

Key takeaways from TCFD Summit

Our discussions today have reaffirmed the importance of the TCFD framework in the dialogue between companies and investors. We have gotten clarity on where further efforts are necessary to advance the TCFD disclosure journey. Some of the key focus areas moving forward that leaders have pointed to today are as follows:

In order to accelerate a virtuous cycle of environment and growth, we need constructive mechanisms that can improve corporate value and generate a positive flow of finance with increased returns on investments. The “Green Investment Guidance” released today by the TCFD Consortium will be a useful tool in facilitating these dialogues between corporates and investors.

We have heard how companies should set ambitious targets (and plan for “Giant Leaps”), integrate climate in their governance and disclose their progress to Capital Markets.

We need to progress the transition to a more sustainable finance system by having a clear understanding of the risks of climate change and how to price them, but also of the opportunities that the transition to a net-zero society offers business as a channel for innovation. Making TCFD disclosures investor-decision-useful is a critical element of the improvement in disclosures.

We have heard that in order to accelerate the realization of a virtuous cycle of environment and growth, divestment as a strategy has its limitations; rather constructive engagement is a more powerful tool to generate a more a positive flow of finance towards an energy transition.

During the course of our discussions, we have also heard about various initiatives which are underway to help us develop a clear picture of what the innovation opportunities. These include:

- TCFD preparer forums;
- Measuring green revenue;
- Creating climate-related indices;
- Implementing policy frameworks that help to more clearly establish definitions of terms like “green” or “environmentally sustainable”.

These initiatives will help to incorporate the TCFD’s framework into mainstream markets.

And finally, in Asia, where rapid growth, infrastructure investments and increasing demand for green investments are envisaged, it is essential to promote climate-related disclosures in line with the TCFD implementations. It is important that we adopt a pragmatic approach in this region to support a smooth transition towards a low-carbon society, which supports Asia’s continued economic development. Equally, it will be important to showcase the suite of low carbon technologies that have the potential to contribute to the transition in the region, with the understanding that these solutions may represent “50 shades of green”.

We have also heard clear calls for continued efforts to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including global industry, the financial community, the public sector, regulators and international institutions to support the TCFD and focus the work towards the implementation of its recommendations. This will be a key catalyst in sparking the virtuous cycle of environment and growth on a global scale.

Therefore it is our intention to convene this summit again in Tokyo next year and we look forward to the opportunity to hear more about the progress the TCFD community is making. In the meantime, we can rely on the Japan's TCFD Consortium to continue to support our efforts through its commitment to collect and disseminate best practice from around the world, including Asia.

Finally I would also like to add that it is also abundantly clear from today's discussion that the TCFD is playing a critical role with regard to guiding our transition to a low carbon economy. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the work of the TCFD should continue and that it should go on providing a platform and an impetus for these of vital discussions and learning opportunities.

It just remains for us to say thank you all for your highly valuable contributions and we look forward to seeing you again in 2020.