

September 14, 2009 (Monday) 15:15-17:00

Speech: Future Visions of New Asian Infrastructures

(4) Overview: Great diversion on infrastructure in the globe

Hitoshi Ikuma, Director, Center for Strategy of Emergence, The Japan Research Institute Ltd.

During this session, under the guidance of Mr. Hitoshi Ikuma, Director, Center for Strategy of Emergence, The Japan Research Institute Ltd., speakers shared their future vision and/or specific state-of-the-art examples of IT, urban development and transportation infrastructures. They also discussed how Japan can deal with and contribute to this major transformation taking place in the building of new infrastructure in Asia.

With the deterioration of infrastructure of advanced countries, the building of new infrastructure in emerging countries, post-Kyoto negotiations, and a backdrop of a reevaluation of the public sector, now more than ever we are seeing a huge transformation in infrastructure. After the Kyoto Protocols, it is vitally important to set the goals for 2050 which require a fundamental rebuilding of society and strive to achieve them. In addition, new infrastructure being built in such countries as China and India, as well as the Tianjin Eco City and the Shanghai traffic system, clearly surpass what Japan is doing. These countries are effectively utilizing expertise of advanced countries to build next-generation societies. Japan must have a better grasp of this situation.

So, what should Japan do? Japanese technology is no longer necessarily competitive in and of itself. Its greatest strength lies in integration, having a comprehensive understanding of various technologies and knowing how to effectively manage and operate them together. Japan needs to showcase in a comprehensive manner technologies and systems that will serve the needs of future trends for export to and development in overseas markets. Japan must take action by understanding and aggressively pursuing new markets outside its national borders.

* * * * *