

Kyoto Appeal to jointly achieve 1.5°C

In December 1997, at the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) held in Kyoto, Japan, Kyoto Protocol was adopted as the first ever international agreement to set legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In December 2015, the Kyoto Protocol took a big step forward when the international community adopted the “Paris Agreement” at the COP21 in Paris, France and agreed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C. In December 2018, the rulebook for implementing the Paris Agreement was agreed at the COP24 in Katowice, Poland, and efforts have been launched to realize a decarbonized society in which all stakeholders participate.

In October 2018, prior to the COP24, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C , which indicated robust differences in the effects of temperature increase of 1.5° C and 2° C. The report indicates that it is necessary to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to reach "net zero" around 2050 to keep the temperature rise below 1.5° C. To that end, fundamental transitions and transformations of society, including our human behavior and lifestyles as well as in energy, land, cities, infrastructure, and entire industrial systems are needed.

Recognizing the above;

Respecting over 30 years of IPCC's efforts and continuous endeavors in accumulating scientific knowledge,

Recognizing that there is an urgent need for transformations of the whole social and economic systems on an unprecedented scale in order to transform to sustainable society through decarbonization,

Stressing the significance that, here in Kyoto, the 49th Session of the IPCC is being held for adoption of refinement of the GHG emissions and removals calculation guidelines that support the steady progress of the Paris Agreement and are essential for accelerating global climate change countermeasures, so-called "IPCC Kyoto Guidelines",

Respecting the current state where serious consideration by countries to pursue measures to achieve decarbonization and realization of the 1.5° C target, could be seen through the long-term growth strategies under the Paris Agreement, as well as by non-state actors such as businesses and local governments,

Reaffirming the message from today's symposium commemorating the IPCC Session convened in the City of Kyoto "To Realize a Decarbonized Society - the State of the World and Kyoto's Challenge" that;

- Efforts based on the "IPCC 1.5° C Special Report" will be promoted in order to pass on a better future to future generations,
- It is vital to realize the vision of ideal cities of the world in 2050, stipulated in Kyoto Declaration for Cultivating a Culture of Sustainable Cities announced at the 20th Anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol: Kyoto Conference on the Global Environment 2017 (KYOTO+20),
- Even if it is a difficult challenge to combat climate change, a sustainable future in which society, economy and environment are integratedly progressed, could be achieved by uniting efforts by citizens, businesses, communities, universities, research institutes, NPOs, and administrations, and combining wisdom to promote innovation, nurturing future generations who will build a sustainable society, and by increasing motivation to achieve the goals.

Kyoto, where the city's mayor has announced an intention to aim for zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050; Kyoto, where the culture of living in harmony with nature, including the spirit of "Mottainai" and "Shimatsu" is still alive, and has sustained for more than a thousand years overcoming myriad crises,

It is from Kyoto, that we make an appeal to the world that we will pursue all necessary measures and advance concrete actions towards "net zero" carbon

dioxide emissions around 2050 in order to keep the global average temperature rise below 1.5° C on the basis of the IPCC 1.5° C Special Report.

We welcome the strengthened partnerships in all aspects of institutions, policies, funds, and human resources, by local and national governments in order to pursue achieving the common goals.

Furthermore, we hope that people of Japan and all over the world will join us in our appeal, and that by galvanizing joint efforts, we will achieve a decarbonized society as early as possible.

Coalition of the willing gathered at the symposium “To Realize a Decarbonized Society - the State of the World and Kyoto’ s Challenge ” commemorating the IPCC Session convened in the City of Kyoto

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