

Remarks by Parliamentary Vice-Minister H.E. Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji
on the occasion of the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and
Global Environment for Sustainable Growth

Thank you, Minister Seko.

Ministers, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join this discussion here in Karuizawa, a city just an hour away from Tokyo, yet full of lush greenery and fresh mountain air.

In addition to the key issues raised by Minister Seko just now, I wish to draw your attention to two more points regarding the theme of this session.

First, the significance of G20 cooperation in the field of energy. Energy is closely intertwined with international politics and economy, and we are all coping with ever-changing situations. For instance, as the IEA recently describes, we see “mixed signals” in the current global oil market. There are both upward pressures on prices such as the ongoing geopolitical supply concerns regarding Iran and Venezuela, and downward pressures such as the slowdown in global economy. On top of such day-to-day challenges, we are also facing a structural transformation of global energy landscape against the backdrop of necessities to address the key global challenges including climate change. G20 members are at the center of these changes, and thus our strengthened cooperation in the field of energy is crucial. Promoting energy innovation, which is the main topic of this session, is particularly important as we are the global leaders of research and development activities.

Second, the continuing importance of energy access. This has long been a key area of cooperation at G20. Innovation also plays a significant role in our endeavor to improve energy access. I hope the discussion at this Ministerial Meeting will contribute to propelling the development and deployment of advanced technologies as well as innovative approaches to supply energy to every corner of the world.

In particular, Africa's energy poverty is a matter of great concern, because around 70% of the world's population without access to electricity resides in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, let me introduce TICAD process, an initiative led by Japan to mobilize international efforts on African development. In August this year, Japan will once again host the TICAD summit meeting in Yokohama. On this occasion, Japan hopes that Africa's energy access will be improved by making the best use of Japan's strength such as expertise in geothermal power generation. We are very happy to welcome your participation in the event.

In conclusion, let me wish you a candid and fruitful discussion, which would lead to the success of the Osaka Summit, as the acceleration of the "virtuous cycle of environment and growth" through innovation will also be a key agenda at the summit level.

Thank you for your kind attention.