

Japan at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change

Japan-Australia Summit Meeting

Japan commits to long-term reduction target

One of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's earliest international commitments was attending the United Nations Summit on Climate Change held in New York in September.

On 22 September, the Prime Minister delivered a statement at the summit in which he expressed his belief that developed countries must take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and he committed Japan to reduction targets. As a mid-term goal, Japan will aim to reduce its emissions by 25% by 2020 compared with 1990 levels.

Prime Minister Hatoyama explained that the commitment to reduce targets was in line with the pledge made in the DPJ's election manifesto. Policy tools will include the introduction of a domestic emission trading mechanism and a feed-in tariff for renewable energy, and a global warming tax will also be considered.

Japan cannot, of course, go it alone, and the Prime Minister stated that it is "imperative to establish a fair and effective international framework in which all the major economies participate" and that Japan's commitment was "premised on

ambitious targets by all the major economies".

Much of the Prime Minister's statement addressed the need to support developing countries so that sustainable development and poverty reduction can progress. Developing countries must, he said, take part in a global response to climate change and aim to reduce their carbon emissions under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".

Vast financial resources will be required to support developing countries and small island nations adapt, and he stated that Japan was prepared to provide more financial and technical assistance, "in accordance with the progress" of international negotiations. Prime Minister Hatoyama explained that public financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries are critical, but it is also essential that the flow of private investments is facilitated. He reiterated the need for a new post-Kyoto framework and vowed to exert every effort for the success of international climate negotiations in Copenhagen this December.

“Political leaders at this time ... have a responsibility to future generations to create a sustainable society by transforming the social structure that we have known since the Industrial Revolution.”

Japanese Prime Minister
Yukio Hatoyama

For the full transcript of the Statement by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change see:
www.mofa.go.jp/u_news/2/20090923_003732.html

Letters to the Editor

The Editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have.

Letters relating to Australia and Japan (opinions/experiences) are also welcome.

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The Japan-Australia Summit Meeting was one of several summit meetings held on the third day of Prime Minister Hatoyama's visit to the United States in September.

During the 40-minute meeting, Australian Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd and Mr Hatoyama discussed the bilateral relationship agreeing on the importance of further strengthening not only the economic side of the relationship but also political and security cooperation. The importance of trilateral security cooperation between Japan, Australia and the United States was also reaffirmed.

Other issues discussed were policy regarding North Korea, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the role of the G20 and the future framework for regional cooperation within the Asia-Pacific.

Regarding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament is a joint initiative of Japan and Australia, co-chaired by former Japanese Foreign Minister Kawaguchi and former Australian Foreign Minister Evans. Prime Ministers Hatoyama and Rudd expressed their expectation that the Commission would produce a constructive report by year's end, and they committed to cooperate for the success of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The two Prime Ministers also agreed to deepen the discussion about a future framework for regional co-operation within the Asia-Pacific.

For more information about Japan's relations with Australia see:

www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/australia/index.html