

**G8 Environment Ministers Meeting, Roundtable with Stakeholders
24 May 2008, Kobe, JAPAN**

Remarks by Tsuyoshi Takagi, President, RENGO

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts at this G8 Environment Ministers Meeting.

I would like to make the following remarks representing the Japanese trade unions and working people.

I do request that the voice of workers which I am presenting now will be reflected in this G8 Environment Ministers Meeting as well as in the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit to be held in July.

The issues of climate change and global warming are not allowed of any delay. The fundamental recognition of RENGO towards the issues is as follows: developed countries should take the initiative to vastly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions all over the world in the long and medium term, accepting with sincerity the 4th IPCC Synthesis Report issued in November 2007.

Firstly for the long-term target, countries are required to set a significant and effective reduction target for a 50% cut in GHG emissions worldwide by 2050.

As for the medium-term target after 2013 when the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ends, each country is required to set an explicit national reduction target.

Furthermore, for the future, promotion of renewable energy resources as well as development and dissemination of innovative environmental technologies are vital, and measures for those purposes are strongly required.

At the G8 Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting recently held in Niigata, the “Niigata Global-Balance Principle” was adopted, which states “Governments, employers and workers should work together to achieve a coherent balance of growth, employment, productivity and concern for the environment. Social dialogue and cooperation beginning at the workplace makes an important contribution to achieving this goal.”

The environmental issues as well could be solved only with understanding and participation of a wide range of stakeholders. We, trade unions, take the climate change and global environmental issues as our own issues. I conclude my remarks by promising that we take

our own initiative to realise a recycling-oriented socio-economic system based on energy- and resource-savings, breaking away from a system of mass production, mass consumption and mass waste-producing.

I expect the Japanese government, as a host of G8 Summit this year as well as a leading country in environmental technology, to play an important role in climate change and global environmental issues.

Thank you very much.