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Relationship between COVID-19 and climate change: Policies in Japan

Session 3: Economic and social welfare of Japan and COVID-19

Workshop: Understanding and Addressing Systemic Risks Behind the Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Japan and India: Developing a Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

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Japan's GHG emissions and targets

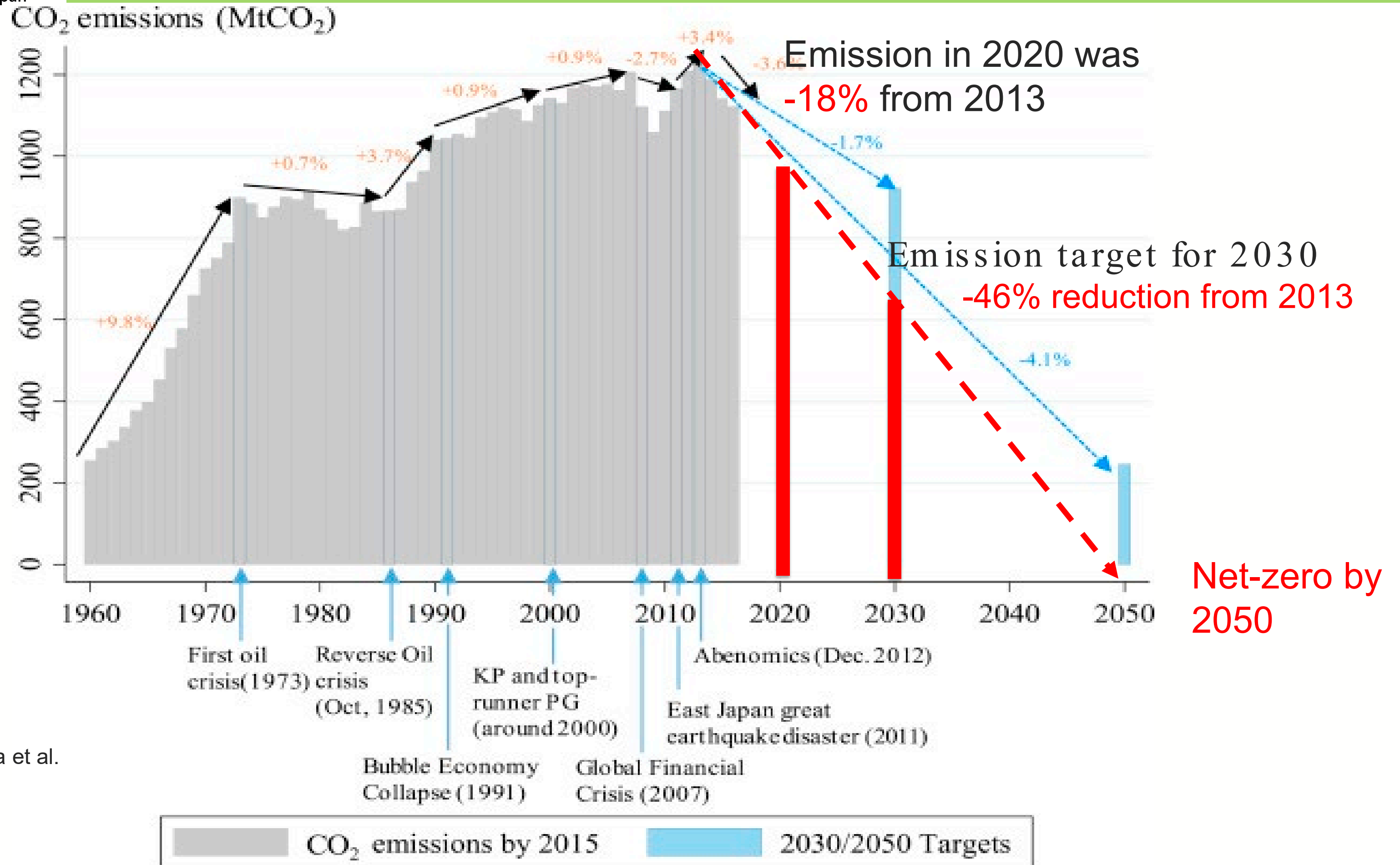


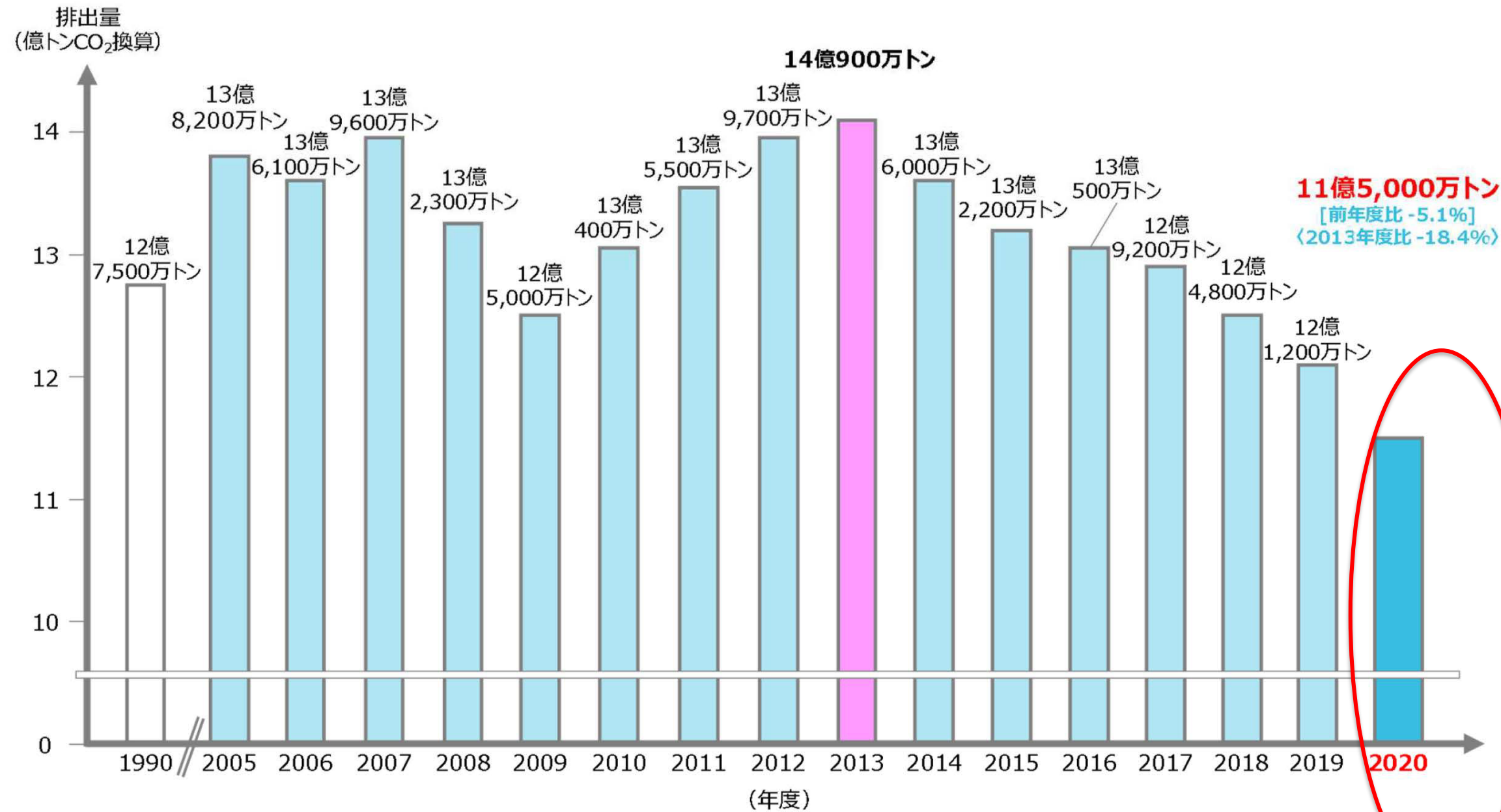
Figure from Kuriyama et al. (2019)



温室効果ガス総排出量



- 2020年度の総排出量は11億5,000万トン (CO₂換算)
- 前年度比：▲5.1%、2013年度比：▲18.4%
- 2014年度以降 7年連続で減少。排出量を算定している1990年度以降最少。3年連続で最少を更新。



