

Research Report
on
International Affairs
and Global Warming Issues

INTERIM REPORT
(Extracts)

June 2008

Research Committee on
International Affairs and Global Warming Issues
House of Councillors

Japan

CONTENTS

I. Process of Deliberations	1
II. Recommendations	3
1. International Affairs	3
Strengthening Japan's Dissemination Capability	3
2. Global Warming Issues	11
Ensuring Achievement of the Kyoto Protocol Targets and Post-2013 Issues: Toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit	11
Reference Process of Deliberations in the First Year	20
Appendix List of Committee Members.....	25

I. Process of Deliberations

The current Research Committee on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues was established on October 5, 2007, during the 168th session of the Diet, by the House of Councillors to conduct long-term and comprehensive research relating to international affairs and global warming issues. Research committees, consisting of 25 Diet Members belonging to the various political groups in the house, hear opinions from voluntary testifiers and others and conduct free discussions among members on the research theme. Recommendations regarding matters on which the committee can reach agreement are compiled.

The research theme for the Committee over the three year-period, “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community,” was decided by a Board of Directors meeting held on October 31, 2007.

Seven specific themes were decided relating to international affairs: “Strengthening Japan’s Dissemination Capability”; “The Role of NGOs”; “International Efforts to Deal with Earthquakes and Other Large-Scale Natural Disasters and Infectious Diseases”; “How to Help Africa”; “Security in Asia”; “How to Promote Disarmament Diplomacy”; and “Human Rights Issues and Human Rights Diplomacy Including Postwar Settlement.”

Another two themes were decided relating to global warming issues: “The Current Status of Global Warming Countermeasures and Issues Toward the Achievement of the Kyoto Protocol Targets” and “International Efforts and Japan’s Role and Tasks: Issues for 2013 and after.”

In the first year of the research, regarding international affairs, the Committee took up the specific theme of “Strengthening Japan’s Dissemination Capability.” Regarding global warming issues, in view of the fact that the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit would be held in Japan in 2008 and global warming issues would be one of the main items on the agenda, it took up the specific themes of “The Current Status of Global Warming Countermeasures and Issues Toward the Achievement of the Kyoto Protocol Targets” and “International Efforts and Japan’s Role and Tasks: Issues for 2013 and after.”

Regarding “Strengthening Japan’s Dissemination Capability,” the members of the Committee heard opinions from voluntary testifiers, listened to explanations from government testifiers and asked them questions on five occasions, then engaged in discussions among themselves. Regarding “The Current Status of Global Warming Countermeasures and Issues Toward the Achievement of the Kyoto Protocol Targets” and “International Efforts and

Japan's Role and Tasks: Issues for 2013 and after," the members of the Committee heard the opinions of voluntary testifiers, listened to explanations from government testifiers, asked them questions, and engaged in discussions among themselves on seven occasions.

Thus, from the fall of 2007, the Committee conducted research on the themes of Japan's dissemination capability and global warming issues. It has decided to compile the interim report including recommendations.

II. Recommendations

1. International Affairs

Strengthening Japan's Dissemination Capability

The breadth of Japan's diplomacy has expanded in recent years along with the rise of its international status, and its activities in the international arena have simultaneously increased. Amid this situation, it has become critically important for Japan to deepen other countries' understanding of Japan and ensure that its views are properly conveyed to the world. Accordingly, strengthening Japan's ability to disseminate information to the world is now an extremely important issue.

Turning one's eyes to the world in conjunction with this desired strengthening of dissemination capability, one finds that many countries are actively involved in a type of activity called public diplomacy. This is based on the awareness that for a nation to achieve its diplomatic objectives, especially in the face of the remarkable development of information and communication technologies and the increasing influence of NGOs and other nongovernmental actors, it is essential to reach out not only to the other country's government but also to that country's public opinion and knowledgeable people.

Recognizing the need to emphasize public diplomacy in order to ensure strengthening of Japan's ability to disseminate information to the world from now on, the Committee decided to conduct research on the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability from such a standpoint. Thus, the Committee explored desirable ways of strengthening Japan's dissemination capability by, among other activities, hearing the views of knowledgeable people and other persons concerning such aspects as the necessity for and the desirable forms of dissemination, current conditions regarding dissemination by Japan and other countries, and Japan's dissemination activity as seen from abroad.

Through such research, the existence of diverse issues was brought to light, including the fact that, when implementing public diplomacy, Japan's attractions and viewpoints are not being conveyed in such a way that they can be understood by other countries; that, while dialogue with knowledgeable people is particularly important, overseas think tanks and other research institutions, the recipients of such dialogue, are not sufficiently organized for or involved in Japanese studies; that there are areas for improvement in Japan's dissemination

framework, finances, and the like; that not enough efforts are being made to develop people capable of undertaking dissemination activity; and that foreign language proficiency, an essential tool of international communication, is weak.

