

JCLP Welcomes Japanese Government's 2050 Net Zero Emissions Target

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) welcomes Japan's new target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, announced today in a speech by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

JCLP has its utmost respect for Prime Minister Suga's leadership for reaching an important decision at this crucial juncture to avert climate crisis. JCLP would like to commend Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi for widely advocating for the importance of tackling climate crisis and addressing issues such as Japan's support for exporting coal-fired power plants. We also applaud Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama for reaching the decision to suspend or close inefficient coal-fired power plants at home following a difficult process to reach consensus, and acknowledge ministry officials' effort and support with respect.

Prime Minister Suga's announcement today shows both to Japan and other countries that Japan is committed to its responsibilities for the future, and the country will be united toward the goal of keeping the temperature rise from before the Industrial Revolution to within 1.5 degrees Celsius under the Paris Agreement. This pledge marks an important turning point for Japan to reexamine how our society should be in a long term.

Once more details become available regarding the direction of policy in line with today's pledge, Japanese companies will invest more aggressively in decarbonization and push through technology innovation. Building a decarbonized society ahead of other countries with Japan's advanced technology will not only help avert climate crisis but also revitalize the country's economy and strengthen international competitiveness of Japanese companies.

JCLP thus hopes that the Japanese government will start laying the foundation to promote self-sustaining innovation by conducting a review of its energy policy and adopting economic policies such as putting a price on carbon.

As a coalition of companies aiming to solve climate change issues from the perspective of business, JCLP will continue to be committed to working with the central and local governments, industry, investors, and citizens, and making utmost contributions as Japan makes its collective effort to shift to a decarbonized society.

Comments from JCLP Co-Chairs

Kenichi Ishida (Managing Executive Officer, Sekisui House, Ltd.)

I fully support this important decision made by the Japanese government. There is no doubt that more companies will commit to decarbonization with detailed plans following this pledge. I welcome the fact that the pledge lays the foundation for Japan to compete in the global market where change is occurring toward decarbonization. It is a pleasure that through this transition, we can make our children's future brighter.

Toshihiro Kawakami (Head, Environmental Promotion Department, LIXIL Corporation)

This announcement marks a shift to a decarbonized society. It will give a great impetus for companies committed to climate action, stimulating innovation for Japanese products and services. This should in turn bring about positive impacts on business expansions and ESG funds as well. I am sure that business persons in Japan are feeling motivated and many of the wider public are also uplifted by this excellent announcement.

Kahori Miyake (Executive Officer, CSR & Communication, Aeon Co., Ltd.)

Three years ago in Bonn, Germany, where the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) was held, I realized that Japan was behind other countries and there was a head wind. Today's announcement will create a chance for Japan to turn the situation around. Once clear targets have been put in place, Japan is good at achieving them. This announcement of a clear direction is truly significant in this sense, and I highly commend Prime Minister Suga for his leadership.

Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP) is a coalition of companies (153 as of October 2020) that aims to create a zero-carbon society, built on the idea that decarbonization is essential to economic development. It was set up in 2009 to encourage the business sector to develop a sense of urgency on climate action. The members share a common goal and proactively communicate with policy makers, business peers and the civil society. The coalition has a unique focus on policy engagement to accelerate decarbonization in the country. Since April 2017, JCLP has been The Climate Group's regional delivery partner on RE100, EP100 and EV100 initiatives in Japan.

URL: <https://japan-clp.jp/en>

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