

脱炭素都市国際フォーラム

山口環境大臣 御挨拶（案）（約5分）

2022年3月9日（水） 10:05～10:10（日本時間）

Hello, distinguished guests and participants from around the world.

I am Tsuyoshi YAMAGUCHI, Environment Minister of Japan.

It is my great honor to co-host the 2nd Zero Carbon City International Forum with the United States' Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

I am grateful to all the speakers and moderators for this Forum from 22 cities and 10 organizations.

Ambassador Emanuel, from the United States, I am most grateful to you for your opening remarks.

And, I would like to express my gratitude to Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC for her video message.

I also thank the UNFCCC Secretariat, ICLEI and IGES for cooperating in this Forum.

Well, today, I cannot begin my remarks without touching upon Ukraine.

I do hope that peace will prevail in Ukraine again as

early as possible. Our prayers are with Ukrainian people.

As Prime Minister Kishida stated, the next decade is critical for the realization of a decarbonized world by 2050.

We believe that decarbonizing Japanese economy and society through innovation will also revitalize our industries.

Decarbonization effort by local governments is also critically important.

We are encouraging subnational decarbonization efforts.

To realize decarbonization in Japan, a variety of bottom up measures according to local situations are necessary, such as promoting local energy resources on compact, low-energy-consumption lifestyles.

The number of Japanese “Zero Carbon Cities,” or local governments committing to zero carbon emissions by 2050, has now reached 598, covering 91% of Japan’s population.

Representing them, Sapporo City and Kawasaki City, will attend a session later today and share their experiences.

The Ministry of the Environment intends to designate more than 100 leading decarbonization areas by 2030.

Through this process, the national government and local governments closely work together and accelerate decarbonization efforts.

Those models, we hope, would trigger a "decarbonization domino effect" across the country.

I myself have been visiting governors and mayors to explain the need for decarbonization and how it can also lead to revitalizing their prefectures or cities.

The national government will secure a budget of 40 billion yen available for this purpose.

Japan's efforts will go beyond our borders.

We will strive to encourage decarbonization domino efforts globally, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.

Our city-to-city collaboration program continue to be very important.

The program has already linked 41 cities across the world with 17 Japanese cities.

Some of them will attend a session later today.

Through the program, we have implemented 21 decarbonized projects in overseas partner cities, and have also contributed to their zero-carbon declarations and capacity building.

Today, I am very pleased to share with all of you that Danang city in Vietnam will announce the commitment of Carbon Neutrality by 2050.

To encourage subnational decarbonization efforts, our Ministry and United States' Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate launched the "Japan-U.S. Global Subnational Zero Carbon Promotion Initiative" at COP26, based on the "Japan-U.S. Climate Partnership".

Today, we hold this forum as the first step of the collaboration.

On the 17th of last month and the day before yesterday, we held an online conference to enhance the understanding and capacity building for implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

I hope that the conference served to facilitate

subnational decarbonization efforts in many countries.

Various international programs are run by various countries including U.S., and international organizations for supporting decarbonization at subnational levels.

We hope that today's forum would strengthen collaboration among such programs and lead to "Decarbonization Domino Effect".

Japan hopes global decarbonization in this critical decade.

We also hope that something like "Asia Zero Emissions community" would emerge by working together with like-minded Asian countries.

It is my sincere hope that today's forum will contribute to promoting subnational or local decarbonization in every country.

Thank you.