

JEO

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Japanese "Kyusu" (small teapot)
of Maple pattern



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First statement from the new Minister

Kouichi Yamamoto

I have once again fully recognized the weight of responsibility as Minister of the Environment for “protecting human beings and the environment.”

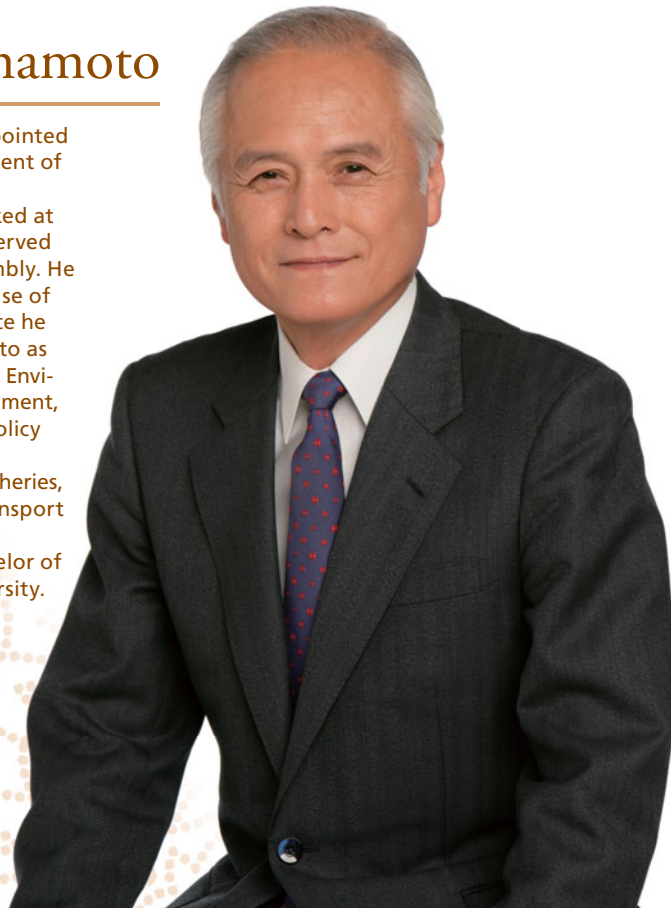
First of all, I understand that the post-earthquake reconstruction is in transition to a new stage as five years have passed since the outbreak of the Great East Japan Earthquake. We intend to complete decontamination within this fiscal year in accordance with our plan and promote further restoration, reconstruction and revitalization of disaster-affected areas so that the people in those areas including Fukushima can live in safety and without fear. We also intend to make our best efforts to build interim storage facilities, dispose of waste contaminated by radioactive substances, and provide healthcare for residents and address their health concerns relating to radiation.

The Kumamoto Earthquake, which occurred last April, also caused enormous damage. Based on the lessons learnt from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we are determined to support, to the best of our ability, disaster waste disposal and other activities towards early restoration and reconstruction.

For Japan’s further growth, it is essential to establish a new society in which low-carbon, resource cycle, and coexistence with nature are integrated, namely, the “Circulatory Symbiotic Society.” With regard to the climate change issue in particular, it is high time to put the “Paris Agreement,” adopted at the end of last year, into actual practice. We will aim for its early ratification and actively advance our policies and measures including fundamental enhancement of the nationwide campaign for the

MINISTER Kouichi Yamamoto

Kouichi Yamamoto was appointed as Minister of the Environment of Japan in August 2016. Previously, Yamamoto worked at ship companies and then, served for Ehime prefectural assembly. He was first elected to the House of Representative in 1993. Since he was engaged in COP3 at Kyoto as Parliamentary Secretary for Environment of Japanese government, he has worked deeply on policy-making in the areas of the environment, agriculture, fisheries, land, infrastructure and transport as a Diet member. Yamamoto received a Bachelor of Economics from Keio University.



STATE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT Tadahiko Ito

Tadahiko Ito was appointed as State Minister of the Environment of Japan in August 2016. Previously, Ito worked at a publicity company and then, served for Aichi prefectural assembly. He has been a Diet member since 2005. During his career, he has worked on policy-making in particular in the area of the transportation, agriculture, fisheries and international affairs. Also, he has devoted efforts to establish and deepen Japan’s Arctic policy. Ito received a Bachelor of Law from Waseda University. Ito likes traveling, appreciating paintings and watching movies.



low-carbon lifestyle.

