

JAPAN

Commission on Sustainable Development
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting
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ENERGY for sustainable development (27 February, 2007)

Thank you, Mr. /Mme. Chair.

First of all, Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Division of Sustainable Development for the preparation of this meeting and for the Secretary-General report on the issue related to energy for sustainable development, which provides a useful basis for our discussions on policy recommendations on this matter at CSD15.

On this matter, Japan believes that strong and credible actions are needed to foster a transition to a global low carbon society and for that purpose, Japan has suggestions for following three areas.

(1) Enhancing energy access in developing countries

Japan believes that,

- ✚ In order to enhance energy access in developing countries, it is critical to strengthen the cooperation with private sector because know-how and technologies to improve energy efficiency as well as the financing for energy improvement are owned by the private sector. It is also important to strengthen the cooperation with IFIs in order to build enabling environment to attract private energy investment as well as the public-private partnership.
- ✚ Promotion of electrification in developing countries is effective for stimulating their local economies as one of the solutions for poverty alleviation. In this regard, it is essential that a master plan for electrification, which includes supporting legislation and pilot projects, should be developed and included within their national development strategies.
- ✚ Further development and deployment of clean coal technologies is important in the view of creating co-benefits, such as reduction of GHG emissions and SO₂ and NO_x, air quality improvement, health benefits, and energy efficiency improvement. Japanese government (Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan), together with leading private companies, has worked on promoting development and diffusion of clean coal technologies through several pilot projects, including the one implemented in Shandong Province in China since 2005 and those planned under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP).

(2) Improving energy efficiency

Japan believes that,

- ✚ Improvement of energy efficiency and development and transfer of clean energy

- technologies will create positive benefits in terms of climate change mitigation, energy security and sustainable development.
- ✚ At the East Asia Summit held in Cebu Island, the Philippines in January 2007, as its response to the Cebu Declaration on Energy Security Enhancement, Japan pledged its utmost support on 1) improvement of energy efficiency, 2) promotion of biomass energy, 3) promotion of clean coal technology, and 4) eradication of energy poverty.
 - ✚ It is essential to note that such clean energy technologies are owned by the private companies that have spent enormous amount of R&D budget and human resources to develop these technologies. In order to enhance transfer of these technologies to developing countries, it is crucial for recipient countries to create a stable environment for investment, especially the establishment of solid IPR protection regime.
 - ✚ In order to promote energy security, sustainable energy supply and higher energy efficiency, it might be a good idea to establish an energy efficiency standard, such as Top-runner-approach applied in Japan. As one of the countries that have achieved the highest efficiency, Japan is ready to share its know-how and experiences.

(3) Development and transfer of clean and innovative energy technologies (renewables)

Japan believes that,

- ✚ Energy saving and renewable energy have high potentials to realize economically and environmentally sustainable society that promotes energy access and helps lower the dependency on fossil fuels.
- ✚ In promoting the use of renewable energy, including biomass, it is important to implement policies in an integrated manner, including 1) financial and political support for R&D, 2) subsidies for the facilities, and 3) renewables portfolio standards.
- ✚ In regards to energy cooperation with developing countries, the whole plan should be designed based on local and regional energy needs—which I call “tailored-made” energy cooperation plan, such as the combination of on-grid power plant, which requires huge infrastructure, and small-hydro and small-wind.
- ✚ However, regarding renewable energy portfolio, Japan believes that the portion of the best mix of the energy supply should be developed by each country based on its socio-economic conditions including its energy portfolio strategy.

Japan looks forward to a good and constructive outcome of this Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD15.