

www.gea.or.jp

Global Environmental Action

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As of October, 2024

GEA
Global Environmental Action

Global Environmental Action



Message from the Chair

Climate change is a very serious issue that we cannot afford to ignore, as it threatens to cause the extinction of not only the human race, but every living creature on the planet. Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, drought, and flooding caused by torrential rain, are already causing extensive damage in countries throughout the world. Climate change is wreaking unprecedentedly severe devastation. The root cause of this situation is the emission into the atmosphere of enormous quantities of carbon dioxide (CO₂), caused by the consumption of fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. These energy

sources fuel, amongst others, the generation of electricity allowing us to enjoy convenient lifestyles. With the planet enveloped by huge amounts of CO₂, the greenhouse gas effect has caused temperatures to rise steadily. Japan has experienced heatwaves during the summer months which are so severe that some schools have had to close their schoolyards to children so as to prevent them from suffering from heatstroke, so even children are coming

to understand how vital decarbonization is as a mechanism for combating climate change.

Failing to accelerate, through international collaboration, the replacement of the fossil fuels that have made it possible for humanity to flourish in the past by solar power, nuclear power and other energy sources that enable decarbonization threatens to prevent the achievement of the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions to net zero by 2050, despite our awareness of the potentially tragic consequences for humanity.

By taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the holding of the GEA International Conference every two years, we will continue striving to influence global public opinion to support effective implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact in countries throughout the world, to improve energy security and promote energy cost reduction, and to achieve the goal of keeping the rise in average global temperatures within 1.5 degrees. I sincerely hope you will continue to support and cooperate with the GEA.



Shunichi Yamaguchi

Sixth Chair,
Global Environmental Action

What's GEA?

In 1991, during the run-up to the “UN Conference on Environment and Development” (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, it was becoming clear that the Conference's success depended on raising the funds necessary to achieve the preservation of the global environment and sustainable development. In response to a request from UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong, an International Eminent Persons' Meeting on Financing Global Environment was convened in Tokyo, bringing together former United States President Jimmy Carter and other persons of key standing, with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita playing the main role in organizing the event. The outcomes of this meeting contributed enormously to the success of the Earth Summit. GEA's origins stem from this eminent Persons' Meeting and GEA is now a non-governmental organization, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, which counts among its members the Japanese Eminent Persons who worked to bring about the initial convening of the Eminent Persons' Meeting, Diet members regardless of factional affiliation, and other persons of influence from government, industry, and academia. The founding Chair was former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who was succeeded by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Gaishi Hiraiwa, Honorary Chairman of Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Juro Saito, former parliamentarian. The current Chair is Wataru Takeshita, House of Representatives lawmaker and former Minister for Reconstruction. In addition, Mr. Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United States, and Mr. José Maria Figueres, former president of the Republic of Costa Rica, serve as GEA's international advisors.

In 1999, the GEA received the Global 500 Roll of Honour from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for its contribution to the international community for many years in the area of global environment and sustainable development.

GEA regularly organizes international conferences to which it invites representatives of world-leading research institutes and international organizations, and individuals with influence over international public opinion. Through these conferences, GEA aims to highlight the state of the global environment and the crisis it is facing. At the same time, GEA works to raise international awareness about proposals adopted at its conferences.



