

International Environmental Symposium 2005 in Tajimi

**“Kyoto Protocol Enters into Force”
– What should we do now?**



3 June 2005

International Conference Hall, Ceramics Park MINO

Outline of the Symposium

- The symposium was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and Gifu Prefectural Government with cooperation of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and supported by Tajimi City, Mizunami City, Toki City and Kasahara Town.
- ***The objective*** of the symposium was to promote local initiatives to tackle problems of climate change, i.e. global warming.



Keynote Speech (1)

- **Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto** from the Ministry of the Environment addressed two important issues –
 - 1) what the Japanese government is doing
 - 2) what is expected of citizens.
- He also emphasised the measures required both in developing, as well as in developed countries to tackle climate change.
- With respect to Japan, since the Kyoto Protocol entered into force, the “**Kyoto Target Achievement Plan**” has been approved by the Cabinet of the Japanese Government on 28 April 2005.

Keynote Speech (2)

- Besides initiatives at the country level, local initiatives need to be promoted and already are being taken in many countries. **Dr. Barbara Hardy** illustrated this by giving an example of “**South Australia’s initiatives at the local level**”.
- Priority and actions to enable the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, adaptation to climate change, encouraging innovation in markets, technologies, institutions and people’s way of life are all being addressed.
- “**South Australia Greenhouse Strategy**” is focussed on six sectors, energy, industry, community, transport and planning, buildings, and natural resources.

Panel Discussion

- Additional examples of local initiatives and implementation challenges of the Kyoto Protocol were discussed.
- **Mr. Masaya Nishidera** introduced some of the initiatives which the city has taken in the form of comprehensive city plan for reducing global warming. An energy plan has also been initiated, plus an Eco office initiative “cool biz” to conserve energy in government offices since 2004.
- **Ms Yumiko Takeuchi** emphasized Community involvement in solving environmental problems an international NGO for environment and community development.

Panel Discussion

- **Dr. Elim Salim** pointed out that the vital question is how to go back to the balance of nature which has been distorted by industrialization and prevalent development patterns.
- Future climate change will depend on Asian development, therefore Asia needs to follow a different type of industrialization pattern where ecological consideration rather than economic, should be the driving force.
- There is a need to shift the emphasis from self-interest to common interest, and from waste-creating society to a recycling one.

Panel Discussion

- **Dr. Tongroj Onchan** pointed out that countries have different priorities and approaches to the environment.
- The Kyoto Protocol is a positive step but requires cooperation, coordination, and commitment from all countries, as well as market incentives and approaches.
- In order to progress in the future, the countries need to 1) strengthen domestic policies of industrialized countries; 2) make CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) a success; 3) make clean energy core business; 4) promote participation of countries such as US and Australia; 5) help developing countries to reduce GHGs; 6) start planning now beyond 2012.

Concluding Remarks

- **Professor Hironori Hamanaka**, the Chairman of the Panel Discussion, concluded the discussion by emphasizing that it is time for us to critically consider, and also to tackle energy issues to mitigate climate change by adopting effective economic and technological countermeasures. Participation of local community is also vitally important.