

Takeda's Remarks

I agree with the excellent key points and comments of the presenters. There is little doubt that significant “congruence” and “complementarity” exist between Japan and United on climate policy and new energy technologies. In particular, two clear opportunities stand out for increased energy and environmental cooperation along the lines suggested by most people.

First, we both can achieve more working together than we could alone and we both can derive benefits for our national interests that, in turn, can strengthen the bilateral relationship and make Asia a safer place, That is badly needed for 21st century. As everyone in this room agrees, we need some concrete measures to demonstrate anew the continued importance and vitality of the U.S.-Japan alliance in a new era. As you say in English, this offers a “no-brainer” – the opportunity to collaborate on some new energy and environment initiatives: (1) that reflect both countries’ current policies, (2) that can have a major impact in improving our collective response to climate challenges and to creating a high growth, low-carbon economy, and (3) that demonstrate how new types of strategic ties between Japan and the United States can be well-aligned to meet the key, emerging challenges of this new era.

Finally, let me expand on Kent’s suggested initiatives with four specific ideas for bilateral initiatives in a multilateral context:

- (1) support the global Climate Renewables & Efficiency Deployment Initiative unveiled by Secretary Chu in December by creating a Japan-US working group -- public, private, universities – focused on accelerating the development and rapid deployment of inexpensive, “smarter” technologies for developing countries to promote energy conservation and efficiency;
 - (2) “triangulate” some of the new US-China and Japan-China energy initiatives begun in the last year so that they have greater resources, greater talent and greater impact. In particular, I suggest focusing on clean coal and CCS technology as the top priority because it will remain the dominant source of energy in China for many years to come despite the rapid introduction of
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renewables there. The lessons learned from this new coal initiative, then, can be applied later to India and other major economies that remain dependent on coal (including, of course, the United States);

- (3) build on both countries' major new investments and focus on providing for fundamental research and new innovation to develop transformative renewable technologies. In particular, I think we have not done enough to create new research collaboration structures that go beyond the traditional government-to-government Science & Technology Agreement to a broader, "smarter" collaboration that makes full use of our research universities, national research labs and institutes, and cutting-edge companies as "partners" in a new, broad-based renewables research collaboration; and
- (4) Finally, President Obama in his State of the Union Address, and many leading U.S. Senators, have made a compelling case for why the United States needs a new focus on nuclear energy. Japan remains a global leader in nuclear technology and facility design. Together, we could support President Obama's call by linking the new DOE Energy Innovation Hubs with the Japanese national institutes and our business community to address some of the most pressing issues.

I look forward to discussing these ideas further with you. Thank you.