

Tokyo Zero-emission Innovation Bay

https://unit.aist.go.jp/gzr/zero_emission_bay/en/index.html

< Congratulatory address >

Mr. HOSODA Kenichi

State Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Hello everyone. I am HOSODA, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. I would like to congratulate you today on holding the second symposium of the Tokyo Zero-emission Innovation Bay. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President KASHIWAGI, Dr. YOSHINO, the director of the AIST Global Zero Emission Research Center, and all the companies and organizations involved for their efforts and cooperation in economic and industrial administration.

I got sunburned because I am in the middle of the election campaign. Please excuse me the way I look. We were fighting an election campaign in the intense heat last week. I think it could be a symptom of the global warming phenomenon.

As Professor KASHIWAGI explained, In October 2020, Japan declared that we would achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. We also stated that we would reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 46% in 2030, and continuously strive to reach 50% by 2050. We have set ourselves the ambitious goal. It is very difficult to achieve the goal. The implementation of fundamental innovations in industrial structure and socio-economics will be crucial while geopolitical issues arise, including Russia's invasion into Ukraine.

As Professor KASHIWAGI said, due to the lack of fossil fuels and natural resources, I guess, Japan needs to turn crisis into opportunity, through innovation, which leads to huge business opportunities. Tokyo Zero-emission Innovation Bay was established in June 2020 to encourage institutions around Tokyo Bay to decarbonize. I understand that they have been conducting various activities, including holding seminars on introducing state-of-the-art zero emissions technologies, and considering visions that Japan should pursue. I hope that the council will help create new activities and I wish you continued success.

From the government side, In June 2021, we declared the Green Growth Strategy toward realization of carbon neutrality by 2050. We have categorized industry action plans into 14 fields, to achieve the highest possible goals by highlighting specific prospects. In order to promote the implementation of challenges toward ambitious goals, the government made a budget of GI Fund amounts to 2 trillion yen and 14 research and development projects have been implemented under the fund toward achieving realization of carbon neutrality.

Many of the participants in this symposium, I believe, are involved in one of the GI projects. The Japanese government has to ensure stable energy supply now and in the future, and to lead to further economic growth, we are now in the process of formulating the Clean Energy Strategy. As we see extensive investment needs, we are working on the clean energy strategy to achieve a carbon neutral society, by making full use of growth-oriented carbon pricing and measures to encourage investment in a good combination of supports and regulations, so that we will specify the strategy by the end of the year.

Around the Tokyo Bay area, there are many business offices, universities, and research laboratories representing Japan. It is a massive industrial and commercial area where intelligence is also gathered. Under the leadership of the council, The participation of over 130 companies, universities, research institutes, and government attendance in the creation of innovative zero emission technologies means technology development as well as leads to development of human resources responsible for social implementation.

I am definitely looking forward to the outcomes. I hope that the council will be the hub for zero emissions technology and innovation to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, while also contributing to neutrality itself.

Achieving the goal cannot be taken for granted, as explained by Professor KASHIWAGI. It would accompany a structural reform of economic society, which cannot move forward without pain, however, Japan, which is poor in fossil fuels, can make it innovate ahead of other countries in the world or create new business opportunities. I hope the Zero-emission Bay to is up to date and I wish you all continued success and prosperity.

That brings me to the end of the presentation. Thank you for your attention.