The Committee believes that it is critical, in terms of achieving Japan's diplomatic objectives, to resolve these issues and strive to strengthen Japan's dissemination activity in order to deepen understanding of Japan and improve its image and presence on the global front. Accordingly, it makes the following recommendations:

(1) Ways of thinking when undertaking dissemination activity

(a) Reevaluation of Japan's attractions

In order for Japan's dissemination activity to be received favorably in other countries and for it to stimulate their interest in Japan, it is first of all necessary for the Japanese people themselves to recognize what is attractive about Japan. The government should verify and evaluate what aspects of Japanese history, tradition, culture, including pop culture, and anything else about Japan are considered truly appealing in other countries and how they help to create Japan's image. It should then work actively to disseminate information on such attractive aspects.

(b) Promotion of dialogue in dissemination activity

When disseminating information to the world, it is essential for Japan to ensure that the intent and content of dissemination are correctly understood by the target countries. For this purpose, it is insufficient simply to convey Japan's views in a unilateral manner. It is important to carry out diverse forms of dialogue. The government should endeavor to further promote dialogue with other countries when disseminating information abroad.

In holding dialogue with other countries, it is especially important to hold dialogue with knowledgeable people in those countries. In the future, efforts should be made to promote dialogue with knowledgeable people abroad by actively hosting international conferences and the like. At the same time, the Japanese Diet should seek active exchanges with the parliaments of other countries.

Furthermore, when doing so, efforts should be made not only to simply convey the government's views but also to inform the target countries that there are diverse opinions and viewpoints in Japan. Efforts should also be made to convey to other countries Japan's roles in and contributions to numerous diverse issues relating to the peace and prosperity of the

international community. In particular, dissemination activity should be strengthened in countries where the image of Japan is not necessarily favorable, promoting exchange with all segments of the population and implementing other measures to improve Japan's image.

(c) What to communicate

There are numerous types of information on Japan that should be disseminated abroad, such as information on individual regions and cities, Japanese technologies, and Japan's efforts to solve national issues, not to mention its history, tradition, and culture, as well as Japanese ways of thinking, such as the spirit of *wa* (harmony) and *bushido*. In particular, the government should disseminate the fact that Japan, regretting its past mistakes, has done its utmost in the postwar era to defend peace, freedom, and human rights as provided for in its Constitution and that it has adhered strictly to nonmilitaristic actions when making contributions to the international community. Moreover, the government should endeavor to disseminate messages that move and give hope and dreams to people around the world, in addition to messages on our efforts to tackle the various issues confronting us today.

(2) Development and strengthening of the dissemination framework

(a) Prompt dissemination of information in foreign languages and securing the necessary human resources and budget

To stimulate interest in Japan, the various government agencies should make use of the Internet to actively and promptly provide information in foreign languages concerning matters under their jurisdiction.

Of Japan's government agencies, diplomatic establishments abroad, which are located in major cities around the globe, play an especially significant role in Japan's dissemination of information to the world. The websites of major diplomatic establishments are an important means of Japan's dissemination activity. The diplomatic establishments should be provided with the personnel and budget necessary for maintaining a website that provides diverse information concerning Japan in a timely manner and in the language of the host country.

A reason for Japan's low dissemination capability and weak presence in the international community is that it does not disseminate much information at the policy level. The government's ability to disseminate information on environmental and other issues aligned to the global age should be strengthened, along with expanding the budget for boosting the government's dissemination activity.

(b) Strengthening the functions of international cultural exchange organizations

The Japan Foundation and other international cultural exchange organizations have an important role to play in Japan's efforts to increase its dissemination capability. In recent years, some such organizations have been forced to curtail their activities, such as decreasing the number of participants in international exchange programs, due to smaller financial resources brought about by decreased financial assistance from public and private sources. In the future, the government should exert efforts to further expand tax benefits on financial assistance and donations and implement other measures in order to enable these organizations to fully perform their intended roles.

Furthermore, in order to heighten the functions of international cultural exchange organizations, it is necessary to build an organic collaboration system that allows, for example, the sharing of information and knowledge with think tanks, universities, and other institutions conducting expert research on exchange-partner countries. The government should provide the necessary support for creating such a system.

(c) Facilitation of foreign correspondents' coverage of Japan

Impressions of Japan held by other countries can change dramatically depending on how information concerning Japan is conveyed abroad. Foreign correspondents are the conduit through which information concerning Japan is conveyed to the world. It is necessary to provide better service to foreign correspondents and improve their impression of Japan. There continue to be strong complaints from the foreign press based in Tokyo concerning the difficulty of obtaining information from certain government bodies. Accordingly, it is urgently necessary for the government as a whole to work toward a definite improvement in the foreign press's access to government agencies. The government should facilitate foreign correspondents' coverage of Japan, especially by providing prompt release of information to foreign correspondents and other parties through the use of multiple languages, as well as graphics and video, and holding briefings more frequently.

