

Speech by Mr. Masakazu Hamachi,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
At the G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting
On June 29, 2016

Mr. Chairman, Ministers of Asia Pacific, Sub-Sahara and African countries, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am Masakazu Hamachi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is my great pleasure to represent my country at this meeting today. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the Chinese Government for its dedication and hospitality.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development articulates the global pledge that “no one will be left behind”. In light of this, “**Energy Access**” - the main theme of this meeting - is an urgent issue. Japan puts great emphasis on “Human Security,” focused on every individual being free from fear and want, and realizing a life with dignity. An essential element in

achieving freedom from want, which is crucial to “Human Security,” is “ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”

Also, in our endeavors to improve energy access for the sustained growth of the world economy, it is important to encourage the clean, safe utilization of all energy resources including renewables, nuclear energy and other available indigenous energy resources. Promoting the use of renewable energy especially goes along with the growing momentum in the international community to advance strategies against climate change, symbolized by the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21 last year.

Last year marked the re-emergence of energy issues on the global agenda. This was represented by the first Energy Ministerial Meeting by the G20 and the development of Goal 7 of the UN 2030 Agenda. The adoption of the Paris Agreement last year

also encourages the promotion of renewable energy. This year is important for moving towards implementation.

Under such circumstances, we highly value the fact that the Chinese Presidency is focusing on the Asia-Pacific region, based on last year's Energy Ministerial Meeting which was aimed at Sub-Saharan Africa, under the Turkish Presidency.

Also, Japan would like to express its appreciation for the work of シーフォーオール SE4All, to develop an "Energy Access Action Plan", as laid out in the keynote speech. Japan has provided input to the Plan based on Japan's experience and efforts in the field.

Japan highly values cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region including island countries, where energy accessibility is underdeveloped. Japan has provided about twelve billion U.S. dollars in Official Development Assistance over the past five years. Seventy-six (76) percent of this assistance has been

allocated to the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition, Japan prioritizes the **quality** of assistance. It is important for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve high-quality growth, while also responding to requests on climate change. To this end, it is necessary to bridge the demand-supply gap of infrastructure. It is necessary to invest in quality infrastructure with due attention to life-cycle cost, safety, resilience, job creation, capacity building, social and environmental impacts, as well as economic and development strategies. This point was discussed at the previous G20 discussions and the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held last month. The G7 agreed on “G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment”.

One example of quality infrastructure is Japan’s efforts to introduce a high-efficiency gas turbine which meets the world’s highest standards to a power generation plant in ムアラ カラ ン Muara Karang,

West Java, Indonesia. It was previously oil-fired, and Japan helped convert it into a Gas Turbine Combined Cycle power plant. This contributed not only to the mitigation of air pollution but also to the reduction of CO2 emissions. Furthermore, Japan has been actively contributing to the improvement of energy access in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan's assistance has been provided for electricity infrastructure, including thermal, hydro and geothermal power generation, and transmission and distribution networks.

Also, in collaboration with IRENA, Japan has been actively contributing to the human resource development of island countries in the Asia-Pacific region through training programs, seminars and workshops which facilitate introduction of renewable energy.

Regarding assistance to Africa, Japan continues its efforts.

TICAD VI will be held in Africa for the first time this August, and leaders will discuss quality infrastructure investment and the

utilization of clean energy technologies including renewable energy.

Furthermore, Japan, as Chair, will host the Energy Charter Conference in November in Tokyo. Global energy issues including energy access will be discussed further, taking into account the viewpoints of emerging Asian and African countries.

Thus, Japan will continue being proactive in its efforts such as providing economic cooperation. Such cooperation will include promoting quality infrastructure and sharing its knowledge and experience of low-carbon technologies to improve energy access in the Asia-Pacific region, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the world.

Thank you for your attention.

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