

## **Welcome Remarks by Yasuo Takahashi**

EAST ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE VULNERABILITY MONITOR 3

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Dear friends and colleagues,**

- My name is **Yasuo Takahashi**. I am the Executive Director of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).
- IGES is a think tank established in March 1998 under an initiative of the Japanese government and with the support of Kanagawa Prefecture. The institute aims to achieve a new paradigm for civilization by conducting innovative and strategic policy research for a sustainable environment.
- Given the multi-dimensional nature of environmental issues we face, our institute conducts strategic policy research in a broad range of fields including climate change mitigation and adaptation, resource circulation, environmental governance, green economy, biodiversity conservation, sustainable transition and so forth.
- It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this important but very short workshop on the East Asia regional derivative analysis from the Climate Vulnerability Monitor 3 developed by the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable 20 Group under the auspices of the Global Center on Adaptation.

- The Climate Vulnerability Monitor 3 is the third iteration of the climate vulnerability monitor that the CVF/CV20 has been bringing out since 2010. The CVM versions over the years have tried to understand our growing vulnerability to climate change by constantly improving the vulnerability assessment methodology abreast with our growing understanding of the vulnerability concepts.
- While this workshop will delve into the East Asia regional findings from the CVM3, more importantly, we want to learn from you what these findings mean for the East Asia region and beyond.
- East Asia has emerged as one of the most technologically robust and industrially developed regions in the world. It has developed strong technological, social and economic linkages with the rest of the world. It means that the climate change vulnerability and impacts in East Asian countries will not only affect these countries but will also be of significant importance to the rest of the world.
- With a strong private sector presence, the East Asian countries can provide greater impetus to the role of the private sector in climate change adaptation whose potential is yet to develop fully. The private sector is already playing a key role in climate change mitigation. Experience tells us that it also needs to work

with governments and communities to strengthen climate resilience; a resilient community and consumer base are beneficial to the private sector.

- Recent systemic shocks in the region and abroad have shown that climate change is not just the subject matter of developing countries, it is equally and probably even more important for developed countries as well. As most countries in East Asia contribute significantly to the bi- and multi-lateral development assistance, these countries have the potential to positively influence climate change adaptation beyond their boundaries.
- We need to rethink adaptation as not just the business of an individual country but that of collective responsibility.
- We are of the strong opinion that climate change adaptation needs to be treated as a global public good by changing all our perspectives so that sufficient resources and capacities are made available to the most vulnerable, wherever they are.
- This makes transboundary cooperation and coordinated adaptation planning even more sense today than ever before.
- As most of our countries are still developing national adaptation plans, it is the right time to influence them towards a much-more integrated and coordinated plans that address climate change risks and vulnerabilities comprehensively.

- I am very much glad to see that this workshop brings together distinguished researchers from the East Asian region to discuss some of the important issues pertinent to the region and to improve adaptation planning. I am sure that your participation will help capture the rapidly changing risk landscape of the region.
- I am also hoping that these discussions will evolve into strong collaborative research among those of you participating in this event to understand and address climate change risks in the region and beyond.
- As I conclude my remarks, I once again welcome you all to this important workshop and wish you a good and fruitful discussion.

Thank you!