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Tokyo Carbon Conference 2013

His Honorable

Senator Masaharu Nakagawa

**Member of House of Councillors,
National Diet of Japan**

Excellencies, Ambassadors, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to give a lecture here at the Tokyo Carbon Conference 2013.

I am Masaharu Nakagawa, the Member of House of Councillors.



Senator Masaharu Nakagawa

Although I started my carrier as an official of the Ministry of Finance, I have been **deeply involved in Environmental Policy** on my later stage.

After I was appointed as the Director-General of Financial Bureau, then I transferred to the **Director-General of Environmental Policy Bureau**, and then the **Administrative Vice-Minister of Ministry of Environment**.

More importantly, I have been appointed as the **Director of LDP Environment Division** since 2004, when I was elected as Senator.

I am also a member of the **Standing Committee of Environment**, House of Councilors. Therefore, I have been focusing on **environment issues** as my **life work**.

The Mauna Loa Observatory in the atmosphere recently passed **400ppm**, and I think this is a **credible evidence** that the atmospheric **concentration of carbon dioxide** has been **increasing sharply** at the global level.



And we are very aware that **terrible catastrophes** caused by **abnormal climate** have been inflicting both human and physical damages.

And as the **natural hazard** is to become **worse**, climate change is one of the most **urgent issue** common to **all humankind**.

Japan has committed to decrease 6 percent of GHG emission at the **Kyoto protocol 1st commitment period**, and as the result of various efforts, we are to chive that target.



Senator Masaharu Nakagawa

As well, **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** declared to **halve the global GHG emission on 2050** at the **G8 Summit Heiligendamm on 2007**.



So, we can say Japan is leading the world global warming policy.

However on the one hand, Japan has been increasing the CO2 emission after the **Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster** on 2011, along with the increase of thermal power generation.



Therefore, so as to fulfill our commitment against international community and develop a low-carbon society, we should **further strengthen our effort for GHG emission reduction** urgently.



Japan should, on the basis of the **Cancun Agreements** under UNFCCC, **register** the **reduction targets** of GHG emission.



As well, we should also report and validate our progress to the global community, and thus continue our proactive approach toward countermeasures against global warming.

Besides, the **international framework** after year **2020** is now **under discussion** on the **COP21** scheduled on **2015**.

With this respect, **Japan** should **lead** the argument toward an equitable and effective international **framework** of which involves **all major GHG emitters**.

So, here is the point. The **enactment** of **new numerical goal** based upon **new method** of thinking is absolutely necessary.

However, the process of **new numerical goal decision** is proceeding with **difficulty**.



Prime Minister Abe gave direction to review the **previous national objective** of “**25% Reduction of GHG emission until 2020**”, which was set up by the Democratic Party.

Now The **Ministry of Environment** and **METI** have **differing opinions** against changing the number, which is dragging down the progress for COP19.



The reason why **METI** is **hesitant** to set up a **numerical goal** is because, they are **not sure** for the **future nuclear ratio**.

That is to say, if thermal power plants are used in full-capacity operation like now, GHG emission would severely increase, while resume operations of nuclear plants will hold it down in turn.

METI insists they can't set up any reduction goal unless the nuclear ratio is fixed.

Among countries which have to set up self-imposed targets, namely Japan, the United States, China and India, **only Japan has not announced their goal** to date.

Further out, developed countries have to report their progress, and be verified until January 2014.



On the other hand, the **Ministry of Environment** is **concerned** about the **international standing** of Japan, because Japan has to set up their **self-imposed goal** from 2013 to 2020, instead of mandatory carbon dioxide emissions reduction.



The **Ministry of Environment** made proposition against METI to set up **various goals**, according to **scenarios based on nuclear ratios of 10% or 20%**, so as to avoid giving the public a false sense that Japan is no longer forthcoming toward global warming challenge.



But then again, METI did **not** take **concession** because they could neither draw out responsible energy policy nor percentage of renewable energy.



Now I believe that, taking into account the position of nuclear energy after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the **Japan Government** should **set forth the goal** of total energy and **give direction** to people and **business operators.**



It just so happens that the 2020 Olympic was decided to Tokyo.



So on the year 2020, Tokyo would attract attention from the world.

In another words, it is a great opportunity to show our prominent environmental technology, and remind we are environmentally advanced country, to the world.

While **Japan accounts 3% of global GHG emission**, the gross volume has been sharply rising led by the developing countries.

So we can see from here that, the climate change is a truly global issue, which means that **all countries** should **collaborate** with each other to stop.



Japan can most contribute to GHG emissions through our high technology.

In addition, by adopting **Japanese technology** as a global standard, we can maintain and **increase** our industrial **competitiveness**.



