

The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan,
the EU Delegation to Japan
and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation
Joint Hybrid Seminar

The EU response to the energy crisis
Friday, December 2, 2022 10:00-12:00 Tokyo

The seminar was started by Hubert, MD of the EU side, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and the Ambassador Paquet of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan gave a welcome speech. Afterwards, presentations were held by five panelists, moderated by Tanabe, MD of Japan side, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation.

- Kadri Simson Commissioner for Energy, European Commission

She explained the REPower EU plan and other measures announced in detail in May this year as policies to respond to the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the aim is to break away from dependence on Russia for energy and accelerate the transition to clean energy. And for the common interests of Japan and the EU to ensure a clean energy transition and supply security, she expressed the hope to strengthen cooperation with Japan as a chair country in the G7 Summit meeting in 2023.

- Florian Ermacora Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission

He made the following introduction to complement Simson's speech and explained that the current energy crisis was identified as (1) a supply security crisis, (2) a price crisis, and (3) a climate change crisis. In order to become independent from the dependence on Russian natural gas, efforts to reduce gas demand by 15% and alternative supply of LNG from other countries have achieved, and the target of 80% gas storage rate in the EU, but currently 95% level has been achieved, he

emphasized. And he concluded that the EU will be able to get through this winter and the results of these efforts, saying that dependence on Russia for natural gas has now fallen from more than 40% two years ago to less than 10% now.

- Ryo Minami Deputy Commissioner for International affairs, and Director-General for International Policy on Carbon Neutrality at the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

He talked about efforts under the Japan-EU Green Alliance, which was launched in 2021 with the EU, which shares fundamental values and goals, in order to advance the green transition, and it made cooperation between Japanese and EU companies in the field of hydrogen and wind-power generation. He expressed his desire to lead global carbon neutral efforts together with the EU, and expressed Japan's willingness to lead discussions on balancing energy security and a clean energy transition as the G7 Summit in 2023.

- Kei Shimogori Senior Researcher, Strategic Research Unit, the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan

She commented that 1) it's possible survive this winter with regard to natural gas storage, but will it be okay next winter? 2) the competition to acquire LNG will tighten the international LNG market, which will have a negative impact on consumers and consuming countries, especially developing countries 3) investment in the LNG/natural gas sector is necessary for this response, and that long-term commitment is necessary in the decarbonization trend. And she pointed out that due to high energy prices, there is a movement to move industrial bases from Europe to outside of the region, and in response to concerns that investment in the manufacturing industry in the clean energy field will be absorbed due to domestic production requirements under the U.S. Inflation Control Act (IRA), and questioned how the EU's industrial policy would respond to this?

- Norihiko Ishiguro Senior Executive Vice President, NEC Corporation

He said he was encouraged by the fact that the EU's commitment to decarbonization remained unchanged despite the energy crisis. And he introduced NEC will utilize ICT technology to contribute to the creation of value by reducing CO2 and mitigating the effects of climate change. As specific examples, satellites for monitoring the global environment, a database of CO2, water, and waste within companies, aggregation businesses such as VPP for matching the supply and demand of renewable energy, and DX solutions in the agricultural field were introduced.

After the presentations of each panelist, discussions were held among the panelists moderated by Tanabe, MD of Japan side, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation (see recorded video for details) and Hubert, MD of the EU side, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation closed the seminar.

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