

Process of Study by the Expert Committee

In October 2001, the Central Environment Council set up the Expert Committee on Tax System to Combat Climate Change, as part of a series of studies on how to combat climate change. Since its establishment, the committee has studied systems for combating climate change, primarily from the systemic perspective, via the process described below.

In December 2001, the Expert Committee published *Study of a Tax System for Combating Climate Change in Japan (Summary of Discussions to Date)* as a summary of the main points of debate regarding anti-climate change (ACC) taxes. Then in June 2002, the Expert Committee published *A Tax System for Combating Climate Change in Japan (Interim Report)*, in response to the establishment of the new Climate Change Policy Programme in March of that year. The report advocated studying a course of greening existing taxes as a first step, and if it was later seen as necessary to assess and reviewed the program in 2004, introducing anti-Climate Change Taxes early into the second step.

Amidst these activities, Minister of the Environment Shun-ichi Suzuki sent the Expert Committee a request in February 2003 to publish a report by around the summer of this year. The minister's reason for setting this date was that a tax system would require a national debate, and in order to allow enough time for sufficient debate before the assessment and review of 2004, the people should have a concrete proposal for an anti-Climate Change Tax system on which to base their debate by around that time. In response to this request, the Expert Committee has published the present report, titled *Draft of Climate Change Tax*.

First meeting (17 Oct. 2001) Second meeting (30 Oct. 2001) Third meeting (8 Nov. 2001) Hearing with interested parties (Japanese Trade Union Confederation and Carbon Tax Research Council (a research group made up of environmental NPOs and others)) Fourth meeting (13 Nov. 2001) Hearing with interested parties (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), National General Federation of Corporation Associations, Japan Trucking Association, and Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union) Fifth meeting (22 Nov. 2001) Sixth meeting (19 Dec. 2001) Publication of Study of a Tax System for Combating Climate Change in Japan (Summary of Discussions to Date)

Seventh meeting (4 Apr. 2002) Eight meeting (28 May. 2002) Ninth meeting (6 Jun. 2002) Tenth meeting (13 Jun. 2002) Publication of A Tax System for Combating Climate Change in Japan (Interim Report)

First informal meeting (27 Sep. 2002) Second informal meeting (28 Oct. 2002) Eleventh meeting (25 Feb. 2003) Study by Working Group (The working group conducted a flexibly study from March to June 2003, including 6 formal meetings and separate debates) Twelfth meeting (25 Jul. 2003) Thirteenth meeting (18 Aug. 2003) Fourteenth meeting (27 Aug. 2003) Publication of <i>Draft of Climate Change Tax (Report)</i>
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