



EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

日欧産業協力センター

Report

“EU-Japan Energy Business Seminar”

April 24, 2019 Tokyo

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation organized a seminar on April 24, 2019 on the topic of sustainable energy business in Japan and Europe in the margins of the EU-Japan Energy Policy Dialogue held in Tokyo by the Japanese Government and the European Commission. Representatives of 12 entities, mostly from private sector presented their ideas and projects revolving around hydrogen and offshore wind power, fostering discussion on future cooperation, ahead of the G20 Energy and Environment Ministerial to be held in Karuizawa in June.

The seminar was organized as an invited only event, attracting a total of 91 attendees.

Dr. Philippe de Taxis du Poet, EU-side General Manager, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation explained in his welcoming remarks that the EU-Japan Centre engaged in various forms of activities for promoting EU-Japan cooperation.

Mr. Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER), European Commission said that the European Commission was very keen to facilitate exchange in the renewable energy sector because of the potential of this industry. According to Mr. Borchardt, this business seminar was a good occasion to showcase excellent cases of cooperation, complementing the policy dialogue.

Mr. Atsushi Taketani, Deputy Commissioner for International Affairs, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE), METI expressed his hope that the seminar would contribute to better mutual understandings and to promote possible cooperation in hydrogen and offshore wind generation which are fields of common interest for Japanese and European enterprises. Mr. Taketani expected that the EU-Japan cooperation in this field would lead to the innovation addressing big challenges such as global warming.

Panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Akira Yabe, Director General, Technology Strategy Center, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). The first session was allocated to the hydrogen economy. Each session was divided into two parts – presentations of panelists and discussion among them.

Mr. Fumiyuki Yamane, Toshiba Energy Systems & Solution Corporation explained “Hydrogen Energy Supply Systems Utilizing Renewable Energy”. As an example of “Power-to-Gas”, he introduced the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field (FH2R) and Toshiba’s role in this project.

Dr. Kouichi Izimuya of Hitachi Zosen Corporation (HITZ) talked about “The Use of Renewable Energy in the Form of Usable Fuel via Hydrogen”. As a means to convert hydrogen to usable fuel, he explained HITZ’s engagement in methanation development.

Mr. Satoshi Tanimura of Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems gave a brief presentation with a title of “H2 Gas Turbine for Hydrogen Society”. After declaring that his company can contribute to realize global H2 supply chain, Mr. Tanimura stressed that a framework for the public-private partnerships was essential to realize the technology roll-out.

Mr. Hiroki Hirai introduced the REFHYNE project, a 10MW Electrolyser at Shell’s Rhineland Refinery which is a major energy supply hub in Germany. For the further development of hydrogen economy, Mr. Hirai identified three indispensable elements as (1) collaboration among relevant enterprises, (2) standardization and (3) government involvement.

Mr Ewald Perwög of MPREIS Warenvertriebs explained how an Austrian food retailer promotes hydrogen as a substitute of natural gas and diesel in food production and logistics, showing a lot of illustrations. He anticipated the delivery to change significantly when they introduce fuel cell trucks in the second quarter of 2020.

During the panel discussion on hydrogen, importance of reducing production cost, creation of demand and improving social acceptance for example, of fuel cell vehicles (FCVs) were repeatedly mentioned.

In the following session on offshore wind, Mr. Koichi Hayama of MHI Vestas Offshore Wind Japan spoke about what to consider in entering into a new market, especially Japan and Taiwan, including harsh natural conditions such as typhoons, earthquakes and lightning.

Mr. Koji Wakabayashi of Sumitomo Corporation explained their role in the on-going offshore wind projects and how they cooperate with partners in Europe.

Mr. Eric Antoons of Parkwind explained how his company had grown in the European offshore wind development market, centering around Belgium and Ireland.

Mr. Hans-Christoph Brumberg of WPD explained their experience in Europe and Taiwan and outlook for the Japanese market. The company has established a Japanese subsidiary in 2018.

Mr. Matthias Bausenwein of Ørsted explained their activities in Europe and Taiwan. Their “next horizon market” for offshore wind is Japan. They signed an MoU with Tokyo Electric Power Company Holding (TEPCO) to work jointly on offshore wind projects.

Mr. Barrie Robertson of Innogy SE introduced his company as one of Europe’s leading utility companies, developing renewables in a number of countries worldwide, with a major focus on Asia.

Mr. Stéfan Le Dû, Sustainable Development Councilor of French Embassy in Tokyo gave brief explanation on offshore wind projects in France and French companies’ initiatives for renewables in Japan including the Hibiki-Nada floating wind turbine in Kyushu region, financed by NEDO.

During discussion, conditions for further development of offshore wind in Asia was addressed. As regards technology, it is apparent that the reliability is crucial. In addition, development of marine construction industry and improved connection to the grid are desirable. Also, stable regulatory framework and political stability were mentioned as essential.

Mr. Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, in his closing remarks expressed his hope to see more European-Japanese cooperation in offshore wind projects in Japan because until now most of existing bilateral projects were located in the European market.

Mr. Masashi Hoshino of the ANRE closed a half-day seminar in making three comments, i.e. (1) In order to promote innovation in the private sector, it is desirable to have assistance from public sector in the field of project management, (2) There is a potential of synergy to be exhibited between hydrogen and renewables development, and (3) Hoping to discuss with the EU on further cooperation at the occasion of the coming G20 meeting in Japan.

Prepared by Toshiro Fukura, Manager, Policy Seminars and Analysis



According to Mr. Borchardt, the European Commission is very keen to facilitate international exchange in the renewable energy sector.



Mr. Taketani of ANRE/METI anticipates EU-Japan cooperation will lead to the innovation to tackle global challenges.



The seminar attracted professionals of the energy sector.