



Japanese Model to Promote Subnational Climate Action

March 9, 2022

Ministry of the Environment,
Government of Japan



Cooperation between national and local governments



- In Japan, the national government and local governments are working closely for achievement of the Zero Carbon City.

National
government

【Role of the national government】

- Setting goals and developing plans for the entire country
- Support local governments



Collaborate and develop a roadmap together

Local
Governments

【Policies and actions of local governments】

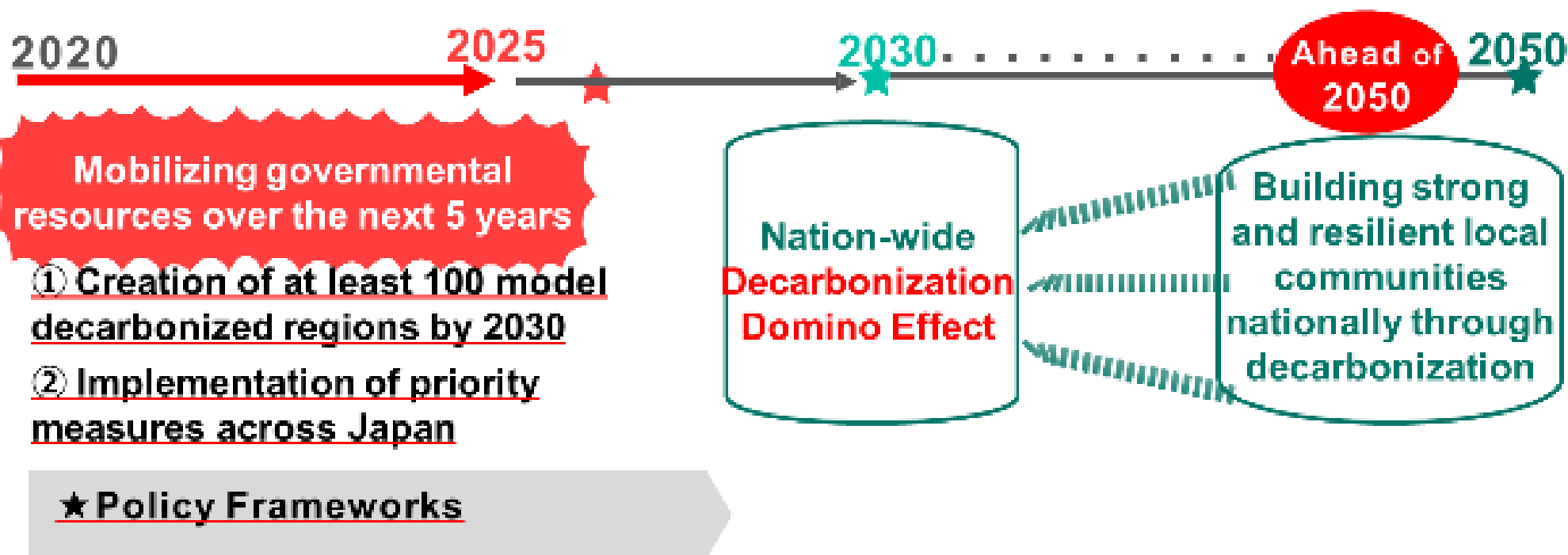
- **Full alignment with local resources/circumstances**
(e.g. using local renewable energy resource)
- **Inclusion and linkage with citizens' daily life and activities**
- **Integrate various sectors** (Urban Labs)
- **Achievement of local SDGs** (Multi-benefit)

598 local governments, covering 91% of Japan's population, have committed to zero carbon emissions by 2050 (as of March 9, 2022)

Decarbonization roadmap for local governments



- The Council for National and Local Decarbonization formulated a **decarbonization roadmap for local governments** in June, 2021.



Implement in collaboration with policy programs such as the Green Food System Strategy, the Green Challenge for National Land Transport, and the Green Strategy for 2050 Carbon Neutrality.

Mechanism for proactive national support



- The national government provides technical and financial support for local governments.

1. Human resources

- Provide human resources with expertise in energy, finance and other sectors
- Improvement of knowledge and skills of local human resources through training

2. Technical Information

- Strengthen database and communication platform for matching regional challenges with solutions using digital technologies, and tools for regional economic cycle analysis
- Share best practices and know-hows
- Provide manual for implementation plan to raise understanding

3. Finance

- Provide continuous and comprehensive support over several years to actively support local governments and businesses implementing decarbonization projects (FY2022).
 - Grant (20 billion yen)** : For local governments establishing decarbonization areas
 - Public-private fund (20 billion yen)** : For ambitious private decarbonization projects
- Subnational economic revitalization attracting ESG finance

City-to-City Collaboration Program



- MoEJ supports city-to-city collaboration between Japanese cities and overseas cities for enhanced exchange of knowledge and know-how.