First Chair
Noboru Takeshita



Second Chair
Toshiki Kaifu



Third Chair
Gaishi Hiraiwa

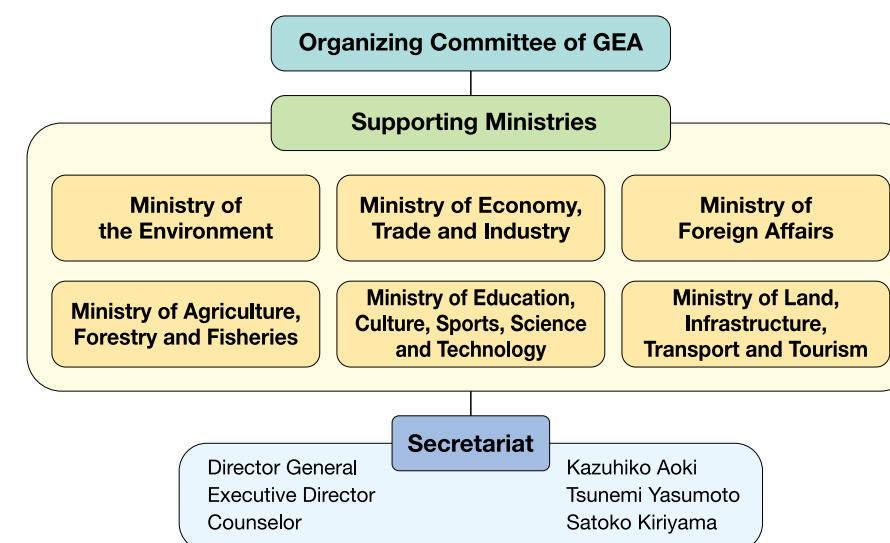


Fourth Chair
Juro Saito



Fifth Chair
Wataru Takeshita

Structure of GEA



Members of the Organizing Committee of GEA

Chair



Shunichi Yamaguchi
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister of State for Special Missions, Japan

Deputy Chair



Yuko Obuchi
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan

International Advisors



Jimmy Carter
Thirty-ninth President of the United States of America



José María Figueres
Former President, Republic of Costa Rica

Senior Advisors



Tomichi Murayama
Former Prime Minister, Japan



Kayoko Shimizu
Former Minister of State, Environment Agency, Japan
Former Director General, GEA



Kichiro Matsumoto
President, Japan Medical Association



Isao Kurauchi
President, Japan Veterinary Medical Association



Kazuhiko Takeuchi
President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Advisor



Wakako Hironaka
Former Minister of State, Environment Agency, Japan
Former Director General, GEA

Vice Chairs



Kuniko Inoguchi
Member, House of Councillors
Former Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate and Gender Equality, Japan



Shoichi Kondo
Member, House of Representatives
Former Senior Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan



Takashi Endo
Member, House of Representatives



Kaneshige Wakamatsu
Member, House of Councillors; Former State Minister for Reconstruction, Japan

Director General



Kazuhiko Aoki
Member, House of Councillors
Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary
Former State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

Members



Yukiyasu Aoyama
Senior Executive Adviser, Sohgo Security Services Co., Ltd.



Shozo Azuma
President, Chiba Institute of Science
Former Vice Chair, GEA



Shinji Inoue
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister for the World EXPO 2025
Former Minister of State for Special Missions, Japan



Shuichi Katoh
Former Senior Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan
Former Vice Chair, GEA



Yuriko Koike
Tokyo Metropolitan Governor
Former Minister of the Environment, Japan



Hikaru Kobayashi
Former Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan
Former Professor, Graduate School of Keio University (SFC),
Former Visiting Professor, the University of Tokyo



Tetsuo Saito
Member, House of Representatives; Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism,
Former Minister of the Environment, Japan



Hirohisa Sato
Chairman and Representative Director, BALNIBARBI Co., Ltd.



Yusuke Saraya
President and CEO, SARAYA Co., Ltd.



Takashi Shinohara
Member, House of Representatives; Former Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan



Akira Shimada
President and Chief Executive Officer, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation



Shozaburo Jimi
Former Minister of State for Postal Reform and Financial Services
Former Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Japan



Shunichi Suzuki
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister of Finance
Former Minister of the Environment, Japan



Gen Sudo
President and Representative Director, Nihon Michelin Tire Co., Ltd.



Kazuo Sumi
Chairman and Representative Director, Group Chief Executive Officer, Hankyu Hanshin Holdings, Inc.



