

Parallel Round Table 3

Economic Opportunities through 3R

– Biomass

The session was chaired by Mr. Phee Boon Poh, Penang State Government, Malaysia, and

facilitated by Prof. P. Agamuthu, University of Malaya.

After the background presentation by Prof. Agamuthu,

three cases from Malaysia (Prof. Mohammad Asadullah, Universiti Teknologi Mara), from Japan (Mr. Gen Takahashi, JFE Engineering Co.), and Thai case (Prof. P. Abdul Salam from AIT) were presented.

Presentation (Background, Malaysia)

- Background presentation:
 - Economic potential of biomass economy is 17 trillion US dollars.
 - Monetary value of biomass as well as GHG reduction potentials could drive this investment opportunity.
 - Increasing opportunities in South East Asia.
 - Challenges for effective biomass utilization include competition with other resources or utilizations, lack of technology for certain countries, limited policy incentives, and logistics for effective utilization.
- Malaysian case
 - Emphasized availability of various biomass utilization technologies including efficient gasification technology.
 - Biomass utilization technology should be encouraged as a part of social-economic system through policy intervention.

Presentation (Japan, Thailand)

- Japanese case introduced several available technologies for biomass utilization for energy recovery including
 - biomass boiler, sludge digestion, food waste digestion, and mixed organic waste treatment for generating electricity from biogas and cement from digested sludge.
- Thai case
 - Existing policy support mechanisms for biomass energy recovery including national plan, investment facilitation for renewables such as BOI, FIT, data support and ESCO funds.
 - Stable biomass supply is a key and should be supported through policy incentive as well as through proper zoning and logistics.
 - Imported technologies are often not suitable for local biomass feedstock.

Key Points from Discussions

- No single technology can provide solution for effective and efficient utilization of biomass.
- Projects for technology introduction without adaptation to local conditions, reflection of local and national interests, and proper development of human capital to handle them, destined to be failed.
- More importantly, to convince policy makers, we need to emphasize social and economic benefits from biomass utilization such as employment generation in addition to global and national interests on sustainability.