

ICEF 2015 Statement from Steering Committee

Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF) held its first annual conference last year as an initiative of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to create an international platform that promotes innovation in reducing climate-changing GHG emissions with the participation of governments, businesses and academia of the world. This year, we held the second annual conference and covered a greater variety of topics in plenary and concurrent sessions than in the first conference and received greater participation of over 1,000 experts from governments, businesses and academia representing about 70 countries and regions.

We earnestly hope that countries will come to an agreement on a post-2020 international framework at COP21 in Paris this coming December. While we welcome the efforts by many countries in their submissions of INDCs, it is our view that the new international framework must be fair, workable and effective with the involvement of all major economies. For this purpose an appropriate process to review each country's measures and assess resulting aggregate global emissions reductions should be created under the new framework.

In addition to the new framework to be concluded at COP21, we should also establish a longer-term global emission reduction goal for the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system while ensuring sustainable economic growth. In this regard, we take into account the viewpoint of the G7 Leaders' Declaration in Germany in this year on the global goal of level of temperature rise and long-term emissions reduction.

In order to establish the receding pathway of global GHG emissions at an accelerating rate, significant emission reduction needs to be realized through development and deployment of innovative technologies. Hoping that such a view and vision will be shared by the conferences under UNFCCC and other international conferences, we would like to particularly emphasize the importance of following three points, among many other policies and measures, as the recommendations for this year.

1. Implementation of policies to promote research, development and dissemination of innovative technologies

Research and development of innovative low-carbon technologies must be pursued with a long-term perspective, knowing that such endeavors rarely result in short-term profits. Private sector is the core of such activities and their efforts and entrepreneurship are crucial for success.

Support and funding from governments as well as collaboration and information-sharing among private enterprises and research institutions are essential for accelerating innovation. It is important to recognize that a regulatory environment significantly influences the course and speed of technological innovation in the fields of energy and environment. With these understandings in mind, there should be appropriate governmental policies (such as public funding, regulations and green procurement) that direct both public and private investments towards research development and dissemination of low-carbon technologies

2. Establishment of concrete action plans based on a shared vision of the future

All stakeholders should share a common vision for the promotion of low-carbon technologies. For this reason, ICEF supports the Low Carbon Technology Partnership initiative (LCTPi¹) launched by IEA, SDSN², and WBCSD³ to realize such a vision of governments, academics, and businesses. ICEF's contribution to LCTPi for this year is the formulation of an innovation roadmap for solar energy and energy storage, followed by ones for other technologies and systems in the coming years. We also expect governments of all major economies to develop their action plans in line with these roadmaps.

3. Promotion of proper finance scheme for technology transfer to developing countries

We appeal to international financial organizations (GCF⁴, ADB⁵, World Bank, GEF⁶, etc.) to expand their financing to technologies that would simultaneously achieve emission reductions and economic development. These entities should also prioritize their financial assistance by taking the emission reduction potential of each project into consideration. Moreover, we expect the emergence of innovative and flexible private funding scheme for GHG abatement technologies.

¹ LCTPi; <http://lctpi.wbcserver.org/>

² Sustainable Development Solution Network

³ World Business Council for Sustainable Development

⁴ Green Climate Fund

⁵ Asian Development Bank

⁶ Global Environment Facility