Kazuhiko Takemoto
Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Future Initiatives, the University of Tokyo



Motoo Hayashi
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan



Hajime Funada
Member, House of Representatives
Former Minister of State, Economic Planning Agency, Japan



Yosuke Horiuchi
Representative Director, Vice Chairman, and Executive Officer, Sekisui House, Ltd.



Koji Masuda
President & CEO, AmicaTerra Co., Ltd.



Hidekazu Matsumoto
President and COO, SG Holdings Co., Ltd.



Kee Miki
Member, House of Representatives, Japan



Akira Yanagimoto
Member, House of Representatives, Japan



Makoto Yamazaki
Member, House of Representatives, Japan



Junichi Yoshida
Chairman of the Board, Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd.

Supporting Members
Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.
Tokyo Electric Power Company
Toyo Feather Industry Co., Ltd.
UNIPAC

As of October, 2024

Activities of GEA

1991

1991 Feb.

Established as the secretariat of “Eminent Persons’ Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development”

- Established as an NGO to contribute to solving global environmental problems and promoting sustainable development.



Noboru Takeshita, Former Prime Minister of Japan

1992

1992 Apr.

“Eminent Persons’ Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development” is held

- In his opening speech, the prime minister pointed out the need for a law to meet the demands of the “new era of the global environment.” This led to the enactment of the Basic Environment Law.
- Tokyo Declaration on Financing Global Environment and Development is announced.

Jun.

Participates in Rio Summit

(United Nations Conference on Environment and Development)
-The result of “Eminent Persons’ Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development” is announced at the Special Session.

1994

1994 Oct.

“Tokyo Conference on Global Environmental Action” is held

- Tokyo Declaration 1994 is announced to the world, proposing strengthening of international dialogue relating to sustainable development.



General conference



Progress of the conference

~95

1995 Nov.

The organization is named “Global Environmental Action”

1997

1997 Jan.

“The Environmental Summit ’97 for Designated Cities” is held

- In collaboration with 12 government-designated cities in Japan, the Environment Agency, Global Environmental Action, and UNEP*1 International Environment Technology Center jointly issue the “Environmental Declaration by Government-Designated Cities” to outline ideas and directions for reforming large cities to promote environmental conservation for the new century.

Mar.

“Global Partnership Summit on Environment” is held

- Held in collaboration with the UNDP/CSD.*2
- Tokyo Declaration 1997 is announced at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.



Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States of America



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako



Chairperson for the whole conference, Brigitta Dahl, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Dec.

Participates in COP3*3 in Kyoto : GEA organizes “Japan Day”

- Japan's efforts to tackle environmental problems are outlined in the presence of prominent figures from different countries around the world.



Conference hall of COP3



GEA Chair Gaishi Hiraiwa chats with “Japan Day” participants

1998

1998 Jun.

“Workshop on Responses to Climate Change in Northeast Asia” is held

- Long-term strategies for climate change are formulated, based on a study on optimum technology and projects for the Northeast Asia region.

Nov.

Participates in COP4 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

1999

1999 Jun.

“World Conference on Global Commons, Japan ’99” is held

- Held in collaboration with the UNDESA.*4
- The “Tokyo Declaration” is adopted, presenting various measures to reinforce international efforts to address global environmental problems.



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako



José Maria Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica, making a special address



Keizo Obuchi, Prime Minister of Japan

Jun.

Granted the Global 500 Roll of Honour by UNEP

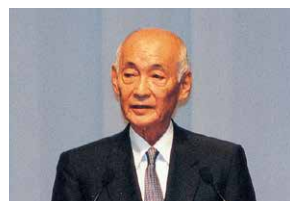
- GEA is awarded the Global 500 Role of Honour by UNEP. This award is bestowed on individuals or organizations in recognition of outstanding contributions to the protection and improvement of the environment for the support of sustainable development.

