

Our statement on Climate Emergency Declaration (CED)

Sustainable Management Forum in Japan (SMF)

Certified non-profit academic research association

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Background: Emerging global movement of Climate Emergency Declaration

(1) While various kinds of losses and damages caused by climate change are getting increasingly visible in many parts of the world, the city of Darebin in Australia had declared a climate emergency in December 2016 as the first city in the world, followed by over 300 local governments in the state of Quebec in Canada, during the month of August, 2018. Entering this year, the movement has been accelerated sharply, primarily in Europe and the United States, resulting in “Climate Emergency Declaration” by 901 local governments in 18 countries as of July 31, 2019, which includes London, New York, and Paris.

(2) On the other hand, there has been no local government in Japan at all to follow the movement in declaring the emergency at the end of July this year, possibly due to the lesser exposure by her public media. Thus far, Kyoto City, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Yokohama City respectively had only announced “Net Zero Carbon Emission Target 2050” which is consistent with the Paris Agreements 1.5°C Goal.

(3) Meanwhile, at national level, the national governments of 9 countries such as Scotland, the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Holy Sea, Portugal, Canada and France had begun to declare a climate emergency starting this year.

(4) Furthermore, beginning of this year, the number of colleges/universities to declare a climate emergency has been increasing primarily in Europe and the United States, and now stands at 13. Again, none of Japanese colleges or universities, along with the governmental entities, has been reported to date to declare the climate emergency. In the related movement, universities such as

Cambridge, Oxford and Stanford have already been prompted to “fossil fuel divestment”, whereas no such activity is reported in Japan.

(5) Although the number of countries, local governments, colleges/ universities and various organizations (including religious communities) to declare a climate emergency is growing steadily and worldwide, there have been no Japanese governmental entities or organizations to join the movement. In light of this current circumstance, it is questionable and it raises a serious concern whether Japan can overcome the global climate crisis or environmental crisis without national movement.

(6) Therefore, SMF with its undersigned endorsing members hereby issue the statement in support of “the Climate Emergency Declaration (CED)” as stated below.

STATEMENT

1. SMF acknowledges that climate change caused by human activities had deteriorated the global environment, which is considered to be no longer sustainable and viewed as being at a critical stage.

2. SMF is committed to pursue proactively its activity in research and practice in order to contribute towards *mitigating* and *adapting* the effects of climate change.

3. SMF trusts that our efforts stated above 2. will help not only developing the Japanese government policy for “virtuous cycle of environment and economy”, but also attaining SDGs goals and enhancing ESG financing.

4. SMF pledges to call for a wide range of cooperation among the Japanese government, local governments, scientists, and various organizations including NPOs/NGOs to participate in “the Climate Emergency Declaration” movement.

Signatories

AOKI, Shuzo	ARAKAWA, Masao	ITO, Yoshinori	INOUE, Naoyuki
OKAWA, Yoshihiko	OTSUKA, Ikumi	OKAMOTO, Kyoji	OCHI, Nobuhito
KATAYAMA, Ikuo	KAWAMURA, Masahiko	KINUGAWA, Masuhiro	KIMURA, Noriaki
KIMATA, Nobuyuki	KUROSAWA, Shoichi	KURODA, Kunio	GOTO, Toshihiko
SAITO, Yoshihiro	SAKAMOTO, Dai	SHIRATORI, Kazuhiko	SUZUKI, Koki
SUYAMA, Hiromi	TASHIRO, Kuniyuki	TANAKA, Nobuyasu	TSURUTA, Yoshifumi
NAKAMURA, Harunaga	NOMURA, Sachiyo	HASEGAWA, Koji	HASEGAWA, Naoya
HANADA, Mariko	MAEKAWA, Toichiro	MIYAZAKI, Tomoko	MIYAZAKI, Masahiro
MURAI, Hideki	MURAKAMI, Motomu	YAGI, Shunsuke	YAMABUKI, Yoshihiko
YAMAMOTO, Isamu	YAMAMOTO, Ryoichi	YOSHIOKA, Nobuaki	YOSHIHASHI, Masahiro

END