12 January 2025

Fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 12-13 January 2025

Japan's Statement for the Fifteenth Session of the IRENA General Assembly

(Delivered by Ms.NISHIMURA Yasuko, Director, Resource Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

Pursue the common goal of net zero through various pathways

Towards the global common goal of net zero by 2050, the world agreed to triple the capacity of renewable energy by 2030 at COP28 here in the United Arab Emirates. To pursue this common goal of net zero, first and foremost, it is important to do so through various pathways while considering the various energy circumstances of each country and utilizing all available energy sources. This is because the potential for introducing renewable energy and the status of power grid development differ from country to country.

Renewable energy as a main power source

As for Japan, Japan intends to achieve maximum deployment of clean energy through making renewable energy as the main source of power. The cumulative amount of solar power installed is about 75GW, which is the third largest in the world, and we aim to add 30-44GW by 2030. In addition, Japan has recently announced the "Next-generation Solar Cell Strategy." The strategy aims to deploy 20GW of next-generation solar cell including perovskite solar cells by 2040.

In addition, Japan is working to further accelerate the introduction of renewable energy. For example, we are developing regulatory framework to expand areas where offshore wind power are installed. We will also expand inter-regional power lines by more than eight times over the coming decade.

Promotion of innovation

Secondly, it is necessary to bring technologies that are still in the research stage into practical use. Japan has issued GX (Green Transformation) economy transition bonds to provide

approximately 20 trillion yen (130 billion USD) to support investment in innovations needed for decarbonization as well as to advance the development of floating offshore wind power and perovskite solar cells.

Japan is also promoting research and development of using hydrogen and ammonia as the exclusive fuel for power generation, with a view to their practical application. This is because the increase in variable renewable energy will make it imperative to secure sufficient flexibility capacity. In particular, to address situations where output from variable renewable energy sources decreases over extended periods, it is crucial to utilize dispatchable power sources such as zero-emission thermal power generation using hydrogen and ammonia, and hydropower generation to reach net-zero economy.

We expect that the IRENA plays a role in highlighting and raising awareness of the importance of innovation as a driving force for the future expansion of renewable energy.

Toward global decarbonization

Thirdly, decarbonization is a critical global agenda and we all have to work together. Enhanced cooperation among countries is essential to achieve the Global Stocktake (GST) agreed at COP28. Japan has been providing development assistance in renewable energy sector over decades, while at the same time supporting the improvement of renewable energy access including through off-grid solutions, which can provide electricity to remote areas and islands. Most recently, Japan decided to support APRA (Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa) to accelerate deployment of renewables to enhance energy access, enable green industrialization and improve economic and societal resilience in Africa.

IRENA's strength lies in the fact that it has as many as 170 member countries. we hope that IRENA will leverage its global network to analyze detailed implementation measures, taking into account the various circumstances of each country, with the goal of tripling renewable energy by 2030.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Japan will continue to work with member countries and the Secretariat of IRENA to promote cooperation in the field of renewable energy and contribute to practical and orderly energy transitions worldwide.

(587 words)