(d) Provision of attractive information to knowledgeable people abroad

In not a few countries, the opinions and viewpoints of knowledgeable people have a strong influence on that country's policymaking in domestic and foreign affairs. For this reason, in public diplomacy, it is important to provide information that is accurate and of interest to knowledgeable people. In recent years, however, interest in Japan has relatively declined among knowledgeable people abroad, in contrast to heightening interest in Japan among the

ordinary population triggered by pop culture and the like. To strengthen the dissemination of information to knowledgeable people overseas, the government should take advantage of diverse media, including the Internet, books and magazines, and the mass media. It should also dispatch knowledgeable Japanese to other countries to provide high-quality information at international conferences and other influential venues.

(e) Improvement and strengthening of frameworks for welcoming students from abroad

The number of foreign students studying at institutions of higher learning in Japan has been on an upward trend in recent years. If foreign students continue to hold a favorable impression of Japan after their return to their home countries, they can help promote friendship and goodwill based on their good understanding of Japan. At present, however, Japanese universities and other academic institutions do not have adequate frameworks in place to welcome students from abroad. To realize its plan of increasing the number of international students to 300,000 in the future, the government should exert efforts to improve and strengthen frameworks for welcoming students from overseas, for instance by building new dormitories and providing finely tuned assistance to help students live, study, and work in Japan.

In addition, to create an environment that encourages international students to study in Japan, it is necessary to further promote the internationalization of Japanese universities. Consideration should be given to such aspects as expanding credit transfer arrangements with overseas universities, offering more lectures in English, and introducing a September enrollment system.

(f) Improvement of NHK's international broadcasts and development of the necessary environment abroad for receiving NHK broadcasts

NHK's international broadcast programs are extremely important in terms of stimulating interest in and deepening understanding of Japan among people abroad. NHK should exert efforts to produce, with the participation of private networks, high-quality programs worthy of its role as an Asian center of dissemination. When doing so, care should be given to ensuring that the program content in diverse fields, such as politics, economy, and culture, may fully attract foreign people's interest in Japan and deepen their understanding of the country.

Additionally, in order to increase the foreign audience for NHK's international broadcasts, NHK should exert even greater efforts to improve the environment for receiving its broadcasts abroad.

(3) Development and securing of human resources for strengthening Japan's dissemination capability

(a) Strengthening efforts to develop human resources capable of disseminating information to the world

To strengthen its dissemination capability, it is necessary for Japan to foster the growth of numerous intellectuals capable of communicating the Japanese people's identity and diverse views and ways of thinking to the world. For this purpose, schools should provide the kind of education that teaches students to express their opinions effectively based on their own reasoning when debating issues on which there are diverse viewpoints. At the same time, it is also important to develop the ability to explain things in an intelligible way to the other party.

Furthermore, when disseminating information to the world, an extremely important factor is to have Japanese persons working actively in senior posts at the United Nations and other international organizations. The government should exert even greater efforts to develop highly capable people with the foreign language proficiency and expertise necessary for working actively at such organizations.

(b) Improving the ability of the Japanese people as a whole to speak English and other foreign languages

At present, English is used widely in cross-border communication in a variety of fields. On the Internet, English websites overwhelmingly exceed websites in other languages. Despite this, the English-speaking ability of the general public in Japan is such that most are unable to converse freely with non-Japanese-speaking people. The pool of potential international communicators is extremely small. For this reason, the government should tackle English language education more firmly, providing regular classes in English and referring, among others, to the teaching method called language immersion, where students are immersed in a foreign language environment.

(c) Enhancement of efforts to increase Japanese youths' international experience

In terms of gaining a new awareness of the outstanding qualities of Japan, it is also extremely important to have numerous Japanese people, especially youths, visit foreign countries, come in contact with different cultures, habits, and customs, and experience life in such an environment. While the overall number of Japanese people traveling overseas is increasing, however, the number of young Japanese visiting abroad for purposes of training, study, travel,

or other reasons is on a downward trend. In the future, the government should expand and improve various measures aimed at having more young people experience foreign countries.

(d) Support for younger people's participation in international conferences

At international conferences and symposiums that have worldwide impact, extremely important discussions on international issues are being held with the participation of numerous knowledgeable people from around the world. In recent years, however, the number of Japanese people participating in such international conferences and symposiums has declined, and the participation of younger people in particular has been extremely limited. In order to increase opportunities for the younger generation of Japanese researchers and persons with a practical background to participate in such events, the government should implement such measures as sharing information concerning dissemination opportunities abroad and offering to bear travel expenses.

