

Talk on CDM Validation and Verification Processes

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



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THE talk on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Validation and Verification Process was organised by the Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD) of IEM. Ms. Aminah Ang, Head (Technical Section) of SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd (SIRIM QAS) delivered the talk. She is responsible for ensuring that the CDM Validation, Verification and Certification services are managed in accordance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Clean Development Mechanism Scheme modalities and procedures in Malaysia.

Malaysia signed the UNFCCC on 9 June 1993 and subsequently ratified the convention on 13 July 1994. On 12 March 1999, Malaysia signed the Kyoto Protocol which was ratified on 4 September 2002. CDM, among others, allows for investment from Annex 1 (developed) countries such as those from Europe and Japan in "green projects" in exchange for certified emission reductions (CERs). This would assist the Annex 1 countries to meet the target in reducing CO₂ emission.

The CDM process comprises three main phases which are the project design, project registration and project operation or execution phases. The application process starts with the preparation and submission of a project design document (PDD) to the designated national authority which, in Malaysia, is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

To be eligible for CDM, the project needs to prove its "additionality". Additionality is defined as any project activity that is expected to result in green house gases (GHG) emission reduction, which is in addition to any that would occur in the absence of the project activity. It is also an indication that the proposed project is not common practice in the proposed area of implementation, and not required by the country's legislation or regulation. A project is also considered as "additional" if it would not have been implemented had it not been eligible for carbon credits. In general, carbon credits are incentives to develop GHG reduction projects which otherwise would not be carried out. It is not a reward for such activities.

The verification by an operational entity (OE) is carried out to ensure that the project implementation and monitoring is as stated in the PDD. This is crucial prior to the issuance of CERs. The project could have the same OE for both validation and verification.

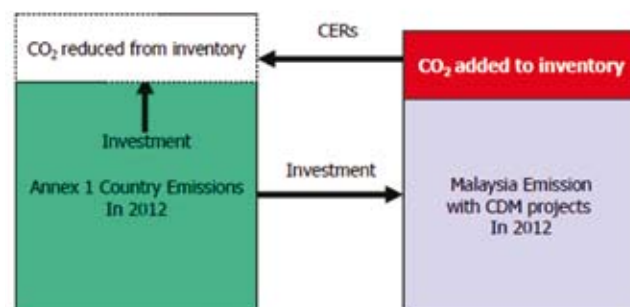


Figure 1: The CDM process for Annex 1 country and Malaysia



Figure 2: The CDM process

Once the PDD is prepared according to a suitably approved methodology, it needs to be validated by the OE to ensure that the information provided conforms to UNFCCC requirements. The OE, acting as the validator, will address its findings and give an affirmative statement of a validation outcome. Some areas of validation are on the baseline and monitoring methodologies. Once validated, the project can then be registered by the executive board.

Once registered, the project enters its second phase-implementation. Verification can be initiated but it is not mandatory. Early verification is helpful as it ensures that the monitoring system is in place, operational and allows the end user to gather as much information as possible that may be used for project commissioning.

The actual verification would be more demanding unless an initial verification was carried out to address



Figure 3: Participants giving full attention to Ms. Aminah's presentation

any shortcomings in the monitoring plan. Verification can be carried out as frequently as desired but this will incur additional costs. Once verified, the project enters its third phase where it is ready to generate CERs for trading purposes.

Numerous questions were raised during the Q&A session. Issues such as validation and verification costs, its frequency and the functions of OEs were discussed. The talk has been very successful as the participants were provided with information on the CDM Verification and Validation processes. CETD hopes to arrange further talks on CDM-related issues in the near future. ■

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