

“Promotion of Low-Carbon Society – Experience of Toyota City”

**by Mr. Toshihiko Ota,
Mayor of Toyota City, Japan**

UNCRD/UNDESA Side Event

“Promoting Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Urban Development”

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1. Good day, everyone. I am Toshihiko Ota, Mayor of Toyota City.
2. I am delighted to introduce to you today, Toyota City’s project to create a low-carbon society and a sustainable city through an optimal use of energy.
3. Toyota City is located in the center of Japan and has a population of about four hundred and twenty thousand people. The city is home of a big motor company, and has rich forests and farmlands.
4. In 2009, Toyota City was designated by Japanese government an Environmental Model City, which aims to reduce the emission of CO₂. Since then, Toyota City has launched various kinds of projects in order to reduce the production of carbon dioxide by 30% by 2030.
5. In 2011, the East Japan Great Earthquake struck. We learned from this disaster the importance of building a life-line and supply-chain where we support each other with energy, food, industry and logistics, as a community.
6. In response to these needs, we have created a Smart Community. What’s a Smart Community? Our Smart Community project promotes local production and consumption of renewable energy, as well as the optimization of energy use and affordability. It does this by making energy visible in all parts of society, in order to conserve it and to provide accurate forecasts for the balance of its supply and demand.
7. About 50 organizations, including universities, both large companies, such as Toyota Motor Corporation, and small companies, have joined in the project.

8. Some of the primary technologies being used include next-generation automobiles. We are incorporating automobiles into all aspects of everyday living, as a means of transportation and also as mobile energy sources and mobile information terminals.
9. We have already applied energy saving technologies and HEMS, that is Home Energy Management Systems to actual housing. These houses supply electricity to Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles and Electric Vehicles, and vice versa. Our specific target was a reduction of the emission of CO₂ by 70% per housing.
10. Please note that the batteries of these automobiles can also be used as emergency power supply, in case of disaster.
11. New mobility systems are now in an experimental phase. One of them is the HaMo Ride. This is a vehicle-sharing system in which registered users can ride an ultra-small vehicle or an electrically assisted bike as feeder transportation. The other system is called the HaMo Navi. This is a navigational system which provides traffic information via smartphone. With these systems, we are establishing an integrated transportation system with less emission of CO₂.
12. We are using telecommunication to link automobiles with the general community. This makes it possible to present consumers with optimal recommendations based on weather and road conditions, and on forecasts of consumer behavior, in order to coordinate power supply and demand and traffic volumes.
13. In the test areas, residents enjoy energy sharing and trying to lower peak shifts. In general, we have achieved a 55% reduction in CO₂ emission and a 75% reduction among the more eco-conscious families on a yearly average.
14. This program has attracted attention from at least 70 countries around the world in the last two years.
15. Based on our findings, the construction of a Smart Community and the development of related technologies generate jobs and revitalize the

economy. Consumer-oriented technologies not only provide more comfortable living, but also produce new energy-conscious communities that work to reduce CO2 emissions. Energy conscious communities share energy and reduce CO2 emissions and become more self-sufficient.

16. I hope that we are able to communicate effectively and apply the Toyota City model for the construction of Smart Communities as one solution to the issues of environmental and energy sustainability around the world.

17. Toyota City and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs are planning a conference entitled: The High-Level Symposium on Sustainable Cities. The symposium is to be held in Toyota City from January 15-16, 2015.

18. The theme of the symposium is, "Connecting People, Environment and Technology." I believe that this event will make an important contribution towards the production of the post 2015 development agenda.

19. I hope you will visit Toyota City to join the symposium.

20. Thank you very much for listening.