(4) Strengthening of measures aimed at recipients of dissemination activity

(a) Support for overseas think tanks, universities, and other institutions that are recipients of dissemination activity

In not a few countries, think tanks, universities, and other such institutions play important roles as recipients of Japan's dissemination activity and as conduits through which information on Japan is conveyed to knowledgeable people abroad. In recent years, however, opportunities to hold studies and lectures on Japan and provide information on Japan to knowledgeable people have decreased at think tanks, universities, and other such institutions, due to a comparative decline in overseas interest in Japan and reduced financial assistance from Japanese firms and other donors, among other reasons. In the future, the government should expand further measures, inter alia, to support Japanese studies and lectures at such institutions and provide assistance for joint research and dialogue with such institutions, while simultaneously encouraging Japanese corporations to offer lecture sponsorship.

(b) Improvement and expansion of Japanese language teaching abroad

In recent years, an increasing number of people around the world, especially young people, are showing interest in Japan and expressing a desire to learn Japanese. However, the availability of Japanese language teaching is not necessarily sufficient. The spread of Japanese-speaking ability abroad will help deepen understanding of Japanese politics,

economy, society, culture, and other aspects and serve to promote friendship and trust between Japan and other countries. In the future, the government should greatly increase the number of centers providing Japanese language teaching abroad, as well as train in a planned manner Japanese language instructors to be dispatched abroad. In addition, it should offer long-distance learning of Japanese via the Internet.

(c) Arousing overseas interest in Japan

The creation of opportunities for diverse people around the world to come in contact with Japanese history, traditional culture, and pop culture, such as *anime* (animation) and *manga*, is useful for arousing interest in Japan. For this reason, efforts should be made to strengthen the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, which invites youths from abroad to assist language teaching and other activities in Japan, as well as other diverse grass-roots invitation programs, in order to increase opportunities for as many ordinary people as possible to directly experience the history, culture, and other aspects of Japan. Furthermore, international cultural and athletic events that bring together numerous people from around the world should be held with greater frequency.

2. Global Warming Issues

Ensuring Achievement of the Kyoto Protocol Targets and Post-2013 Issues: Toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) asserted that warming of the climate system is unequivocal and specifically illustrated the impending crisis. The report also insisted that immediate action should be taken, since delays in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions would increase the risk of more severe climate change impacts.

Amid this situation, discussions have been conducted on a post-Kyoto Protocol framework. At a meeting held in Bali in December 2007, a roadmap was adopted indicating the procedures for negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement in 2009. From now on, in the light of this roadmap, it is necessary to add further impetus toward the formation of a consensus, including medium-term reduction targets and long-term goals. The G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, to be held in July 2008, is expected to be an important forum for international negotiations for this purpose.

From the fall of 2007, the Committee deepened discussions on the nature of the response to global warming and, based on the recognition that Japan, which will be the host country of the Hokkaido Toyako Summit, must exercise leadership toward the building of an effective framework for 2013 and after, continued its research with the possibility in mind that recommendations might be made to the summit from the standpoint of the Diet.

Through the Committee's research so far, among other things, it has become clear that Japan's greenhouse gas emissions still exceed the base year of the Kyoto Protocol and in particular are increasing strikingly in the business and household sectors; that a transition to a low-carbon society is required in order to avoid dangerous climate change; that global efforts are necessary to prevent global warming; that in the next framework, in addition to the United States, which withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, the participation of China, India, and other developing countries, which at present do not have any reduction obligations, is essential; and that the transfer of technologies and financial sources is an important condition to enable these countries to participate.

In order to exercise leadership, it is necessary for Japan to clarify the direction that should be taken and, first and foremost, to show that it is making efforts itself. Based on the research results, it is necessary for Japan to fulfill its obligations with regard to the reduction

of greenhouse gas emissions, propose effective medium- and long-term global warming countermeasures, and make efforts to realize them. Regarding international contributions, it is necessary to clarify Japan's thinking and actions.

More specifically, Japan must clarify that it can definitely achieve its 6% reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol and explain how and, with a strong determination to realize a low-carbon society ahead of the rest of the world, clearly show Japan's targets for reducing greenhouse gases, formulate concrete policies for achieving them, and make it clear that Japan is striving to realize the targets by utilizing all kinds of means, including economic methods, finance, renewable energy, and so on. Furthermore, in providing assistance to developing countries, there is a lot of room for Japan to contribute with its state-of-the-art energy-saving technology. For this purpose, Japan must make it clear that it will take the initiative in cooperation in the technical field and also, taking into consideration the opinions of the developing countries, provide financial and human assistance as well.

On top of that, if Japan can strongly convey this active stance to the world, deepen understanding of Japan, and build relations of trust and cooperation with developed and developing countries, then it will be possible for Japan to play a mediating role at the summit in fostering a momentum toward the formation of a consensus on the building of the next framework, including the setting of medium-term targets and long-term goals and the participation of developing countries.

