Chair's summary

Asia Zero Emission Community Ministerial Meeting
Tokyo, 4 March 2023

We, the Ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam held the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on March 4th, 2023 and issued the "Asia Zero Emission Community Joint Statement".

In addition to the Joint Statement, there was a consensus that AZEC partner countries will further cooperation discussions and actions taking the following perspectives into consideration.

<Energy efficiency and demand-side energy conversion>
Energy efficiency is the "first fuel" in the energy transition. Conserving and making efficient use of energy and resources provide multiple benefits across all sectors. Promoting energy efficiency and energy conversion technologies is extremely important for decarbonization, energy security, and economic efficiency.

<Renewable Energy/Energy Management>
Renewables such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and bioenergy are all crucial source of decarbonized energy that contribute to energy security as domestically produced energy and economic development. Deployment of renewable energies and energy management technologies needs to be enhanced to accelerate energy transition while taking into consideration their economic efficiency and acceptance by local communities.

<Natural gas and LNG>
Global demand for LNG is growing continuously as a transition energy source. Enhancing upstream development of natural gas and LNG is

necessary in order to secure the stable supply to meet future demand. It is also important to make natural gas a zero-emission energy source through CCS and conversion to hydrogen and ammonia.

<CCUS/Carbon Recycling>
CCUS/Carbon Recycling will be a key technology in reducing CO2 emission into the atmosphere from large emission sources such as energy and industrial sectors. The promotion of international cooperation for CCUS/Carbon Recycling development in Asia is highly desirable.

<Hydrogen and Ammonia>
Hydrogen and ammonia can play a significant role in decarbonizing thermal power generation, the transportation sector and hard-to-abate industrial sectors. It would be essential to secure multiple hydrogen and ammonia production sites and supply chains, utilize a variety of hydrogen carriers, strengthen demand creation efforts, and share knowledge and expertise acquired through demonstration projects.

<Critical Minerals>
Toward a carbon-neutral economy, the demand for critical minerals such as lithium, nickel and rare earths is expected to increase rapidly. The development of a safe and responsible global supply chain to ensure a fully transparent and sustainable supply of critical materials is essential.

AZEC partner countries will further discuss cooperations in the pursuit of their various and practical pathways towards net-zero emissions/carbon neutrality, including but not limited to energy efficiency, energy conversion, electrification, decarbonization of power and transportation sectors, renewable energy, energy management, bioenergy, natural gas, LNG, CCUS/Carbon Recycling, hydrogen, ammonia, critical minerals, and sustainable finance.