

COP28 Blue Carbon Event Opening Remark

- Good afternoon, everyone. I am Shintaro Ito, Minister of the Environment of Japan. I am very pleased to host together with Australian Assistant Minister Hon Jenny McAllister this workshop on blue carbon. I really appreciate your participation in this event.
- Blue carbon initiatives not only contribute to climate change mitigation through CO2 sequestration, but also have multiple values in terms of conservation of the ocean environment, and development of local economy including fishery and tourism. We also believe that blue carbon initiatives are emblematic of the G7's principle of pursuing net zero GHG emissions, circular and nature positive economies in an integrated manner. In Japan, relevant ministries are working together and enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors to vigorously promote it.
- Today, in conjunction with this workshop, we have published over 40 case studies in Japan in both English and Japanese. Please download them from the QR code we are going to provide you here today.
- In addition to promoting domestic initiatives, we would like to contribute to global efforts by sharing examples of Japan's activities. For this purpose, we have joined the IPBC, International Partnership for Blue Carbon in this August, which is led by Australia.
- Also, I have just received the letter from Australian Assistant Minister Hon Jenny McAllister on behalf of Minister Plihersek and confirm that Australia and Japan will work together to lead blue carbon initiatives in the Asia-Oceania region.
- Finally, in today's event, under the theme of “Sustainable Blue Carbon Initiatives”, various Japanese speakers will introduce pioneering actions taken in our country, and share key points and challenges in promoting such activities. I look forward to your active participation. Thank you all.