In addition, we will take a broad-based approach to secure the health of all people and a sound environment such as implementing resource recycling measures, conserving biodiversity, and promoting the “Visit! National Park Project,” which provides high-quality, high-value added tourism by making the most of the beautiful nature in national parks.

Regarding nuclear emergency preparedness, I am fully aware as the Minister of State for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness that the government bears the responsibility to protect people’s health and property in the event of a nuclear accident, and I will make continuous efforts, together with local governments, for nuclear disaster prevention. As for nuclear regulations, I will support the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s

independent and neutral efforts to improve safety in the aspects of securement of budgets and improvement of the system.

“Protection of human beings and the environment” is the common mission to be achieved in our efforts to reconstruct Fukushima, establish a “Circular Symbiotic and Inclusive Society,” and prevent nuclear disaster, all of which are essential part of building a new society full of dreams. As I am resolved to make every effort to tackle these tasks, your kind cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Kouichi Yamamoto
Minister of the Environment of Japan

STATE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Yoshihiro Seki

Yoshihiro Seki was appointed as State Minister of the Environment of Japan in August 2016. Previously, Seki worked at a bank. He has been a Diet member since 2005. He served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry from September 2014 to October 2015. During his career, he has worked on policy-making in particular in the areas of economic growth strategy, financial revitalization, education, and culture. Seki received a Bachelor of Economics from Kwansei Gakuin University and an MBA from Human Academy Business School of the University of Wales. Seki likes playing game of go, Japanese chess and table tennis.



PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER

Natsumi Higa

Natsumi Higa was appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan in August 2016. Higa has served as a dentist since 1986. She has been a Diet member since 2012. During her career, she has worked on policy-making in particular in the areas of health, labor and welfare and women’s affairs. Higa received a Bachelor of Dentistry from Fukuoka Dental College. Higa has many certifications as regards an alcoholic beverage such as Chevaliers du Tastevin (issued in France), Chevaliers du Taste-Fromage de France (issued in France), International Judge at Japan Wine Challenge (issued in France), and KIKISAKE-SHI of Japanese Sake (issued in Japan).



PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER

Tatsunori Ibayashi

Tatsunori Ibayashi was appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan in August 2016. Previously, Ibayashi worked at Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. He has been a Diet member since 2012. During his career, he has worked on policy-making in particular in the areas of infrastructure, transport, and the environment. Ibayashi received a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Engineering from Kyoto University. Ibayashi likes playing baseball and swimming.



“Visit! National Park” project

Make national parks the destinations that tourists all over the world desire to visit



Aso-Kuju National Park: The Sunset through Komezuka Volcanic Cone of Mt. Aso

Ministry of the Environment is currently promoting the “Visit! National Park” project, a branding campaign to turn national parks of Japan into world-level national parks based on the “Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan,” formulated by the Japanese government this past March.

In this project, 8 out of a total of 32 national parks nationwide (as of July 2016 when the selection was made; the current number being 33) were selected as pioneering models. Various measures to enhance attractiveness of the national parks, such as creating a pleasant environment for their use and enhancing park activities, are being carried out in a well-planned and concentrated manner through public-private partnerships to turn them into the world-level national parks that tourists all over the world desire to visit. Through these efforts, the Ministry is aiming to increase the annual number of inbound tourists who visit national parks from 4.3 million in 2015 to 10 million in 2020.

In this and later issues, we would like to introduce the charms of 4 of the 8 national parks selected as pioneering models.

■ Aso-Kuju National Park

Themes: Scent of Grasslands, Breath of the Volcanoes, Wind Playing across the Majestic Landscape

The Aso-Kuju National Park is a historic national park born in December 1934.

Located roughly in the center of Kyushu, it is composed of the Aso area in Kumamoto Prefecture and the Kuju area in Oita Prefecture.

The main features of the Park are: Mt. Aso standing on a huge caldera; a volcanic group spreading to the north including Kuju Mountain Range; and magnificent and gentle grasslands surrounding them such as Kuju Plateau and Handa Highland. In spring, this Park’s grassland is entirely burned off. The controlled burn has been conducted from over a thousand years ago in order to use the grassland as a silver-grass field or rangeland. In addition, hot springs abound in the north of the Park such as Beppu and Yufuin, making the Park even more attractive.

The Kumamoto Earthquake of April 2016 brought seri-



Akan National Park: Autumn leaves at the lakeside of Akan

ous damage to the National Park, its reconstruction was part of the reasons why the Park was selected as one of the above-mentioned pioneering models. The photo shows the sunset through the Komezuka volcanic cone of Mt. Aso.