<Cooperation activities>

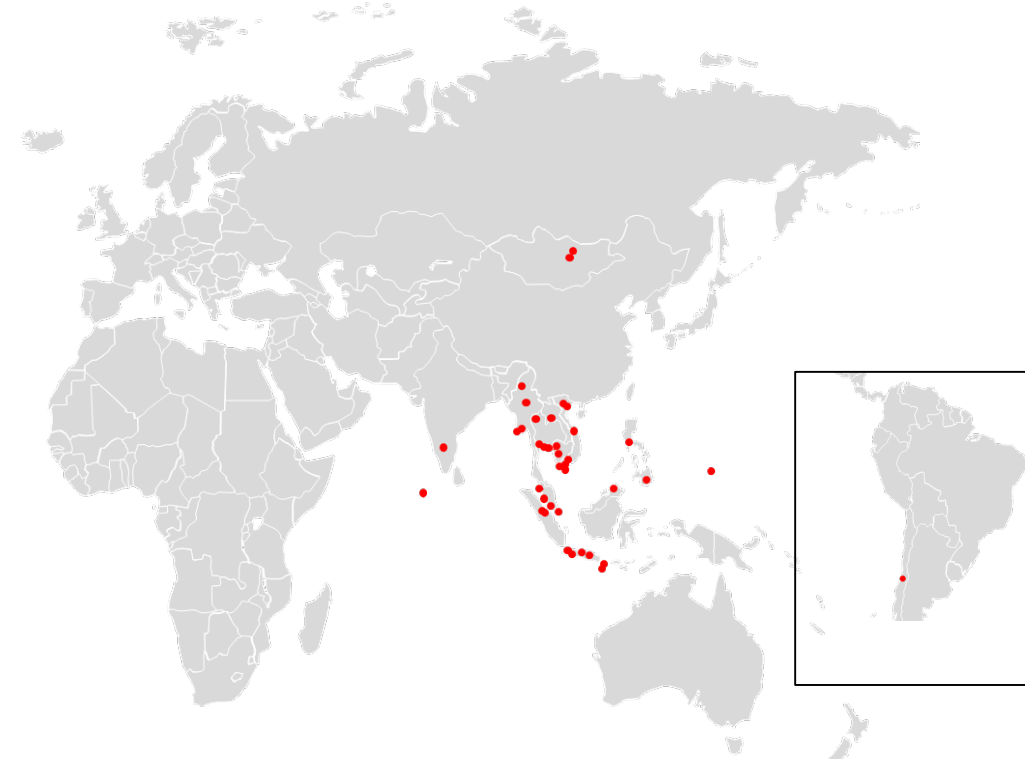
- **Conduct feasibility study on projects** (e.g. renewable energy, energy saving)
- **Provide institutional assistance** (e.g. action plan, regulation, criteria)
- **Train human resources**
- **Raise awareness**



<Expected outcomes>

- **Deliver zero carbon commitment**
- **Deploy decarbonized infrastructure**
- **Develop action plan and regulations**

41 cities in the world have linked with **17** Japanese cities



- Japan and the U.S. announced the launch of the **"Japan-U.S. Global Subnational Zero Carbon Promotion Initiative"** at a side event at the COP26 Japan Pavilion.

1. Objective

To share a variety of best practices of subnational efforts on decarbonization and adaptation at different levels, and to encourage subnational governments to develop their own capacities through international cooperation

2. Member

Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MoEJ)

Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States of America

3. Activities

1. Sharing knowledge

- Convene the **"Zero Carbon Cities International Forum"**

2. Supporting actions

- Seek to **support making and implementing subnational policies on decarbonization and adaptation in a third country** for accelerating cross-border "Decarbonization Domino Effect" cases.

COP26 Side event @Japan Pavilion on 10 Nov. 2021



YAMAGUCHI Tsuyoshi, Minister of MOEJ (Left)



Michael S. Regan, the Administrator of US EPA (Right)

- MoEJ will promote international cooperation leveraging experience on domestic measures for accelerating cross-border “Decarbonization Domino Effect”.

Domestic Measures

- Encourage to be zero carbon city
- Implement roadmap for local governments
- Work closely between the national government and local governments

International Cooperation

- Promote city-to-city collaboration
- Continue international forum

(In addition)

Promote specific cooperation activities to identify, share and support the needs of developing country cities, in cooperation with U.S., other countries and international organizations