

Opening Remarks

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***“Sustainable Low-Carbon Development in Indonesia and Asia: Dialogues
between Policymakers and Scientist on Green Growth”***

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The Honourable Ms Hilman, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Professor Yonny Koesmaryono, Vice Rector of Bogor Agricultural University, distinguished representatives from the Indonesian and Japanese governments, experts and researchers from Bogor and across the region, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great privilege to make a speech to open this two-day workshop on “Sustainable Low-Carbon Development in Indonesia and Asia” on behalf of IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies).

It has been our long time hope to hold workshops to consider how countries in Asia can work together to promote sustainable low carbon developments. And that hope has at last materialized, thanks to the kind understanding of Ministry of Environment of Indonesia, Bogor Agricultural University and Bandung Institute of Technology who co-organized this workshop. And I would like to express my special thanks to Professor Rizaldi Boer who makes this possible.

With the Copenhagen Accord, the road was set for all countries to proceed toward becoming Low Carbon/ Green-growth societies. Indonesia foresightedly announced its own GHG emissions reduction target last November. Japan announced a 25% reduction target compared to 1990 levels, and promised to provide a total of 15 billion dollars by the end of 2012 to support developing countries.

To draw pathways towards sustainable low carbon development/Green Growth is, in a sense, equal to setting the overall direction of the way forward for nations. This requires cross-sectoral wisdom, technologies, interdisciplinary research and knowledge across the globe, to apply/practice them in the real world.

Therefore, when the Japanese government took over the G8 presidency in 2008, it proposed the creation of the international research network for sustainable low carbon societies (LCS-RNet) to promote sharing wisdom for realizing a Low Carbon World, and IGES was nominated as the network's secretariat.

The research on LCS must be policy relevant and shared with policy-makers of various countries. To ensure this, dialogue with policy-makers and researchers is indispensable. Indeed, it is a part of the research.

In today's dialogue between policymakers and academic society, I expect that common obstacles will come up that will need to be cleared from the path toward Low Carbon Development, and then, with tomorrow's in-depth consultation among researchers of this region, I am looking forward to finding ways to conquer such obstacles.

Asia is now seen as a dynamo of the world economy. We, as a region, share the same economic basis and are working together, even though there are diverse situation according to each of our countries. We have to try and find

more opportunities to talk about what green-growth means to the region and how we can realize it together.

To be really sustainable in the future, policy-makers, experts, and researchers all over the world must work together to share the knowledge and wisdom to promote sustainable low carbon development.

I am hoping that this workshop will be a good example of such efforts that will lead the way for the rest of the world, having been dispatched from Asia.

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I thank you for your kind attention.