

Key Points of Outlook for 2009

**Global Warming Prevention Measures:
Will Agreement Be Reached at Copenhagen?**

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The year 2009 is important for testing whether the international community could agree on a medium to long-term framework for prevention of global warming. The first focus of attention in this respect is an agreement on a specific long-term global emission goal. The Group of Eight industrial countries at their Toyako Summit reaffirmed that the long-term goal of halving global greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 should be shared at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Concerned that developing countries could be forced to set their goals, however, these countries have urged developed countries to set their medium-term goals for substantial emission reductions first. The second focus of attention is whether such emerging countries as China and India could promise to take effective actions, while the Bali Action Plan has urged both developed and developing countries to make commitments that are measurable, reportable and verifiable. The third focus of attention is a specific goal for 2020 under a post-2012 international framework. Also attracting attention will be how the key negotiation themes of “mitigation,” “adaptation,” “technology” and “finance” would be materialized in an agreement. Another issue is whether the European Union and Japan could reach any agreement under the present framework in which no mandatory emission reduction goals are imposed on the United States and emerging countries.

The United States under new President Barack Obama will have great influences on any agreement in Copenhagen. Obama has indicated a positive stance on tackling the climate change problem. It is important how the new president would address domestic policy measures and an international framework regarding the climate change problem while implementing emergency economic stimulus measures. Meanwhile, the EU has maintained its negotiation approach based on its medium to long-term goals as agreed on at its ministerial council in 2007. But some EU members are concerned about tougher climate change prevention measures amid economic

deterioration. Attracting attention is whether the EU would maintain its hard-line negotiation approach toward agreement on medium-term goals with the United States and emerging countries remaining free from any mandatory goals for the immediate future. Under such situation, the attitudes of such emerging countries as China and India will be important for compromises on controversial issues. It would be difficult for the United States to join a new framework without effective commitments by emerging countries. Whether a comprehensive compromise acceptable for both could be produced will be the key to any agreement in Copenhagen.

A major challenge for Japan is consideration of medium-term goals. This is important for Japan's positive engagement in international negotiations and its medium to long-term domestic measures. Japan may have to materialize measures listed in its action plan for developing a low-carbon society while considering the feasibility of goals with costs taken into account. Its efforts to address energy security and international competitiveness simultaneously will be tested.

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