

The 14th Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change  
**Opening Address**

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Mr. Shevlin of the Australian Greenhouse Office, distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to open the 14<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am pleased to welcome all the participants to this Seminar. At the same time, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our host organization, the Australian Greenhouse Office for its generous supports, which made this Seminar realize in a smooth manner.

In these days, we have seen unusual climatic phenomena such as frequent typhoons and hurricanes as well as floods around the world, which caused enormous damages. As learned from the IPCC reports, we have to take necessary actions to reduce global risks, which will be caused by climate change.

As the first step to address climate change, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 under the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Japan ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. In order to meet the Kyoto targets, we have implemented policies and measures based on the “National Program on Climate Change”, which was adopted by the Cabinet-level Task Force consisting of all relevant Ministers.

This National Program adopted a step-wise approach by putting three phases such as 1<sup>st</sup> from 2002 to 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2005 to 2007, and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2008, when the first commitment period starts.

This year 2004 is very important, because we are to review the policies and measures taken in the first phase and to decide on the additional policy and measures by the end of this Fiscal Year.

We are now also discussing future actions beyond 2012 for ensuring global action. Just last week, Japan organized the informal meeting for future actions in Tokyo with active participation of many countries.

In addition, it is very important for us to further develop adaptation policies, in particular in our region.

Furthermore, Ministry of the Environment has supported the feasibility studies of CDM and JI projects. The details of these programs will be shared with you in this Seminar.

This Seminar is aimed to contribute to further development of policies to address climate change in the region of Asia and the Pacific through informal and frank discussions among participants.

Recognizing the importance of this region, our Ministry is committed to continue to support this Seminar with a high priority.

This Seminar has been designed based on the rich experiences accumulated through previous seminars and insightful suggestions from participating countries and organizations.

The Seminar covers the following interesting topics:

1. Sharing updated information on Efforts in this region
2. Capacity Building,
3. CDM and JI,
4. GEF,
5. Adaptation,
6. Science and Technology, and
7. Lesson Learned for the Future.

Finally, this year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNFCCC. I am grateful if our Seminar could contribute to the COP10 which will be held in Buenos Aires this December.

I am looking forward to your dynamic interactions not only through the round-table discussions in this conference room but also informal gatherings during this Seminar, which take place in such a wonderful city of Sydney.

In conclusion, I wish you a fruitful seminar in this week.

Thank you.