

Remarks by H.E. Kentaro Sonoura,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
at the Conference on Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa  
(Oct. 1, 2015 / Istanbul)

Minister <sup>アラボユン</sup> Alaboyun;

Ministers from G20 and Sub-Saharan African countries;

Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to visit the historic city of Istanbul and participate in this important Conference. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Minister Alaboyun and the Turkish government for their leadership and hospitality.

The agenda to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” is important to improve the quality of life and achieve sustainable growth of world economy. As we see energy access goal within “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” we recognize it has become a key issue in the international community.

We highly appreciate Turkey's initiative to set this issue as our priority. We also thank <sup>エスイーフォーオール</sup> SE4ALL's efforts to develop the "G20 Energy Access Action Plan."

The Action Plan should be developed from a perspective of countries to which the Plan will be applied. G20 members should provide assistance based on today's discussion, considering their national circumstances including the availability of indigenous fossil fuel and renewable energy sources, needs and energy strategies of each country.

Africa has achieved high economic growth, but it faces various challenges. Japan has worked to strengthen relationship with Africa through the TICAD process for more than two decades, emphasizing ownership of Africa and partnership of the international society.

Aiming for the realization of “quality growth” that the fruit of growth reaches wide range of the society based on its peace, Japan puts weight on infrastructure and human-resource development. We will strengthen our cooperation in both public and private sectors.

Japan has actively advanced cooperation toward Africa in the field of energy access. Japan has provided a total of 10 billion dollar of ODA in energy sector from 2009 to 2013 to support developing countries.

We have contributed to improving energy access in 12 Sub-Sahara Africa countries through electricity infrastructure development assistance. Under G20 framework, we will continue to enhance energy access in Sub-Sahara Africa through sharing our experiences.

Finally, let me conclude my remarks by hoping that today’s fruitful discussion will be fully utilized and contribute to the improvement of energy access in Sub-Saharan Africa and the entire world. Thank you. (END)