

Press Release
“Global Subnational Zero Carbon Promotion Initiative”

Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States of America

1. Background

As the world accelerates its efforts to achieve a decarbonized and resilient society, there is a growing interest in how cities and regions, as the foundation for society and economy, are tackling climate change. In order to realize a decarbonized and resilient society, policies for subnational governments that engage in activities directly related to communities are necessary, and national governments would take a vital role to encourage these policies.

Relevant actors in Japan and the United States cooperate on accelerating the transition to a decarbonized society in third countries, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. These actors in both countries recognize the critical importance of action by subnational governments in achieving our climate goals, and will collaborate to promote action globally to recognize, support, and accelerate subnational climate action, based on the “Japan-U.S. Climate Partnership on Ambition, Decarbonization, and Clean Energy” which was launched at the occasion of the Japan -U.S. summit in April 2021.

This initiative aims to share a variety of best practices of local or regional efforts on decarbonization and adaptation in different levels as “subnational”, from state or prefectures level, up to cities, or counties level, and to encourage them to develop their own capacities by international cooperation. Subnational policy action has various challenges from planning to implementation corresponding each local characteristics. Sharing knowledge and supporting actions will be helpful for subnational entities to accelerate their way towards decarbonized and resilient society effectively.

2. Actions

1. Sharing knowledge

- Relevant actors in both countries work to convene the 2nd “Zero Carbon Cities International Forum” in early next year and invite various stakeholders of subnational and other international organizations.

2. Supporting actions

- These actors seek to support making and implementing subnational policies on decarbonization and adaptation in a third country using existing frameworks and making synergies between them for accelerating cross-border “Decarbonization Domino Effect” cases.