

Statement by Taro Aso,
Prime Minister of Japan
The Ministerial Conference on Global
Environment and Energy in Transport

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TOKYO

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and a great pleasure to address the Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport.

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt welcome to the attendance of your Excellencies and distinguished delegations from countries around the world and from major international organizations.

Climate change, the main theme of this conference, is one of the urgent issues that has threatened human security in both developed and developing countries, especially under this globalized world.

Everyone living on the Earth is expected to take responsible actions to protect our planet. Contributions from major countries and international organizations which attend this conference, covering about 70% of the world's CO₂ emissions from the transport sector, are essential.

All modes of transport are the foundation of our economy and society, while carbon dioxide emissions from transport account for over 20 percent of the world total.

Transport activities will increase further, and, in particular, emerging and developing economies are going through amazingly rapid motorization.

Achieving both the development of transport and environmental protection is, in fact, one of the major challenges for our generation.

Making the most of our experiences and know-how in this field, Japan is determined to play an active role in contributing to the sustainable development and stability of the world.

For example, the fuel efficiency of motor vehicles in Japan is to achieve a world highest level by 2015, that is, 50% more efficient than that in 1995. I am confident that by deploying such Japanese technologies, we can significantly contribute to global CO2 emission reduction.

Also, Japan, with ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, will collaboratively formulate the *ASEAN-Japan Environmental Action Plan* consisting of comprehensive measures in transport, within this year.

In line with such efforts, I would like each participating country to accelerate its efforts to reduce CO2 emissions from the transport sector, as well as to enhance its support for developing countries, utilizing its technologies and experiences.

My sincere hope is that the world would work together for truly effective measures to combat climate change.

Toward fulfilling this goal, I firmly believe that this conference will produce fruitful results in strengthening international cooperation in this invaluable sector.

Thank you.

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