



# EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

## 日欧産業協力センター

### Seminar Report

### “EU and Japan Long-term Climate Change Strategies”

January 17, 2019 Tokyo

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan co-organized a seminar on long-term climate change strategies on January 17, 2019 in Tokyo. During the seminar, the EU side explained the newly proposed EU 2050 strategy while the Japanese side spoke about basic attitude of the Japanese government on the long-term strategy. During the panel discussion, panelists from private and non-government sectors presented various ideas they thought necessary to establish a long-term strategy against global warming. Total number of attendees exceeded 140.

Ms. Patricia Flor, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan stressed in her opening remarks the necessity to act to prevent further global warming urgently because “Time is really running out.” She said that both of the EU and Japan as advanced industrialized countries should become champions in protecting the global environment.

Ms. Megan Richards, Director of Energy Policy, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission and Mr. Tom van Ierland, Head of Strategy & Economic Assessment Unit, Directorate General for Climate Action, European Commission jointly explained the Commission's vision for a long term climate change strategy, centering around the communication that the European Commission published at the end of November 2018. With this communication, the European Commission calls for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. Mrs. Richards and Mr. Ierland explained seven basic elements (“building blocks”) which will lead to decarbonization, including energy efficiency, deployment of renewables, clean, safe and connected mobility and competitive industry and circular economy. According to Ms. Richards, the EU and Japan can work together towards sustainable future because they have many common features.

From the Japanese side, representatives from three ministries explained Japan's long-term climate policy viewed from their respective field of activities. First, Mr. Kaoru Magosaki, Director, Climate Change Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) emphasized the importance of creating an ascending cycle of growth and climate action in Japan's long term strategy. Internationally, widening the

scope of climate finance is a major focus in the climate change negotiations, he said

Mr. Daisuke Takayanagi, Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) spoke about the long-term strategy from METI's perspective. Mr. Takayanagi first of all pointed out that formulating measures against global warming was an opportunity and not a cost for economic growth because measures for energy transition and decarbonization would lead to economic growth. He then explained three pillars of Japan's long-term strategy as growth strategy; (i) Promote innovation to lead world energy transitions and decarbonization, (ii) Promotion of fund circulation through visualizing corporate efforts and (iii) Contribution to reducing greenhouse gasses (GHGs) on a global scale with promotion of business activities.

Mr. Hiroshi Ono, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of the Environment (MoE) spoke about the progress of Japan's long-term low GHG emission development strategy under the Paris agreement. He explained not only the discussion progressing within the MoE but also at government level. The Japanese government has convened a "Meeting on a Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy" four times since August 2018. Long-term vision and measures are discussed on major sectors such as energy, industry, transportation and local communities. Discussion is underway also on cross sectoral measures such as innovation and green finance.

After a coffee break, Mr. Yuji Mizuno, Director of Climate and Energy Area, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) moderated the panel discussion.

As a starter, Prof. Yukari Takamura of the University of Tokyo Institutes for Advanced Studies (UTIAS) pointed out that Japan's investments in environment, social and governance (ESG)-related field are numerous but most of them are directed at overseas rather than domestic market. She emphasized the need for Japan to take the lead to realize a decarbonized economy and clearly refer to the 1.5C degree target.

Mr. Teruyuki Ohno, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Foundation explained its recommendations on the national long-term strategy. The recommendations are composed of the following five pillars, which were first published in Japanese language in December 2018.

- (1) Reinforcing domestic emission reduction measures to make Japan a leading decarbonized economy
- (2) Achieving decarbonization with renewables before 2050
- (3) Announcing that Japan is to phase out from coal-fired power plants
- (4) Decarbonizing materials industries

(5) Early implementation of basic rules for a decarbonized society

Mr Toshihiro Kawakami, Head, EHS Department, LIXIL Corporation/Co-Chair, Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) explained the recommendation for Japan's Long-Term Growth Strategy under the Paris Agreement that the JCLP published in November 2018 as follows.

- Share the sense of urgency of climate change
- Set a vision to "become a global leader in the decarbonized economy"
- Specify the goal by articulating Japan's goal of zero domestic GHG emissions by 2050
- Describe the path to the goal by introducing carbon pricing
- Manage the transition by establishing a framework and mechanism to transition entire society smoothly

Mr. Kawakami stressed the need for Japan to achieve zero GHG emission in Japan, without reckoning its contribution outside of Japan.

Mr. Daisaku Honda, Vice President, Veolia Janets K.K. explained Veolia's climate initiatives. According to Mr. Honda, Veolia set three actions for GHG emission reduction as (a) Spread the circular economy, (b) Capture and use methane and (c) Tax pollution.

Mr. Hirofumi Nakano, General Manager, Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation explained their environmental initiatives. Mr. Nakano first revealed that in their business, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted at the time of product use accounts for 82%. Therefore, energy saving of products is an important issue. According to Mr. Nakano, Mitsubishi Electric will contribute to the combat against climate change through energy saving of products that can achieve further technological innovation and realize substantial energy conservation.

Ms. Michiyo Morisawa, Japan Director, CDP explained its vision and mission as willing to see a thriving economy that would work for people and planet in the long term. Therefore, it focuses on investors, companies and cities on taking urgent action to build a truly sustainable economy by measuring and understanding their environmental impact. As for recent developments, CDP is moving to sector-based disclosure, requesting more forward-looking metrics to assess how companies are planning for the transition to a sustainable economy, making greater alignment across climate change, water security and deforestation.

Mr. Philippe de Taxis du Poet, EU-side General Manager of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation made a brief introduction to their environment-related activities in his closing remarks.

*Prepared by Toshiro Fukura, Manager, Policy Seminars and Analysis*



The seminar attracted a large audience



Non-government participants also contributed to activate discussion