In order to realize a low-carbon society, it will be essential for us to change the framework of society from its roots, including lifestyles and the mode of cities and transportation. In this case, the cooperation of the people will be essential. It will be necessary to explain what a low-carbon society means, including the burden and obligations of the people, and how it can be realized and to call for people's understanding. Proper consideration should be given to this point.

From this perspective, the Committee makes the following recommendations so that Japan can exercise leadership at the summit and take us a step forward toward the building of an effective framework to follow the Kyoto Protocol.

(1) Definite achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets

The reduction commitments of major developed countries stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol are no more than a first step toward the achievement of the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the "stabilization of

greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”

Japan was the host country that coordinated the Kyoto Protocol, so the fulfillment of its reduction commitments under that protocol is only natural. In addition, it can be said that Japan must imperatively fulfill those commitments in order to exercise international leadership toward the building of a post-Kyoto framework at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, where it will be the chair country, and other forums.

Therefore, Japan must show its firm determination both domestically and internationally, declaring that it can definitely achieve the targets of the Kyoto Protocol and indicating how it will do so.

(2) Realization of a low-carbon society

Greenhouse gas emissions in the world are double the amount that is naturally absorbed. In order to achieve the targets of the UNFCCC, it is necessary to reduce current emissions by more than a half, and it is essential to make efforts toward the realization of a low-carbon society. Last year Japan also indicated the long-term goal of halving worldwide emissions by 2050, but it must not stop there. Japan should endeavor to realize a low-carbon society ahead of the rest of the world and serve as a model in this respect.

For this purpose, Japan must position the realization of a low-carbon society as a national goal, set Japan’s own targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions toward this goal, formulate policies and effective plans for the realization of such a society as soon as possible, show the Japanese people a specific image of that society and the way to realize it, and call for their understanding. In so doing, it is important that the aim should be to build a vigorous society that is in harmony with the economy and a society that conforms to local characteristics and enables people to truly feel affluence.

In the setting of reduction targets, since Japan’s per capita emissions are overwhelmingly greater than those of developing countries, they must exceed the reduction targets of the world as a whole.

Although various efforts are necessary toward the realization of a low-carbon society, the main ones are as follows:

(a) Change of people’s attitudes

Greenhouse gas emissions in Japan still exceed the base year of the Kyoto Protocol, and the

increase is especially striking in the business and household sectors. As extreme climate changes caused by warming are becoming more and more noticeable, as well, of course, as efforts by industrial circles, a change of people's attitudes is essential in order to realize a low-carbon society.

Therefore, it is necessary to increase awareness of the need to prevent global warming by, for example, implementing daylight saving time and blanket holidays and urging self-restraint in late-night broadcasting. On the basis of cooperative efforts by the government, industry, public sector, and academia, it is also necessary to highlight the crisis being brought about by global warming through all kinds of media, such as NHK programs, and on various occasions, including the fact that global warming represents a crisis for humankind, that it is progressing much faster than expected, in particular that the climate system has inherent inertia, and that stabilization will be difficult if responses are made only after the situation deteriorates.

On top of that, the key to the prevention of global warming lies with each individual, so it is necessary for each one of us to think about what we can do to reduce greenhouse emissions and review our lifestyle of consuming energy and products in large quantities. Moreover, it must be strongly asserted that doing so should be seen as a good opportunity to improve the quality of our lives. In this endeavor, measures will also be necessary to raise people's awareness and inspire concrete behavior, such as visibility labels on products showing their CO₂ emissions.

In environmental education as well, in cooperation with local authorities, schools should place the emphasis on raising awareness of the crisis caused by global warming and changing attitudes toward the realization of a low-carbon society.

Furthermore, as one aspect of these educational efforts toward a change of attitudes, efforts related to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which started in 2005, are useful and should be further promoted in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, companies, and so on.

(b) Promotion of efforts in the community

Positive efforts in the local community are also necessary in order to realize a low-carbon society. In this case, it is important for not only the administration but also a variety of actors, including residents, companies, and NGOs, to participate, pool their wisdom, and think about efforts that take advantage of the special characteristics of the community. In addition, there are many local communities that are making pioneering efforts, such as "compact community

development,” toward the reduction of CO₂ emissions. If such enthusiastic efforts by local communities with resident participation become active, it can be expected that the attitudes of residents will change and various ideas will be generated, thereby contributing greatly to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

For this purpose, positive support should be given to local efforts; for example, the scope of the Environmental Model City Project, which is currently being promoted, should be expanded.

In addition, the provision of incentives is important in order to promote local efforts. For example, one idea might be to reflect the degree of CO₂ reduction in each local community in distribution of the tax grants from the central government to local government.

