

11th German-Japanese Environment
and Energy Dialogue Forum
16-18 February 2021

Preparing the Industry for Tomorrow:
Decarbonization as Industrial Policy

Political, Technical and Social Pathways and
the Role of Hydrogen

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How to make industry GHG neutral?

German-Japanese Environment and Energy Dialogue Forum starts with 300 participants

Net zero by 2050 - this is the goal of Japan and Germany, both highly industrialized countries. But the energy sector or steel industry are difficult to imagine without emissions. Which political framework conditioner needed, and which technologies have the greatest potential to drastically reduce emissions in energy-intensive industries in the medium to long term? Experts from both countries will deal with these questions in an intensive three-day online conference.

Industry is responsible for around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and is therefore a key sector for achieving the GHG neutrality target. The conference was opened by Mr. Hiroaki Ishizuka, President of NEDO, the Japanese organizer of the conference, who stated that "Carbon neutrality is a shared challenge for mankind. The era when we considered global warming as a constraint or a cost is over. We must take it as an opportunity for growth. Innovation is essential for this." Norbert Gorißen, representing the organizer BMU on the German side, noted in his keynote that "Only if we manage to give the energy-intensive industry a GHG-neutral perspective in our countries can we maintain added value and advance decarbonization worldwide". Ursula Borak agreed from the point of view of the Federal Ministry of Economics "In this way, climate protection becomes an innovation driver for the economy". It is particularly important to wave goodbye to technologies of the past - for example coal-fired power plants - and not to actively keep them alive or even to further promote them: "The risk that 'stranded assets' will become an expensive legacy in the future is high. "

For the first time, the Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry(METI) and the Ministry of the Environment (MoEJ) are equally represented at the forum. METI's "Green Growth Strategy" presented by Shinichi Kihara sets ambitious goals for the electricity sector, industry, transport and households in order to achieve "net zero" by 2050. Renewables should then provide 50-60% of the electricity, but "carbon recycling" is also stressed as an important component of the decarbonization strategy. Keiko Segawa (MoEJ), on the other

hand, emphasized the role of municipalities in her keynote speech - more than 200 Japanese cities and municipalities (equivalent to 75% of the Japanese population) have committed themselves to “net zero” by 2050 - and advocates the introduction of Emissions Trading Systems based on the EU model.

With Agora Energiewende, the Oeko Institute, the Japanese Renewable Energy Institute and the University of Tokyo, four renown voices from science gave an insight into scenarios and study results on decarbonization paths in both countries on the first day of the conference. The focus here was on transition costs and the associated question of the right political instruments to avoid distortions of competition.

The networking sessions attracted many participants: whether on challenges of structural change in regions such as Lusatia in German or Kitakyushu in Japan, carbon markets as a political instrument, or Japanese cuisine in Berlin - the participants enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas in person, at least virtually

The next two conference days will focus on technologies for the decarbonization of industry: which emission-cutting effects can be achieved by digitalization, what is the role of hydrogen, how can the potential of energy efficiency be fully exploited? The exchange on these questions promises further exciting discussions.

About the EEDF

Since its founding in 2007, the EEDF has become a renowned platform for the information exchange between experts from industry, academia and politics of both countries on current environment and energy related issues as well as a starting point for cooperation projects. It is organized by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the German Ministry of Economy and Energy and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) in co-operation with the Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment (Japan).

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