

Government of Japan Intervention

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Excellencies, honorable participants, I thank the EITI conference for giving me this opportunity to intervene and express the vision of my government on the EITI. Since the inception of the EITI, Japan, as a major energy and mineral resource consuming country and as a leading nation committed to development cooperation, has continuously if dispassionately been supportive of the ideals and objectives of EITI.

In last year's Toyako G8 summit, we sent out a strong message on EITI in the context of raw materials issues; preceding that, the energy ministers of the G8 plus China, India and Korea were able to hammer out a joint statement to endorse EITI; in the UN General Assembly we actively participated in the resolution on EITI; our mining industries have made substantial financial contributions to EITI through their association with the ICMM; in the development realm, we have supported a number of EITI-related projects through the Trust Fund of the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa in coordination with the AfDB;

On the strength of these activities, and convinced now of the relevance and global resonance of this initiative, we have come to believe that, instead of continuing to stand on the sidelines passively, we should rather align ourselves to EITI on a more formal basis. Thus, we are pleased to announce in this biannual forum our desire to officially join the ranks of the EITI Supporting Countries.

The EITI, despite its global nature of its ideals which are the key to our common long-term objective of poverty reduction and human development, as well as global energy security, good corporate citizenship, improvement of investment climate, and environmental protection, has a perceptible imbalance in its membership composition and geographical outreach, most conspicuously in the thin coverage of the Asia-Pacific, a region with rich natural resources, vibrant economic development, but at the same time host to huge poverty and inadequacy of governance. It is in this context that we, as an Asia-pacific nation, can play a role in serving as a conduit through which the EITI can be further promoted and thus made more universal.

EITI has made great strides in the past years in terms of political visibility, evidenced most impressively by the high-level participation that this conference has canvassed

and we pay tribute to the tremendous efforts made by the stakeholders to realize this. However, we understand well that the challenges we face in terms of deliverables i.e. implementation, validation and outreach, remain enormous as has been soberly reminded to us throughout the meetings. It is encouraging at the same time to witness renewed commitment and dedication from the leadership at the highest level to grassroots civil societies in order to realize tangible and positive results. It is in this spirit that we wish to lend our humble support in the hope to give another push to further mainstream the cause of transparency beyond the current geographical horizon and sectoral confines, in order to make the EITI a truly global movement.

Last but not least, we wish to join previous speakers to express our deep appreciation to the host, the Government of Qatar, and the EITI international secretariat for the hospitality and hard work for the excellent organization of the conference, which has made our first formal participation in the EITI meeting indeed a memorable and agreeable one. Thank you very much for your attention.