

「ICLEI's Race-to-Zero Dialogues」知事説明原稿

【確定】

(Introduction)

Thank you for your kind introduction. I am Abe Shuichi, and I am the Governor of Nagano Prefecture, Japan. Thank you very much for having me at ICLEI's Race-to-Zero Dialogues today.

(Climate Emergency Declaration and Reasons Behind the Declaration)

Last December, Nagano became the first prefecture in Japan to declare a climate emergency. At that time, we also announced our resolution to go zero carbon by 2050.

These actions were driven by three main reasons:

1. Serious disasters and increased awareness of the climate crisis

Last October, Super Typhoon Hagibis tore through Nagano Prefecture, causing an embankment of the Chikuma River, the longest river in Japan, to collapse, and resulting in 13 deaths and 150 injuries. The total damage amounted to 2.6 billion U.S. dollars, a cost which exceeds Nagano Prefecture's annual tax revenue.

Such disasters have led to widespread recognition of climate change as a real crisis, and to momentum towards a decarbonized world.

2. Our generation's responsibility for climate change measures

Our generation is the first to have scientific knowledge that human activities cause climate change. Therefore, it is our responsibility to mitigate, and take immediate action to adapt to climate change. We must make every effort to ensure that future generations do not inherit a planet in the middle of a climate crisis, which could threaten the survival of humanity.

3. The significant role of local governments in fighting climate change

In the same way that governors and mayors have spearheaded efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, local governments should play a significant role in the fight against climate change. The main efforts necessary to combat climate change, such as the promotion and establishment of sustainable lifestyles, and the creation of enjoyable, walkable communities, are the responsibility of local governments. In an international collaboration, local governments around the world must take the initiative to promote climate change measures in partnership with central government and non-governmental organizations.

Based on these beliefs, Nagano Prefecture will strive to formulate and implement advanced policies.

(Future Efforts and Policies)

In order to realize the goals of our Climate Emergency Declaration, Nagano Prefecture announced Climate Crisis Breakthrough Policies in April of this year.

These policies, which outline specific numerical targets and actions to achieve them, represent Nagano Prefecture's climate change measures to realize a zero-carbon society by 2050.

Our specific numerical targets are to:

1. Reduce CO₂ emissions to net zero by 2050; and
2. Reduce final energy consumption by 70% and triple renewable energy production by 2050, as compared to 2016.

For example, we will continue to maintain regulations which require inspections of renewable energy and sustainable energy performance, such as insulation, for all new buildings, while also considering stricter regulations. In addition, we will utilize the world's largest solar potential map, developed last year, to maximize the use of sunlight and heat in homes.

The Prefectural Government will put forth its utmost effort to work together with the citizens of Nagano to achieve these policies.

(Conclusion: Global Collaboration and Cooperation)

Last June, at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, held in Karuizawa Town, Nagano, Nagano Prefecture and ICLEI Japan presented the Nagano Declaration on Partnership for Collaborative Action for Sustainable Development.

Based on this declaration, we are determined to collaborate closely with both domestic and foreign local governments and non-governmental organizations in an effort to decarbonize the world.

Let us take action together, to protect our beautiful Earth, and to realize a sustainable society that we can pass on to future generations with pride.

Thank you very much.