



EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

日欧産業協力センター

Seminar Report

The work has only started – follow up to the Paris Climate Agreement

Tokyo, 24 February 2016

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan co-organized a seminar on the Paris Climate Change Agreement on February 24, 2016 in Tokyo. The Seminar was attended by about 70 eager participants.

We had four presenters; two each from the government sector and the private sector. First, Mr. Jake Werksman from the Directorate-General Climate Action (DG CLIMA) of the European Commission explained the Paris agreement and EU action. Mr. Werksman summarized the Paris agreement as an ambitious, transparent and fair agreement. One of the reasons of it being characterised as such is because it sets a long-term goal to hold temperature increases below 2.0 C and pursues efforts to limit the rise under 1.5 C, and aims at global emissions to peak as soon as possible, targeting net zero emissions in the second half of the century. The substantial support for vulnerable countries exemplifies the agreement's fairness. As for EU action, he confirmed that the EU is projecting at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission at least 40% in 2030 as compared to 1990, and improving energy efficiency more than 27% in the same period.

Second, Mr. Hiroki Mitsumata of the Ministry of International Trade and Economy (METI) introduced Japanese government policy to address climate change. Mr. Mitsumata explained Japan's policy in a post COP21 world in three aspects of (a) Domestic mitigation measures toward the implementation of Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), (b) Promotion of Innovation and (c) Contribution to emission reductions in developing countries.

What Mr. Mitsumata emphasized was the importance of innovation. According to Mr. Mitsumata, Japan will formulate the "Energy and Environment Innovation Strategy" by spring 2016 in order to further promote research and development of innovative technologies that enable significant reduction of GHG emissions in the long-term. Also, Japan will continue to take lead in this field by incorporating various opinions and efforts of each country at conferences such as G7 summit and the Innovation for Cool Earth

Forum (ICEF), an international conference where world leaders from businesses, academia and governments come together to discuss how to best address climate change through innovation

Of the two private sector speakers, one company was of a Europe-origin and the other was a Japanese. Mr. Takayuki Kitajima of Unilever Japan Holdings gave explanation on the basic attitude and action plan of the company against the climate change. According to Mr. Kitajima, the world faces new and bigger challenges related to the climate change and we have no time to spare. Mr. Kitajima reveals that their “vision” is to double the size of their business whilst reducing their environmental footprint. In their “Sustainable Living Plan”, Unilever set “three big goals”, one of which is to halve environmental footprint of their products by 2020.

Mr. Tsuyoshi Horinouchi from the NEC Corporation explained how they try to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation for climate change. NEC formulates “Seven Themes for Social Value Creation” in line with global megatrends. These themes include “Sustainable Earth”, “Lifeline Infrastructure”, “Communications” and “Industry Eco-System”. NEC established an Environmental Management Action Plan 2017/2030 targeting a low carbon society. NEC is trying to realize a low carbon society by contributing to CO2 emission reduction through its IT solutions. NEC also engage in improving product energy efficiency. Their target in fiscal 2017 is an 80% improvement of energy consumption for such products as servers, network systems and displays as compared to 2005 models.

As indicated in the seminar title, follow up to the Paris Agreement is very important. Mr. Silviu Jora of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation revealed in his closing remarks that the Centre would hold another seminar on climate change, featuring the question of implementation in the next fiscal year.

Prepared by Toshiro Fukura, Manager, Policy Analysis and Seminars



Programme



“The work has only started – follow up to the Paris Climate Agreement”

The 2015 Paris Agreement can only be called historical. As the first major multilateral deal of the 21st century, it sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. The deal is the culmination of years of efforts by the international community to bring about a universal multilateral agreement on climate change. It sends a clear signal to investors, businesses, and policy-makers that the global transition to clean energy is here to stay and resources have to shift away from polluting fossil fuels.

However, while the Paris Agreement marks a new chapter in international climate action, the promises made in Paris now have to be translated into action. This seminar will allow EU and Japanese policy makers to compare notes on the follow-up of the Agreement. It will also give industry representatives an opportunity to present an assessment of the Agreement from a business perspective and to explain how their companies' strategies will address climate change challenges.

MC: Ms Uli Wienrich, Counsellor, Trade and Economic Section, the Delegation of the European Union to Japan	
10:00-10:05	Opening remarks by Mr. Jonathan Hatwell, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan
10:05-10:20	“The Paris Agreement – a Call for Action” Speaker: Mr. Jake Werksman, Principal Advisor, DG CLIMA, European Commission
10:20-10:35	“Promotion of Innovation – the key to fundamentally address climate change” Speaker: Mr. Hiroki Mitsumata, Deputy Director-General for Technology and Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
10:35-10:50	“CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE – Our Challenges” Speaker: Takayuki Kitajima, General Counsel-Japan & Korea, Unilever Japan Holdings K.K.
10:50-11:05	“Challenge to Mitigation and Adaptation for Climate Change” Speaker: Mr. Tsuyoshi Horinouchi, Assistant General Manager, Total Quality Management Division Department Manager, Environmental Management Promotion Department, NEC Corporation
11:05-11:25	Q&A
11:25-11:30	Closing remarks by Mr. Silviu Jora, General Manager, EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation