

Intervention (Climate Change: Japan Room 4 Afternoon May 5)

Presentation

I am very encouraged by knowing that not only state but local government are doing advanced efforts to improve the local environment. Particularly to program to reutilize waste of food oil is extremely unique, and I am pleased to hear such original actions have been taken by one of the local states in my country.

Barrier

We have a common view that air pollution, energy, industrial development and climate change are deeply interlinked. Solution to these problems should be integrated in the strategy of sustainable development. Now I think we are exchanging our views in terms of how to resolve the problems and what is the priority. Japan believes that to improve the local and global environment is essential to sustainable development. For this reason, we have been doing many activities contributing to this goal.

One example is transboundary air pollution. Dust and sandstorms are a common concern in the northeast Asia. The prevention and the control of dust and sandstorms become a common urgent problem. The obstacle in this case is what one country can do is very little. In cooperation with China, Korea and Mongolia, Japan accumulates the scientific knowledge and set the observation sites. With participation of international organizations, these countries formed ADB/GEF project.

Lesson

So what lesson we got from the activity? The importance of international cooperation, capacity building and participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Dr. Sathaye mentioned comprehensive approach which I completely agree with. State and local government, academic community, NGO, local community and private sector, these players have their roles in realizing environmental friendly sustainable development. This is exactly same situation in addressing concerns related to climate change and

other issues.

Next step

Then what is a next step we should take? Enhancing attention on this issue is important.

I think this meeting at CSD contributes to beefing up the political momentum and produce political message of our commitment. Involving many stakeholders in the dialogue also works for promoting the participation. It is necessary that government supports to the private activities on such as R&D in energy and environment area, financing and inter-industry cooperation. These actions can lead us to achievement of our goal only with participation of various stakeholders.