

第1回サガルマータ対話
(於：ネパール・カトマンズ)
生稲政務官スピーチ
2025年5月16日(金)

Distinguished guests,
Namaste!

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my congratulations on holding the first “Sagarmatha Sambaad.” I would also like to express my gratitude to the Government of Nepal for the invitation.

We commend the Nepalese government's initiative in establishing the “Sagarmatha Sambaad” as a forum for dialogue among multiple stakeholders, and believe it will be extremely useful in considering an action plan to address climate change.

“Climate change is a security issue that affects the very existence of humankind. Extreme weather events due to climate change significantly impact Japan's national security in various ways.”

This passage is included in Japan's National Security Strategy, which was adopted in 2022. This recognition is shared by many other countries. If we fail to address this issue, we may not be able to leave a world for our future generations. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, it is essential to bring together the wisdom and efforts of the international community to work together to solve it.

Last week, I visited the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI). An enchanting country with beautiful beach and people. The RMI is an atoll country with an average elevation of only 2 meters. I saw first hand that issues of climate change and sea level rise are threatening the very existence of the country.

The international community today is facing changes that will define the era. Amid shifting power balances and intensifying geopolitical competition, divisions within the international community are becoming even more serious. At the same time, global issues such as climate change are becoming increasingly grave. Many countries are facing economic slowdown and widening economic disparities.

The question now is how to overcome these “compound crises.”

Japan is committed to working with all stakeholders to overcome these challenges.

Japan is taking the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have set ambitious targets of reducing emissions by 60% by 2035 and 73% by 2040 compared to 2013 levels, with the aim of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. We will steadily implement measures toward achieving these targets.

At the same time, it is also important to support developing countries in their mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their adaptation efforts to avoid and reduce the damage caused by climate change. Japan will provide support that leverages its strengths while responding in a tailored manner to the challenges faced by developing countries.

Distinguished guests,

Today, I would like to highlight three points regarding Japan's approach to providing such support.

First, we will address development issues based on human security, which will also provide “co-benefit” assistance that will contribute to climate change measures. Climate change measures tend to be put on the back burner because their effects

are not clear in the short term. Japan is providing support in areas such as electricity and energy, urban development, and forest conservation. We provide such support to resolve development issues while achieving decarbonization and building societies that are resilient to the negative impacts of climate change.

Second, we will utilize our technologies and knowledge, and promote innovation. Japan has a long-standing advantage in responding to natural disasters such as floods and in disaster risk reduction. We have proactively contributed to promoting disaster risk reduction measures internationally, including initiating the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which serves as a major international guideline. At the same time, this is an ongoing challenge that Japan is also working on through trial and error, and it is important to promote intellectual collaboration among private, public, and academic institutions. It is also crucial to embrace a perspective of co-creating solutions with other countries. Japan, as equal partners, will aim to co-create solutions tailored to various circumstances of each country.

Third, we will collaborate with various stakeholders. Climate action is a challenge that must be addressed across borders. We will promote collaboration with diverse partners within the region. Climate action requires significant funding. Thus, we will promote the use of external finance such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and collaborate with the private sector.

Distinguished guests

Here in Nepal, natural disasters such as floods and landslides are also frequent. Protecting the rich forests that are the source of livelihood and income for the people of Nepal from flood damage, remains an urgent task.

Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan has engaged in forest conservation in Nepal since the 1990s. Japanese experts have been working with local communities. We are promoting forest conservation in cooperation with residents through dialogue, including women who have become guardians of the forest nowadays. Last year, we also began efforts to strengthen flood control measures in the flood-prone districts of Sunsari and Morang.

Let us join forces to overcome this “compound crises” to leave a prosperous world for future generations. Japan will continue to contribute to global decarbonization by providing tailored support to countries facing challenges. This will be done by using Japan’s experience and technology and the promotion of private investment.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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