

Speech by Mr. Masakazu Hamachi, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
at the reception for GEA International Conference 2015
-Policies and Measures to Cope with Climate Change
and towards a Sustainable Society-

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to welcome the distinguished participants of the GEA International Conference 2015 from all over the world to Japan.

The year 2015 marks a significant milestone for global environmental issues, including both climate change and sustainable development. Last month the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in New York. And from the end of November, the COP21 will be held in Paris, where a new international framework on climate change will be discussed.

Bearing this in mind, I am convinced that the theme of today's Conference, "Measures to tackle Climate Change and towards a Sustainable Society" is very timely and will lead to a fruitful discussion on the future of our planet.

The 2030 Agenda is a historical document that crystalizes our long efforts towards realizing sustainable development. The new Agenda has laid at its core five key elements, called the five 'P's: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. It has also forged an ambitious plan of action covering various fields including women, health, education, disaster risk reduction, and quality growth, all of which Japan has been emphasizing. With these core components, the new Agenda will lead our efforts to ultimately eradicate poverty from the Earth and to transform this planet into a sustainable one by 2030.

In order to address climate change effectively, the entirety international community is called to work together. For its part, Japan is determined to contribute to the adoption of a new international framework at COP21 which is fair, effective and applicable to all Parties.

From 2013 to 2014, Japan provided approximately 20 billion dollars to developing countries from both public and private sources for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In May of this year, Japan and the Green Climate Fund signed a contribution arrangement confirming the conversion of Japan's pledge of 1.5 billion dollars to the fund.

Distinguished guests,

The attendants of GEA International Conference 2015 are rich in experience and have expertise in many fields that are integral to the world's sustainable development. The Government of Japan is of the view that we should unite our effort to build a new global partnership, where all parties involved including Governments, the business community, academic community, and NGOs come together to work for the future of global environment. While benefitting from your expertise, our government will make further efforts in cooperation with the international society to find answers to the issues currently faced by the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.