



IT JUST AIN'T "COOL"!

TENTATIVE ANALYSIS JAPAN'S NEW "COOL EARTH" TARGET

-3.8% COMPARED TO 2005

14 November 2013

WHAT IS THE AMBITION LEVEL OF THE NEW TARGET?

Japanese government is reported to announce its newly revised 2020 target as “-3.8% compared to 2005 by 2020.” There is nothing ambitious about this target.

Japan increased its emissions since 1990 and its GHG emissions **in 2005 is about 7% higher than 1990 level**. If you convert the new target **into 1990-basis**, it becomes **+3.1%** (See figures in the next page).

It should be noted that Japan's target in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was -6% compared 1990. The latest emission data **in 2011 is +3.7% above 1990** (note 2011 is the year when the earthquake/nuclear accident happened and thus fossil fuel use was large in order to make up the nuclear). Thus the new target is not only a significant retreat from the country's Cancun pledge (-25% compared to 1990 by 2020) but also a tremendous setback from Kyoto.

WHY DID JAPAN LOWER ITS AMBITION THAT MUCH?

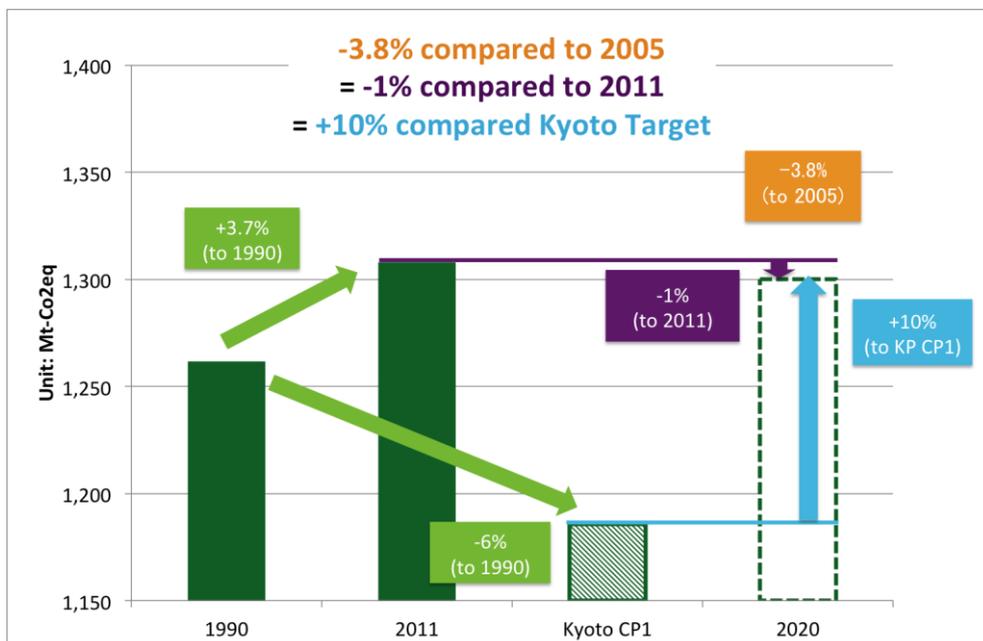
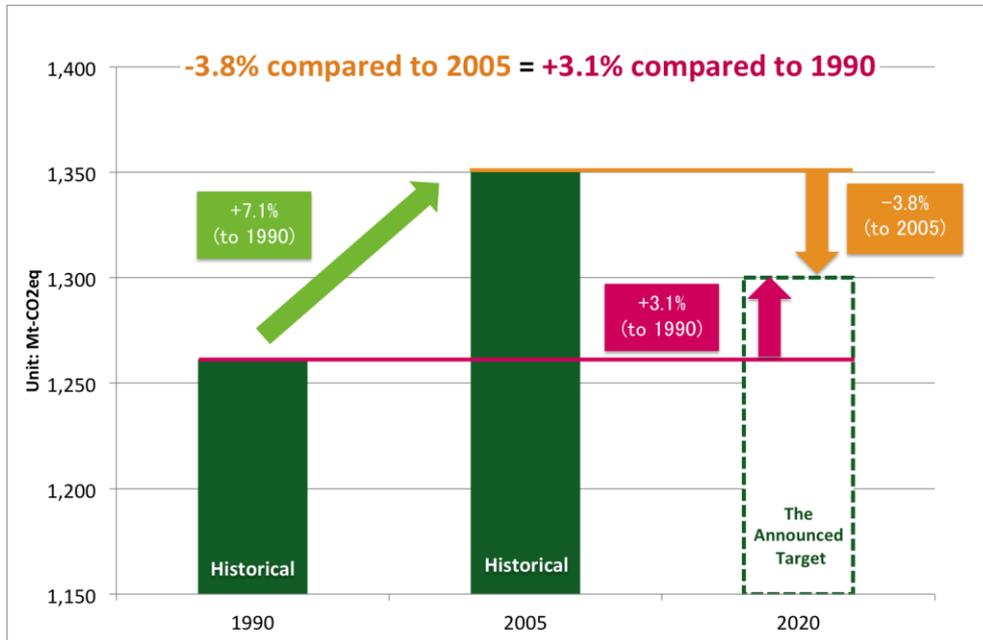
A major reason according to the government is the uncertainty related to nuclear. Before the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident in 11 March 2011, nuclear power provided about 30% of electricity generation in Japan. After the Fukushima accident, all the nuclear power plants entered into safety inspection and right now none of the remaining 50 nuclear power plants are in operation as of now. The current government is in favor of restarting them but the process to check the nuclear power plants with new safety regulations is taking much time and the public is also expressing concerns about safety. Hence, the government presented this figure assuming no nuclear power plant is restarted.

Assuming no nuclear is a good thing but one should not buy the story that that is the whole story. Japan **has increased its reliance on coal significantly** during the last two decades and failed to introduce meaningful policy measures to counter that. In fact, if you simply convert the increase of coal use since 1990 into emissions, it amounts to 150 M-tCO₂eq, which is equivalent to 12% of 1990 emissions. The current government assumes this reliance continues because it thinks it is cheap. This factor plays an important role in decrease of the ambition

CAN JAPAN BE MORE AMBITIOUS?

WWF Japan's *Energy Scenario Proposal for Decarbonizing Japan* shows that Japan can be much more ambitious. It shows **100% renewable energy by 2050 is technically feasible and it is possible to reduce energy-related to CO₂ by 25% by 2020**. Combined with other possible reduction of non-energy CO₂ and non-CO₂ GHGs, it is still possible to achieve ambitious

emission reduction. The *Energy Scenario Proposal* includes very ambitious assumptions about the improvement of energy efficiency (20% reduction of energy consumption from the current level) and the expansion of renewable energies (30% of electricity; the current share is 10%). Even achieving the half of what this scenario describes at least gets Japan achieve much more ambitious GHG target than “+3.1% compared to 1990 level.”



For further information, please contact:

Ms Mandy Jean Woods – WWF Global Climate & Energy Initiative, Communications Head mwoods@wwf.org.za

Mr Naoyuki Yamagishi, Leader, Climate and Energy Group, WWF-Japan, Tel: +81-3-3769-3509 (office) / +81-90-6471-1432 (mobile);
Email: yamagishi@wwf.or.jp

Ms Haruka Ohnishi, WWF-Japan press officer, Tel: +81-3-3769-1714 (office), email: ohnishi@wwf.or.jp

ends