

第7回太平洋・島サミット「気候変動・開発フォーラム」
城内外務副大臣基調挨拶
(5月21日:於 ホテル ニューオータニ)

Your Excellency, Mr. Tommy E. REMENGESAU, Jr, President of the Republic of Palau,
Distinguished Leaders of the Pacific Island Countries,
Distinguished representatives of international organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and pleased to be here for the Climate Change and Development Forum on the occasion of the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM), with the participation of distinguished leaders from the Pacific Island Countries as well as representatives from international and regional organizations. I am confident that each guest has in-depth experience and thoughts to share with others for fruitful discussions in the area of climate change and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
The IPCC report makes clear that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal.” It poses a particular challenge to Pacific Island Countries that are vulnerable to the impact of climate change. This was clearly demonstrated by the damage caused by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu and other neighboring countries. Urgent actions against global warming are needed more than ever.

Japan has been an active contributor to the actions against global warming in the Pacific region. We have been working together with Pacific Island Countries in such areas as energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate disaster risk reduction and related human resources development. At the PALM meeting to be held on the 23rd, we will discuss possibilities for further cooperation in these areas. The Summit will clearly demonstrate the determination shared by Japan and the Pacific Island Countries to strengthen our actions in the area of climate change.

Japan supports the efforts of the Pacific Island Countries, and in this regard, we recall the “Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership” which was adopted by the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2013.

In addition, I am very happy to inform you today that the domestic legislation needed for Japan to realize our pledge of 1.5 billion USD to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was formally approved by the Diet on May 13th, and became effective yesterday. We hope that the GCF will start its operations after the signing of the contribution arrangement among Japan, the GCF and the World Bank. It is our earnest desire that the GCF will be effectively utilized by the Pacific Island Countries, in particular, by those which are vulnerable to climate change.

Today we have Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou, Executive Director of the GCF with us. I count on Ms. Cheikhrouhou and her team for constructive efforts in this regard. We have also invited representatives from UNDP, the World Bank, ADB, and SPREP to this forum in order to have fruitful discussions on the effective use of GCF resources and other multilateral initiatives in the area of climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Development is an integral part of actions against global warming. Effective development cooperation in the area of climate change will not only contribute to mitigation and adaptation on the ground, but also become a driving force for nurturing mutual trust and promoting political momentum toward adoption of a fair and effective framework applicable to all Parties, including all major emitters of greenhouse gases, at COP21 in Paris.

In this context, today's Climate Change and Development Forum provides a unique and excellent opportunity for discussions among governments and development partners. I hope that this forum will assist us in identifying useful options as well as challenges associated with climate change and development in the Pacific region, including how we can make the most out of the GCF.

Pacific Island leaders' experiences and thoughts on climate change will be highly valuable in helping us understand the specific needs on the ground and consider effective development actions. It will also be very useful for us to share how

international and regional development organizations are working to counter global warming in the region. As we are also joined by H.E. Philippe Zeller, Ambassador at large for COP21/Asia-Oceania, we would also appreciate his insightful inputs toward the success of COP21 in the concluding session.

I am confident that this Forum will make contributions toward addressing climate change and development in the Pacific with enhanced ties among the leaders of the region and friends of the Pacific.

Thank you very much for your attention.