GEA Chair Gaishi Hiraiwa (right), receiving a medal from Klaus Topfer (left), Executive Director of UNEP



1999

- Oct. Seminar on “Report from World Conference on Global Commons, Japan '99” is held at COP5 in Bonn**
 - The “Tokyo Declaration,” adopted at the “World Conference on Global Commons, Japan '99,” is announced during the seminar.

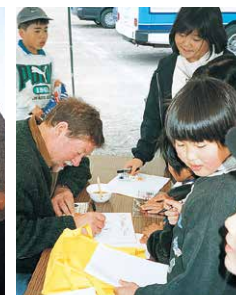


Masahisa Aoki, Director-General of GEA

- Nov. “Fureai Shizen-Juku (Nature School) Symposium” is held**
 - “Fureai Shizen-Juku” (Nature School) is a facility for environmental study, where people can enjoyably learn about the importance of the natural environment through observation of nature, direct contact with animals and plants, and living experiences. After case studies in nature school management at national and local governmental facilities are presented at the symposium, influential individuals engage in discussions based on the examples.



Sukio Iwatare, Director-General of GEA



C. W. Nicol and the children

2000

- 2000 May Participates in the Millennium Forum (United Nations Head-quarter, New York)**
 - GEA recommends the establishment of an Internet-based environmental foundation, and obtains support for this proposal at the forum.



Kazuo Aichi, Member, House of Representatives, Japan

- Oct. “Global Environment 2000” is held**
 - The conference reviews the environmental problems of the 20th century and looks at the major global-scale environmental challenges of the 21st century, as well as measures for tackling them.



Members of the conference

2001

- 2001 Jul. Accredited with NGO special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

- Oct. “Conference on Global Environmental Crisis” is held**
 - The “Conference on Global Environmental Crisis,” involving participants from various research institutes and international organizations and prominent individuals with influence on international public opinion, is held to alert and warn the people of the world about the many serious problems faced by the earth.



Conference hall

- The conference adopts proposals for promoting international dialogue on the realization of sustainable development and on approaches to making reforms to cultivate environmental partnerships.



H.I.H. the Crown Prince Naruhito



Robert T. Watson, Chairman of IPCC

- International Advisory Committee for Virtual Globe is formed**
 - A committee is established to organize a project designed to utilize the Internet to support environmental NGOs in developing countries.

2002

- 2002 Aug. Hosts “Japan Day” at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg**
 - Introduced Japan's efforts to solve environmental problems to the international community. Included the showing of a video describing, and drawing lessons from, Japan's experience in realizing economic development while also overcoming terrible pollution problems and the holding of a symposium on water and forest problems.



From left, House of Representatives Member Yoshio Yatsu, former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto

2003

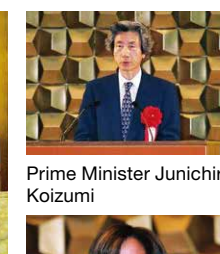
- 2003 Oct. “Conference for Sustainable Future: Education, IT and Natural Resources” is held**
 - Placing the spotlight on education, information technology, and natural resources, the conference discussed what can be done and what should be done for the sake of a sustainable future. The adopted proposals were scheduled to be reflected in the UNESCO Action Plan for the promotion of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, proposed by the Japanese government and adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Two other events were also held – the Eco Youth Conference just before the main conference and a symposium on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development on the final day of the conference.



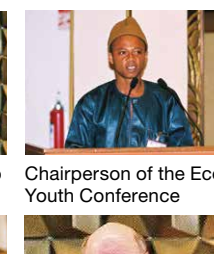
GEA Chair Juro Saito



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako



Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi



Chairperson of the Eco Youth Conference



HRH Princess Basma bint Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan speaks at the symposium.



Steven C. Rockefeller, Chairman of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

- Start of the VG Secondhand Personal Computer Donation Program**
 - As part of the Virtual Globe Project to support environmental NGOs, a second-hand PC donation program is started with the cooperation of NTT Corp. and Microsoft Corp. As the first stage, a total of 600 secondhand PCs are donated to educational institutions, including elementary, junior high, and senior high schools in Ehime, Fukuoka, and Chiba Prefectures.

