

FOREWORD

The year 2015 was a historic one for the global environment. In October, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a universal set of goals and targets for achieving sustainable development that involve the entire world. In December, the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) adopted the Paris Agreement, the first legally binding agreement since the Kyoto Protocol eighteen years earlier. And, in May 2016 in Japan, the Cabinet approved the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, the G7 Ise-Shima Summit was held in Ise-Shima, Mie Prefecture, and the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting was held in Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture. Both internationally and domestically, it could be said that global warming countermeasures and the creation of a sustainable society have entered a new stage. Japan is already making major strides towards the achievement of three of the goals established by this process—reducing greenhouse gases 26.0% by FY 2030, reducing them 80% by 2050, and achieving a sustainable society.

The main theme of the 2016 Annual Report on the Environment is “a new stage for global warming countermeasures.” It explains the actions Japan is taking to combat global warming in the context of international discussion regarding measures on global warming. It also describes efforts for reconstruction and environmental recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as progress made on the 2030 Agenda and other fronts.

It is my hope that this report will contribute to the realization of a sustainable society.



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