

Implementation of the Assessment and Examinations of the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society

- In the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, on which a Cabinet Decision was made in May 2016, it is stated that “voluntary approaches toward a low carbon society by the business community should be continued as an effort playing a central role in measures that the business community should take,” and the government stipulates that “approaches made based on the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society formulated by different industries and Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society towards 2030 should be strictly and regularly assessed and examined by a related council.”
- The seven industry-based WGs under the Global Environment Subcommittee of the Committee on Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment under the Industrial Structure Council (ISC) implemented the assessment and examination of the 41 industries under the jurisdiction of METI, while the Expert Committee on Follow-ups of the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society of the Study Group on Global Environment under the Central Environment Council (CEC) implemented those of the three industries under the jurisdiction of MOE. About two committee members of both the ISC and the CEC participated in the process mutually.
- The results of follow-ups by the WGs and the Expert Committee are reported to a Joint Meeting of the Global Environment Subcommittee of the ISC and the Expert Committee on Follow-ups of the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society of the CEC. At the same time, METI and MOE streamline the results of the assessment and examination of the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society as well as compile future challenges and other issues.

Schedule of assessment and examination in FY2019

Resources and Energy Working Group [Chair: Akimoto Keigo, Leader of the Systems Analysis Group, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth]	November 29, 2019
Automobile, Automotive Parts, and Automotive Body Working Group [Chair: Itsubo Norihiro, Professor, Faculty of Environment, Tokyo City University]	December 23, 2019
Electronics, Electric Machinery, Industrial Machinery, etc. Working Group [Chair: Akimoto Keigo, Leader of the Systems Analysis Group, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth]	January 17, 2020
Paper Manufacturing, Plate Glass, Cement, etc. Working Group [Chair: Akimoto Takashi, Professor, Laboratory of Architectural Environmental Design and Building Facilities, School of Architecture, Shibaura Institute of Technology]	January 22, 2020
Distribution and Services Working Group [Chair: Tsurusaki Takahiro, Managing Director, COO, Jyukankyo Research Institute Inc.]	January 27, 2020
Chemicals and Non-Ferrous Metals Working Group [Chair: Matsukata Masahiko, Professor, Department of Applied Chemistry, School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Waseda University]	January 28, 2020
Iron and Steel Working Group [Chair: Akimoto Keigo, Leader of the Systems Analysis Group, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth]	February 6, 2020
Expert Committee on Follow-ups of the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society [Chair: Otsuka Tadashi, Professor, Graduate School of Law, Faculty of Law, Waseda University]	Document-based discussions

Improvement of the Process of Assessment and Examinations, and the Viewpoints of Review

- The efficiency of the assessment and examination process has been improved upon the implementation of the follow-up, including enhancement of the examples of descriptions of survey sheets and data sheets, and questions are accepted and answers are provided in written form before holding the WGs.
- In addition, the viewpoints of the review upon implementing assessment and examination are provided when asking for the work to be done, and the items to be noted by industries in the assessment and examination of the present fiscal year has been clarified.

Major viewpoints of the review

(1) Goals for reducing CO ₂ emissions from companies' activities in Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of goal indicators and levels set, and changes in preconditions, etc. • Assessment of the progression rate towards 2020 goals and 2030 goals • If the actual figures have already exceeded the 2030 goals, consideration of raising the goals • Listing the effective measures taken in industries where emissions are steadily being reduced
(2) Reduction in other sectors through the use of low-carbon products, services, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing efforts regarding contributions to reduction in other sectors and quantifying reduced emissions, through value chains • As for industries where reduced emissions are already quantified, ensuring transparency in the process of calculation
(3) Contributions to reduction in overseas countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing efforts regarding contributions to reduction in overseas countries through global marketing of the companies' products having advantages and quantifying reduced emissions • Conveying more information that will receive appraisal from international society
(4) Development and deployment of innovative technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing innovative technologies and services also with a long-term view towards 2050 • It may also be possible to mention a future image and vision, including a picture of how innovative technologies have influences on society and other industries, and have reduction effects.

Outline of Progress in Each Industry

- The current conditions of efforts tackled by 44 industries over which METI and MOE have jurisdiction are as follows.
 - 31 industries have already achieved their 2020 goals and 18 achieved their 2030 goals, showing the fact that these industries have been steadily advancing their efforts ahead of schedule.
 - 41 industries (number unchanged from the previous fiscal year) implemented the listing of efforts regarding contributions to reduction in other sectors, and 28 industries (number unchanged from the previous fiscal year) among them quantified the amount of the reduction.
 - 26 industries (increased by 2 from the previous fiscal year) implemented the listing of efforts regarding contributions to reduction in overseas countries, and 15 industries (number unchanged from the previous fiscal year) among them quantified the amount of the reduction.
 - 32 industries (increased by 3 from the previous fiscal year) implemented the listing of efforts regarding the development and deployment of innovative technologies, and 10 industries (increased by 1 from the previous fiscal year) among them quantified the amount.

Progress towards achieving the goals

41 industries for METI + 3 industries for MOE	2020 goals	2030 goals
Showing FY2018 performance exceeding the level of the goals	31 industries	18 industries
Not reaching the level of the goals as for the FY2018 performance, while having reduced such emissions compared to the base year or from a business as usual (BAU) baseline	9 industries	23 industries
Not reaching the level of the goals since CO ₂ emissions as FY2018 performance have increased compared to the base year or from a BAU baseline	2 industries	1 industry
Not aggregated data yet, etc.	2 industries	2 industries

Contributions to other sectors, contributions to overseas countries, development of innovative technologies

41 industries for METI + 3 industries for MOE	Number of industries that have made a list of their efforts	Number of industries that have made a list of their efforts and also quantified the amount of reduction
Contributed to reduction in other sectors	41 industries	28 industries
Contributed to reduction in overseas countries	26 industries	15 industries
Developed and deployed innovative technologies	32 industries	10 industries

Future Challenges and Other Issues

Enhancing efforts to achieve these goals

- 10 industries have revised their goals and it was confirmed that they have been making a plan-do-check-act (PDCA) cycle functional in a steady manner. As for industries that have already achieved their 2030 goals ahead of schedule, it is necessary to continue to revise their commitment plans, e.g., by checking if there is any room to further raise the current goals.

Checking 2030 goals

- Some members of the Industry-based WGs stated opinions requesting industrial associations to explain the consistency between: the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society positioned in the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures as an effort playing a central role in measures that the business community should take; and Japan's 2030 goals. The year of 2020, when the Paris Agreement entered the phase of full implementation, is the initial year and an important one for Japan to achieve its nationally determined contribution (NDC). It is significant for industrial associations to enrich discussions on ideal follow-up approaches bearing in mind the level of contributions by the business community to the government's 2030 goals in order to assess whether or not industries have made progress in advancing the Commitment to a Low-Carbon Society.

Contributing to other sectors and contributing to overseas countries

- Industries should contribute to reducing emissions throughout value chains by disseminating their products, services, etc. with outstanding environmental performance to people inside and outside of Japan.
- They are expected to: convey information on their contributions to reduction of emissions to investors and other stakeholders, while taking into consideration international trends in disclosure of information on industries' environmental efforts; and thereby receive appraisal from international society for Japanese companies' contributions and strong points.

Conveying more information to people inside and outside Japan

- Industries should convey to people inside and outside of Japan their case examples of reducing emissions, achievements, approaches thereto and other efforts, which such industries have accumulated, and thereby contribute to worldwide reduction of such emissions.