socio-economic impacts.

Ultimately, ArCS will deliver its robust scientific information to stakeholders (policy makers (incl.AC), industries, users, people, etc) for decision making and solving issues concerning the Arctic.

Other information for ArCS:

- (a) Term: 5-year project (2015-2019)
- (b) Budget: 6 million US\$ (2015)
- (c) Representative Organization: NIPR
- (d) Deputy Representative Organization: JAMSTEC and the Hokkaido University

4. Other information

As for black carbon, Japan has been participating in the discussions at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to consider potential impacts on the Arctic of the emission of black carbon from international shipping.

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