2004

2004 Jul. Visit to Southeast Asia

- As part of efforts to promote the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, proposed by Japan at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, a visit was made to Asian countries to inspect projects being undertaken by local environmental NGOs and NPOs.



GEA Vice Chair Shozaburo Jimi (left) and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai (right)

Sep. "Message from Asia on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" seminar is held

- Together with the Thailand-based Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the GEA held a joint seminar at the AIT with the participation of representatives of NGOs and NPOs and international organizations active in Southeast Asia. The aims of the seminar were to hear the opinions of people involved locally from the perspective of education for sustainable development (ESD), to spread ESD as a practical activity in the Asia region, and to broaden the circle of cooperation and support from the international community by transmitting a message about the achievements of this campaign.



From left: AIT President Jean-Louis Armand, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand Krasae Chanawongse, and GEA Director General Kazuo Aichi



GEA Vice Chair Wakako Hironaka delivers a keynote speech.

2005

2005 May Start of Green Earth 21

- The Green Earth 21 project to promote environmental conservation activities through music was started. On May 21 and 22 a charity concert was held amid the grand nature of Aso-Kuju National Park in Kumamoto Prefecture with the participation of Hiroshi Itsuki, Aki Yashiro, Tomomi Kahara, and other artists.



GEA Advisor Toshiki Kaifu and singer Hiroshi Itsuki plant a tree at the foot of Mount Aso.

Jun. GEA International Eco Youth Conference in the Asia-Pacific Region

- This conference was held as a related event of the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific, an environment ministers' meeting sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, with the objective of reviewing the state of progress of resolutions of the GEA International Eco Youth Conference held in 2003. The conference brought together young people who are enthusiastically tackling environmental problems in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss efforts to build an environment-oriented international community for sustainable development.



Scene of the conference

Environment Minister Yuriko Koike and participants

**Oct. GEA International Conference '05: Climate Change and Its Effect on Sustainable Development**

- This conference was held, with the participation of learned persons from Japan and overseas, to discuss the linkage of scientific opinion and policies relating to the impact of climate change on sustainable development.



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako



Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi



Dr. Paul Crutzen, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995, delivers a keynote speech.

The Virtual Globe NGO Meeting: Internet use for vitalizing environmental conservation activities by NPOs and NGOs

- This meeting, participated in by Asian environmental NGOs registered in the GEA's Virtual Globe Project to support NGOs in developing countries, discussed the possibilities for using the Internet for the promotion of environmental conservation activities.



Scene of the conference

Dec. Participates in COP11 and MOP1*5

- The proposals of the GEA International Conference '05: Climate Change and Its Effect on Sustainable Development, held in October, were announced at a sub-event of COP11 to the UNFCCC*6 and MOP1 held in Montreal.



Scene of the COP11 conference



Richard Kinley, the officer-in-charge at UNFCCC, shakes hands with Hiroshi Ohki, Director General of GEA.



GEA Director General Hiroshi Ohki announcing the proposals of the GEA International Conference '05.

2006

2006 Jun. Virtual Globe Environmental NPO/NGO Meeting

- Following on from the NGO meeting in 2005, this meeting invited environmental NGOs in developing countries that are promoting environmental conservation activities in Asia to discuss more effective and concrete methods of support in order to further activate the environmental conservation activities in each region.



Participants with GEA members



NGO meeting participants attend a lecture about Eco Asia.



At the meeting

2007

2007 Mar. GEA Virtual Globe Environmental NPO/ NGO Evaluation Meeting

- A report was delivered on the state of implementation of environmental preservation activities in developing countries by the Virtual Globe Project, which was launched in 2002, and their effects were examined and evaluated.



