

# Nation to share its eco-experience at 2020 UN biodiversity meeting

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Updated: Sep 04, 2019 09:54 AM China Daily

China is expected to contribute its vision of an ecological civilization to help address the planet's biodiversity crisis as it holds a United Nations biodiversity conference next year.

The theme for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, Yunnan province, in October 2020, will be Ecological Civilization — Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.

The conference will elaborate on the post-2020 global framework on biodiversity and identify global biodiversity protection goals up to 2030.

"As President Xi Jinping of China said, ecological civilization is a vision for China," Cristiana Palmer, executive secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said at a news conference in Beijing on Sept 3.

"We will work with our Chinese colleagues and partners to use this vision to inspire many other countries and even the whole world so that together we can build a shared future," she said.

She said the conference is going to be held against the backdrop of a "planetary crisis".

While climate change is already wreaking havoc with the Earth's system, a scientific study released in May announced that about 1 million species are on the brink of extinction. The oceans are also being suffocated by micro plastic pollution.

In this context, the Kunming convention "is probably a historical event", and representatives from 196 countries are coming together to "define a new policy, a new framework to help us save this planet," she said.

Palmer said China has a lot of experience that could be instructive for other countries.

"China has this very good policy on 'red lines'. We think we should look into that and maybe get inspiration from that for other countries," she said.

She also noted that green finance and investment are other areas "where China has a lot of success, and there's a lot that we can learn from that and apply in other parts of the world."

In early 2017, Chinese central authorities published a guideline making "red lines" — geographical boundaries that should not be crossed — part of a larger national strategy for ecological protection.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment said in February last year that 610,000 square kilometers of land in 15 provincial regions had been designated as key ecological zones encircled by red lines for protection.

Li Ganjie, minister of ecology and environment, said China will closely cooperate with the secretariat to make the coming conference a "successful and history-making event".

"We will share with the world China's progress in promoting ecological civilization and green growth, and its experiences in environmental governance," Li said.

"We are ready to join hands with the international society to contribute Chinese wisdom and China's plan for global biodiversity conservation and sustainable development so as to better protect the planet."

# Xi stresses ecological protection and high-quality development of Yellow River

Updated: Sep 19,2019 09:42 PM Xinhua

ZHENGZHOU — President Xi Jinping called for concerted efforts to promote ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while chairing a symposium on Sept 18 during his inspection tour to Henan province.

## **NATIONAL STRATEGY**

"The protection of the Yellow River is critical to the great rejuvenation and sustainable development of the Chinese nation," said Xi, adding that it is a major national strategy.

Noting that the peace of the Yellow River is significant to the stability of China, Xi said Chinese people have struggled against the floods and droughts of the Yellow River since ancient times, and the Party and the State have attached great importance to the harnessing and development of the Yellow River after the founding of New China in 1949.

Originating in Qinghai province, the Yellow River, known as China's "Mother River" and the cradle of the Chinese civilization, runs through nine provinces and autonomous regions including Shaanxi and Henan before emptying into the Bohai Sea in East China's Shandong province.

The river got its name Huanghe in Chinese because of its yellow, muddy water, which appears as it runs through the Loess Plateau in Northwest China.

The 5,464-km-long waterway feeds about 12 percent of China's population, irrigates about 15 percent of arable land, supports 14 percent of national GDP, and supplies water to more than 60 cities.

Xi also pointed out difficulties and problems in protecting the Yellow River, including fragile ecological environment, severe condition of the water resources preservation and development quality that needs to be improved.

## **SOUL OF CHINESE NATION**

Calling for strengthened protection of the ecological environment of the Yellow River basin, Xi said that differences between the upper, middle and lower reaches of the river should be fully considered, given that the Yellow River ecosystem is an organic whole.

Further efforts should be made to ensure the long-term stability of the Yellow River, Xi said, stressing that although the river has not seen major dangers for many years, we should not relax vigilance.

Over the past 2,500 years, the Yellow River has broken its dikes 1,600 times and has made 26 major changes in its course in the lower reaches.

Xi also stressed better use of water resources, with rational planning of the population, urban and industrial development to resolutely curb unreasonable water demand.

