

Citizens' Ise-Shima Summit

Recommendation from the sectional meeting for climate change, biodiversity and disaster prevention

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, names climate change, loss of biodiversity, and worsening risk of disasters as current key global issues. At the Ise-Shima Summit, the first G7 summit since the adoption of the Agenda 2030, it is crucial to recognize that the G7 nations continue to place a heavy burden on the global environment to gain huge wealth. Based on this recognition, we call on the leaders of the G7 nations to disseminate a clear, ambitious, and responsible message for natural and environmental sustainability so that every human being on earth, including future generations, may live with security and dignity.

Climate change, biodiversity, and disaster prevention are individually important global issues, and they are also closely interrelated. If climate change becomes drastic, habitats will change, raising the risk of species extinction. This would make climate-related disasters even more devastating. Losing biodiversity means damaging the ecosystem's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, an element that triggers climate change. Further, the natural environment's ability to mitigate risk of disaster would also be compromised. Frequent serious disasters would inhibit measures against climate change, and the natural ecosystem would be exposed to a higher risk with damage exceeding its capacity to recover.

On the other hand, if we work on these three issues we can contribute to protecting the poor from various risks and rectifying injustice, and enable us to hand over abundant natural environment and resources to future generations. In recent years, the international community has concluded various treaties to protect the environment, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Aichi Biodiversity Target and the Nagoya Protocol, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster

Risk Prevention. It is now time to put them into practice. To ensure that efforts in one sector complement rather than compromise efforts in other sectors calls for broad cross-sectoral collaboration.

With the above issues in mind, the sectional meeting for climate change, biodiversity, and disaster prevention makes the following recommendations to the G7 nations assembled at the Ise-Shima Summit.

Climate change

- An intention to form a flow of funds that matches with the “2 degrees Celsius target” in relation to the global average temperature increase since the pre-industrial revolution must be indicated. Rather than high-risk, concentrated and large-scale energy production based on fossil fuel and nuclear power, funds must be invested in small-scale decentralized and local energy production based on renewable sources.
- With regard to the quality infrastructure investment, make sure that it follows the “2 degrees Celsius target”. In addition, coal power plant must be eliminated from the discussion. Coal power plants discharge immense amounts of carbon dioxide, sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, PM2.5, mercury and other pollutants. Even if a highly efficient and low-emission technology were used, it is clear that it would not meet the “ 2°C target”.
- In order to achieve the Paris Agreement’s target of zero greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of the century, we must improve energy efficiency, end reliance on nuclear power and fossil fuels, and shift to 100% renewable energy sources. To avoid compromising biodiversity and raising risk of disasters through large-scale operations, we must shift to a consensus-based process of promoting locally led small-scale energy initiatives.

Biodiversity

- In mitigating climate change and adapting to it, and upon disaster prevention and mitigation, the “Ecosystem Based Approach” which effectiveness is internationally acknowledged must be proactively adopted. This is a focal point for achieving a high quality infrastructure.

- Within the context of climate change, energy, and quality infrastructure investment, full consideration must be given to the local society and ecosystem regarding the impact caused by energy and infrastructure projects. Expected risks must be explained to the residents, and a structure that includes participatory agreement process, environmental assessment, monitoring after construction, risk responses, and information disclosure must be built. It is necessary to think for whom the infrastructure investment would be, from a long-term perspective.

Disaster prevention and mitigation

- In a discussion for high quality infrastructure development, citizens' participation and agreement must be respected, and sufficient care that responds to various local needs must be provided to develop infrastructure. To achieve sustainable development and raise local resilience and reconstruction, we must find ways to make full use of the local climate, culture, lifestyle, and identity.
- The standard concept of disaster response must be "disaster mitigation". The "green infrastructure" which utilizes the natural ecosystem functions must be actively adopted to carry out infrastructure development which takes selective and complex use of national property into account. Within the context of quality infrastructure investment, these are the points which must be deeply focused on.

■ respectfully

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- Universal Shurou Center
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