

Third East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue

(October 31, 2014; PACIFICO YOKOHAMA)

Keynote Remarks by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi

Your Excellency, Dr. Tin Ponlok, Secretary-General for Green Growth, Cambodia,
Distinguished guests,

It is my great pleasure to host the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue today with the participation of all of you who are actively engaged in the area of low-carbon growth.

As you are aware, this is the third Dialogue we have held since 2012. It is a great pleasure to have increased participation from local governments and the private sector this time, so that we can build on and deepen our discussions of ways to strengthen public-private partnership.

I would also like to add that this third Dialogue is being held in collaboration with “Smart City Week” and the “Asia Smart City Conference”, hosted by the City of Yokohama and Nikkei Business Publications. I am confident that this collaboration will help us to further deepen our discussion of low-carbon growth, and to share the practical experiences of local governments and the private sector and draw lessons from them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, global warming is unequivocally real. Actions against climate change compatible with economic growth are needed more than ever. The East Asia Summit (EAS) region is responsible for almost 60% of global CO2 emissions. At the same time, the region is often described as today's “global growth center.” Therefore, it is particularly important to discuss and implement low-carbon growth in this region.

In this context, Japan has been continuing its efforts to achieve low-carbon growth, starting in this region. In particular, we have seen remarkable progress in the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) since the last Dialogue was held May last year. In the EAS region, starting with Viet Nam in July

2013, we have signed bilateral documents with four countries: Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Cambodia. We are currently consulting with other interested countries in order to further promote the JCM in the region.

In addition, Japan announced its proactive diplomatic strategy for countering global warming, the so-called “ACE, Actions for Cool Earth,” last November. The ACE has three pillars: (1) technological innovation, (2) diffusion of existing technologies, and (3) assistance to developing countries. At the UN Climate Summit in New York last month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan’s new pledge to help with the human resources development of 14,000 people over the next three years as well as our eagerness to promote technological innovation and diffusion to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by the year 2050. Thus, Japan is implementing actions against climate change globally. I am confident that these efforts will also contribute to low-carbon growth in the EAS region.

Among these actions, the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue has a special importance to Japan. This Dialogue is a forum that we have built together and where we have discussed effective and concrete measures to promote regional cooperation by sharing the expertise of each country.

Now please allow me to review the last two Dialogues. In the first Dialogue in 2012, we identified three pillars for cooperation: (1) cooperation in the formulation and implementation of low-carbon growth strategies, (2) the importance of using technologies and markets, and (3) the enhancement of cooperation among various stakeholders. The Knowledge Platform for East Asia Low Carbon Growth was also established.

In the second Dialogue, held May last year, by shedding light on technology that would contribute to low-carbon growth, we further confirmed: (1) the necessity of strengthening collaboration between central governments, local governments, and the private sector, (2) the importance of

diffusion of appropriate technologies to create low-carbon growth, and (3) the importance of mobilizing all policy tools, including market mechanisms.

As is clear from our past discussions, actions by central government alone cannot achieve low-carbon growth. Partnership with various actors and discussions on practical measures are important. I look forward to having active discussions with you today as we share our experiences and examine ways to improve the investment and business environment together with countermeasures against climate change, with “public-private partnership and technology transfer” and “cities” as the main themes for this Dialogue.

I hope that we will have realistic and ambitious discussions throughout the two sessions today. In the morning session, we will focus on public-private partnership and technology transfer through two key questions: “how can we mobilize private finance more effectively through public-private partnership?” and “what is the significance of the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) conducted under the UNFCCC framework and how can we get the most out of the TNA?”

In the afternoon session, I look forward to discussions on the role of cities and networking among practitioners based on the following questions: “what are the roles and strengths of local governments in the realization of a low-carbon society at the city level and how can we create an enabling environment for it?” and “what specific approaches will make the most of our Knowledge Platform?”

In order to create a low-carbon society, partnership with the private sector and local governments is key. I hope that this Dialogue will offer you an opportunity to strengthen networks among practitioners and further promote public-private partnership and low carbonization in cities.

Last but not least, I would like to announce that we are planning to report the results of today’s discussions to the EAS next month by sharing the Chair’s Summary of this Dialogue.

After today's Dialogue has concluded, I would like to invite you to join the tour of the business exhibition being held today in the next building. The tour will provide you with a chance to see important environmental technologies from Japanese enterprises.

Thank you very much.