

The Speech of State Minister Fujii Hisayuki at the plenary
session of the High-Level International Conference on
Glaciers' Preservation
(30th May 11:00~)

H.E.President Emomali Rahmon,
H.E.Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm Hisayuki Fujii, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on holding the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation. It is my great honour to make remarks on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The international community today is facing challenges that will define the era. On top of shifting power balances and intensifying geopolitical competition, global issues such as climate change are becoming increasingly grave. The question now is how to overcome these “compound crises.”

Above all, efforts in the water sector is extremely important as they contribute to achieving all SDG goals, including those related to food, energy, and disaster prevention. One of the elements is glacier conservation.

We would like to pay our sincere respect to Tajikistan for

taking the initiative in leading the UN General Assembly resolution that declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, putting issues such as glacier melt and water issues on the agenda for international discussion, and promoting a comprehensive response by the international community.

Climate change is a security challenge that threatens the very existence of humankind.

In particular, melting of glacier is an urgent issue that affects not only glacier-holding countries but also downstream river basins and the world as a whole. It is forecasted that the amount of snowmelt water available for irrigation will further decrease, and in the medium and long term, the amount of water available for agriculture, hydropower generation and daily use will also decrease. Moreover, disaster prevention against severe water-caused disasters, including floods, is becoming an urgent task.

Japan has accumulated a track record of international support in the field of science and technology cooperation, including technologies for early detection of glacier retreat and disaster prevention measures against glacier outbursts.

The “Glaciers to Farms” regional program launched by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the end of last year is a very important initiative for protecting water resources and

supporting vulnerable mountain communities. Japan has expectations for the role ADB will play in helping Asia adapt to glacial melt.

In addition, Japan is promoting various initiatives in other countries, including the management and effective use of water resources. For example, last year, Japan cooperated with Tajikistan to improve water supply facilities, thereby enhancing residents' access to safe water and promoting the efficient use of water resources.

Furthermore, in private sector, some Japanese companies are contributing to the efficient use of water resources and energy with technologies using satellite data and the efficiency of hydropower generation through Digital Transformation. We hope that these technologies will be further utilized.

Through these efforts, Japan intends to promote cooperation in glacier conservation and the water sector in cooperation with others, including international organizations. Japan will continue to work together with Tajikistan, which will host the United Nations Water Conference in 2028.

Finally, let me conclude my remarks by wishing the success of this important meeting.

Thank you very much.