



CIGS Symposium

"Climate Realism and European climate policy"

Taishi Sugiyama

**“Reality Check of Environmental Impact Assessment
of Climate Change”**

(Summary of speech)

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Venue: Shin-Maruru Building Conference Square, Room 901

Mr. Taishi Sugiyama, Senior Research Fellow, CIGS: Global warming is in fact happening. CO2 emissions are the cause but there is a broad range of estimates available, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has acknowledged. If the CO2 concentration doubles, the range of the expected temperature increase is 1.5 to 4.5 degree Celsius. The Paris Agreement has set a goal of keeping the temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

In terms of the impact of global warming, people often mention the torrential rainfall and sweltering heat that we experienced this summer. Let me first discuss the sweltering heat. Looking at the data, specifically the daily mean temperature, we see a greater number of days with extreme hot weather. Global warming has indeed increased the number of days with hot weather. This also means there will be fewer days with colder weather.

As for torrential rain, there is the sense that this has increased. The data backs that up. However, it does not mean that people are no longer able to live. People have always lived in a variety of temperatures and climate.

We know from meteorological agencies' observation data that there have been warmings in the past as well. This has occurred in urban areas and in sea areas, but what negative impacts have there been because of this? It seems people have not really noticed and have adapted pretty well. Similarly with torrential rain. This has increased and yet the number of casualties and deaths has declined as we have become more resilient.

So what are the lessons? Global warming will continue and rainfall will continue to increase. In response, we have to strengthen countermeasures for disaster prevention and mitigation. However, we need not necessarily be pessimistic. We have coped with natural disasters pretty well and I think we can continue doing so.