



## *NDCs Leading Towards Cleaner Energy: Scope for India-Japan Co-operation*

**SPEAKER:** Parul Bakshi

**CHAIR:** Srabani Roy Choudhury

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The speaker began her talk by analysing United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) of India and Japan as research tools by adopting deductive reasoning. She explained renewable energy blueprint of each country by analysing NDCs as agreed under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. She then analysed the successes and challenges faced by both the countries in order to meet the targets and the viability of meeting these targets. Further, she proposed how India and Japan can co-operate in the renewable energy sector. The scope of the presentation remained limited to policy analysis and future implications.

Highlighting the centrality of energy in any national development, she mentioned how the transitions have taken place with respect to energy, from “energy politics” between countries in 1950s to “energy security” post-1973 oil crises, culminating into “energy diplomacy” at present. Linking energy sector to the crucial issue of climate change, Ms. Bakshi mentioned that energy sector was responsible for 72 per cent of the total global emissions in 2013. Although there is an emerging consensus among countries on energy transformation, there is divergence when it comes to following the path towards it, reasons being geographical locations, stage of development, cultural history and ruling governments, and viability of resources. In the wake of these factors and the looming ecological crisis, Japan and India are attempting to diversify their energy mix.

The speaker noted that the Paris Agreement of 2015 was an attempt to find a common path to move ahead where both developing and developed countries agreed to work towards keeping the global temperature “well below” 2<sup>o</sup>C. At the centre of Paris Agreement are the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which embody every country's efforts to reduce emissions while adapting to the climate change impacts.

India's NDCs were analysed in the context of it being an import dependent and climatically vulnerable nation facing intricate policy challenges of energy security and climate change. The speaker observed how keeping in consideration these challenges and the importance of energy

sector, India stated its aspiration of “Development without Destruction”. India has eight NDCs, of which three are quantifiable ones to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from the 2005 level, to achieve 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 and to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030.

Ms. Bakshi pointed out that various international agencies have taken varied stands in assessing the NDCs of India. While the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) Study 2015 called these “very ambitious”, World Resources Institute (WRI) Climate Watch Data stated these as “fair and ambitious”. IDDRI study also indicated that to achieve the target, India’s power sector will have to play the critical role in it. India’s achievement can be witnessed from its efforts such as launching National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008; its renewable power deployment has also increased by more than double from April 2014 to March 2019. Moreover, its global rankings in wind and renewable power and solar power deployment are indicators of its efforts to meet its stated aspiration. The recent Draft National Electricity Policy by NITI Aayog states that by 2040 India will achieve 597-710 GW capacity within the renewable sector.

However, the speaker reminded that there are shortcomings and criticisms too with respect to India’s NDCs. Foremost, is the lack of transparency in its targets as it does not provide any details. There is also a lack of clarity in terms of “Green House Gas and sectoral coverage” about the base year. WRI highlighted the need for transparency so as to support robust greenhouse gas accounting. Another vague area is regarding inclusion of emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors in its NDCs. There are also concerns about non-following of international process while availing and producing data. India still awaits its Long Term Strategy under Paris Agreement as it has set no specific targets beyond 2022. Criticisms also arise in fields of coal and transportation sectors as these are major contributors of emissions. There are estimates that India’s coal power capacity will rise as the development takes place thus creating a paradoxical situation.

Analysing Japan’s NDCs, Ms. Bakshi noted that with extremely limited fossil fuel resources, Japan considers energy security as a key issue in designing its energy mix. With its NDCs target of reducing emission levels at 26 per cent below 2013 levels by the 2030, it has calculated an energy mix to balance its nuclear and renewable power generation. It aims to have 23-24 per cent of renewable energy in its Energy Mix for year 2030. IDDRI considers Japan’s target as feasible and WRI sees these as “highly transparent and concrete”. Japan has achieved 56 per cent increase in renewable energy production from 2005-2015. Unlike India, Japan has mentioned long-term goal of reducing emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. She then briefed 3E + S Strategy of Japan’s Energy Plan – where “S” stands for Safety forming the centre of energy plan around which the 3 Es- Energy Security, Energy Efficiency and Environment, operate with targets.

Ms. Bakshi then pointed out that in implementation, Japan’s energy plan is also facing certain challenges as India does. Lack of transparency in setting the base year for targets, flawed implementation of carbon tax and rising consumption of coal are major problems. Viewing these

problems, Climate analytics are of view that Japan would be able to meet its 2020 NDCs but not 2030 NDCs.

Having assessed the both cases, the speaker mentioned about the plausible scope for India-Japan cooperation considering the fertile ground of both the countries due to the population's receptivity and demand for renewable energy. The areas of cooperation between Japan and India mainly consist of technology, financial and policy cooperation. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) can play an effective role, especially in hydropower. Moreover, the 3L policy of Low cost, Low risk and Low carbon can be the guiding policy framework in India-Japan cooperation.

During discussion on the impact of energy lobby in India and nuclear lobby in Japan, Ms. Bakshi suggested a long term policy framework to deal with it since both countries have implementation challenges. On the question of scope of tidal energy in JICA and in India-Japan cooperation, she pointed out the lack of ground work to make tidal energy as efficient as other renewable sources but asserted that tidal energy has a future. She concluded the discussion by arguing that these comparisons of ambitions are not against one another but according to the optimal level each country can reach. Then try to find out the emerging opportunities of common working area.

*This report is prepared by Anu, Research Assistant, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.*

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