■ Akan National Park

Themes: A Vast Landscape Comprising Japan's Largest Caldera Landform, Volcanoes, Forests, and Lakes

Located in the eastern part of Hokkaido, the Akan National Park is one of the longest established national parks in Hokkaido, designated along with Aso-Kuju National Park in December 1934.

The Park can be broadly divided into two areas: the Akan area and the Kawayu area.

In the Akan area, the sights to see include Mt. Me-akan and Mt. O-akan which tower tranquilly over nearby lakes and reservoirs such as Lake Akan and Lake Onneto in a breathtaking landscape. Lake Akan is also famous as the habitat of Marimo (moss balls).

In the Kawayu area, the sights to see are Lake Mashu -- one of the clearest lakes in the world -- as well as Lake Kussharo, which can be viewed from the surrounding mountain passes and peaks, and the colors of the forests, which transform with the seasons.

In January this year, the Japan Tourism Agency chose Kushiro city, where the National Park is located, as one of the Tourism Nation Showcase Cities evaluated to attract inbound tourists to rural areas, which was one of the reasons the Park was selected as one of the pioneering models.

The photo shows autumn leaves at the lakeside of Lake Akan (Takiguchi).

Harumi Nakashima

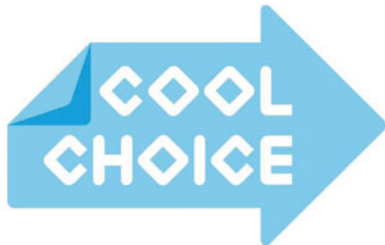
Deputy Director

Visitor Use Promotion Office
Nature conservation Bureau



On the Nationwide Campaign "COOL CHOICE"

Wise Choices for the Future



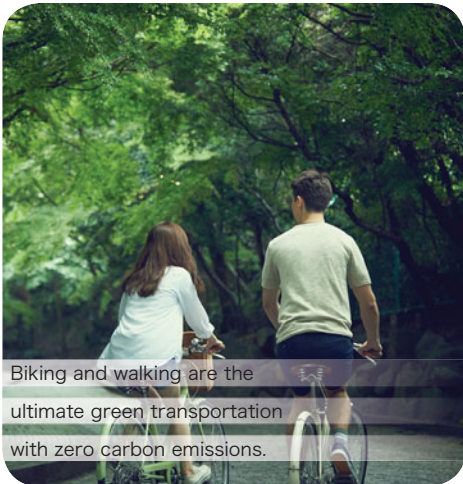
賢い選択



LED lighting, which is gaining attention for its energy-saving performance and long life, is an eco-friendly lighting choice.



Public transportation such as trains and buses is a transportation mode with fewer carbon emissions.



Biking and walking are the ultimate green transportation with zero carbon emissions.



Summer vegetables can cool down your body. Keep the room temperature at 28°C by cooling down the heat inside the body.



Choosing an eco-friendly vehicle would make a big difference in a low carbon society.

COOL CHOICES in various familiar scenes of life

Japan has set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26% in 2030 compared to FY 2013. In order to achieve this goal, Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with relevant ministries and various enterprises, organizations and local governments, is promoting the national campaign called "COOL CHOICE" to encourage people to make "wise choices" in every aspect of life, such as choosing low-carbon "products," "services" and "lifestyle," which serve as global warming countermeasures.

As part of the "COOL CHOICE" campaign, the Ministry is training "Global Warming Prevention Communicators," who convey knowledge on climate change highlighted in the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) as well as the latest information on climate change countermeasures, such as the Paris Agreement, the nationwide campaign "COOL CHOICE", and the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures. The Communicators encourage Japanese people to better un-

derstand the current situation of climate change to foster a sense of urgency in each one of them, help them recognize climate change as an immediate issue, and feel motivated to take voluntary actions. Through various activities including events for parents and children, large-scale seminars, and outreach lectures at elementary and junior high schools, the Communicators urge people to change their lifestyle to the one which is suited to low-carbon society by letting each one of them understand the issue of climate change and recognize it as an immediate issue.

Yusaku Hayama

Section Chief
Lifestyle Policy Office
Global Environment Bureau



Kurita Water Recycling System

Kurita Water Industries Ltd. is a leading company in water treatment with the corporate philosophy: Study the properties of water, master them, and we will create an environment in which nature and human are in harmony. Since its establishment in 1949, the company has had consistent operations in the field of water and environment.

In recent years, effective utilization of limited water resources has become an urgent issue for our customers to tackle. "Kurita water recycling system" realizes reuse of wastewater that can achieve both environmental preservation and economic efficiency.

