

The 3rd East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue
Yokohama, October 31, 2014
Chair's Summary

The 3rd East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue was held in Yokohama, Japan on October 31, 2014. High-level government representatives from the East Asia Summit (EAS) member states and representatives of ESCAP, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, JICA and JBIC attended the Dialogue. The 3rd Dialogue was also joined by representatives of local governments and private sector. It was chaired by State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Minoru Kiuchi and Director-General for Global Issues, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Atsuyuki Oike.

The 3rd Dialogue was organized with two sessions with the following agenda;

Session 1:

Public-private partnership and technology transfer for low-carbon growth

Session 2:

Low-carbon growth in cities and networks among stakeholders.

Building on the outcome of the last year's Dialogue, the participants were engaged in more action-oriented discussions, sharing experiences and best practices.

Session 1

The participants shared the view that the perspectives from the private sector are important to promote low carbon growth, and that it is necessary for central governments to prioritize climate change actions in their economic and development policies. In this regard, participants

reaffirmed that governments should send strong signals to the private sector and provide the long term certainty of climate policies and actions that is necessary to encourage private sector investment.

In addition, participants welcomed the progress of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and expressed further expectations on its role for low-carbon growth. In this regard, it was reported at the end of the Dialogue that the 1st JCM project was registered by the Joint Committee Meeting between Japan and Indonesia held in Bogor, Indonesia on the same day. Good practices were also shared on efforts to transfer technologies that match the local needs, for example in the area of steel industry.

Participants also recognized that for a long-term success, broader partnership that goes beyond public-private partnership is needed to involve a wider range of actors, such as local governments, civil society, NGOs, and academia in order to maximize the impact. The importance of taking care of the needs of small scale enterprises was also discussed.

Session 2

Participants shared several good practices and innovative experiences in low-carbon initiatives at cities in the region including Seberang Perai and Yokohama, and pointed out the need for policies that would promote initiatives at the local level. The proposed notion of “Learn Globally and Apply Locally” had support from participants. In addition, participants shared the view on the importance of cooperation with local communities and residents to make their initiatives effective. In this context, participants also recognized that more efforts are required for capacity building for local governments, residents and local businesses and

enabling collaboration between central and local governments for effective sharing of decision making and fiscal revenue for low carbon programs of local governments.

Participants exchanged views on various perspectives that would benefit low carbon development at the local level. Some of the ideas shared were;

- There is a need for new analytical framework that would take into consideration various factors such as infrastructure connectivity and institutional mechanism in addition to technological improvements.
- Both north-south and south-south cooperation should be further explored and promoted in order to share best practices and experiences among cities and local governments with support by international organizations.
- It is important to have more recognition of “co-benefits” of low-carbon projects including improvement in the quality of life and resilience against disasters.
- It is important to further improve the prospect for financing at the local level through such measures as carbon pricing, green bonds and local taxes.
- Sustainable city is the city with three dimensions of urban sustainability, improved environment, social cohesion and economic efficiency. Inclusive and sustainable industries help render a city sustainable and a sustainable city fosters inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

Many participants also reaffirmed that knowledge sharing is a key for developing low-carbon cities, and called for a need for strong networking. In this regard, some participants took note of the Knowledge Platform for East Asia Low Carbon Growth.

The participants also welcomed practical perspectives added to the discussion in the Dialogue as a result of the collaboration with the “Smart City Week” and the “Asia Smart City Conference” held by the City of Yokohama and Nikkei Business Publications.