

Green policies of Hatoyama Administration and the world principle of next decades

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Asia will be the center of gravity of the world economy during the second quarter of the 21st century. Of course, China will be the leader of the world. The US used "democracy" as her diplomatic principle in the 20th century. What would then China employ as her new principle? "Sustainability." For example, CO2 emissions per capita in China will be far below from the emissions of the US around 2030. Affluent China will lead the developing countries and advocate protecting the earth from the viewpoint of sustainability. A Chinese counterpart of Obama will play a key role in world politics during that quarter.

What will be the strategy of Japan between democracy and sustainability in order to survive for the next several decades? Of course, Japan must choose "sustainability." Prime Minister Hatoyama declared 25% reduction of greenhouse gases compared with 1990 by 2020. This is a 180 degree "change" in the policy compared with LDP's "no policy" on climate change for the last decade.

Are we the leader of sustainable technologies and their dissemination? For example, the ratios of new wind power installations in 2008 are 31% (US), 23% (China), and 1% (Japan). Japan is the 8th of the world. China's target of renewable energy is 15% of the whole energy consumption by 2020. Japan must realize that she is not at the world's forefront of renewable technologies and their dissemination.

JDP is now planning to use both environmental tax and emissions trading to meet the 25% reduction policy target. It seems that they are addressed by different teams. Since both policies increase the price of carbon emissions, they must be designed under the same unit of the government. Other policies such as subsidies and investments for green new deal must also be handled by the same unit. In other words, key policies must be coordinated each other to make them more effective and synergistic.

JDP's manifest states that the gasoline tax will be lifted. This will definitely increase the consumption of gasoline and at the same time increase the emissions of carbon dioxide, SOx, and NOx. Hatoyama administration must explain that this policy is consistent with its environmental policy.

The most important point is that these policies must aim at the survival of Japan for the next decades.