

**Remarks by State Minister WASHIO Eiichiro
at Ministerial Dialogue on Clean Energy Transitions and
Economic Resilience in the Middle East and North Africa**

- First of all, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Minister Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Rumhi and Executive Director of the IEA Dr. Birol for inviting me to participate in this Ministerial Dialogue on Clean Energy Transitions and Economic Resilience in the Middle East and North Africa. This dialogue focused on energy transition in this region is very timely; as the world accelerates its efforts to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

- Japan has maintained collaborative relationship in the energy sector with the Middle East and North Africa. Our cooperation has expanded to areas beyond energy sector in recent years.

- Although promotion of energy transition toward decarbonization is an important issue, it is indispensable to pursue it by ensuring energy security as the major premise. We

must take into account the unique circumstances of each country, anything from geographical conditions to the extent of development, as those differences could result in significant disparities when considering its potential for promoting renewable energy.

- In that regard, Japan has made voluntary contributions of approximately 5 million euros to the IEA this year. We are promoting projects that will contribute to the sound energy transition of oil-producing countries which include the Middle East and Africa, as well those in the emerging economies.
- It should be recognized that fossil fuels will continue to play a significant role for energy use in spite of the rapid energy transition. Natural gas, in particular, is an indispensable energy source for Asian countries facing challenges of satisfying ever more growing demands, at the same time as ensuring sound energy transitions. We believe that Japan, the Middle East and North African countries could be important partners contributing to promote energy transitions in Asia.

- The keys for achieving both de-carbonization and energy security are “promotion of innovation” and “strengthening collaborative relationships between the countries.” In this respect, the Middle East and North African countries, blessed with the sunshine and abundant underground resources are extremely important partners for Japan.
- Japan, in cooperation with the states in the Middle East, is promoting technology developments on ammonia and hydrogen for future social implementations. In order to accelerate the development and practical application of these new energy sources and to realize a stable supply, not only “green hydrogen” and “green ammonia” but it is also important to utilize “blue hydrogen” and “blue ammonia”, produced from traditional fossil fuels as a feed but with its carbon treated.
- This year, a Japanese company has initiated projects targeting productions of hydrogen using associated gas from oil fields in

Oman. In addition, Japan is working with Saudi Aramco to process ammonia from hydrogen using natural gas as the feed.

- We hope to continue our mutual efforts to strengthen the global energy security together, by realizing in future a supply chain of hydrogen and ammonia produced in the Middle East and North Africa linking them to Asia.
- Japan will continue supporting the efforts of the Middle East and North African countries to achieve their respective energy transitions, and is determined to lead the global decarbonization efforts through promotion of innovations.
- Thank you very much for your attentions.