

9. Further Points to Consider in Realizing a Low Carbon Emitting Economy

This section summarizes the points for further consideration by the sub-Committee regarding ways to create a Low carbon emitting economy, with the aim of realizing the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC

9.1 Additional Viewpoints for Consideration

The issue of climate change is the problem that humans will unavoidably have to deal with over the next 100 or more years. Reducing GHG emissions is the most fundamental measure for dealing with climate change, but it is desirable to deal with climate change in a more forward-looking manner, and a more positive attitude adopted in seeking to create a low carbon emitting economy. Also, Japan is expected to take on this issue using a well-defined strategy.

<Establishing a Climate Change Strategy on a Global Scale>

- While climate change is a global-scale issue for the whole world, it is also a national issue. Climate change and the measures taken to combat it presently have, and will have in future, an extremely broad-ranging effect on Japan. Thus, based on an analytical consideration of what kind of impacts Japan will sustain from climate change arising on the global scale as well as from the international framework for promoting measures for reducing GHGs and for adapting to their impacts, and in view of Japan's roles and responsibilities with respect to the international community, together with our own national interest and ability to secure international competitiveness as a technologically-advanced country, Japan needs to deal with this issue using a concrete strategy with clear-cut targets, i.e. short, medium and long-term targets, and a comprehensive vision of how best to achieve these targets and attain international agreements.

<Towards Constructing a Global Scale System>

- Regardless of what long- or mid-term targets are set and distinct from the discussion of those targets, discussion is needed of what kind of processes and social systems will lead to achievement of those targets.

- The necessary trends in system building include a trend towards creating the political will to reform society in accordance with international agreements, and a trend towards incorporating climate change measures into the economic system so that they will progress of their own accord.

<Building a Low Carbon Emitting Economy will Result in a Prosperous Society>

- The issue of climate change is the problem that humans will unavoidably have to deal with over the next 100 or more years. Reducing GHG emissions is the most fundamental measure for dealing with climate change, but it is desirable to deal with climate change in a more forward-looking manner. Implementing environmental measures results not only in protection of the environment, but also has positive effects in the form of energy security, prosperity for new industries, and strengthened international competitiveness due to enhanced technological prowess. In constructing a global-scale system that attracts the participation of not only developed but also developing countries, it is important for Japan to present how to maximize these positive effects to the world.
- Ways need to be devised to make climate change measures incorporated in the context of sustainable development so that the promotion of these measures will contribute to sustainable development. This will allow developing countries to find climate change measures in a more positive way. For example, some developing countries are promoting air pollution measures that can contribute to coping with climate change, and this kind of measures should be promoted even more vigorously in future.

<Usefulness of Japan's Social Vision>

- The kind of strategy Japan aims for will depend on what kind of social vision Japan creates for itself in response to the global-scale climate change issue. At present, in order to meet its target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, Japan has established the Climate Change Policy Programs, however, further efforts are being called for to envisage a socio-economic vision for building a low carbon emitting economy over the mid- to long-term.
- By having clear social visions, it becomes possible for Japan to not only construct the domestic infrastructures more strategically but also make well-designed proposals on the forms of the global system.

9.2 Topics for Further Deliberation

- The Sub-Committee for International Climate Change Strategy has identified the following as the points for future deliberation, while continuing to address the points elaborated above.

[Basic Elements for Future Regime]

- Methods for setting specific short, medium and long term targets
- Further analysis of the various international policy options to address climate change
- Concrete methods for canceling the factors obstructing the development and diffusion of relevant technology
- Treatment of the Kyoto mechanisms, and identification of the possibilities for further development of these mechanisms
- Ways to deal with the carbon sinks
- Approaches to the financial mechanisms
- Prospects for systematically internalizing the linking of measures to the combat warming with the economy in a mutually beneficial cycle

[Concerns for Japan]

- Scenarios for realizing a low carbon emitting economy in Japan
- The impacts of various international policy options on Japan and the Japanese Strategies

[Cooperation with Various Stakeholders]

- Roles of local governments, industry, NGOs, etc.
- Possibilities for the cooperation both inside and outside (i.e., countries with reduction obligations and those without them; the parties and the non-parties).
- Prospects for roles of the regional cooperation and other informal processes, and the development of these prospects
- Coordination with official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of the international assistance
- Interlinkage with other major international concerns, such as international peace and security.

etc.