(c) Consideration of the introduction of economic instruments, such as domestic emissions trading and an environment tax

Economic instruments, such as domestic emissions trading and an environment tax, are major policy tools for a shift to a low-carbon society.

In particular, regarding a domestic emissions trading system, this is being introduced by many developed countries as a measure that can definitely promote emission reductions by society as a whole at a low cost by attaching a price to carbon. Furthermore, moves can also be seen to internationally link the domestic systems of each country. In view of its greenhouse gas emissions, Japan also should positively consider the introduction of such a system as soon as possible. In so doing, it is essential to ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation of emission quotas and establish an appropriate system for Japan bearing in mind the country’s achievements in measures to reduce emissions and other factors.

Nevertheless, a system of domestic emissions trading would not cover all sectors. In order to increase the effect of reducing emissions, therefore, Japan should also consider a domestic version of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for small and medium-sized companies and, from the perspective of a policy mix, an environment tax.

(d) Promotion of efforts to address global warming issues utilizing finance

Japan should promote measures to prevent global warming and aim to realize a low-carbon society through the method of finance. In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the world’s finance industry has established the UNEP Finance Initiative and is employing the “Principles for Responsible Investment” to make investment decisions in consideration of the environment and other factors and the “Equator Principles,” which are

a means of impact assessment on the environment and so on for large-scale project finance. At the same time, the finance industry is also engaged in such schemes as the “Carbon Disclosure Project,” which investigates and discloses the CO₂ management of investment-target companies. However, the efforts of Japanese finance organizations are inadequate, and support is necessary in order to accelerate the formation of a finance industry that gives consideration to the environment.

In addition, as a consequence of these moves by the world’s finance industry, fund management in pension funds is attracting attention, and here also responsible investment is coming to be demanded. In Japan as well, consideration of the form of management of the public pension fund is necessary.

(e) Promotion of strategic efforts to introduce renewable energy and strengthening of system to promote their diffusion

In order to definitely achieve the 6% reduction target of the Kyoto Protocol and to aim for further long-term and continuous emission reductions toward the building of a low-carbon society, the large-scale expansion of renewable energy, such as solar energy and wind power, is essential. Therefore, Japan should strategically promote efforts to introduce renewable energy from now on.

In addition, issues for immediate consideration might include the restoration and expansion of the subsidy system for home solar energy generation equipment, for which there is much demand; the introduction of a mechanism for buying back electricity, which would boost incentive; and the establishment of a public system of “green electricity” certification.

(f) Promotion of the production and use of a Japanese version of biofuel that gives consideration to food supply and environmental preservation

It is being pointed out that expansion of the production and use of biofuel is leading to food shortages and the rapid rise of food prices and to environmental destruction, such as deforestation, around the world. Japan should promote the production and use of a Japanese version of biofuel that utilizes rice straw, timber from forest thinning, idle paddies, and so on and does not compete with the food supply and environmental preservation.

(g) Promotion of forest sink measures

The development of forests to act as CO₂ sinks has a major role to play in achieving the Kyoto Protocol targets and aiming to realize a low-carbon society, but there are many

problems involved, such as the securing of financial sources and human resources.

In these circumstances, in order especially to promote forest sink measures in public and private forests, a method using the market mechanism can be thought to be effective. Specifically, Japan should consider the establishment of a domestic “forest CDM” system by which, in order to achieve the CO₂ reduction targets that they have set for themselves, companies, local governments, and so on could participate and cooperate in forest development projects and acquire the CO₂ absorption amounts obtained as credit.

(h) Innovative technological development

Realizing a low-carbon society will need the large-scale reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from now on. For this purpose, not only the improvement and diffusion of existing technologies but also the research and development of innovative new technologies will be indispensable. Recently the Council for Science and Technology Policy compiled a plan for innovative environmental and energy technology with the aim of halving greenhouse gas emissions in the world as a whole by 2050. It is necessary to aggressively promote the research and development of environmental and energy technology in line with this plan.

(i) Comprehensive and planned promotion of global warming adaptation and mitigation measures

The Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC pointed to the importance of both adaptation and mitigation measures relating to global warming. Since global warming is becoming a reality, with the aim of making the world as a whole shift toward a low-carbon society, it is necessary to promote adaptation measures domestically, such as disaster reduction management, as well as mitigation measures in a comprehensive and planned manner.

For this purpose, among other things, Japan should formulate a plan for strategic national land development and preservation that enables a proper response to the rise in sea levels and outbreak of large-scale disasters due to the impact of warming and design breeding strategies to promote the development of breeds and species that can adapt to warming.

(3) Japan’s contribution to global warming issues

(a) Support for measures to prevent global warming in developing countries

Global efforts are necessary in order to increase the effectiveness of measures to prevent global warming. The post-2013 framework must be participated in by all the major economies,

including not only the United States but also such developing countries as China and India. Technical and financial cooperation is critical in order to encourage the participation of developing countries, but assistance that contributes to the sustainable development of each developing country is necessary.