Participants at the GEA Virtual Globe Meeting

Oct. GEA International Conference '07: Policy Approaches for Realizing a Sustainable Future — Building a New Framework on Climate Change

- Ahead of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit that will be held in Japan in 2008, eminent persons from Japan and overseas were invited to discuss policy approaches centered on the problem of climate change. The Special Lecture was delivered by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which, together with former US Vice-President Al Gore, was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Also, on the day before the conference, the GEA, together with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), held a Private Roundtable on Climate Change Policy and Japan.



Scene of the GEA International Conference



Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra. K. Pachauri at the Special Lecture



His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito

A 国際会議 2007
Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda

2008

2008 May “Minamata International Environmental Seminar for Realizing a Sustainable Society” is held

- Under the theme of “Learning from Japan’s Pollution Experience and Creating a Bright Future,” the GEA held in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Minamata City, an international seminar with the participation of NPOs and NGOs from six Asian countries at Minamata City in Kumamoto Prefecture.



Panelists with the participants from six Asian countries

2009

2009 Oct. GEA International Conference '09: Promoting Technologies and Policies toward a Low-carbon Society

- At the United Nations Summit on Climate Change in September, then Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama declared that Japan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 from the 1992 level. This year’s GEA International Conference discussed science and technologies that would be effective to realize a low-carbon society and policies that should be adopted to promote its progress. Along with this conference, Asia’s major environmental organizations were invited from five countries – Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, India and Sri Lanka – for the Asia NPO/NGO International Conference. The application of innovative environmental technology to meet the conditions in Asia and its regional partnerships was discussed there. The results of the conference were delivered to COP15’s related meeting and contributed to rouse international public opinion to guide practical actions.



H.I.H. the Crown Prince Naruhito



Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama

President's Council of Advisors
Emil Salim of Indonesia at the
Special Lecture

Participants at the Asia NPO/NGO International Conference

2010

2010 Sep. “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity” symposium is held

- Ahead of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya in October, GEA organized a symposium under the theme of “Post-2010 Target and Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS): To Continue Receiving the Benefits of Biodiversity into the Future” and invited NPOs from Asia and eminent persons from Japan and overseas to discuss settlement procedures for the serious dichotomy between countries for adopting an international protocol.



Panel Discussion

Oct. The Result Report at a COP10 side event

- The results of the GEA symposium are reported at a Conference on Biological Diversity (CBD) and education for sustainable development organized by the Japan Asia-Pacific Committee for Earth Charter. Policy proposals for the Nagoya Protocol are submitted at the Legislators' Meeting on Biodiversity hosted by the Secretariat of the COP10 to the CBD, Ministry of the Environment and GLOBE International.

2011

2011 Oct. GEA International Conference 2011: “Building Sustainable Societies through Reconstruction: Working with the International Community for Regenerating Japan”

- Japanese and international experts discussed future directions for a new Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake, reviewing a lifestyle based on mass production and consumption. Adnan Z. Amin, director general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony, and said renewable energy would be essential for Japan to reconstruct the devastated areas and could play a vital role in opening a new path toward long-term growth. GEA makes efforts to translate the conference outcomes into meaningful policy proposals and effective measures, and reports the results at various international conferences such as Rio+20 in Brazil.



His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito



His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito



Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda



Adnan Z. Amin, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) delivering a keynote speech

2012

2012 Jun. Rio+20 — United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

- On the sidelines of Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a Japan Day seminar was held in the Japan Pavilion on June 20, 2012. A summary of the activities and outcomes of the GEA International Conference 2011 was reported at the first session and a panel discussion was held at the third session to debate on climate change countermeasures. Several meetings with executives of international organizations, including Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias and Vice President of the Asian Development Bank Bindu N. Lohani, were arranged along with the conference.



