

**Statement by HE Masatoshi Wakabayashi,
Minister for Environment of Japan
At the High-Level Segment of
the 12th Session of the COP and 2nd Session of the COP/MOP
Nairobi, November 2006**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Distinguished Ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. President, let me start by expressing our deepest gratitude to your hosting this COP12 and COP/MOP2. It is my belief that having the Climate Change Conference here in Nairobi will send a strong, positive message to the people of Africa and other areas which may have more impacts of, and are vulnerable to climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol is a significant first step.

Japan, in order to honour our commitment we have taken to reduce emissions by 6%, issued the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan, and is implementing it vigorously. In fact, to ensure our achievement of our minus 6% commitment, we have just commenced the review of our Plan to evaluate and incorporate the necessary additional measures.

We will strengthen our efforts through:

- Lifestyle changes by promoting campaigns such as the “Cool Biz”, which is an energy-saving fashion,
- Further efforts to raise energy efficiency
- Promotion of R&Ds

and much more.

The world is watching us as we continue the discussions on creating the framework for Post 2012.

Climate change is real. Next year, the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be released. Recent studies show that climate change is proceeding at a speed far greater than perceived before. Also, from the economic viewpoint, it has been reported that the costs of inaction on climate change will surpass greatly its costs of action.

Dear colleagues, we must look at climate change as a problem capable of seriously impacting people's basic livelihoods and this planet's ecosystem. In other words, we must tackle this problem as a matter of security, a "climate security".

The next framework must clarify our pathway to the Ultimate Objective of the Convention. Procedure is important for sure, but it is action that is needed at this state of time.

To minimize the adverse effects of climate change, it is important that we construct an effective framework that brings about maximum reduction efforts by all major emitting countries, while enabling all countries to take effective mitigation measures in accordance with their own capabilities.

Japan firmly believes that this is what the people of the world expect us to do.

Therefore, we must take forward the three tracks, namely the Long-term Dialogue under the Convention, the Comprehensive Review of the Kyoto Protocol, and the Ad-hoc Working Group on future commitments by Annex I countries, so that they may be united under a consistent agreement.

The UNFCCC will continue to be the main forum on climate change.

However, to enhance its effectiveness, we should acknowledge the activities undertaken outside, be it international, regional, or bilateral, for example, the G8 Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, and also the Japan-UK Joint Research Project to Achieve a Low Carbon Society in 2050, and seek opportunities for creating synergies.

On adaptation, though it is a concern to us all, we may say that it is an urgent task especially for Kenya and other African countries, and also in Small Island Developing States.

Japan, through its ODA and other existing international efforts, has strongly promoted development aid policies to realize sustainable development in many developing countries in Africa and other parts of the world. Assistance in social and other infrastructure contributes greatly to addressing adaptation.

As you can see, adapting to climate change cannot be completed within the UNFCCC. Rather, it must be taken forward hand in hand with development policies.

Last but not least, our pathway to the realization of the Ultimate Objective of the UNFCCC, may be long and steep. However, Japan, with all countries under an enlightened sense of solidarity, will keep marching.

Thank you.