

**Welcome Address**  
**by Minister of the Environment Yoshiaki Harada**  
**at the Opening Ceremony of the IPCC 49<sup>th</sup> Session**  
(From 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2019)

**1. Introduction**

- Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of IPCC; Mr. Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of IPCC; honorable representatives of WMO, UNEP, UNFCCC, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you.
- In this fresh green season in Japan, His Majesty the Emperor has been enthroned with the new era name “Reiwa”, which literally means beautiful harmony. It is our great privilege and pleasure to have you here today in Kyoto, where the Kyoto Protocol was adopted 22 years ago.
- Over the last 30 years, the IPCC has been playing a crucial role in developing a scientific foundation to tackle climate change, since its establishment, which led to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- With successful adoption of the Paris Rulebook at the COP24 in last December, the world took great step forward for implementing the Paris Agreement.
- We welcome the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (degrees Celsius), published last October in advance the COP 24, and would like to express our deepest respect and gratitude to all who volunteered their time and expertise for its production.

## 2. Japan's Contribution to the IPCC and Action against Climate Change

- Japan has been supporting development of the GHGs inventory methodology development by hosting the Technical Support Unit for Inventory Task Force (TFI) since 1999.
- Furthermore, Japan successfully launched the GHG observing satellite "GOSAT-2" last October. GOSAT-2 has a function for measuring anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and contributes to improvement in the accuracy of GHG inventories.
- Today, climate actions are no longer costs, but rather, a source of competitiveness. As the presidency of the G20 in 2019, Japan will become a model for the world in the achievement of a virtuous cycle between the environment and growth.
- Last year, aiming to achieve decarbonization as well as SDGs, we have developed a future vision named "Circulating and Ecological Economy: Localizing SDGs". Under this vision, regions will make use of their own local resources, and complement each other, while ensuring high quality of life for future and a shift to a sustainable society.
- Regarding the Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy, the discussion is currently on-going in the government of Japan aiming for achieving a "decarbonized society" as early as possible in the second half of this century. The discussion is based on the recommendation from the expert meeting on the strategy, which includes the perspectives to contribute to the global efforts on limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 °C, and to realize a virtuous cycle of environment and growth led by business, for which disruptive innovation is essential. We will develop the strategy without delay and share it with the world at large.

### 3. Conclusion

- It is intrinsic to measure and report each country's GHGs emissions for implementing the Paris Agreement. The refinement of inventory methodology will serve as its crucial tool.
- I firmly believe successful achievement of this Session with adoption of the methodology refinement.
- Importance of the IPCC, to provide scientific sources for implementing the Paris Agreement, will become increasingly evident. We will thereby fully support IPCC's activities and lead the world in decarbonization with our advanced technology and scientific knowledge.
- Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude again to all of you who have devoted to making this Session possible.