

Fact Sheet on U.S.-Japan Clean Energy Cooperation

September 13, 2011

Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Mr. Seishu Makino, Senior Vice Minister of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), met on September 13, 2011, in San Francisco and affirmed their strong commitment to continued cooperation across a broad range of energy topics.

1. Secretary Chu and Senior Vice Minister Makino reaffirmed their strong commitment to bilateral cooperation in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies. They noted the strong progress of the U.S.-Japan Clean Energy Action Plan, launched in November 2009, and the Clean Energy Policy Dialogue announced in November 2010. They committed to strengthening interaction in the areas of basic science, carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency and smart grid technologies, renewable technologies and nuclear energy. They also reaffirmed the commitment to bring together experts to discuss policies on the development and deployment of clean energy technologies, and to develop and monitor the progress of cooperative projects through the U.S.-Japan Energy Policy Dialogue, while keeping in mind Japan's ongoing energy policy review. In particular, they reaffirmed DOE's and METI's commitment to:

- Collaborate on transformative energy technologies with the potential to revolutionize energy production and use;
- Share experiences on demonstration programs and cooperating to accelerate the deployment of advanced vehicle technologies;
- Conduct research on alternatives to rare earth metals including the development of rare earth metals substitutes and recycling;
- Pursue joint activities under the Hawaii-Okinawa Partnership on Clean and Efficient Energy Development and Deployment to develop and implement clean energy projects on both islands that can serve as a model to other island nation;
- Development and use of clean fossil fuels;
- Continue collaboration on the development of reliable, safe, clean nuclear energy technology; and
- Deepen the joint research cooperation between national laboratories, including cyber security for the smart grid and energy plants.

2. Secretary Chu and Senior Vice Minister Makino reaffirmed the Energy-Smart Communities Initiative (ESCI) for the Asia-Pacific announced by the U.S. President and the Japanese Prime Minister in November 2010, and being implemented through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) fora. ESCI supports the energy-efficient buildings, transport, and electric power supply that will underpin sustainable development and long-term job creation for the Asia-Pacific region. Energy-Smart Communities are crucial for improving energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and expanding employment.
3. Secretary Chu and Senior Vice Minister Makino reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation in nuclear energy technology. They noted Japan's ongoing review of its energy policy and both countries discussed the role that nuclear power will play in their respective energy mixes. The United States expressed the expectation that Japan will continue to play a leading role in ensuring the safe and secure use of peaceful nuclear energy.
4. Secretary Chu and Senior Vice Minister Makino discussed great potential changes in the world energy market brought about by the dramatic increases in recoverable unconventional natural gas resources. They noted recent reports by the Energy Information Administration and others that many countries around the world may have substantial unconventional natural gas resources which, if brought to market, could have a great impact on global energy security.