

## **Seminar on Transport and the Environment**

### **Opening Remarks**

**Jiro Hanyu**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of today's host, JITI, I would like to welcome all of you to our seminar "Transportation and the Environment: Promoting Green Logistics". This seminar is closely related to the governmental conference between MLIT of Japan and the EPA of the US regarding environmentally friendly policies on transport, which was held yesterday here in Washington, DC. Taking into account yesterday's conference discussion, with this seminar we will further deepen our acknowledgement of the necessity for environmentally friendly policies and practices among those in the private sector.

Now, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the keynote speakers and panelists for taking the time out of their busy schedules to share their valuable ideas and opinions. As our keynote speakers, we have Stephen Johnson, Deputy Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency; Hayao Hora, Vice Minister for International Affairs of the Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; and Governor Bill Graves, President and CEO of the American Trucking Associations and former governor of Kansas.

In addition, we will have a panel discussion, with:

- Jeffrey Holmstead, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, EPA  
He will serve as the moderator for this discussion.
- Naoyuki Fukuuchi, Director of (Logistics) Policy Coordination, MLIT
- James Gordon, Jr., Vice President and General Manager of the Logistics Division, Canon USA
- Katsumi Sato, General Manager, Overseas Planning Division, Nippon Express
- Michael Herr, Vice President of Corporate Environmental Affairs for UPS
- and Kenji Nagamatsu, Senior Representative, JITI

I would like to take this opportunity to make an apology to you all, but I must inform you that Congressman James Oberstar, who showed his willingness to deliver his speech at this seminar, is unable to join us today due to urgent Democratic party-related business.

Before moving on to the keynote speeches, I would like to provide you with a brief explanation of the purpose of today's seminar. As you well know, logistics serves as a base for our social lives and business activities; however, it creates a significant burden on our

environment. For instance, logistics is one of the main contributors to increased levels of nitrogen dioxide in the air as it is released mainly through diesel emissions, as well as increased consumption of carbon dioxide which is created by internal combustion engines. Therefore, we believe it is vital to reduce the environmental impact of logistics through policy initiatives that will aid in conducting environmentally friendly business activities

As part of this need, from the standpoint of corporate social responsibility, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of firms that are implementing business strategies that incorporate an element of environmental protection. In the field of logistics, both shippers and freight companies have begun taking voluntary initiatives for driving green logistics by implementing such measures as utilizing low emission vehicles, optimizing shipping routes, and others. Moreover, both the Japanese and U.S. governments have been promoting policies that encourage such voluntary private sector initiatives.

Taking into consideration all of these recent developments, we believe this is the most appropriate time to hold a seminar to study the policies and practices to be promoted in the future.

To that end, representatives from the private sectors of both Japan and the US that have already taken advanced measures in addition to decision-makers from government agencies, have come together here today to discuss effective policies for the promotion of green logistics. I can expect that one or more of the following points will be discussed during this seminar:

- What is the desirable mix of voluntary and regulatory measures for promoting green logistics?
- What is the primary motivation for advanced private sector companies to promote voluntary green logistics?
- In order to promote such initiatives, it is vital that shippers and freight companies should come together. What types of measures, then, are needed to strengthen partnerships between these two groups?
- With respect to the governments of Japan and the US, what measures are expected to be taken in order to effectively promote green logistics?

We all have not only a strong intellectual curiosity about these issues, but we also can be assured of the significant benefit that will occur from our concerns over air pollution and global environmental problems. Today you will hear from our speakers and panelists, and then at the reception following this seminar I hope you will exchange various opinions with them.

In closing, I would like to state that we have received full support for holding this seminar from the Nippon Foundation, which is renowned worldwide for supporting activities of public interest. On behalf of my institute, I would like to express my gratitude and respect for their support.

Thank you for your attention.