

Country Statement

JAPAN

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【Introduction】

○ I am highly honored to have the opportunity to present a country statement to you on behalf of the Japanese Government today, at the Seventh Policy and Implementation Committee meeting.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Australia and the secretariat for hosting this meeting.

【Recent Japanese Policy Trends】

○ Since the previous PIC meeting last October, Japan has taken a series of new actions to combat climate change.

○ Most notable is our new growth strategy entitled “Future Developing Strategy: The J-Recovery Plan” launched in April this year. It is dubbed as Japan’s Low-Carbon Revolution and aims at;

-----becoming the world’s No.1 in solar power by expanding subsidies for installation and introducing a new feed-in-tariff system.

-----keeping the top position in energy conservation,

-----becoming the world’s fastest country in deploying eco-cars, and

-----pushing forward all key technology innovations including CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) and the advanced storage battery.

With this package, we expect to generate an additional GDP amounting to 120 trillion Yen, as well as employment of 4 million people.

○ Another notable development is an amendment in April of the “Energy Efficiency Law” which actually makes sectoral approach a functioning institution for the first time in the world.

It sets the benchmarking indicators. It sets the medium and long-term targets to be achieved around 2015-2020 and companies shall endeavor to achieve the energy efficiency levels of the top 10% - 20% best performing companies in each sub-sector.

○ Thirdly, Japan continues providing financial resources to developing countries by mobilizing all sorts of financial resources like ODA, equity and guarantee, the trade insurance and government subsidies under the “Cool Earth Partnership”. These public resources are actually leveraging a large amount of private funding.

Technology transfer is of course an area where Japan is most active. “Japanese Business Alliance for Smart Energy Worldwide” has been established as a mechanism to promote cooperation between government and business. This will help accelerate global dissemination of Japanese energy conservation and renewable energy technology. As an activity of this alliance, a publication entitled “Japanese State-of-the-art Smart Energy Products & Technologies” has been released.

○ Lastly my country is in the process of establishing its mid-term emission reduction goal which the Prime Minister will announce in June this year.

【About the APP】

○ Japan hosted the sixth Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation Task Force meeting in April this year. In the “Policy Inventory and Analysis” report the policy measures for renewable energy and the progress of each country was updated. The progress of each project was reported. It also contains discussions about the barriers and solutions for the dissemination of renewable energies.

○ Japan has also contributed to APP activities by serving as chairmen of the Steel and Cement Task Forces and participating most proactively to other Task Forces.

Notable amongst activities of these two Task Forces is the sending of energy experts to visit dozens of mills and factories in China and India and provided analysis and recommendations for better energy savings. As the result of the follow-up discussion by experts, a Chinese steel mill decided to adopt new technologies.

The Steel Task Force has gone further in May this year, in adopting a “St. Louis Agreement” which stipulates basic principles for a common methodology of setting mid-term targets for energy intensity improvement. The Chairman, Mr. Kakudo will report about the agreement more in detail later.

Road and Transport is yet another important area where emission from this sector is as high as 23% of the global CO₂ emission and a substantial reduction might be possible.

In fact, both the workshop held in Japan last September and the Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transportation in January of this year confirmed the importance of efficiency cooperation in this sector.

Despite present difficulties, the automobile industry is able to work out plans to improve energy efficiency by identifying the best practices for:

- fuel efficiency and bio-fuels,
- systems such as the public transportation and the ITS (Intelligent Transportation System), and
- data collection.

In view of all the above, my government would like to keep considering and discussing possible establishment of a Task Force on the Road Transportation.

We would very much like to see this discussion be finalized positively by the next PIC meeting.

○ The APP website is rich in its contents, particularly when it comes to Japanese pages. Thanks Barbara for your efforts.

I say this only because I like to see Home Pages of other countries are just as rich as ours.

【Future of APP】

○ Finally let me talk about the future of APP. Of course we fully recognize the great value and merit of this Partnership. Value and merit come primarily from us, governments and private sectors, working together. This is not on the basis of theory but on the basis of concrete projects and programs of energy efficiency and energy technologies.

What is important is that we are working with the full recognition of the vastly diverse national situations. Because it is so diverse, we are working on a sectoral basis.

Now we have achieved tangible outcomes. We have identified Best Available Technologies and Practices and we have more than 100 projects within 7 countries.

These outcomes give us a chance to create positive relationship with international industrial organizations such as World Steel Association(worldsteel), IAI and CSI of WBCSD.

As the chairmen of the Steel and Cement TFs, Japan has been very keen to enhance a flow of technology investment in this region.

There is yet another factor, in our view, which would enhance the value of our Partnership and that is the emerging dynamics of this region to transform itself and to move toward a low carbon economy.

All members of APP actually have a national plan to proceed to low carbon in one way or another. Almost all of us have established a budgetary and investment program, some of the programs have really a huge some of money, to achieve the goal of low carbon.

Crucial for this new endeavor is the massive investment in energy technology and innovation. APP has been doing this. APP has been trying to solve barriers and difficulties. We believe there are lessons which can usefully be brought into a Copenhagen negotiation process.

With such common experiences, APP has something to offer in promoting a new drive to a low carbon transformation.

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