

Country Statement

Japan

19 May 2008

[Introduction]

- This is the second time for me to attend to the Asia-Pacific Partnership (APP) meetings followed by the Ministerial Meetings held in New Delhi last fall. I am very pleased to have a chance to make a Country Statement on behalf of the Japanese government today. First of all, I would like to express my sincerely appreciation to the government of the United States of America for hosting this PIC meeting.
- Now, activities of the APP established in July 2005 have steadily progressed with over 100 projects under the eight Task Forces and giving approval to 18 flagship projects at the Ministerial Meeting of last fall. On the other hand, almost three-year-old APP has truly reached maturity and therefore it can be said that its activities have perfectly switched to the stage of implementation and plunged into the stage of accumulating outcomes.

[Characters of APP]

- As mentioned in the Communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of last fall, the APP is a unique engagement based on a public-private partnership. Whenever I attend various meetings on climate change, I find that cases of the APP activities are frequently quoted and admired as complementary undertakings to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. I believe the only reason for this is mobilizing experiences and knowledge of public and private entities on each sector under different conditions and implementing feasible efforts to combat global warming.
- The essence of the APP is Task Force activities on which wisdom of public and private sectors is converged. “Aftermath direction” will be discussed as one of agendas tomorrow. I think it is time to set out the direction to reinforce this public-private partnership which is the bare bones of the APP and to progress it further. Therefore, Japan will propose to establish a new Task Force targeting on road and transportation sector.

[Japanese new proposal]

- Energy consumption of road and transportation sector in a number of States including China and India is expected to largely expand in accordance with economic development. We think efforts on this field will contribute not only to mitigating energy consumption

and CO2 emissions but also to preventing air pollution. We also think it will be beneficial for 7 States of the APP to share experiences and technologies of each State including Japan. Japanese auto industry has already approved these intentions and called auto industry of each State to participate in.

- Although the eight Task Forces currently account for about 60% of energy consumption and CO2 emissions of 7 States of the APP, its proportion will largely expand to about 80% by adding road and transportation sector. It is essential for 7 States not to reconcile current 60% but to improve credibility of the APP together with deciding new challenges and further improving effectiveness which is the most important character of the APP. The delegation of the Japanese government and industry will explain details of the new proposal. We are sincerely expecting supports from participating States.

[Endeavors of taskforces]

- Japan is taking pride in contributing adequately to the APP activities such as serving as chairmen of the Steel and Cement Task Forces out of the eight Task Forces. Although the concrete endeavors of these two Task Forces will be reported by both chairmen, both Task Forces are realizing projects under the basic concept of setting up index which measures the progress of saving energy and targets reflecting various conditions of each State, as well as with promoting technological cooperation.
- Both Task Forces have already reached the most difficult agreement on boundary and they are expected to promote data gathering and to set up benchmarks in near future. Furthermore, on the field of technological cooperation, both steel and cement sectors have sent experts of energy saving to plants in China and India since last fall in order to implement energy saving diagnostics. From the viewpoints of experts, adequate facilities, technologies, and provisions vary with each plant. Therefore, this diagnosis is an appropriate measure as a means to find the best responses. The detailed reports will be provided later.

[Aftermath directions]

- It is inevitable that the eight Task Forces take different approaches under different projects, since respective sectors have different issues. On the other hand, I believe that it is possible to further activate the APP projects through horizontal evolution so that other Task Forces can learn from projects with successful outcomes and utilize them for future projects. For this purpose, reports of each Task Force scheduled as one of today's agendas

are very significant and it is essential to give positive evaluation to successful projects and to lead them to future activities.

- At this moment, negotiations on the post -2012 framework aiming to conclude by the end of 2009 has started at the United Nations. In this regard, success of the APP which is a sector-based bottom-up public-private cooperative partnership centering on technology and the development of its activities would be a significant input into the on-going negotiation process under the United Nations. The Japanese government will continue to make efforts for years to come in order to promote cooperative relationships between the governments and industries of participating States of the APP.
- Finally, I understand that member States of the APP attending here will also attend outreach session of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. I hope for successful outcomes at the meeting with the cooperation of each State, thereby promoting the progress of negotiations at the United Nations for the establishment of an effective framework for global emissions reductions.