

## **Agenda Item 2 - Japan**

In September 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, organized the "Online Platform" Ministerial Meeting on the recovery from COVID-19 and climate change and environmental measures, with the support of the UNFCCC Secretariat. The meeting brought together information on countries' concrete actions and knowledge on climate and environmental policies, in the context of their recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The objective was to maintain the global momentum to ensure that climate action does not take a step back during the pandemic. We would like to take this opportunity to thank again the many countries participating in today's meeting for their contribution to the Ministerial Meeting.

In October 2020, Prime Minister Suga declared that Japan would aim to achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050. In line with this, Japan is accelerating both domestic and overseas efforts toward decarbonization.

As part of its contributions to SDG13 (climate change) in Asia, last week, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan held the "International Forum on Decarbonized Cities" over two days on March 17-18, in cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat.

In addition to cities from Asia such as Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Jakarta (Indonesia), financial institutions such as ADB (Asian Development Bank) and PT-SMI (national infrastructure financing company) also participated in the forum. Essential measures such as strengthening cooperation among cities were highlighted.

As Japanese cities are accelerating efforts toward achieving decarbonization by 2050, there are currently over 300 local governments that declared themselves as Zero Carbon Cities, representing a population of over a hundred million people. Additionally, the National and Local Decarbonization Assembly is pursuing efforts.

We aim to share these numerous efforts with overseas cities, and continue to expand the movement of "decarbonization domino effect" globally.

In relation to the Decarbonized Cities Forum, the side event "Carbon Neutral: The Future of the Asia-Pacific Region - Contributing to the Transition to Decarbonization," was held today under the joint support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, the Embassy of France in Thailand, and UNEP.

The event addressed ways to accelerate efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and contribute to the multiple SDGs, in the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, with the aim to contribute to the transition to decarbonization in the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular focus on cities.