

1. Organizer

Office of International Strategy on Climate Change, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

2. Title

Japan's Global and Domestic Initiatives towards a Low-Carbon Society

3. Theme

To present Japan's global and domestic initiatives toward achieving a low-carbon society

4. Agenda and speakers

- Opening remarks: **H.E. Nobuteru Ishihara**, Minister of the Environment, Japan
- Presentation:
 - *Japan's Global and Domestic Initiatives towards a Low-Carbon Society*
Mr. Soichiro Seki, Director General, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

5. Outline of presentations and discussions

- After his greetings to the audience in the fully packed venue, His Excellency Ishihara reaffirmed Japan's solid commitment to measures in response to climate change around the world, while referring to Japan's new greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target and policy, as presented at the high-level meeting on the same morning. He, then, opened the floor for the presentation of concrete examples of Japan's initiatives, hoping that they would raise expectations for Japan's future roles in tackling this global challenge.
- Mr. Seki first shared estimations indicating that Japan will have achieved its target for the first commitment period (CP) of the Kyoto Protocol, or 6% reduction of GHG emission as compared to the base year of 1990. The five-year average of 8.2% reduction for FYs 2008-2012 takes into account the assumed achievement of both the targeted forest carbon sink measures and Kyoto mechanism credits. The emissions increase in 2011 and 2012 was ascribed to the suspended operation of nuclear power plants and subsequent replacement by thermal power plants to make up for the power shortfall.

As background information, Mr. Seki mentioned Japan's reliance on nuclear energy in 2005 for over 30% of its energy supply and the small likelihood that most power plants will resume their operation after the nuclear accident in 2011. He then went on to explain how bold Japan's provisional target is for 2020 – namely, that of reducing GHG emissions by 3.8% as compared to the 2005 level, assuming no reliance on nuclear power during the entire period.

The range of domestic policies to curb CO₂ mentioned in this presentation included the carbon tax and feed-in tariff (both introduced in 2012), subsidies and other financial measures, and national campaigns such as promotion of energy-saving lighting. His humorous introduction to effective Super Cool Biz and Warm Biz was met by a burst of cheerful laughter.

Japan's active engagement in global GHG reduction was presented with a map showing numerous Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) projects with partner countries around the world. Also highlighted was Japan's assistance for countries in the Asia Pacific region to technologically leapfrog forward and thereby achieve a low-carbon society.

As tangible examples of Japan's technical advancement toward making low-carbon societies a reality, two videos were shown. The first one demonstrated the global distribution of CO₂ concentration captured by Japan's GHG observation satellite GOSAT, to be followed by GOSAT-2 in 2017. Another video featured the demonstration project of the floating offshore wind turbine in Goto, Nagasaki in the south part of Japan. Mr. Seki stressed that this promising technology harnesses greater wind potential, generating an efficiency of 35% in contrast to the efficiency of onshore wind turbines at around 20%. Other advantages were also mentioned, including elimination of noise problems, the greater space available offshore (Japan is a densely-populated island nation), and the possibility to co-exist with fishery activities.

- Mr. Kawamata concluded the meeting by announcing that detailed materials were available on the MOE website and by stressing Japan's resolve to tackle climate change in cooperation with other countries.

6. Photograph

