

Results of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue III

July 17, 2012
Government of Japan

1. Background Information on the Conference

- (1) Time and place: July 16~17 Berlin, Germany
- (2) Host: Germany and Qatar (Chair: H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Chairman of Qatar's Administrative Control and Transparency Authority and Peter Altmaier, Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Reactor Safety)
- (3) Attendees (attendance by ministers are underlined): Germany, Qatar, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, DR Congo, Ecuador, EU, Cyprus, France, Gambia, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nauru, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, UK, US, Venezuela, UNFCCC secretariat, AWG-LCA chair, AWG-KP chair, ADP co-chair
Senior Vice Minister of the Environment Katsuhiko Yokomitsu attended from Japan.

2. Overview of the Discussions

(1) Major points

Frank and meaningful discussions were conducted on the key deliverables of COP18 and the expected shape and content of the new instrument from 2020 onwards.

The expected outcome of Doha included the adoption of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the completion of the work of the AWG-LCA, and progress on the work program for the ADP.

Ministers agreed that further cooperative efforts are necessary to fill the ambition gap. It was also agreed upon that the context in which a future climate regime will operate is very different from the context in which the UNFCCC was negotiated in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. In addition, discussion was conducted on the concept of equity and the possible elements of a new legal instrument.

(2) Keynote speech by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel

The following points were noted.

- The greatest achievement of COP17 was that Parties agreed to work towards a binding climate agreement. Yet, there is no immediate successor agreement after the Kyoto Protocol runs out. Qatar needs to provide urgent momentum.
- Sustainable growth is more important than quantifiable growth. As stated in Rio+20 and G20 Summit in Los Cabos, there is a need to decouple economic figures from resource consumption, which requires a complete realignment of energy supplies.
- These actions have its price, but it is a price we must pay.
- Each country must keep working on individual actions as well as support developing countries.

(3) Statements made by Japan

Senior Vice Minister of Environment Yokomitsu emphasized the importance of creating a fair and effective legal framework, which takes into account the change in the world situation and is applicable to all Parties. He also stated that it will be the most important outcome of COP18 in Doha to send out a clear message to the world that “Parties have agreed on the basic arrangement of negotiations towards a new legal framework by 2015.” To accomplish this, he said, there is a need to complete work on the two existing Ad-hoc working groups and to reach a common understanding on the arrangement for negotiation under the ADP. In relation to this, Japan proposed holding workshops involving a wide range of stakeholders to put all ideas on a future framework on the table.

In addition, Japan’s domestic and international initiatives were introduced: East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue, new offset Credit Mechanism based on bilateral cooperation, initiatives announced at Rio+20, review of the energy/climate policy, Feed-in Tariff for renewable energy, and introduction of a new tax for measures against global warming.

(4) Others

Japan exchanged views with attendees from other parties in between sessions.