

Asia Green IT Forum 2013 Joint Statement

Realization of a low-carbon society is a top-priority issue requiring an urgent, global-scale response. IT and electronics technologies stand to contribute substantially to the low-carbon society goal through the pursuit of green IT, which means boosting energy efficiency in IT devices themselves, and also providing products and solutions that generate greater energy efficiency in all social activities. In Asia in particular, the region's recent remarkable economic development and the accompanying boom in energy consumption position has prompted a strong drive toward green IT.

The Asia Green IT Forum was held for the first time in October 2009 in Japan, bringing together representatives from seven Asian countries to exchange views toward the realization of a low-carbon society through green IT utilization. At the second meeting in October 2010, 10 Asian countries and regions discussed subsequent progress with their green IT initiatives and other issues, proposing specific cooperative actions. The third meeting, held in Seoul, Korea in October 2011, again saw 10 Asian countries and regions gather to affirm that Asia should continue to take the lead in promoting green IT as one of the central players in the international green IT movement. The fourth meeting was held in Seoul again in October 2012, giving rise to a productive discussion among nine Asian countries.

The fifth meeting took place in the Philippines in June 2013, with representatives from 4 countries engaging in a vigorous exchange of views. Participants were impressed by the proactive approach to green IT taken by the Philippines government and industry, and were also struck afresh by the potential for these efforts to be developed still further. As a result of green IT initiatives undertaken in the various countries to date, a trend is now emerging toward more integrated 'smart' societies, including the dissemination of renewable energies. The economic muscle of the Asian countries should lend them increasing influence in the global community in the years ahead, which will simultaneously strengthen calls for Asia to contribute to protection of the global environment. Given these factors, we wish to advance green IT initiatives to the next level.

Points of Common Understanding

(1) Further promoting independent initiatives

The steady introduction of green IT in Forum member countries and regions has advanced understanding of green IT, and countries are well on the way to developing their own initiatives through, for example, the establishment of joint government-private sector organizations. There will be great value in continuing to advance such independent initiatives, as well as strengthening partnership among Forum member countries by sharing information on the effectiveness of their respective programs. Forum members will also continue to pursue mutual cooperation, including disseminating internationally through the Forum portal those green IT best practices developed to date, as well as developing green IT human resources and holding seminars and fairs. The informatization cooperation which has been pursued in Asia over the years will be deepened on an ongoing basis among Forum members from a green IT perspective.

(2) Promotion of energy-related measures

In Asia, the CO₂ emission is increasing against a backdrop of a rapid economic growth, and countries need to accompany their green IT initiatives with a range of energy-related measures. In Japan, in addition to ongoing work to develop energy efficiency metrics, steady progress is being made on the introduction of a range of energy-related programs including

sustainable energy expansion, the promotion of smart communities, and incentives promoting the further introduction of solar power generation, HEMS and BEMS. It will be vital that all countries and regions pursue measures that further advance green IT and progress concrete steps to reduce carbon emissions.

(3) Data center dissemination and promotion and greater data center efficiency

Asian society is currently experiencing rapid informatization. Cloud computing and other new forms of computing, as well as the data centers that perform them, will form the core of advanced information societies. We need to approach the construction of information societies with a strong awareness of the great improvements in efficiency for society as a whole which can be achieved by introducing top-class data centers.

As the role of data centers expands, there is a growing call worldwide to reduce the energy consumption of data centers themselves. Based on discussions to date among the US, Japan and Europe of the data center energy efficiency metrics which was to become de facto standards, considerations were launched in June last year under the International Organization for Standardization's technical committee ISO/IEC JTC1 SC39, which includes Korea, China, Singapore and Japan. The metric currently proposed assesses data centers in terms of both performance and energy consumption, opening the way for more accurate identification of outstanding data centers.

In addition to active promotion of discussion by those countries already participating in JTC1 SC39, Forum member countries also need to deepen understanding at home of the value of these metrics in introducing and improving data centers, and continue to support the development by JTC1 SC39 of an international standard for data center metrics.

(4) Green IT analyses

Ongoing analysis of the energy efficiency of existing buildings, factories and data centers and the application of best practices are effective means of encouraging the introduction of green IT. Japan has been pursuing green IT analyses in Asia for several years now. In future years, it will be important that Forum members undertake such analyses either independently or as a joint initiative.

(5) Information-sharing for infrastructure development in Asia

Building social infrastructure will be a key element in the sustainable development of the Asian countries. Incorporating a green IT perspective from the outset of infrastructure development is an extremely effective approach in terms of energy policy. Information on effective measures and programs therefore needs to be shared to promote the use of green IT in infrastructure development in the various different areas.

(6) Promoting ITA expansion to assist green IT dissemination

Setting in place the conditions for expanding trade in IT products is also a key issue in terms of disseminating green IT in Asia. ITA expansion will further promote the unimpeded distribution of IT and electronics products with a strong environmental performance and consequently contribute substantially to green IT promotion. ITA expansion negotiations are currently underway with a view to agreement in summer this year, and Asia Green IT Forum members too look forward to an early conclusion to the negotiations.

(7) Future meetings of the Asia Green IT Forum

The Philippines, through SEIPI, will host the 6th meeting, June 4-6, 2014 at SMX, Manila. Indonesia will host the 7th meeting around February 2015.