Therefore, in addition to Japan's technology, such as its excellent energy-saving technology, Japan should strongly demonstrate its willingness to actively cooperate in the expected development of innovative technologies from now on and at the same time consider cooperation that involves, for example, the proposal of a development model emphasizing the ownership of the recipient country. In addition, in order to facilitate technical cooperation, concurrent assistance is also necessary for the establishment of systems relating to the protection of intellectual property rights in recipient countries.

Also, regarding financial cooperation, Japan should consider the form of additional and bold financial assistance.

Furthermore, as a global financial mechanism, it will be important as well to consider an international solidarity tax and so on.

(b) Support for the adaptation measures of developing countries

Even if measures to reduce emissions are implemented to the maximum degree, the impact of warming is inevitably going to occur in some regions, such as island countries, and there is anxiety about the future in developing countries, which are concerned about their vulnerability to the impact. Eliminating this anxiety is the obligation of the advanced developed countries, which have been emitting greenhouse gases, and assistance is also necessary for the implementation of adaptation measures to reduce the impact.

For this reason, Japan should actively cooperate in not only supplying disaster-prevention know-how and technology but also providing related financial assistance.

Furthermore, it is also important to consider the establishment of an international disaster insurance agency in order to promote the early recovery from disasters caused by abnormal climate conditions.

(c) Japan's role at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit

It is hoped that the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit will show initiative on global warming issues and in particular give an impetus to discussions in the United Nations on a post-Kyoto framework for 2013 and after. By strongly displaying Japan's active position of endeavoring to achieve the Kyoto Protocol targets, realize a low-carbon society, and contribute to the

world by addressing global warming issues, as the chair country of the summit Japan should exercise leadership in the following matters:

(i) Setting of long-term goals for the promotion of global warming countermeasures

Worldwide common goals are necessary for the promotion of warming countermeasures on a global scale. At last year's Heiligendamm Summit, the leaders of the G8 countries agreed to seriously consider reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050. This discussion must be further advanced at this year's summit.

(ii) Setting of a medium-term target for the promotion of global warming countermeasures

In order to make definite progress toward the achievement of the long-term target for 2050, it is important to set medium-term targets, especially for the intermediate year of 2020. It has been suggested that the major developed countries should aim for a reduction of more than 25%, but this is a problem that is connected with the establishment of a post-Kyoto framework. At this year's summit, at the very least Japan should call for the understanding of the other countries regarding the setting of medium-term targets.

(iii) Early peaking out of worldwide emissions

In order to at least halve greenhouse gas emissions in the world as a whole by 2050, Japan should call for the understanding of the other countries regarding the need to make worldwide emissions peak out within the next 10–20 years.

Reference

Process of Deliberations in the First Year

Diet Session	Date	Outline
168th	October 5, 2007 (Friday) (No. 1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of Committee Chairperson 2. Election of Directors
	October 31, 2007 (Wednesday) (No. 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets, under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Government reports/Q&A]
	November 7, 2007 (Wednesday) (No. 3)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets, under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Government reports/statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Keiichi HAYASHI General Manager of Sales Department, Takahashi Tokuji Shoten, Inc. Takejiro SUEYOSHI Special Advisor, United Nations Environment Program - Finance Initiative
	December 5, 2007 (Wednesday) (No. 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan’s dissemination capability (dissemination philosophy), under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Masakazu YAMAZAKI President, LCA Institute of Business Shinichi KITAOKA Professor, Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, University of Tokyo Hisanori ISOMURA Chairman, Association Franco-Japonaise pour la communication (TMF) and Former Director, The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris

169th	February 6, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 1)	<p>1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability (current status of Japan's dissemination efforts [outline of activities, framework, strategies, etc.]), under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testers/Q&A] Voluntary testers: Kazuo OGURA President, The Japan Foundation Tadashi YAMAMOTO President, Japan Center for International Exchange Yoshinori IMAI Executive Vice-President, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)</p>
	February 13, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 2)	<p>1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability (current status of other countries' dissemination efforts [outline of activities including international broadcasts, framework, strategies, etc.]), under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testers/Q&A] Voluntary testers: Jason JAMES Director, British Council Japan Uwe SCHMELTER Director of Goethe-Institut Japan and Representative for East Asian Region David M. MARKS Press Attaché, Embassy of the United States of America Alexis M. LAMEK Counselor for Cultural Affairs, Embassy of France</p>
	February 20, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 3)	<p>1. Election of new Director to fill vacancy 2. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets (efforts by industrial circles to counter global warming), under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testers/Q&A] Voluntary testers: Kiyoshi SAKAI Director, Chief Technology Officer and Corporate Executive Vice-President, Ricoh Co., Ltd. Takashi SEKITA Vice-President, JFE Steel Corporation Shozo SAITO Senior Vice-President and Executive Officer, Hitachi, Ltd.</p>

