

International Symposium on Voluntary Approaches

Evaluating Industry-led Voluntary Approach and Discussing the Future of Climate Change Policy: Achievements and Future Roles of Japan's Voluntary Action Plan on the Environment

(Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available)

Objectives:

Launched in 1997, the Voluntary Action Plan on the Environment (“the Plan”) concluded its target period in fiscal year 2012. The Plan was referred to in the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan, revised in 2008, as having “thus far produced results”. Despite addressing the climate change issue over a long term, such industrial community’s efforts under the Plan have not had a sufficient academic studies and discussion done on it both domestically and overseas. It was because that the Plan took a gradual development, including its follow-up process, and it also had limited access to information.

Given the conclusion of the Plan in fiscal year 2012, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry launched the Committee for the Comprehensive Review of the Voluntary Action Plan on the Environment (“the Committee”). The Committee performed a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements of the Plan, which had mainly focused on reducing emissions in corporate production activities. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the renewed voluntary approach, the Committee also compiled a proposal for the formulation and assessment/evaluation of action plans carried out by the industrial community.

“International Symposium on Voluntary Approaches” aims at communicating a comprehensive evaluation of voluntary approaches and proposals for future programs to domestic and overseas audiences, discussing the future roles of voluntary approaches as well as facilitating understanding of Japan’s climate change measures. Through this symposium, we expect to share the achievements and challenges of voluntary approaches among the parties concerned, and to promote the further development of the voluntary action. Also, we hope such kinds of knowledge and experiences contribute to improve the effectiveness of the Japanese climate change policy.

Date and Venue

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| Date and Time: | Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 13:00-17:00 |
| Venue: | Keidanren Kaikan (Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) |
| Organizers: | Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, KEIDANREN, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan |
| Sponsor: | Ministry of Environment (to be confirmed) |

Program:

13:00 Opening

Opening Remarks (13:05)

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Plenary session (13:15~14:15)

13:15-13:35 *Future climate policy (1) (tentative title)*

Dr. Yoichi Kaya, Professor emeritus, University of Tokyo / President, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth

13:35-13:55 *Future climate policy (2) (tentative title)*

Dr. W. David Montgomery, Senior Vice President, NERA Economic Consulting

13:55-14:15 *Envisioned efforts under the Commitment to a Low Carbon Society (tentative title)*

Mr. Yasushi Kimura, Vice Chairmen, Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Safety, KEIDANREN (Chairman of the Board, JX Holdings, Inc.)

14:15-14:30 Coffee Break

Panel Session (14:30~16:55)

Theme: *The role of voluntary approaches in Japan's climate change policy and future challenges (tentative title)*

Session Chair :

Dr. Hidetoshi Nakagami, Committee member, Committee for the Comprehensive Review of the Voluntary Action Plan on the Environment (CEO and Founder, Jukankyo Research Institute)

14:40-15:00 *The role of voluntary approaches as global warming countermeasures*

Dr. Taishi Sugiyama, Senior Research Scientist, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI)

15:00-15:20 *Climate change policy in Europe (tentative title)*

Dr. Ernst Worrell, Professor, Energy, Resources & Technological Change, Utrecht University

15:20-15:40 *Climate change policy and voluntary approaches in the U.S. (tentative title)*

Dr. Brian Flannery, Center Fellow, Resources for the future

Panelists (TBD):

Dr. W. David Montgomery

Dr. Ernst Worrell

Dr. Brian Flannery

Dr. Taishi Sugiyama

Mr. Hiroyuki Tezuka, Chairman of the Working Group on Global Environment Strategy, Committee on Environment and Safety, KEIDANREN (General Manager, Climate Change Policy Group, Technology Planning Department, JFE Steel Corporation)

Discussion

Q&A (floor)

Closing remarks: (16:55-17:00)

17:00 Closing

17:00- Reception