11億5,000万トン
 [前年度比 -5.1%]
 <2013年度比 -18.4%>

Emission reduction partially due to COVID-19

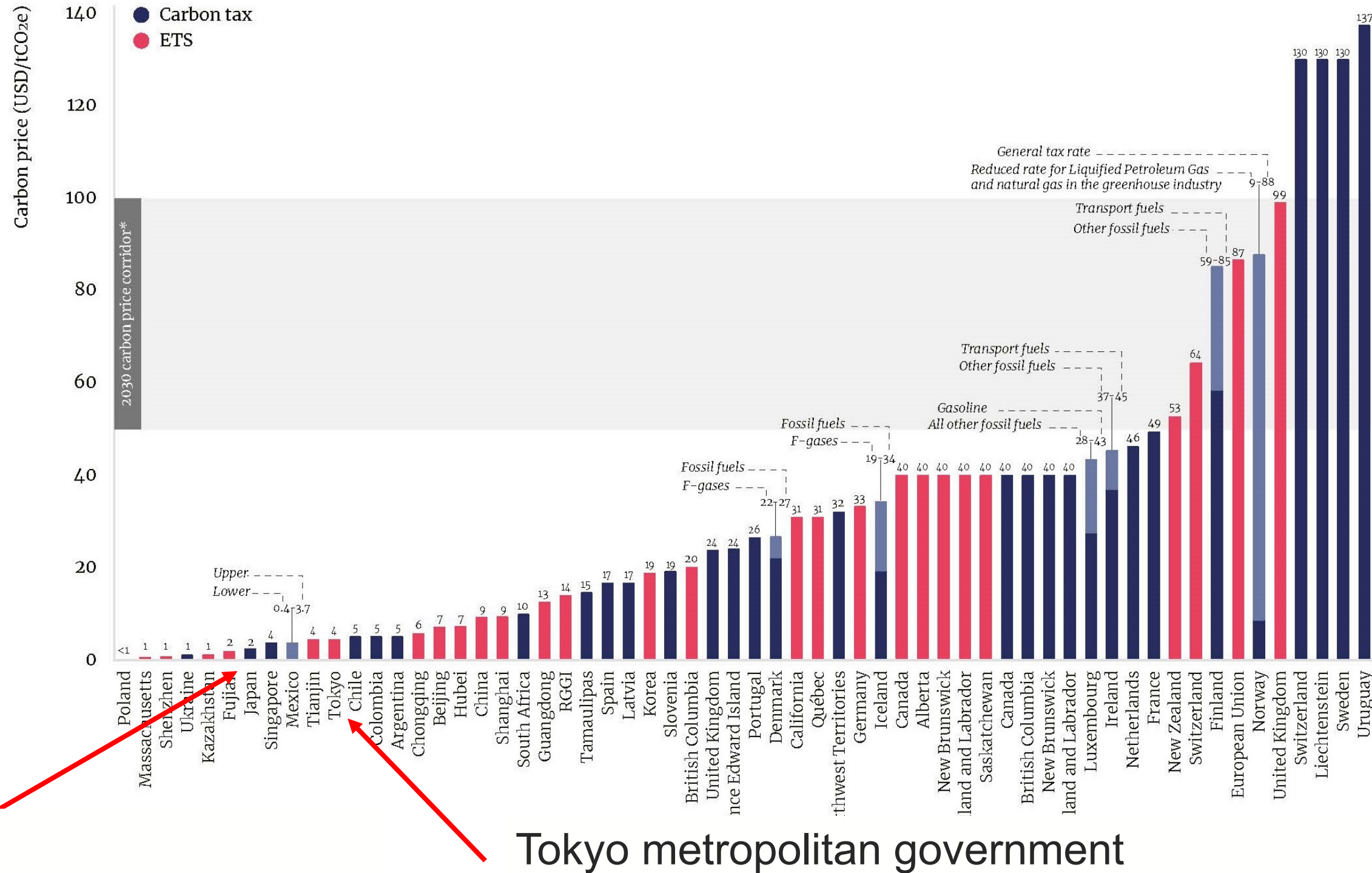


Compared to other developed countries, ...

- Japan did not focus on positive relationship with COVID-19 related policies and climate change mitigation policies. Ideas such as EU's "Green New Deal" or Mr. Biden's "Build back better" during his presidential election campaign was not heard in Japan. **Investment into renewable energy, energy efficient buildings, electric vehicles, virtual meetings, etc.**
- Hence, Japan implemented some COVID-19 related policies that had contradiction with climate mitigation policies. Examples included "Go-to-travel", which subsidized expenditure for sightseers' traveling.
- Even today, Japan's two policies (COVID-19 policies and climate mitigation policies) are considered separately.
- In the latest climate mitigation policy package, net-zero emission strategy is considered as subsidizing innovative technology development, particularly those related to energy.
- Very little debates on climate justice or social equity. It should be noted that those who have economic difficulties are the ones who will be affected most, both by COVID-19 as well as climate mitigation policies.

Carbon pricing, a key for shifting to decarbonized world

FIGURE 6
Carbon prices as of April 1, 2022



Japan

Tokyo metropolitan government

Level of price of carbon is important. At the same time, use of tax revenue is also important.

