Second Asia Green IT Forum Joint Statement

Realization of a low-carbon society is a top-priority issue requiring an urgent, global-scale response. Moreover, radical technological innovation has a critical role to play in achieving harmony between our economic and social activities and the global environment.

IT and electronics technologies stand to contribute substantially to the realization of a low-carbon society, in part by boosting the efficiency of IT devices, for which a demand explosion is expected in the coming years, and also through the sophisticated control and management which they enable, the latter opening the way for greater production, logistical and administrative efficiency which will in turn generate greater productivity and energy efficiency in all economic and social activities.

Around the world, these technologies are now being disseminated through green IT campaigns, and in Asia too, the region's recent economic development and the accompanying boom in energy consumption position the promotion of green IT as an urgent task.

The Asia Green IT Forum was held for the first time last year as a concrete move in that direction, bringing together government and industry representatives from around Asia to exchange views toward the realization of a low-carbon society. The meeting affirmed that Asian countries would work together in devoting maximum efforts to achieving a low-carbon society through the use of IT.

This year, a second meeting was held on 5 October again at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan. Representatives from China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam engaged in a vigorous exchange of views grounded in their particular domestic circumstances, including their green IT initiatives to date and the integration of these with environmental and energy-related measures.

The following specific common points of understanding emerged.

(a) Promotion of green IT and the global expansion thereof toward achieving a low-carbon society

Participating countries and regions will continue to promote the introduction and use of green IT, and will take advantage of various opportunities to work to highlight the importance of green IT in international low-carbon initiatives (UN, OECD, IEA, APEC, etc.).

(b) Mutual green IT cooperation in Asia

To disseminate and publicize green IT action in Asia, mutual cooperation will be extended in holding seminars, symposia, fairs and other events in the participating countries and regions.

(c) Sharing information on and encouraging the introduction of best practices

As sharing best practices is an effective means of approaching the introduction of green IT technologies and products, participating countries and regions will indicate their own best practices and share information on these to promote green IT introduction.

(d) Promoting green IT analysis in Asia

In 2009 and 2010, energy-saving analyses conducted by Japan in Asia from a green IT perspective in relation to buildings, factories and data centers, etc., confirmed the value of this approach. Participating countries and regions will work to implement similar green IT analyses alone and in conjunction with each other.

(e) Boosting energy efficiency in data centers

The advent of a full-scale network era in Asia in the coming years is expected to prompt a surge in data center demand. Steps need to be taken to reduce the amount of energy consumed in data centers, and the countries involved are looking at indicators to measure energy efficiency with an eye to international standardization. Measuring energy efficiency through indicators is an effective means of quantifying data center performance in this regard. In Asia too, indicator-based measurement will be trialed toward boosting the energy efficiency of data centers, supporting the adoption of these indicators as international standards.

(f) Promotion of international partnership

In the US and Europe too, a number of institutions are working actively to promote green IT. The Asia Green IT Forum will be positioned as one corner of a global green IT promotion alliance, working in partnership with these institutions to help realize low-carbon societies on a global scale.

(At the Green IT International Symposium on 6 October, views were exchanged with key US and European institutions on the global promotion of green IT, with participants confirming the importance of a global alliance.)

(g) Forum continuation and sharing information

Continuing to hold the Asia Green IT Forum will be important in Asia leading the way on green IT action as part of the effort to achieve low-carbon societies on a global scale.

An Asia Green IT Forum portal with links to green IT promotion activities in the various Asian countries and regions will be created within Japan's Green IT Promotion Council portal to contribute to mutual information-sharing.