

Statements from Oulu 2017 Observer Special Session: Observer States

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Statement of Mr. Keiji Ide
Ambassador in charge of Arctic affairs of Japan
At the Arctic Council SAO Meeting
At Oulu, October 26, 2017

Thank you very much for giving observers to a chance to make statement and for warm hospitality extended by the Government of Finland and the City of Oulu to our delegation.

Japan continues to make contribution to pollution prevention thru 5 means and ways, as follows.

First, Japan sends very capable specialists and scientists to sub-groups of the AC, namely, to AMAP, AMAP SLCP EG, PAME, SDWG, CAFF and EGBCM. Last week I met these Japanese specialists and scientists who regularly participate in the work of sub-groups and they told me that they are satisfied to be received warmly and very happy to continue cooperation with these sub-groups. Our homework is how to build up cooperation with ACCP and EPPR and I need your advice.

Second, I wish to mention the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, which was made in 2013. Article 17 stipulates cooperation with non-AC members. If AC countries invoke this article, Japan will be happy to cooperate. In fact Japan has some expertize. In 2006 and 2013, Japan has sent Disaster Relief Expert Team to the Philippines to give advice on oil removal and control. Also we had cooperation with the Republic of Korea in 2007 in this regard.

Also, Japanese researchers developed a model of spreading of oil in an ice sea, such as the Sea of Okhotsk. Such model can be used as an important reference in future study in the Arctic Sea.

Third, as it was mentioned during yesterday's discussion, issues of the Arctic region are issues of the world. So, Japan continues to actively work in international organizations, such as IMO (International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation), UNEP (Global

Mercury Assessment, Climate & Clean Air Coalition), Minamata Convention and OECD (control of chemical materials).

Fourth, bilateral cooperation. We have full respect to priorities of Finland, the Chair country of the AC. Japanese National Institute for Environmental Studies and Finnish National Institute for Environmental Studies (Suomen ympäristökeskus, SYKE) concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation July this year. They are going to decide concrete themes/areas of cooperation, but I personally feel that black carbon issue may be one of possible themes/areas, as this is one of priorities of Finland. Tomorrow I intend to visit SYKE in Helsinki and have exchange of views. Japan also cooperates with Russia. Japanese National Institute of Polar Research and Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute concluded MOU for cooperation August this year and started joint observation of black carbon this month in Russia.

As for black carbon issue, Asian countries do not have obligation to report the amount of emission of black carbon, but Japanese scientists are trying to figure out the amount of emission of black carbon from Japan and report to a Working Group of the AC.

We count on your support to further promote our scientific cooperation.

Fifth, strengthened cooperation with business people. After my visit to Yamal LNG Plant in Russia in the end of August, I invited representatives of Japanese business (constructors of LNG plant and a shipping company), which are involved Yamal project and made sure that they pay utmost attention and care to protect fragile environment of tundra and the Arctic. Also we hear voice during SDWG meetings, that indigenous community needs good and eco-friendly water and sewage system and disposal system of garbage and waste materials. In this regard also, I hope that advanced technology of Japanese companies will be utilized.

Thank you for your attention.

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