Rio+20 Japan Pavilion



GEA Director General Wakako Hironaka announcing the outcomes of the GEA International Conference '11



Hiroshi Ohki, Advisor of GEA, participating in a panel discussion



From left: Wakako Hironaka, Director General of GEA; Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity; Hiroshi Ohki, Advisor of GEA

2013

2013 Oct. GEA International Conference 2013: “Advancing from Rio + 20 toward a Sustainable Future: Economic Revitalization and Contribution to the International Society through Green Economy”

- Based on the results of Rio+20, initiatives aimed at realizing a sustainable future were discussed at this conference. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Yuan Tseh Lee, President of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (1986), gave a keynote speech on the theme of the “Transformation for a Sustainable Future.” In the speech, he introduced the “Future Earth” initiative and expressed his expectation of Japan’s leadership. The results of this conference were widely introduced at a conference related to the COP19, which was held in Warsaw, Poland, in November.



Dr. Yuan Tseh Lee (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1986)



Katsunobu Kato, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary (On behalf of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe)



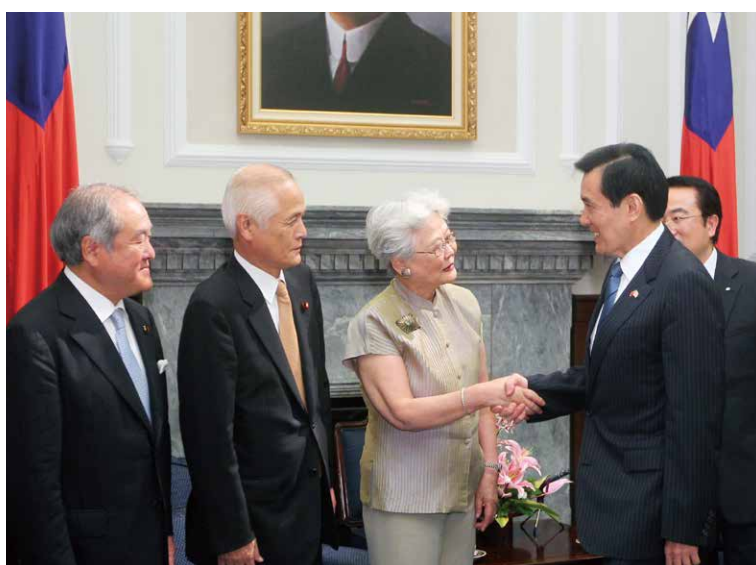
Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako

2014

2014 July

Visit to Taiwan by the GEA delegates on invitation from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan)

- Having Wakako Hironaka, GEA Director General, as the leader of the delegation, as well as Koichi Yamamoto, GEA Vice Chair, Shoichi Kondo, GEA Vice Chair and Shunichi Suzuki, former Minister of the Environment, as the deputy leaders, the GEA delegates visited Taipei City and had a meeting with key local figures such as Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Republic of China, Lin Yung-lo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Shin-Cheng Yeh, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection Administration. In the meeting, the delegates expressed their gratitude for the prompt support provided by Taiwan following the Great East Japan Earthquake. They also exchanged opinions regarding bilateral cooperation mainly in the environmental field and confirmed that both parties would make efforts to promote Japan-Taiwan environmental cooperation.



Meeting with Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan)

Nov. The ESD seminar was held on the sideline of the UNESCO World Conference

- As part of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which took place from November 10–12 in Nagoya, a seminar was jointly held with the Earth Charter, Asia Pacific & Japan Committee, for which Director General Hironaka serves as the representative. Dr. Shin-Cheng Yeh, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection Administration, R.O.C. (Taiwan), was invited as a special guest, and a presentation on “The role of the Earth Charter in the framework of Education for Sustainable Development, accomplishments and challenges” was given. The seminar was a great success with a full audience.



Dr. Shin-Cheng Yeh, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection Administration, R. O. C. (Taiwan)

2015

2015 Oct.

GEA International Conference 2015: “Policies and Measures to Cope with Climate Change and towards a Sustainable Society”

- At the opening ceremony, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), gave a keynote speech in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Executive Director delivered a speech on the theme of “The Power of Policy and Technology.” He stated, “The year 2015 has been a very special year in which the international community is seeking to take a historic step. Now is precisely an opportunity for transformation and the last chance for acting to achieve the goal of two degrees. We must decarbonize our economies for future generations.”



UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner delivers a keynote speech.



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Nov. – Dec.

The outcomes of the GEA International Conference 2015 are reported at the Japan Pavilion, the venue of a side event of the COP21 in Paris

At the Japan Pavilion, the venue of a side event of the COP21 in Paris.

2016

2016 Jul.

Supports of the “International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP2016)” organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the UNU-IAS*7 in Yokohama

2017

2017 Oct. “Building a new strategy for realising a decarbonised society : transformation and action for a sustainable society”

- Under the theme of the conference, “Realising a decarbonised society”, a discussion was held with experts from around the world in the aim of creating a new strategy to promote social change and behavior so that the Paris Agreement can be realised. The opening ceremony was attended by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito and the Crown Princess Masako as well as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with a keynote speech given by Laurence Tubiana, former Climate Change Ambassador of France and Special Representative for the 2015 COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris. The topic of the keynote



Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince Naruhito
and the Crown Princess Masako



Keynote speaker
Laurence Tubiana

speech by Tubiana was “The path to deep decarbonisation” in which she stated, “We need to create a fulfilling zero-carbon future for all, with all, and I look forward to action by Japan.”

2020

2020 Dec. GEA International Conference 2020: “Integration of the Environment and Economy: Towards a Virtuous Cycle of Environment and Growth”

- The conference was postponed from March to December due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was held for the first time as a hybrid event that combined in-person and virtual elements. Conference participants discussed how we can overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been spreading throughout the world to realize a virtuous cycle that both protects the environment and stimulates economic growth. At the opening ceremony, in the presence of Their



Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor
and the Empress



Video speech by UNEP Executive Director Inger
Andersen

Imperial Majesties the Emperor and the Empress, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga gave a guest speech in which he outlined the measures being adopted by the Japanese government to realize a carbon neutral society by 2050. This was followed by the keynote speech, given as a video message by Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, and by a commemorative address by Mr. Akira Yoshino, the Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry. In her keynote speech, Ms.

Anderson thanked the Japanese government for announcing an economic stimulus package of 2 trillion yen to combat climate change, and expressed the hope that Japan would play a leading role in this endeavor. In his address, Mr. Yoshino outlined scenarios for using lithium-ion batteries to help realize a sustainable society.



Prime Minister
Yoshihide Suga



Commemorative
address by Mr.
Akira Yoshino



GEA Chair
Wataru Takeshita

2022

2022 Oct. “Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Societies: Climate Change, Energy and Food Security”

- As in the previous year, GEA International Conference 2022 was held in the midst of a nationwide COVID-19 pandemic, and so when their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and the Empress attended the opening ceremony, they both wore masks, as did all the other participants. In his address, His Majesty the Emperor noted that the conference represented a marvelous opportunity, bringing together as it did leading experts from throughout the world in a spirit of collaboration that surpassed differences in nationality or background. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pointed out that, with the signing of the Glasgow Climate Pact at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), the world has now entered a new stage of emissions reduction implementation, in which it is vitally important that all countries take effective action aimed at realizing the goals of the Paris

Agreement. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Hans J. Schellnhuber, Director Emeritus of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who, in closing, quoted Albert Einstein’s remark that “The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything,” and gave the situation in Ukraine as an example of this problem.



Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and the Empress



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida



Video message from Fatih Birol,
Executive Director of the International
Energy Agency (IEA)



Dr. Hans J. Schellnhuber,
Director Emeritus of the Potsdam
Institute for Climate Impact Research
delivering a keynote speech

*1 UNEP= United Nations Environment Programme

*2 UNDPDSD= United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

*3 COP= Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

*4 UNDESA= United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

*5 MOP= Meeting of the Parties

*6 UNFCCC= United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

*7 UNU-IAS= United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability