Air pollution / atmosphere

I would like to make my intervention focusing on ambient air pollution. Issues of ambient air pollution includes those that should be addressed by individual countries such as regulation of emissions by vehicles and measures against dioxin, and those addressed by regions such as trans boundary air pollution.

First, I would like to touch upon the issues that should be addressed by individual countries. The most important issue in this field is effective measures for addressing air pollution in transport sector. Let me give some concrete example, a) setting up of regulation on exhaust gas such as vehicle unit regulation and regulation on exhaust gas from special vehicles, b) subsidiary for dissemination and facilitation of low emission vehicles, that is, preferential taxation system, or support by governmental financial institutions such as low interest loan.

Next, I would like to raise 2 issues that should be addressed by regions. One is transboundary air pollution such as acid deposition. The situations of pollution, technological capacity and the status of economic development are varying among the region. Therefore, using existing network conducting activities considering features and measures in each region is most effective for sharing knowledge and technologies, and taking measures against air pollution.

For example, in East Asia we have Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia participated by 13 countries to develop common understanding on the status of regional acid deposition and to promote international cooperation. We believe that to make a good use of such network is very helpful to address transboundary air pollution. Japan has been providing financial and technological assistance in promoting this network as a main actor.

The other issue is protection of the ozone layer. For this issue, the implementation and promotion of relevant agreement such as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol is crucial. Especially to promote to protect ozone layer through international cooperation including compliance with the Montreal Protocol for developing countries is essential. Activities to support developing countries like bilateral cooperation using the Multilateral Fund for Montreal Protocol, and providing opportunities for capacity building are important to promote further compliance with Montreal Protocol proactively for developing countries. Also, it is important to promote linkage with other multilateral environmental agreements on chemical management.