

## **Written Statement for the 4th Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)**

### **KOIZUMI Shinjiro, Minister of the Environment Japan**

- I would like to express my gratitude to Canada, China and the European Union for their initiative in organizing this occasion. I would also like to thank Mr. Hart for facilitating this meeting.
- Before making three points, let me touch upon Japan's coal policy. Since I took office, I have been fighting to prompt domestic discussions to push for decarbonization. Last week, the Energy Minister ordered discussions to be held this month on a concrete measures to phase out of inefficient coal-fired power plants. In addition, related ministries have agreed to review the export policy on coal-fired power plants.
- This leads me to the first point. Japan will redesign its post-COVID-19 socio-economic system, to initiate and accelerate the transition to a decarbonized, circular, and decentralized society.
- In pursuing these three transitions, Japan will show the path to a sustainable and resilient recovery and accelerate innovation to ensure a virtuous cycle of environmental protection and economic growth.
- Secondly, we pursue the realization of a resilient society.

- Japan has been experiencing intense typhoons and heavy rains almost every year. Just last weekend, overnight heavy rains triggered river flooding in residential areas and more than fifty lives were lost. The rain is still continuing to batter the area. This is nothing but a clear manifestation of climate crisis, our ministry declared last month.
- When recovering from disasters, we should “Build Back Better.” We aim to base our disaster recovery plan on the concept of “Adaptive Recovery”, considering future climate change impacts, and learning from the wisdom of the local history and culture.
- I strongly believe that such adaptive recovery plan requires government-wide coordination.
- Thirdly, such across-the-board coordination is what is exactly needed on the international stage. With this in mind, we will hold a ministerial online meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.
- I just issued an invitation letter to all Member States and observer organizations. This will present an opportunity to avoid the gap we may have had otherwise until COP26 to keep the momentum running high.
- I look forward to welcoming you all in September.  
Thank you. Arigato.