

Press Statement by Hiroshige Seko, Japan’s Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy, for strengthening “EU-Japan energy dialogue and cooperation on innovation for advancing clean energy transition and addressing climate change”

Today, Hiroshige Seko, Japan’s Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy agreed to strengthen bilateral energy dialogue and cooperation on innovation for clean energy transition and climate change.

Referring to the commitments of both Japan and the EU under the Paris Agreement, the Minister and the Commissioner stressed the importance of ensuring joint leadership in the clean energy and achievement of a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in line with the Paris Agreement and breakthrough innovation.

Minister Seko underlined that innovation plays a crucial role for realizing Japan’s “3E+S” (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety) strategy and long-term vision presented in Japan’s recently released Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy. Minister Seko welcomed the participation of the European Commission’s Joint Research Center in the ‘Research and Development 20 for clean energy technologies (RD20)’ conference in Tokyo.

Commissioner Arias Cañete stressed that implementing the EU’s recently adopted legislative package implementing the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, as well as the Commission’s proposed vision for a climate neutral economy by 2050 will drive this transition and entail enormous business opportunities. Tapping into these opportunities, and creating jobs and

growth, will require innovative solutions not only in the energy and clean technologies sector but also throughout the economy.

Both referred to the EU – Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on the global LNG market of July 2017 and the recent EU – Japan Summit Joint Statement, which called for a strengthened cooperation, including broad energy dialogue, energy research and innovation in support of sustainable, secure and competitive energy supplies as well as enhanced cooperation on climate change to achieve the Paris Agreement's goals.

They agreed that this cooperation will be further strengthened based on a shared view on the importance of a virtuous cycle between environment and growth. Business-led breakthrough innovations will play a leading role in achieving this.

Minister Seko and Commissioner Arias Cañete expressed their intention to work towards a Memorandum of Cooperation for this strengthened cooperation. Their discussions led to the mutual understanding that the bi-lateral cooperation should lead to concrete outcomes in a number of areas, possibly including the following:

1. Sharing views and cooperation on long-term strategies on energy and climate, including on the role of innovation to address environmental and climate change related concerns, promote achievement of a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in line with the Paris Agreement and achieve sustainable economic growth objectives.
2. The development of stable and transparent electricity markets to reliably and cost-efficiently integrate variable renewable energy sources.
3. Share best practices on large-scale demonstration projects and effective policy frameworks in energy efficiency and renewables, with a focus on a building sector and offshore wind energy.
4. The further promotion and implementation of a liquid, flexible and transparent global LNG market, in line with the related EU – Japan Memorandum of Cooperation, signed on 11 July 2017.
5. The development of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, and the policy and regulatory frameworks enabling their deployment, in particularly in view of a trilateral EU – Japan – US Cooperation on hydrogen.
6. The promotion of cooperation in research and development on clean energy technologies, including achievement of a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and

removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in line with the Paris Agreement, on the basis of reciprocity in exchanging information and in the mutual opening of funding programmes, in particular in the areas of energy storage and other flexibility options of importance for the large-scale integration of renewable energy, the digitalisation of the energy sector, and hydrogen-related technologies.

7. The identification of concrete areas for collaboration on nuclear waste, decommissioning and safety of advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors, in the frame of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the European Atomic Energy Community for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which was signed in February 2006.
8. Acknowledgement of the successful cooperation among the relevant ministries and research institutions in developing fusion as an additional low carbon clean energy source for the future which currently brings clear benefits to industries in both economies.
9. Exchange of views on options to facilitate and promote international sustainable energy trade in the light of current and future challenges in the global energy economy, such as the increasing need to move to low-carbon energy production, the shifting patterns of global energy supply and demand and the projected rise in global energy demand. The EU will report in these discussions on its initiative to strengthen the role of the EURO in international energy transactions.
10. Exploring how to exploit possible synergies in the area of investments in sustainable energy infrastructure in Asia, in the frame of the EU's strategy on connectivity towards Asia and Japan's Indo-Pacific strategy.
11. Sharing knowledge on policy and regulation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport and mobility sector, in particular with respect to promoting the deployment of zero and low emission vehicles, discussing vehicle-to-grid issues and possible cooperation in harmonizing standardization of related areas.
12. Sharing information and expertise on technologies for CCS and CCUS. Japan will share information for Carbon Recycling including technology roadmap.