

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George  
at the Seminar “Exploring Cooperation in Bioenergy :  
India-Japan Collaboration | Global Biofuels Alliance”  
at Embassy of India, Tokyo, 21 February 2024**

Mr. Yuki Sadamitsu, Director-General, Natural Resources and Fuel Department, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan,

Our distinguished speakers who are joining virtually from India,

Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished guests,

A very Good evening to you all!!

I welcome you all to this Seminar captioned ‘Exploring Cooperation in Bioenergy: India-Japan Collaboration, Global Biofuels Alliance’. I thank Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan for joining us today. I also thank Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, GoI, Invest India and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, for partnering with us today. This seminar is part of a series of seminars that we organize in Japan to connect various stakeholders in our India – Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

Friends,

In recent years, India – Japan relationship has transformed into Special Strategic and Global partnership launched in 2014 under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and the former Prime Minister Late Mr. Shinzo Abe. The prophetic words ‘confluence of two seas’ by Late Prime Minister Abe continue to resonate when we work towards a free, open and rule based Indo-Pacific.

This special partnership continues to flourish under the leadership of Prime Minister His Excellency KISHIDA Fumio and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Today, India - Japan partnership within the bilateral and plurilateral framework like the QUAD is key to stability and freedom in Indo-Pacific which faces several challenges.

Dear Friends,

2023 has been a special year in India Japan relationship, as India and Japan served as the Chair of G20 and G7 respectively. There have been hundreds of delegations from all across the world visited India to participate in the over two hundred G 20 related meetings held all over India. Each of these delegations including those from Japan returned with one message. India has transformed. India has changed. What they saw is a New India. Its infrastructure has changed, its vision has changed, its business environment has changed. Its digital transformation is significant. Today it is world's fastest growing economy. Some of our friends, including Japanese friends used to say, India needs to become more business friendly. I am happy to state that India has changed. It is a New India. The world is coming to India, investing in India. Today, India is a land of billion opportunities. I invite our Japanese friends to grab this opportunity.

Dear Friends,

One of this major changes in India is in the energy sector. Currently India ranks as the third largest energy consumer globally. We are on a rapid trajectory to becoming a \$5 trillion GDP economy by 2025. Consequently, our energy demand is poised to grow exponentially. It is estimated that India alone will account for around 25% of the global energy incremental demand growth between 2020 and 2040, the largest incremental share by any nation. The government of India has taken a pragmatic and astute middle path that underscores commitment to

mitigating climate change while supporting national interests and meeting India's energy demand. India's broad diversification of its energy policy will help facilitate enhanced energy security. Towards this, the government of India has taken several steps, including transformational policy reforms while focusing on waves of future, that is non-conventional energy, including biofuels, compressed biogas, green hydrogen, solar and wind.

The stage is set for India to share the Indian experience in biofuels, which is also a story to support its agricultural sector. From a meager 1.5% biofuels blending in 2014, India achieved 10% blending of ethanol in petrol in May 2022, which was well ahead of the November 2022 deadline. India has also advanced its target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 and has brought the target five years earlier. This has helped in boosting farmers' income with the payment of over US\$8.7 billion and also in lowering carbon dioxide emission by more than 40 million metric tons in the last decade. Underscoring the importance of biofuels towards energy transition, India, along with the leaders of eight countries, launched the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) during the G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023. The GBA is a multi-stakeholder alliance of governments, international organizations and industries which is intended to expedite the global uptake of biofuels. India now stands committed to achieve net zero by 2070, reaching India's non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW and meeting 50% of our energy requirements for renewable energy by 2030.

Today, India has become the world's third largest producer of renewable energy with 40% of our installed electricity capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources, achieving the commitment of intended national determined contribution of COP21 ahead of the target of 2030 in 2021. We enjoy the lowest cost of large-scale solar power in the world so is the cost of wind power.

India launched a National Green Hydrogen Mission with target of producing 5 million metric tons by 2030, making India a global hub for the production, usage and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.

Dear Friends,

At the bilateral level, our clean energy partnership with Japan focuses on clean energy and green technologies which is expected to include increase collaboration in electric vehicles, batteries, green hydrogen/ammonia etc. We have launched Japan-India Clean Energy Partnership; Japan-India Energy Dialogue, Japan-India Environmental Policy Dialogue. We are making progress in each of these sectors.

Dear Friends,

Before I conclude, I would like to also refer to LiFE, Lifestyle for Environment, a key Mission by India to combating climate change. This mission aligns with our cultural ethos of safeguarding our "One Earth," caring for our "One Family," and striving for a sustainable "One Future," captured precisely by India's G20 Presidency logo - "One Earth One Family One Future." One of the important messages of the G 20 Delhi Declaration was on Climate Change. We had a major event here in Tokyo to celebrate LiFE Mission recently which some of you have attended. The vision of LiFE is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it, calling it for a shift from GDP-centric view of the world to human-centric view. Inspiring 1.4 billion people to imbibe the values of nature and to contribute to combat climate change.

Let me conclude by quoting from the remarks by Prime Minister when he addressed the G - 20 Energy Ministers meeting in Goa last year. He said and I quote: "Small steps lead to big results. In 2015, we began a small movement by launching a scheme for the use of LED lights. This

became the largest LED distribution program in the world, saving us more than 45 billion units of energy per year. We have also started the largest agricultural pump solarization initiative in the world. India's domestic electric vehicle market is projected to reach 10 million annual sales by 2030. We have commenced the rollout of 20 percent Ethanol Blended Petrol. Our aim is to cover the entire country by 2025. For decarbonizing India, we are working on a Mission mode on Green Hydrogen as an alternative. The aim is to make India a Global Hub for the production, use, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.” Unquote.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all the participants for joining us today, another step towards further building our India – Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

Thank you.

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