

RACE TO ZERO DIALOGUE

29.07.2020

Hello everyone, I am Shimizu Hayato, the mayor of the Saitama City. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for having this precious opportunity to speak here today.

Saitama City, with a population of over 1.32 million, has grown to become the ninth largest city in Japan.

As we all know, abnormal weather have caused us a huge damage in recent years.

In this month, the torrential rains in Kyushu have been classified as a catastrophic disaster in Japan which posed a serious threat to human society and nature. In our city, the super typhoon Hagibis hit our city last October, caused tremendous damage.

The risk of torrential rains and extreme heat is expected to increase with global warming in the future, and these events reminded us that we are facing a crisis.

In order to pass on a sustainable society to the future, I believe it is essential for all entities, including citizens, businesses, and governments, to share a sense of urgency and to proactively take initiatives.

To make our determination clearer, Saitama City announced yesterday that we will strive to be the “zero carbon city by 2050” to realize net zero carbon emissions.

The "Saitama City Global Warming Prevention Action Plan," which is under revision in this fiscal year, includes a backcasting plan that outlines the vision for 2050, the goals for 2030, and the measures to be taken to achieve them, in order to realize a decarbonized society. I believe that we are entering an era of "inter-city co-creation".

I would like to build a partnership among the Saitama City and the various stakeholders in the "Race To Zero" campaign to share the technologies and knowledge in order to achieve a zero-carbon city together.

In addition, we will continue to actively work towards Daring Cities 2020 and COP26 with the support of the Ministry of the Environment to ensure that measures to combat climate change are not stalled while taking measures against the COVID-19.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for this opportunity to speak to you here today.

Thank you very much.