Japan's input on the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

Technology innovation for transition toward to a green economy is a key in order to achieve sustainable development. Japan has wide range of knowledge and technologies, both cutting-edge and down to earth, in such fields as renewable energy, energy management of building smart grid, appropriate resource recycle, water treatment, information communication, disaster reduction and the globe observation, including climate change forecast. Japan is committed to further developing and sharing this with the international community and providing a better environment for green technology innovation.

The private sector plays a primary role to develop, transfer and disseminate environmental sound technology. Technology transfer is conducted by the private sector, provided that it is done on voluntary and mutually agreed terms basis. It is impossible for governments to force them to private company to transfer their technology to other countries. Japan is of the view that Intellectual property right does not constitute obstacle for technology transfer, rather proper protection of IPR can promote development and transfer clean and environmentally sound technology.

To achieve sustainable development globally, it is crucial for us to address issues of cities since it leave huge negative footprint on environment and it also requires large scale infrastructure which cannot be easily renovated. We must shift to more sustainable consumption and production pattern in cities and develop, transfer and disseminate energy and resource efficient technology for cities. Therefore, various efforts at glass roots level and at local governments' level are further encouraged.

To develop, transfer and disseminate clean and environmentally sound technologies, it is indispensable to build a mechanism which gives incentive to local governments and the private sectors to take leads in this field, and create enable system and policy environment. Addressing needs of among private

sectors and local governments, giving incentives such as subsidies and financial credits, elimination of disincentive, proper protection of intellectual property rights, framework of policy assessment indicating priority area are extremely important. From this point of views, the government of Japan has been extending a variety of projects to developing countries, such as environmentally sound and energy efficient system and tender standards.

The needs of clean and environmentally sound technology vary with fields and areas of each developing country. Effective supports should be extended according to the need of developing countries. To date, a variety and wide range of projects of capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries under the framework of bilateral aid and multilateral environmental agreements have been conducted in order to promote development and transfer clean and environmentally sound technology. For example, Japan announced in Rio de Janeiro, to organize ten thousands of the “Green Future Action Corp” in next 3 years to help developing countries increase their human resource capacity. Recently, emerging economies have also promoted clean and environmentally sound technology, the significance of south-south cooperation is more increasing as we discussed at Work shops.

The government of Japan is proposing and conducting “Bilateral Offset Credit System” in the field of climate change. Since climate change is imminent threats, it is unavoidable to have some negative impact of this. When technology is transferred, it is crucial for every country to choose proper technology from the view point of adaptation. We believe that Bilateral Offset Credit System” could provide an option for countries to promote private sector driven efforts based on the needs in the fields.

There have already been many existing mechanisms which have plenty of technology and knowledge in the fields of clean and environmentally sound technology, such as UNEP/IETC, research institutions, private sectors, local governments, and there also are a variety of networking of them. In addition to them, new mechanism, such as CTCN, was just established. There is also “Future Earth Initiative” which was launched in Rio, and is also a part of

“research for sustainability”. In Japan, academia and government jointly established a taskforce team for it and now we are considering how to contribute to the initiative.

At workshops, participants discusses the issue of fragmentation, as we mentioned above, needs for technology or knowledge might vary according to the level of develop, area and countries. It is important to support efforts made at grass root level, in this regards, we don’t’ think that fragmentation is obstacle for technology transfer and dissemination. Most important thing is how to make full and well use of existing mechanisms, and further cooperate and collaborate among them. Each EMA, Specialized Agency, bilateral mechanisms have their decision making bodies, it’s impossible for the mechanism under the auspices of UN to govern them. Without recognizing this point and ongoing efforts, creating new global technology transfer mechanism or working group under the auspices of UN will not contribute to development and transfer clean and environmentally sound technology at all and only result in expansion of bureaucracy, diverting our focus from the effort to identify and address real problem.

No panelists from other entities and academia mentioned the necessity of new mechanism under the auspices of UN at work shop organized by DESA. It was a great opportunity for Member States to lean that this is not just about technology transfer, rather a matter of investment environment of recipient countries, including capacity and its policy and recognize ongoing projects and network all over the world. My delegation was disappointed that the workshop did not enjoy greater attendance from among the Member States.