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Senior Transport Officials to Combat Climate Change in Hakodate

21 major countries and 12 organizations will unite again to accelerate their efforts to combat climate change in the transport sector on June 17 and 18, at the “Senior Officials Meeting on Global Environment and Energy in Transport”, hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Government of Japan.

In search of Transport for Development and Environment

The CO2 emissions from the transport sector currently account for 23% of the world’s total and are expected to grow further, particularly in developing countries due to their rapid economic growth. At the same time, transport is a foundation of economic growth. It is thus imperative for the transport sector across the world to accelerate its efforts to pave the way for the future transport system that enables both economic growth and environmental protection.

Now is the Time to Make the Vision into Reality

At the “Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport” (MEET) held in Tokyo this January, transport ministers shared the long-term vision of “realizing low-carbon and low-pollution transport systems.” Bearing in mind the characteristics of the transport sector, including the fact that taking actions in transport systems requires political and long-term commitments as these systems are deeply embedded in each economies, we have to make this vision into reality.

Strategy, Financing and Capacity Building

Through the meeting, with the support from various relevant organizations, high-level officials from major countries will focus on three broad themes. *Strategic approach* is necessary to secure political and long-term commitments; *Financing* transport projects is always an issue; and *capacity building* will accelerate implementation of concrete measure in each country. Toward and beyond COP15 this December, the Meeting will also reaffirm the importance of international cooperation as a major emitting sector that requires global efforts.

<FACTS>

1. Date and Venue

June 17 (Wed.) – 18 (Thu.), 2009

Hakodate Kokusai Hotel, Hakodate city, Hokkaido, Japan

2. Participating Countries and Organizations (provisional)

21 Countries: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.

12 Organizations: European Commission (EC), ASEAN Secretariat, The World Bank, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Transport Forum (ITF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Association of Public Transport (UITP), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Transport Research Laboratory (TRL; UK), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).