

Chair's summary of 11th Conference on Critical Materials and Minerals

June 29, 2021

1. The Eleventh Conference on Critical Materials and Minerals was held online on 29 June 2021. It was hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. It was attended by high level officials in charge of critical minerals and materials from five countries (Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United States of America).
2. The conference was presided by Mr. YASUI Akira, Deputy Director-General, Manufacturing Industries Policy Bureau, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), with Mr. MINAMI Ryo, Director General, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (METI).
3. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. YASUI Akira and Mr. Bradford Simmons, Director, Office of Global Energy Security, the United States Department of Energy.
4. Host presentations by Mr. KOBAYASHI Kazuaki, Director, Mineral and Natural Resources Division and Mr. UMEDA, Director for Automotive International Trade Policy, Automobile Division reported on and discussed the current state of industry of rare earths and issues of critical minerals and materials on the EVs market.
5. Subsequently, the representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, Australia and Canada presented and discussed the importance of critical minerals and materials for the achievement of a carbon-neutral society, each member's policy for critical minerals and materials, and collaboration for supply chain resilience in this area.
6. After the discussion, the Chairperson made proposals on enhancing the impact of this grouping's collaboration, and exchanged views with the other members on the path forward.
7. Finally, Mr. MINAMI expressed his appreciation for the participants of this conference, reviewed the discussions, and shared the recognition of the growing need for critical minerals and materials to achieve a carbon-neutral society. He also declared that the next conference will be held this autumn under the chairmanship of Japan.