		<p>Michinori HACHIYA General Manager, Global Government Affairs Department – Environmental and Safety Technologies, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.</p>
<p>February 27, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 4)</p>	<p>1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets (efforts by industrial circles to counter global warming), under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Kenji HISAMORI Director, Sagawa Express Co., Ltd. Tamae KOBAYASHI Executive Officer Senior Vice-President - CSR Operations, The Seiyu, Ltd. Kiyofumi SAITO Senior Managing Executive Officer, Building Systems Company President, Yamatake Corporation Osamu YAMADA President, The Biwako Bank, Ltd.</p>	
<p>April 2, 2008 (Wednesday) (No.5)</p>	<p>1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets (local government efforts to counter global warming), under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Masashi MORI Mayor of Toyama City Tomoyuki SARUWATARI Vice Governor, Kyoto Prefecture Teruyuki ONO Senior Director, Urban and Global Environment Division, Bureau of Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government</p>	
<p>April 9, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 6)</p>	<p>1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning international efforts and Japan’s role and tasks: issues for 2013 and after (issues and Japan’s role toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit), under the overall theme of “Japan’s Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community” [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Shuzo NISHIOKA Special Visiting Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies</p>	

		<p>Yurika AYUKAWA Special Advisor, Climate Change Program, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Japan</p> <p>Jusen ASUKA Professor, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University</p>
April 16, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 7)	1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning international efforts and Japan's role and tasks: issues for 2013 and after (other countries' efforts regarding global warming issues), under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Hans-Joachim DAERR Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Robert F. CEKUTA Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America Guang Biao GE Counsellor for Political Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China	
April 23, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 8)	1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability (overseas criticisms, views, etc. on information originating in Japan), under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Martyn WILLIAMS President, The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan Marc BELIVEAU President, International Media Forum in Tokyo Hatsuhisa TAKASHIMA Special Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law, Gakushuin University	
May 14, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 9)	1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability, under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Statement of views by voluntary testifiers/government report/Q&A] Voluntary testifiers: Hideaki TANAKA Managing Director and Secretary General, Keizai Koho Center	

		Tadashi IZAWA Executive Vice-President, Japan External Trade Organization
	May 21, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 10)	1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the current status of global warming countermeasures and issues toward the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol targets, and investigation concerning international efforts and Japan's role and tasks: issues for 2013 and after, under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Exchange of views]
	May 28, 2008 (Wednesday) (No. 11)	1. Research on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues: Investigation concerning the strengthening of Japan's dissemination capability, under the overall theme of "Japan's Role and Exercise of Leadership in the International Community" [Exchange of views]
	June 9, 2008 (Monday) (No.12)	1. Authorization for the Research Report (Interim Report)

Appendix List of Committee Members

(as of June 9, 2008)

Chairman	Hajime ISHII (DP-SR-PN-N)
Directors	Azuma KONNO (DP-SR-PN-N) Wakako HIRONAKA (DP-SR-PN-N) Kunihiko MUROI (DP-SR-PN-N) Yoriko KAWAGUCHI (LDP-GI) Tetsuro NOMURA (LDP-GI) Masayoshi HAMADA (NK)
Members	Keiichiro ASAO (DP-SR-PN-N) Ken KAGAYA (DP-SR-PN-N) Shokichi KINA (DP-SR-PN-N) Kentaro KUDO (DP-SR-PN-N) Tsurunen MARUTEI (DP-SR-PN-N) Toru MATSUOKA (DP-SR-PN-N) Naoki MINEZAKI (DP-SR-PN-N) Ryuji YAMANE (DP-SR-PN-N) Hiroyuki ARAI (LDP-GI) Sinobu KANDORI (LDP-GI) Masahisa SATO (LDP-GI) Aiko SHIMAJIRI (LDP-GI) Shoji NISHIDA (LDP-GI) Takao MAKINO (LDP-GI) Kazuya MARUYAMA (DP-SR) Shuichi KATO (NK) Kanae YAMAMOTO (NK) Tokushin YAMAUCHI (SDP)

Note: DP-SR-PN-N The Democratic Party, The Shin-Ryokufukai, The People's New Party and The Nippon

LDP-GI Liberal Democratic Party and Group of Independents

NK New Komeito

SDP Social Democratic Party

RESEARCH OFFICE

First Special Research Office

Research Committee on International Affairs and Global Warming Issues

House of Councillors

House of Councillors #2 Annex

1-11-16 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0014, Japan

Tel: 81-3-3581-3111 Ext. 3152

Direct dialing: 81-3-5521-7635

Fax: 81-3-5512-3915

Printed in Japan