

June 18, 2009

Accelerating Global Efforts toward Low-Carbon & Low-Pollution Future of Transport

- Senior Transport Officials to Combat Climate Change in Hakodate -

Senior transport officials from major countries and experts from international organizations gathered their ideas and wisdom to accelerate global efforts against climate change and air pollution, paving the way for a low-carbon and low-pollution future of transport.

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, was convened in Hakodate, Hokkaido on June 17 and 18.

In line with the directions outlined by the Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport (MEET) in January 2009, the Meeting prepared to facilitate further concrete actions and enhance required international cooperation toward low-carbon and low-pollution transport systems. From lively and fruitful discussions among delegates from 21 major countries and 11 international organizations, emerged the importance of three perspectives: namely, *strategy*, *financing* and *capacity building*.

The highlights of the Meeting issued as the Chair’s Summary include:

<Strategy>

Strategic transport action plans will play an important role to bring mid-/long-term perspectives into transport policies. In this respect, the importance of assisting the development of such action plans in developing countries was stressed.

<Financing>

The importance of utilizing various financing methods for transport projects was pointed out. Also, the expectation was shared for improvement and development of financial mechanisms under the post-2012 framework that could be effectively employed in the

transport sector.

<Capacity building>

A number of themes on which developing countries need help for their effective policymaking and implementation were identified, including energy efficiency standards, public transport systems and data development. The importance of *international cooperation to enhance capacity building* for such areas was emphasized.

Toward and beyond COP15 in December 2009, all the current efforts, at both national and international level, must be shared and well-coordinated. In this respect, the Meeting recognized the necessity of fostering a global network among transport officials and experts that is expected to enhance international cooperation in the transport sector.

Finally, the Meeting welcomed Italy's initiative to hold the second Ministerial Conference in Spring 2010, which will open a new stage of global efforts in the transport sector that began in Tokyo this January.

<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.

11 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).