



H.E. ASAO KEIICHIRO
Minister,
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Welcome Message

It is my great honor that all the representatives from Asian countries come together here in Manila, Philippines, to hold the Sixteenth Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia.

At present, we are facing three global crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Among these, regarding climate change, at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), the global stocktake to assess the progress of climate change measures throughout the world was conducted under the Paris Agreement for the first time, where need for urgent actions required to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal within reach was emphasized and need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 was recognized.

In light of global trends, this year, Japan incorporated realization of “Circular and Ecological Society”, enabling growth and development of economy and society through promoting urgent reform of economic and social system, maintaining environmental capacity, and improving quality of the environment, into “The Basic Environment Plan” that specifies the direction of national environmental policy, in order to address three global crises - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

In the Asian region where motorization is progressing rapidly, we are required to deal with challenges in the transport sector on regional scale and global scale at the same time.

“Aichi 2030 Declaration”, which was adopted at the Fourteenth Regional EST Forum in 2021, highlights the significance to share the comprehensive goal for transport sector in Asian countries including solution for global issues and to track the implementation required to realize the goals, taking into account the new global trends aimed at achieving the goal of the Paris Agreement and SDGs.

I hope that the Forum will be a fruitful one, leading to realization of Aichi 2030 Declaration and sustainable development of Asian region.

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