In order to recover and reuse wastewater at the factories/plants of our customers, it is essential to have technologies and know-

how to appropriately manage the quality and quantity of water used in various spots of each factory/plant, from the entrance to the exit, and to optimize water use for the entire factory. In addition, Kurita Water Industries Ltd. has drastically reduced the component units of its water treatment equipment compared to the general standard by combining its comprehensive strengths. This includes water treatment chemicals to maintain the perfect water quality for each purpose of use and IT/sensing technology to secure steady operation of the equipment, thus proposing the effective use of water resources which can create economic advantages.

Kurita Water Industries Ltd. will continue to tackle water and environment-related issues head on and contribute to the realization of sustainable society through solving those issues.



Reverse Osmosis Membrane Unit, the Core of Water Recycling

MORE INFORMATION

Kurita Global Website
<http://www.kurita.co.jp/english/index.html>



Masayoshi Oinuma

General Manager
 Global Engineering Center
 Facilities Division Global Quality Group



Toward a Society without Global Warming or Nuclear Power Plants!

The epoch-making Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 last year. However, the Agreement itself is nothing but a pie in the sky unless it is implemented, and therefore it is of utmost importance to put the Agreement into practice as soon as possible. The current reduction goal of the Japanese government, however, is extremely low. If it remains as it is, future generations will be forced to bear a heavy burden. The energy policy of the Japanese government also goes against the Paris Agreement by increasing coal-fired power generation, etc.

Even though almost 6 years have passed since the Fukushima Nuclear Plant disaster happened, there is no prospect of restoration yet and more than ninety thousand residents are still forced

to live as evacuees.

We must pursue a society that does not rely on nuclear power plants and where there is no global warming.

According to the numerical models developed independently by CASA, the trial calculation shows that in 2030 CO2 emissions could be reduced to approximately 50% below 1990 levels even if all nuclear power plants were decommissioned without resumption of their operation.

CASA is also engaged in environmental education for children by co-organizing environmental classes for parents and children with "People's Association for Renewal Energy Promotion." The photo shows a class session entitled "Making solar cars with plastic bottles," held with 130 participants on August 5th.



Environmental Class for Parents and Children during Summer Vacation

MORE INFORMATION

website
<http://www.bnet.jp/casa/english/index2.htm>



Mitsutoshi Hayakawa

Managing Director
 Citizens' Alliance for
 Saving the Atmosphere and the Earth (CASA)



Yambaru National Park is born.

Yambaru National Park, located in the northern part of Okinawa Island, was designated as the 33rd national park in Japan on September 15, 2016. Covered by one of the largest subtropical laurel forests in Japan, the Park has a diverse national environment where a wide variety



Okinawa Rail (Yambaru kuina), a Flightless Bird and Endemic Species to Okinawa

of endemic species and endangered species of wild fauna and flora such as Okinawa rails (Yambaru kuina) live and grow. The Park

also has a unique cultural landscape with the traditional characteristics of the Yambaru area nurtured in the daily lives of its residents in the rich natural environment. Scenic tours, trekking, canoeing, animal watching and driving are the popular leisure activities in the great subtropical nature of the Yambaru National Park, which provides the park visitors with a place and opportunity to interact with the high-quality natural environment. When you come to Okinawa, please visit the Yambaru National Park!!



Masato Kaga

National Park Division

Nature Conservation Bureau
Ministry of the Environment



Voice of MOE Family in the World

“Amazing Thailand” – you will hear this slogan upon your visit. Warm climate, natural beauty, fabulous beaches, temples, rich history and culture, good cuisines, low prices of goods, and its geographical advantage as air-hub in the re-



Transfer station of municipal waste in Bangkok

Beyond Amazing Thailand

gion brought around 30 million people from abroad in 2015.

Maintaining its prominent status in tourism, however, requires Thailand to tackle environment issues. While we have seen gradual improvement in air quality in Bangkok over the last decade despite notorious traffic jams, there are remained challenges, for instance, in waste management. 1.1 kg/person of waste is generated each day, which already exceeds the level in Japan. Half of municipal solid waste was treated improperly (open-burning, etc.) besides illegal dumping of industrial waste. Open-dumping of waste is a long-standing practice in Thailand with few incinerators. Now the Thai government has prioritized these challenges to bring “Amazing and Beautiful Thailand” to reality.

Satoshi Yoshida

First Secretary/Alternate Permanent Representative of Japan to UNESCAP

International Organization Department
Embassy of Japan in Thailand

