

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan at Session 2

I would like to introduce some of Japan's recent international efforts toward the realization of a sustainable society at the global scale.

One approach is the transformation of consumption and production patterns to sustainable ones. The 10 Year Framework of Programs for Sustainable Consumption and Production was adopted at Rio+20. Programmes under this framework include the provision of information to consumers, sustainable lifestyles and education, and eco-tourism. This year, Japan will contribute 2.5 million US dollars to these Programmes, and collaborate with the United Nations Environmental Programme to establish a low carbon lifestyle and socio-economic system worldwide.

Another approach is to contribute with environmental technologies, one of Japan's most important areas of international contribution. Japan has been facilitating diffusion of leading low-carbon technologies in developing countries through the Joint Crediting Mechanism. We will continue to contribute to the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions using this mechanism.

To further promote technology transfer and diffusion, this year Japan will make a new contribution to the Asian Development Bank in order to support low-carbon technologies hindered due to high costs in its projects. Another policy initiative that Japan recently started is the "Comprehensive Environmental Support for Island Countries" that broadly covers climate change and other environmental issues.

Moreover, we are going to make a new contribution of a million dollars this year to the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which was established under the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to promote the development and transfer of technologies to tackle climate change in developing countries. Japan will contribute to the further dissemination of advanced low-carbon technologies especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

As I mentioned up to now, Japan has many advanced technologies and systems in the environmental areas such as low-carbon, waste management and recycling. Through the dissemination of these various environmental technologies and systems, we will continue contributing to the realization of global sustainable society.

I would like to conclude my remarks by mentioning the natural environment again.

Japan hosted "the First Asia Parks Congress" last November. The congress discussed the creation of a partnership in protect areas of Asia, and paved the way for further cooperation and policy development.

Japan has beautiful natural landscapes for all four seasons including both pristine nature and human-influenced nature. Moreover, there are multiple cultures nurtured through interactions between nature and human beings. I would like to conclude my remarks with my invitation to all of you to visit Japanese wonderful national parks and world heritages.