

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee at the Opening Ceremony of the 49th Session of the IPCC, Kyoto, Japan, 8 May 2019

I would like to thank the Government of Japan for hosting our Session in this historic and beautiful city of Kyoto.

And we are deeply honoured to be here at the opening of the Reiwa Era.

It is particularly appropriate that this meeting is taking place in Japan.

Japan's Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) hosts the Technical Support Unit of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

And this week we will consider the latest product of the Task Force, the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*.

We last met last October in my own country, the Republic of Korea, to approve and accept the special report on *Global Warming of 1.5°C*.

That report has had a huge impact, and has transformed and energized the public discussion of climate change.

It has fuelled interest all over the world in the work of the IPCC, as many of you have seen at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC last December in Poland.

Now we will consider the second product of the Sixth Assessment cycle.

As you know, governments use IPCC methodologies to report their national greenhouse gas inventories, comprising estimates of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, to the UNFCCC, including processes such as the Paris Agreement.

The *2019 Refinement* will improve this transparency and reporting process by ensuring that the methodology used to determine these inventories is based on the latest science.

This Session will also transact some important IPCC business, including consideration of the report from the IPCC Task Group on Gender, the selection of members of the Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments, or TG-Data, and the consideration of a number of initiatives to enhance the financial sustainability of the IPCC.

This is the first of three meetings this year, one of the busiest in IPCC history.

We will be meeting again in August and September to consider the special report on *Climate Change and Land* and the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*.

Meanwhile work is continuing on the Sixth Assessment Report, with the First Order Draft of the Working Group I contribution now open to expert review, and a scientific steering committee has been established for the Scoping Meeting of the Synthesis Report, to be held in Singapore in October.

I mentioned just now that we have gathered in Japan at the start of the Reiwa Era. “Reiwa” may be translated as “beautiful harmony”, and I hope that this will provide an auspicious framework for our discussions here.

I wish you all a fruitful and harmonious meeting here in Kyoto.

Thank you.