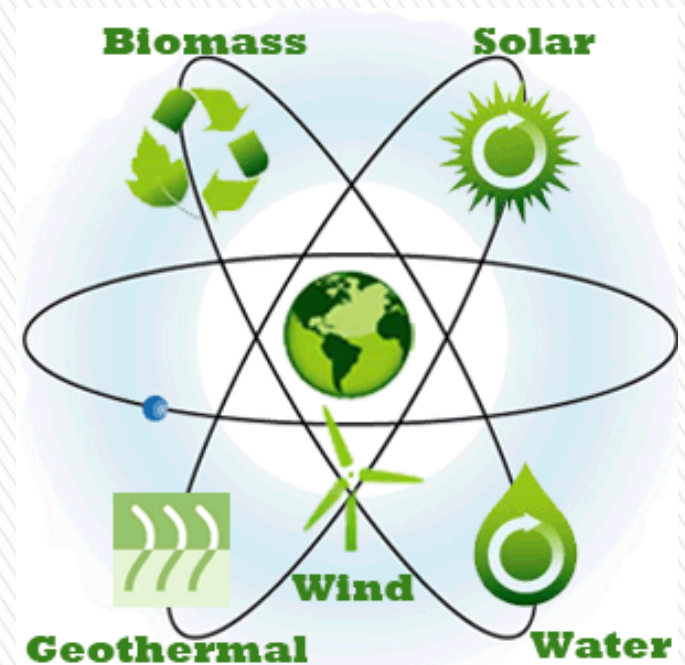
For instance, the **global market of Smart City** alone is predicted to grow up to more than 4trillion yen (≒ **41 billion dollars**).

Here we can say that, **Japan**, as environmentally-advanced country, should **bring together GHG reduction and development of the cities of developing countries.**

We should admit the status of energy in Japan has dramatically changed after Fukushima.

Under this severe position, Japan should make contribution toward global warming through our energy efficiency and renewable energy technology.

To be more precise, Japan can reduce nearly 100 million tons of global CO2 emission by our technologies of renewable energy, energy savings, and flon reduction toward year 2030.



Additionally, I expect much of Prime Minister Abe's diplomatic effort to make clear the commitment of Japan Government for GHG reduction.

For instance, Japanese countries can make use of their environmental technology and know-how under the **Bilateral Credit System**, which can lead to global GHG reduction and **grant us the leadership on international negotiating.**

Hence, we should strengthen our policy implementation structures to **reduce 100million CO2 tons of GHG.**

Namely, to expand countries, upgrade the platform and infrastructure.

And Japan should not only develop bilateral relationship but also exercise leadership to reduce GHG of total Asia region.



Along with business, Japan should also lead the world for international cooperation related with GHG reduction.

Conventionally,
development
could not be attained
without pollution.



However, **Japan** is now on the point where we can **back up development** with **LOW CARBON SOCIETY.**

For this purpose, Japan should take a proactive stance to work out the green development of the world, through economic assistance, scaling up green investment, and capacity building.

But I also think, Japan should **impose GHG reduction to developing countries**, because **all countries** should **share their responsibilities** in preparation for the global rule after 2020.

We have to build up a system so that environment and economy can stimulate each other on the platform of global warming countermeasure.

Then, the clue would be promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy to the utmost.



For this challenge, we should **ease regulations** which are in the road, at the same time **accelerate regulations** to improve environmental innovation.

On the other hand, it is absolutely imperative to create new industry and new jobs, in parallel with gaining competitiveness.

Here, I would like to **show my ideas of energy / environment policy;**

1. The Goal Setting of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

We have to set a target taking account of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster.



For example, **energy savings** has been prevailed throughout Japan since the two tragedies, and the **feed-in-tariff** system of renewable energy was started from July 2012.

Therefore, we should set up an **ambitious target**.

2. Improvement of energy efficiency for each sector, lower-carbon fuel

Especially, the **CO2 emission** of both **household** and **commercial** sector has been **greatly increased**.

In turn, we can see the **largest opportunity** of **energy efficiency** here.



3. Lower-carbon Thermal Power Generation

The GHG emission from thermal power plants accounts over 30 percent of total Japan.

Therefore, the **viable global warming countermeasures of electric power companies** are needed.

4. The maximum introduction of renewable energy

We should aim at building renewable energy sources on local area, which would secure stabilized energy supply and revitalize local communities.



One indispensable policy is, the de-regulation to improve development of solar PV, solar thermal, wind, tide, earth thermal, and waste energy.



5. Urban / Region Development

Regulating car access to City Center, improving public transportation, shared use of energy, recycle of exhaust heat, landscape conservation, planting trees would greatly **support low carbon society.**

6. Greening of Tax System

A new tax system which would lead people to work, live and consume **GREENER** would contribute for low carbon society.



7. Carbon Offset/Financial Mechanism

Carbon Offset does not only **reduce GHG emission**, but also **develop local businesses** through connecting the cash flow of urban and local, such as forest preservation or emission reduction of small-to-midsized firms.

8. Technology development / Experimental Study

The development of **CCS** (Carbon Capture and Storage), **offshore wind** power generation, **ocean** power generation, **earth thermal**, low carbon **buildings**, new generation **vehicles**, energy **management**, **fuel cells**, power **storage** systems, **hydrogen** energy, artificial **photosynthesis** and **algae** energy is required.

9. Chlorofluorocarbon-Replacing Materials

Chlorofluorocarbon-Replacing Materials which emits massive GHG by themselves, should be replaced, collected and destroyed appropriately.

At the same time, better alternatives must be developed.

10. Forest Absorption

To enhance the **conservation of forests**, such as tree thinning, landscape conservation, planting trees, improving construction of households and public building using domestic trees.



Thank you for your attention.