

Agenda Item 2 - 24 Feb 2021

Japan

COVID-19 crisis, which has changed our ways of life and produced multilayered effects in our society, serves to remind us that a stable supply of energy is the basis of all economic activities. In order to improve the level of medical welfare and to achieve sustainable economic growth, securing a stable supply of energy is indispensable. We need to make steady progress to establish a clean and robust energy system even in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Japan is promoting its energy policy under the principle of “3E plus S”, which stands for Energy security, Economic efficiency, Environment, and Safety.

Last year Japanese Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide declared the target of carbon neutrality by 2050. For its social implementation, the Government of Japan, last December, finalized “Green Growth Strategy”, which includes measures for assisting the introduction of technologies in 14 priority areas such as hydrogen, ammonia as fuel, electric vehicle, batteries, and carbon recycling. Japan is willing to lead the world by enhancing energy efficiency and introducing renewable energy and by advancing further our efforts to realize a virtuous circle between economy and environment with research and development of new technologies including hydrogen, Carbon dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) and carbon recycling.

- Now every country is required to work together to promote innovation in energy by ramping up investment and research and development for it. Despite the different challenges that each country is facing, securing an affordable and stable energy supply and establishing a robust energy system with the promotion of decarbonization are common goals for us all.

- Having said that, energy transition is not a single path. It is important to utilize all possible sources and available technologies, taking into account the geological circumstances and level of development for respective countries in the region.

- Japan has been working together with the Asia and Pacific countries in promoting a decentralized energy system, capacity building for utilization of LNG, research and development of CCUS, carbon recycling, hydrogen, and ammonia as fuel. We will remain committed to advancing further our efforts for energy diversification and transit and for realizing a virtuous circle between economy and environment by sharing our experiences and know-how with the other countries in Asia and Pacific.