

The Fifth Japan–Russia Energy and Environment Dialogue in Niigata

The Niigata Appeal on Energy and the Environment 2012

23 November 2012

in Niigata City

The Salient Features and Outcomes of the Fifth “Dialogue”

Today, with energy issues continuing to be reappraised on a global scale, the holding of the Fifth Dialogue was timely. At this dialogue the following points were principally discussed.

- Regarding the global energy situation and cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries of Japan and Russia, the current state of affairs was reported on and opinions on future prospects were presented.
- From Gazprom, an overview of the company’s projects and information on cooperation with Japan were provided, while from the Japanese side interest was shown in the gas chemical projects in the Russian Far East region.
- Along with the state of play of the examination into Japan’s domestic gas pipelines being made known, the potential was pointed out for Niigata Prefecture, which has Japan’s leading LNG receiving base, to be able to become the import base for LNG produced in Russia.
- Regarding the current state of Japan–Russia cooperation in oil exploration and development, detailed reports from the persons concerned on both sides were made, and future directions were presented.
- Regarding the areas of new energy and the environment, agreement was reached aiming toward technical cooperation on wind and solar power among Japanese firms, the Far Eastern Federal University, and related firms, and on local production and sale in Russia of equipment. In the five-year history of the “Dialogue” this is the first case which has resulted in business and we are delighted that an objective of the “Dialogue” has been achieved.

The Challenges for the Continuation of the “Dialogue”

Japan–Russia cooperation in the area of energy and the environment will be able to play a key role in striving for peace and prosperity not only in Northeast Asia, but also in the wider world, and, at the same time as having a long history of exchange with the opposite shore and an ample track record as an energy receiving base, the significance of the hosting of this conference by Niigata—which has earnestly been engaging in the development of energy technology—is great.

Consequently, Niigata Prefecture, the City of Niigata, and ERINA, the organizers of this conference, hope that the "Dialogue" will lead to the solution of the energy and environmental issues of Northeast Asia, and by extension of the wider Asian region and the world, and furthermore, based on the outcomes of the present "Dialogue", propose the further continuation and expansion of initiatives which central and regional industry, government and academia have brought together to date. As issues to that end the following are raised:

- To build on past efforts, bringing the network of people in the two countries of Japan and Russia into step with the demands of the times and the changes in the international environment, and to further enhance it;
- As this "Dialogue" also has an objective of leading to concrete cooperation, to make further effort on the discovery and realization of business cooperation projects for Japanese firms to participate in;
- Regarding cooperation on new energy and the environment, after agreement on cooperation was reached at this "Dialogue", to make effort on constructing a framework within which a wide range of firms can participate and on increasing the number of successful business cases;
- To heighten the interest in the energy security cooperation of Northeast Asian countries, via the wide dissemination of the outcomes of the "Dialogue."