When pursuing high-quality development in the region, authorities should actively explore new ways with regional characteristics and participate in the construction of the Belt and Road to promote higher level of opening-up, Xi noted.

Meanwhile, Xi called for preserving, inheriting and carrying forward the Yellow River culture.

"The Yellow River culture, as an important part of the Chinese civilization, is the root and soul of the Chinese nation," Xi said, calling for telling well the "Yellow River story" to pool spiritual strength for the realization of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

For over 3,000 years, some major dynasties in Chinese history built their capitals in the river basin, making the region the centers of politics, economy and culture in the country.

The Yellow River witnessed the birth of the four era-defining inventions in ancient China -- printing techniques, papermaking, gunpowder and the compass, which all emerged in the drainage basin.

At the meeting on Sept 18, Vice-Premier Han Zheng, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee called for efforts to earnestly study and implement the spirit of Xi's speech and strive to make new progress in the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River basin.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201909/19/content\\_WS5d8385dcc6d0bcf8c4c13b2b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201909/19/content_WS5d8385dcc6d0bcf8c4c13b2b.html)

# EU AND JAPAN LONG-TERM CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES

JANUARY 17, 2019

## Overview:

The Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 provides a global framework for transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. It offers an opportunity to reduce emissions through transformation of economies while boosting development of businesses and creating new jobs. The Agreement invites countries to present long-term greenhouse gas development strategies by 2020 and the European Commission has proposed an EU strategy on November 28, 2018. It outlines a vision for a modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050. At the same time, work is ongoing on a mid-century climate strategy for Japan.

As advanced market economies with developed industrial structures, Japan and the EU face similar opportunities and challenges in

decarbonisation. Both want to secure the competitiveness of their industries and stress the role of innovation and uptake of new technologies. Japan will have a unique opportunity to promote climate action during its G20 Presidency.

The seminar will allow Japanese and EU decision makers to present their visions for long term climate policies and to discuss the opportunities and the challenges ahead on decarbonisation of their economies.

Business representatives and experts are invited to give their views in a panel discussion on the business opportunities offered through decarbonisation.

**Programme:**

14.00 Opening remarks

Ms. Patricia Flor, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Japan

14.05 [A Clean Planet for all](#) - A European strategic long term vision for a

prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy

Ms. Megan Richards, Director of Energy Policy, Directorate General for  
Energy, European Commission

Mr. Tom van Ierland, Head of Strategy & Economic Assessment Unit,  
Directorate General for Climate Action, European Commission

14.35 Japan's long-term climate policy in the international context

Mr. Kaoru Magosaki, Director, Climate Change Division, International  
Cooperation Bureau, MoFA

14.50 [Background on METI's Long-term Strategy as Growth Strategy](#)

Mr. Daisuke Takayanagi, Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office,  
Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, METI

15.05 [Progress of Japan's long-term low GHG emission development  
strategy under the Paris Agreement](#)

Mr. Hiroshi Ono, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of the Environment

15.20 Q&A

15.35 Coffee break

15.55 Roundtable discussion: Tackling the challenge: business opportunities through decarbonisation

Moderator: Mr. Yuji Mizuno, Director of Climate and Energy Area, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Panelists:

- [Mr. Daisaku Honda](#), Vice President, Veolia Janets K.K.
- [Mr. Toshihiro Kawakami](#), Head of EHS Department, LIXIL Corporation/Co-Chair, Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (Japan-CLP)
- [Ms. Michiyo Morisawa](#), Japan Director, CDP
- [Mr. Hirofumi Nakano](#), General Manager, Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
- [Mr. Teruyuki Ohno](#), Executive Director, Renewable Energy Foundation
- [Prof. Yukari Takamura](#), Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), The University of Tokyo Institutes for Advanced Studies (UTIAS)

17.00 Closing remarks

Dr. Philippe de Taxis du Poët, EU-side General Manager, EU-Japan Centre  
for Industrial Cooperation

17.10 Networking reception

DELEGATION OF EUROPEAN UNION TO JAPAN (EUROPA HOUSE, 4-6-28 MINAMI-AZABU, MINATO-KU TOKYO 106-0047)