Nominal prices on April 1, 2022 are shown for illustrative purpose only. Prices are not necessarily comparable between CPIs because of (for example) differences in the sectors covered and allocation methods applied, specific exemptions, and compensation methods.

*The 2030 carbon price corridor is based on the recommendations in the report of the High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices.



1.4 Majorities in relatively few areas say they hear about climate change at least once per week.

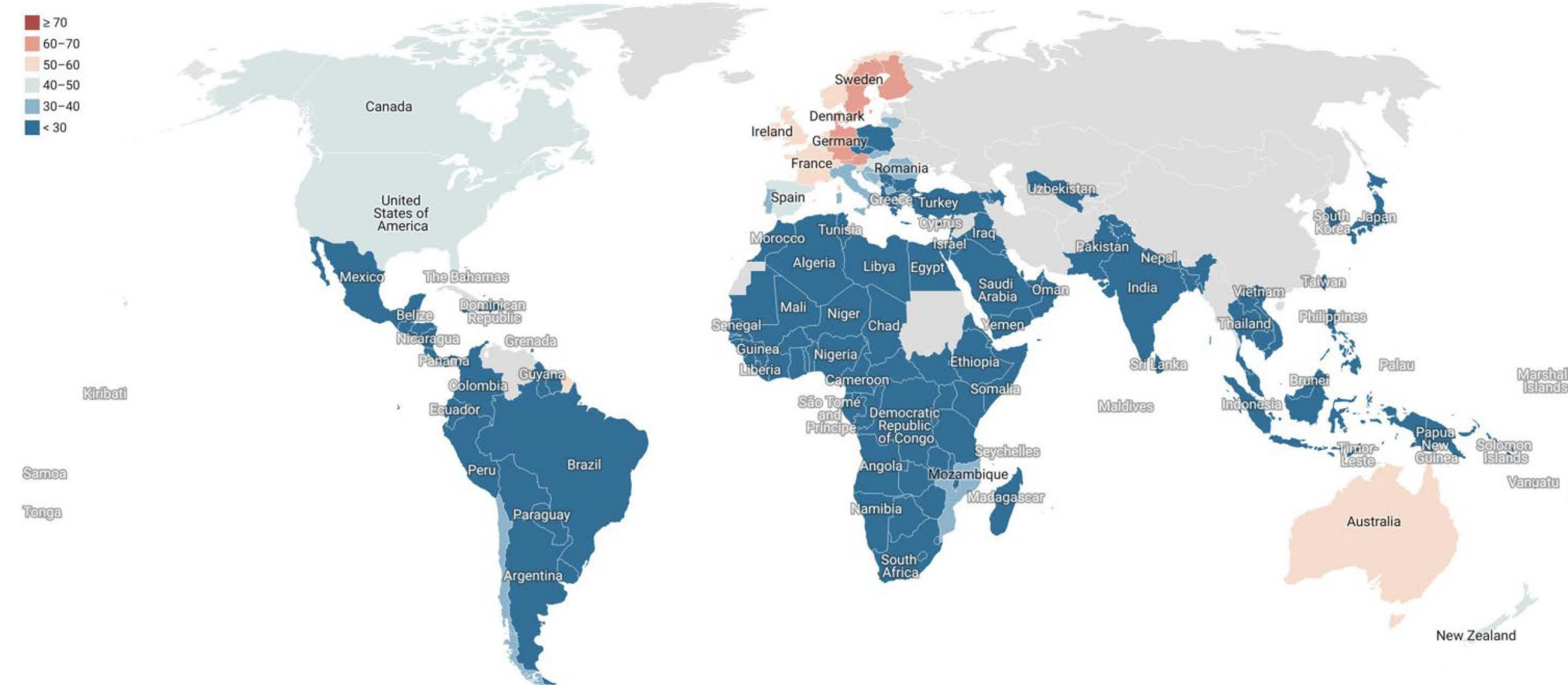
A majority of respondents in relatively few (12 of the 110) surveyed areas say that they hear about climate change in their daily lives (such as from TV, newspapers, social media, or conversations with friends and family) at least once per week. Respondents in Sweden (66%), Germany (66%), and Finland (64%) are most likely to say they hear about climate change at least once a week, while respondents in Yemen (7%), Algeria (9%), and Cambodia (9%) are least likely.

Respondents in Europe are more likely to say that they hear about climate change in their daily lives at least once per week compared with respondents in every other region (see Appendix II).

Japanese people relatively hear less about climate change in their daily lives compared to other developed countries.

Hearing about climate change at least once a week

% who hear about climate change at least weekly



Thank you!