

Closing Remarks

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Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Keiji Fukumoto of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

Our Ministry is promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and other related agencies in Japan. It is my great honor and pleasure to make a closing address here on behalf of the Government of Japan.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Singapore for the excellent preparation for this forum as the host country. I would also like to pay respects to UNCRD that has led this forum to a great success through its strong initiative to promote EST in Asia.

As eight new South Asian countries have joined this time, the number of participating countries is continuously increasing in the Regional EST Forum in Asia. For the promotion of EST in Asian region in the future, we have to consider that Asia is such a large and diverse area, in which each country has its own political and economic system, and values and cultures as well as transport infrastructures and softwares. Therefore it is crucial to review other countries' experiences to solve problems in our own countries.

From this point of view, I believe that this Regional EST Forum will continue to play an important role in the future, where policy makers in the transport and environment sectors in Asian countries can share information, exchange views and implement EST National Strategies.

Japan would like to strengthen cooperation with Asian countries toward the realization of EST in Asian region based on our experience. One example is that CO₂ emission from the transport sector in Japan has been on a downward trend since 2001, mainly through strengthening of fuel efficiency standards of motor vehicles. We would like to promote sharing of best practices, promotion of new technologies and cooperation in enhancing capacity building.

The next Regional EST Forum in Asia will be held in Korea. We appreciate very much Korea's initiative. It is our desire that the next Forum will become more significant by active participation of Asian countries and related institutions.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by thanking again all of the related entities and participants for their efforts in ensuring that this forum should prove to be such a success. I strongly hope that EST will be realized in various countries in Asian region in consequence of this Regional EST Forum in Asia.

Thank you very much.