

Summary of the Dialogue and the Niigata Appeal on Energy and the Environment

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Looking at last year's moves between Japan and Russia, in addition to summit meetings this year alone numbering four occasions, several high-level deliberations such as meetings between foreign ministers and defense ministers were held, and both sides are making efforts in constructing good relations.

Turning our attention to Japan's energy situation, with the post-Fukushima direction as yet undrawn, the formulation of clear-cut energy policy is extremely urgent.

On the other hand, for Russia, via the emergence of shale gas, a change in the preeminence of Europe has occurred, and is turning the energy policy vector to the east.

The "Energy and Environment Dialogue" this time around was held in such circumstances.

At the "Dialogue" we received messages of greeting from the organizers and guests, and along with stating the objectives, significance and direction of this dialogue, the expectations for energy and environmental cooperation between Japan and Russia were stated. In the keynote addresses, various issues related to the current situation for Japan-Russia relations, the direction for Japan's energy policy, the prospects for the import of energy, and shale gas were touched upon.

Such matters as the laying of natural gas pipelines and electricity transmission lines crossing the Sea of Japan and the interest of the Russian side in electricity-generating projects in Japan have been shown as a new direction for Japan-Russia relations in the future.

It was emphasized that, with the experience of the EU being introduced, it could become a model for Asia, and in addition that it was necessary to create an arena for deliberation on energy security in Northeast Asia. It is thought important that this organization have binding force.

Regarding Japan-Russia energy cooperation, while many projects have been examined to date, challenges for their realization have been raised based on the background and experience thereof.

Reported at the "Dialogue" were: the possibility of the participation of Japanese firms in the electricity-generating sector and the connecting-up to the gas supply in the Far East; the actual situation for cooperation with Russia in the energy-saving and new energy sectors; the case example of resource development cooperation between Japan and Russia; and, along with the current status of multilateral gas pipelines being introduced, the situation for LNG import and use in electricity generation, an introduction of energy-saving and renewable energy technology, and the current status of the use thereof.

Reported as successful cases were the firms which visited Russia as part of the work of the "Japan-Russia Association to Promote Interregional Business" which ERINA set up in collaboration with Russia, and the cooperation agreement concluded with Russia's Far Eastern Federal University continuing to bear fruit in the new energy sector. The basic agreement was introduced at last year's "Dialogue", and was the first example that led to actual business in the six-year history of the "Dialogue".

This year there was a second successful result. With the Irkutsk Oil Company introducing the company's work at last year's "Dialogue", in September of this year Itochu and INPEX decided on capital participation by way of JOGMEC, the partner of the Irkutsk Oil Company. We are extremely happy that the "Dialogue" has played the role of go-between.

Based on the above outcomes, we proclaim the "Niigata Appeal on Energy and the Environment 2013".

The Sixth Japan-Russia Energy and Environment Dialogue in Niigata

The Niigata Appeal on Energy and the Environment 2013

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in Niigata City

Not only does Niigata have a long history of exchange with the countries of Northeast Asia, but it also receives energy, such as oil, natural gas, and coal, and uses it in industry and the civilian sector, and plays an important role as a hub for its transportation on to other regions of Japan. In addition in Niigata there are many enterprises specializing in the development of energy technologies. Thus we can say that the holding of the "Dialogue" in Niigata has great significance.

The organizers of the "Dialogue", Niigata Prefecture, the City of Niigata, and ERINA, having taken into account the

results of the current "Dialogue", are convinced that the evolution of energy and environmental cooperation between Japan and Russia will assist the strengthening of energy security not only of Northeast Asia but also of the whole world, and in order to maintain and further expand the initiatives of the "Dialogue" which have brought together central and regional industry, academia and government, they make the following proposals:

- The expansion of the human networks in Japan and Russia for the continuation and development of the "Dialogue", as well as disseminating information on the attraction of the "Dialogue" domestically and internationally and raising the interest of the parties concerned;
- The finding and determination via the "Dialogue" of promising projects that may lead to concrete business results, and the application of effort to increase the number of successful examples;
- The further strengthening of the dominant position and functions of Niigata, as a receiving center and transport hub for energy resources, a role which Niigata fulfils for the Japanese energy industry;
- The publicizing of the significance of the "Dialogue" and the appeal for joint initiatives by Japan and Russia to the interested organizations domestically and internationally with the proposal of the necessity of the formation of mechanisms for cooperation in the area of energy security in the Northeast Asian region.

[Translated by ERINA]