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Minister of the Environment
Goshi Hosono

One year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and people are still under severe condition in the suffered areas. To overcome this national crisis, I put the top priority on recovering and reconstructing from the Great East Japan Earthquake and combatting radioactive contamination.

“Annual Report on the Environment, the Sound Material-Cycle Society and the Biodiversity in Japan 2012” describes initiatives for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accidents at the nuclear power stations as main theme. Decontamination is the biggest issue at this moment. Japanese government must work on it with full force based on the idea that “there is no Japan’s regrowth without Fukushima’s regrowth.” As a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake, vast amounts of disaster wastes were generated. In order to reconstruct the suffered area, all Japanese people need to carry forward quick disposal and process of these wastes hand-in-hand.

Furthermore, in terms of Nuclear Safety Regulations, we need the total reform of management systems, disaster prevention structures and administrative organizations to manage them, in light of the lessons learned from the accident at TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. We

should establish the institutions and the structures for safety and security under the new organizations as soon as possible.

Moreover, we are also focusing on full-scale reconstruction in suffered area. Especially, we will support to create self-reliant regional society utilizing renewable energy in Tohoku area, and will we aim to establish local societies that have strong relationships, disaster-resistance and low environmental impact. The issue is not only for the suffered areas but also for all of us who have experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake.

For recovery and reconstruction, people in the suffered areas should work closely together, and share their wisdom. It is important that we should regard the process as a step to reform life styles or social structures, and achieve the future sustainable society with safety and security.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), sustainable development and spread of the Green Economy for poverty eradication is being included in agenda. I believe that the environmental conservation is not obstructive factor for economic growth. On the contrary, it takes the central role in economic growth. Japan has high level technologies and systems in the field of environment, such as low carbon technology. Since Japan experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake, we should aggressively utilize those technologies to contribute to the whole world. I hope this environmental annual report will be helpful for Japan to be the world’s leading Green Growth country and to achieve the sustainable society that creates new value and wealth.

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Annual Report on a Sound Material-Cycle Society / Annual Report on Biodiversity
Wisdom, Rules, and Actions for Coexistence with the Earth