

## **“The Mid- to Long-Term Global Vision for Challenges against Global Warming”**

Date: October 27, 2009

Location: Shin-Marunouchi Building  
The Canon Institute for Global Studies (CIGS)

### **<Opening Remarks>**

#### **Toshihiko Fukui, President, the Canon Institute for Global Studies**

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished scholars and guests from overseas and Japan. I am Toshihiko Fukui, President of the Canon Institute for Global Studies (“CIGS”). It is a great honor for me to welcome you to Tokyo, at our institute to this important international symposium on climate change.

This is the first international symposium organized by CIGS. The theme we address in this symposium is global environment issues. We have invited leading experts and distinguished scholars in Japan and from overseas as speakers to this symposium. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to these eminent speakers who have gladly accepted our invitation to the symposium. You will find well-known names of today’s guest speakers as well as their brief background in your program. Now, I would like to introduce them to you just by mentioning their names in the order of their presentation.

First of all: Sir Brian Hoskins from England. He is the Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College London.

Professor Taroh Matsuno from Japan. He is Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo.

Dr. Koki Maruyama, also from Japan, is Guest Professor at the Collaborative Research Center for Energy Engineering, the Institute of Industrial Science of the University of Tokyo.

Professor Zhou Dadi, from China, is the former Director-General and Research Professor of the Energy Research Institute, the National Development and Reform Commission.

Professor Michael B. McElroy, from US. He is Gilbert Butler Professor of Environmental Sciences at Harvard University.

Mr. William C. Ramsay, from France. He is Senior Fellow of the French Institute of International Relations.

Mr. Tetsushige Nishio, from Japan, is the former Vice-Minister of the Environment, and currently serves as Special Consultant to the Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Mitsudo Urano, also from Japan. He is the Chairman of the Committee on Global Environmental Issues at Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives).

Mr. Xu Huaqing, from China, is the Director and Research Professor of the Center for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Research of the Energy Research Institute, the National Development and Reform Commission.

Ms. Nami Kitamura, from Japan. She is Project Associate Professor of the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science at the University of Tokyo.

Lastly: Professor Tetsuo Yuhara, Research Director of the CIGS. He is responsible for the entire planning and organization of the symposium.

Again, I would like to welcome the members of the symposium and honored guests, and let me be brief in making some opening remarks.

As you know, we have seen turbulent changes in the global economy since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. People all over the world are concerned about numerous issues caused by these changes and raise questions about their future. Among others, the stability of financial systems and other related issues are now being debated in more concrete manner ever before, after the world faced the financial crisis.

Issues of global environment are similar to the said issues in their nature, being closely related to the global economic problems. However, the global environment issues, at the same time, are pregnant with different set of problems.

In 1968, the Club of Rome sent out an eleventh-hour warning that the world has never forgot. The voices, from the Club are still loud and pose big challenges that each of us has to face for the future. Since the book “The Limits to Growth” was published in 1972, the warning has never left our mind. It emerges now before us once again.

With the progress of globalization, emerging economies have become a driving force of the world economic growth. In parallel with it, the green house gases (GHGs) emitted by the emerging countries are rapidly increasing in volume. As at 2007, the top of CO2 emitter in the

world was China with 21% of the global GHG emissions and the second was the United States with 20%. These numbers indicate us who, in the future, should bear heavier responsibility in proportion to its GHG emissions.

In order to cope with the situation mentioned above, a number of targets have been set. The ultimate goal is to curb the rise of the earth's surface temperature at some point in the future and to stabilize it at a certain level. A certain measurement reveals that an average level of the earth's surface temperature has risen by 0.75 degrees Celsius if compared to its level before the industrial revolution in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to the latest scientific knowledge, it is required to hold the rise at around 2 degrees and to stabilize it at such level. Putting it in political perspective, it was agreed by the developed countries as well as some of the emerging countries in the recent Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy that the temperature rise has to be contained at 2 degrees.

However, in order to achieve this goal, the GHG emissions will have to be decreased drastically. A long-term target has been set to cut the total volume of GHGs emissions by half before 2050. This is a very challenging target; the developed countries have reached a consensus on it. However, the emerging countries have not been ready to commit themselves to set any numerical target despite they have recognized that a significant reduction of GHG emissions is stringently required.

Mid-term target for GHG emissions is also being widely discussed. In Japan, the new DPJ government has declared its commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 25% compared to the 1990 level. The year 2050 is set as the target year for the long-term target. It is 40 years from now, and during such a long period we will be able to expect many of technological innovations to develop, all of which are not able to be predicted at the moment. In the mid-term target, the target year is set at 2020, until when we are able to foresee certain technological innovations and their applications. Therefore, the mid-term target is established for the purpose of achieving the long-term target, accomplishment of the former being expected to serve as a steppingstone to achieve the latter.

As you know, COP15 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark at the end of this year. As the initial phase of Kyoto Protocol that provides an international framework for reduction of GHG emissions will come to end shortly, members in COP15 are expected to make substantial progress in discussions on creation of new international framework that will succeed the Kyoto Protocol after 2013.

We may not be able to meet our reduction targets by 2020 or by 2050. Nor may we attain our ultimate goal of stabilization of the earth's surface temperature by the end of this century. Although we can expect to see making a significant progress on these targets and goals, we do not know yet how close we will be able to reach them. What is important here is that we should make persistent efforts leading up to achieving the long-term targets.

Given the temporal distance of these issues, I would think that we should take scientific and objective approach, on the basis of which we will accumulate the wisdom of people. If we see the issues at a short distance, you will find gaps professed between environmentalists and industrialists in their standpoints. Even though these gaps may continue to exist in the near future, we have to offer a consistent view, by steadily pursuing the scientific and objective approach, to incorporate and co-opt as many people as possible to share a common view from a super long-term viewpoint.

The issues of global warming we address here today have both natural science and economics aspects. Dealing with the issues from both aspects, we should establish a core scientific consensus, on which all countries will build their climate change policies. I would think that such scientific consensus has to be shared internationally. Every country shall make its policies on the basis on such consensus with its own strategic intent.

So, when we talk about the policy coordination among the countries involved, it should not simply be a product of compromise among them. The policies should be coordinated on the basis of the scientific consensus. Once the countries decide to strengthen their domestic efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on the internationally coordinated policy backed by the science, the quality of emission trading system can be drastically improved. Only in that case, the emission trading system can be refined to realize equalization of marginal abatement cost among the countries. Once reaching the stage, I believe that all the efforts made by human beings on the globe will become self-sustainable and self-sufficient, and will bear fruit.

In today's symposium, discussions will be centered on this point. Please enjoy learning from our guest speakers today and have stimulating discussion. I am sure that this symposium will be memorable with your enthusiasm and participation.