

<Release> Message from Japan Climate Initiative to the Government of Japan with a list of endorsers

**Now is the time to accelerate renewable energy deployment
-Calling for stronger climate change action in the midst of the fossil energy crisis-**

3 June 2022

Develop a Clean Energy Strategy that enables 40-50% renewable energy share by 2030

Japan Climate Initiative (JCI) has today published the message 'Now is the time to accelerate the renewable energy deployment - Calling for stronger climate change action in the midst of the fossil energy crisis' (Annex 1). The message is endorsed by 285 organizations (201 companies, 15 local governments and 69 organizations/NGOs) (Annex 2).

With Russia's invasion of Ukraine destabilizing the world's energy supply, more than ever, Japan's priorities should be to reduce the total amount of energy used, through the promotion of energy conservation and efficiency, and to accelerate the deployment of domestically produced renewable energy, which is unaffected by the geopolitical climate. The geopolitical context gives no credence to the old narrative in Japan for the need to rely on fossil fuels to achieve stable supply.

This message calls for the Clean Energy Strategy, which is being developed by the Japanese government by around June this year, to focus on promoting the development of renewable energies such as wind and solar power, to provide 40-50% of Japan's power needs by 2030.

285 organizations endorse the message including pioneering large Japanese companies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), local governments, consumers and religious groups

In the face of the growing fossil energy crisis, this is the first time that Japanese companies, local governments and other organizations have called for stronger action on climate change and placing the expansion of renewable energy at the heart of a clean energy strategy under the banner of their own organization names.

The message was endorsed by leading Japanese corporations in a wide range of fields, including 86 Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime listed companies, the IT, materials, machinery, steel, automotive, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, transportation, food, retail, housing & construction, civil engineering, urban development, and insurance & finance sectors. The Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry, which includes associations of commerce and industry from all over of Japan, has also joined the message.

Among local governments, five prefectures - Yamanashi, Nagano, Shiga, Tokushima, Kagoshima -, and ten cities & district - Setagaya, Kawasaki, Omi Hachiman, Kyoto, Osaka, Sakai, Toyonaka, Higashi-Hiroshima, Matsuyama and Kagoshima- have endorsed. Furthermore, consumer organizations such as the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, which has about 30 million members nationwide, the Soka Gakkai, universities and research institutions, NGOs, youth and other organizations from diverse fields have supported. The Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership and Network of Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs for a Sustainable Business and Energy Future, corporate groups actively promoting climate action, are also among the endorsing members.

The endorsement of a variety of organizations of this message is a clear demonstration of the strong will of non-state actors in Japan that even during periods of global upheaval and fossil energy crises, climate action must not be allowed to take a back seat.

At the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting on 27 May, the countries committed to a goal of achieving predominantly decarbonised electricity sectors by 2035. With global temperature rise likely to exceed 1.5°C even within the next five years, Japan Climate Initiative calls on the Japanese government to accelerate the expansion of renewable energy and strengthen climate actions.

* The number of TSE Prime listed company is based on the information as of April 3, 2022.