

Asia Green IT Forum 2014 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.

The sixth meeting was held in June 2014, again in the Philippines, bringing together representatives from 6 countries and regions.

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 information internationally through a website introducing green IT best practices, 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, CO₂ emissions are 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 recent years, policies have been introduced in a number of Asian countries to save energy in factories and buildings, but much more could be done in those regards. Asia needs to utilize IT such as factory energy management systems (FEMS) and building energy management systems (BEMS) to promote greater energy efficiency in society. For example, Japan is currently operating a subsidy system to encourage businesses to introduce the above energy management systems.

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) Use of energy-efficient, high-performance data centers

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.

Consideration of a metric for data center evaluation has been launched under the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC39, which includes Korea, China, Singapore, Japan, Europe and the US. JTC1 SC39 is seeking a metric which assesses data centers in terms of both performance and energy consumption, which would open the way for more accurate identification of outstanding data centers.

Data centers are social infrastructure, and selecting energy-efficient and high-performance data centers from the outset will be invaluable in developing an advanced informatization society in Asia. Asian countries need to deepen understanding of this, and continue to support the development by JTC1 SC39 of an international standard for data center metrics.

(4) 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.

In recent years, the US, Europe and other advanced countries and regions have been working to develop smart societies that combine energy efficiency with energy creation and energy storage. To keep pace with this important trend, Asia too will need to pursue the introduction of IT from a broad and future-reaching perspective.

(5) 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. Asia Green IT Forum members too look forward to an early conclusion to the ITA expansion negotiations that are currently underway.

(6) Future meetings of the Asia Green IT Forum

Indonesia will host the 7th meeting in May 2015.