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/eu-and-japan-long-term-climate-change-strategies>

## **The Japan Sports Agency and the Bill & Melinda Gates**

### **Foundation announce partnership to use the power of**

### **sport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Our Global Goals” campaign to capitalize on momentum of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020*

**TOKYO, JAPAN, November 9, 2018** – The Japan Sports Agency and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced a new partnership to utilize the momentum of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 to increase awareness of, and participation in, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Launching in 2019, the “Our Global Goals” project will bring together Japanese and global athletes as Ambassadors to champion the SDGs. Harnessing the spirit of sport, these ambassadors will work with both Japanese and global NGOs towards realizing the SDGs and creating a legacy of action for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The United Nation’ s Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals) are a series of ambitious objectives and targets to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and combat climate change by 2030. The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) has implemented a Sustainability Plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 which seeks to ensure that Tokyo 2020 contributes to the realization of the SDGs.

Building on this momentum, the Gates Foundation will provide funding and expertise for various programs to be carried out by “Our Global Goals” Ambassadors in conjunction with NGOs. These will include field visits, workshops and learning opportunities focused predominantly on the first six SDGs - No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Clean Water and Sanitation. Through these programs, Ambassadors will raise awareness of, and encourage participation in, actions for the realization of the SDGs.

This project has been certified as a Tokyo 2020 Official Programme. It is an extension of the Gates Foundation's [Goalkeepers](#) initiative launched in September 2017, which uses stories, data and partnerships to highlight progress towards the Global Goals, hold governments accountable, and foster new leadership. With the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Games, the Gates Foundation aims to promote the commitment of sports communities in Japan to help achieve the SDGs and encourage global participation from civic society. The project also expands on the Japan Sports Agency's "Sports SDGs" program and ongoing work to address social issues through sports.

*"With the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 as a key upcoming milestone, Japan is in the global spotlight,"* said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. *"Japan is already the world's fourth largest donor of development aid, and the Our Global Goals project is an opportunity to cement the SDGs as the legacy of Japan's Olympic Games. I am excited that Japanese athletes will support the Global Goals by inspiring people to get more engaged in the next decade leading up to the 2030 deadline."*

Tomoko Ukishima, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the Government of Japan, said: *"Sports have an incredible ability to attract and engage. We hope the Our Global Goals project can play an important role in building awareness and contributing to the realization of the SDGs in Japan and around the world."*

Yoshiro Mori, President of The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games said: *"We welcome this collaboration between the Japan Sports Agency and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and their announcement today that they will be launching various projects aimed at addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through sport. We are pleased to recognise their initiative as part of the Tokyo 2020 Official Programme - the first time that SDGs have been incorporated into the planning and delivery of an Olympic and Paralympic Games. Their collaboration reflects our Games vision, and we hope the active participation of athletes in their projects after the Games will become one of Tokyo 2020's legacies."*

For more information, please visit: <https://ourglobalgoals.com>

## **Media Inquiries**

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: [media@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:media@gatesfoundation.org)

## **About the SDGs and the Global Goals**

On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 193 world leaders committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals). These are a series of ambitious targets to achieve three extraordinary things in the next 15 years: end extreme poverty; fight inequality and injustice; and combat climate change.

## **About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

## **About the Japan Sports Agency and 'Sports SDGs'**

The Japan Sports Agency (JSA) following the principles of the Basic Act on Sport, is an external agency established by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for consolidated promotion of sports policies, such as increasing international competitiveness, improving health through sports, stimulating regional areas and the economy through sports, and

contributing to international society. Under the slogan of “Sports SDGs” , JSA focuses energy on resolving social problems utilizing the power of sports. Sports have the power to attract and engage people. The power of sports will be utilized for raising awareness of the SDGs and ultimately for enhancing the value of sports in society.

### **About Goalkeepers**

Goalkeepers is a multiyear campaign dedicated to accelerating progress towards the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). Using powerful stories, data, and partnerships, Goalkeepers highlights progress achieved, holds governments accountable, and brings together a new generation of leaders to address the world's major challenges.

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<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases/2018/11/Our-Global-Goals>

