

## The 33<sup>rd</sup> “Clean Coal Day in Japan” International Symposium (2024) “Practical Action Plan for Carbon Neutrality”

On Monday of September 2, 2024, Japan Carbon Frontier Organization (JCOAL), with co-organized by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC), held the 33<sup>rd</sup> Clean Coal Day International Symposium as an in-person event, as supported by embassies of 12 countries located in Tokyo, including the 2 state of Australia, the Global CCS Institute (GCCSI), Ube City, and Kushiro City.

A total of 1,500 participants from 15 countries representatives' industries, governments, and academia participated in the symposium. The symposium included presentations from the major coal-producing/consuming countries such as US, India, China, Australia, Thailand etc. as well as relevant institutions and companies, and the international organizations such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Centre for Sustainable Carbon (IEA-ICSC), FutureCoal Global Alliance (FutureCoal), the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), the vgb energy e.V. (VGBE) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and academic societies participated. Many active and fruitful discussions were made with a variety of information and opinions. JCOAL has released JCOAL's Statement below.

### JCOAL's STATEMENT

#### ▣ Practical Action Plan for Carbon Neutrality

- As countries around the world accelerate their efforts toward achieving carbon neutrality, the ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine has led to a tight global energy supply-demand and resulting in higher prices. Now we recognize the importance of stable energy supply. Additionally, at the COP28 conference last year, it emerged that approaches to carbon neutrality vary by region. Given the differences in resource availability, energy situations, and economic conditions among countries, diverse pathways to carbon neutrality are recognized, and action plans for feasible decarbonization are being called for.
- Although the circumstances differ from country to country, global coal demand reached record highs in 2022 and 2023. Coal demand is expected to continue for some time. It is difficult to achieve carbon neutrality with renewable energy alone.

#### ▣ Realization of Early Social Implementation of Innovative CCT

- Given this situation, the pursuit of carbon neutrality worldwide is not to stop using fossil fuels, especially coal, but to promote the decarbonization associated with coal usage. It is crucial to implement a practical action plan for achievable decarbonization that takes realistic timeframes into account while aiming for carbon neutrality and stable energy supply.
- To achieve carbon neutrality, it is essential to promote the early implementation of innovative clean coal technologies. These include improving the efficiency of coal-fired power plants, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from combustion with biomass or ammonia co-firing and exclusive firing, hydrogen reduction in the steel industry, and carbon recycling/CCU that captures CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from various industries and converts them into valuable materials. Additionally, storing captured CO<sub>2</sub> underground with CCS is also crucial. Also, we recognized the importance of transition finance required for carbon neutrality-related investments, while aiming to effectively utilize the existing infrastructure through collaboration among companies within the industrial complex.

#### ▣ Promotion of multi-layered International Cooperation

- Carbon neutrality is an issue that must be grasped on a global scale. It requires multi-layered international cooperation that includes collaboration among technologies, companies, sectors, and countries. In Japan, efforts are underway to support decarbonization, economic support such as the GX Promotion Act and legal frameworks such as the CCS Business Act enacted this May. It is crucial to promote multi-layered international cooperation including economic and legal supports toward carbon neutrality for countries that still rely on fossil fuels, particularly coal, for instance, utilizing the framework of the Asia CCUS Network and the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) for countries of Asia.

\*Presentation materials of the symposium will be posted to the JCOAL website later. (<http://www.jcoal.or.jp/>)(<http://www.jcoal.or.jp/eng/>)

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