

Report of Activities in FY2022

1. Period covered

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

2. Purpose

Our purpose is to accelerate policy shifts and actions to protect the climate, through research, analysis, engagement and communications, based on an integrated approach to science, policy, and society.

3. Plans for the fiscal year: Activities based on Articles of Incorporation

Since our establishment in January 2022, we have been able to establish our organizational foundations and have a solid launch of various program activities.

Under the GX (Green Transformation) initiative led by the Japanese government, efforts to promote Japanese technologies such as ammonia and hydrogen co-firing have accelerated in Japan. Meanwhile, efforts to raise ambition, such as phasing out coal-fired power generation and raising targets for renewable energy, have stagnated. Under such circumstances, we have been able to broaden our presence as a new climate policy think tank in Japan by conducting the following activities, including the publication of two reports.

(1) Studies, research, and making recommendations relating to climate change

- **Analysis of decarbonization policies in the power sector**

- (1) Analysis of ammonia co-firing

- We analyzed the state of policies and support for ammonia co-firing in coal-fired power plants, as well as their impacts on CO₂ emission reductions, summarized in our May 2022 report, “Getting Lost on the Road to Decarbonization: Japan’s Big Plans for Ammonia.”

- (2) Publication of scenarios and policy recommendations for decarbonization of electricity by 2035

- In a joint project with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, we provided advice, translation support and domestic outreach for Berkeley Lab’s 2035 power scenario for Japan. Timed with the report’s release, to realize the scenario we also prepared and released our own policy recommendation report, “Policy Shift to Decarbonize Japan’s Power System by 2035.” The symposium, held on March 1 with opening remarks by Richard Duke, Deputy Special Envoy on Climate Change of the U.S. Department of State, attracted 434 participants (50 in-person attendance, 384 for open webinar).

Since this effort to create a 2035 power sector scenario for Japan preceded the Japanese government’s own efforts, it has attracted attention both domestically and internationally, and we have been engaged in policy dialogue with key actors since the scenario was released (approx. 570 views of archive video as of May 27, 2023).

- **Analysis of corporate net zero targets**

- While many Japanese companies are setting carbon neutrality targets, it is not always possible to ascertain whether their efforts are sufficient. There are efforts in Europe and the United States to crack down on greenwashing. To address this situation in Japan, we conducted an analysis of Japanese companies using the Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor methodology, with the cooperation of NewClimate Institute in Germany. The results will be compiled and announced in

FY2023.

- **Sustainable finance and climate governance**

We provided information through investor organizations and finance-related networks to build momentum for sustainable finance in Japan. We also launched joint research on engagement by Japanese institutional investors.

Joint research on climate governance in the implementation of climate and energy policies has been carried over to FY2023.

(2) Engagement in policy making relating to climate change

With opportunities for climate diplomacy in mind via international meetings such as the G7 summit, we worked with international and domestic organizations and institutions to develop strategies and promote climate and energy policy transition in Japan.

(3) Information dissemination about climate change

We disseminated information through continuous updates of our website, *Insights* online articles on key topics, webinars, and Twitter, etc.

Website (Jan. 2022 to Mar. 2023)

- In the fall of 2022, we updated our website in a bilingual format. For greater visual impact and readability, we emphasize the use of icons and plain text in the Resources section.

Insight

- We published the following articles in our *Insight* online series on climate-related themes to inform the general public in an easily readable format.

📄 **Top ten climate change highlights of 2022**

This article summarized the top climate-related highlights of 2022 in a chronological format. Some of the items were the passage of a bill to revise the Act on Improvement of Energy Consumption Performance of Buildings, the 2035 decarbonization target for electricity at the G7 Summit, the agreement at COP27 on compensation for loss and damage, and the hasty policy formulation process of the GX Implementation Council. The infographic was created by VISUAL THINKING.

📄 **The use of ammonia in thermal power generation**

This article provided some insights into fuel ammonia in the thermal power generation sector, which is being actively promoted in Japan. We listed the regulatory steps and companies involved in the government's promotion of ammonia and summarized the many issues with ammonia, including high costs, CO₂ emissions during production, and air pollution due to NO_x emissions during combustion.

📄 **Climate change now and in the future: A message from the latest science**

Here we explained the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, which came out between 2021 and 2022, presenting the latest scientific findings on climate change in an easy-to-understand infographic (prepared by VISUAL THINKING). It is available for free download, so we received many requests for permission to use it, and it was shared widely on social media.

📄 **Comments on G7 Leaders' Communiqué in 2022: Looking toward the G7 summit in Hiroshima**

Looking ahead to 2023, we published a paper comparing the main points agreed at the G7 Summit in Elmau (Germany) in 2022 and Japan's position as the presidency of the G7 Hiroshima Summit.

In particular, we addressed the gap between the international interpretation of the goal of a “fully or predominantly decarbonized power sector by 2035” versus Japan’s weaker interpretation.

📄 **Japan’s plans to expand the use of ammonia: Issues from the perspective of the nitrogen cycle**

In the context of developments related to ammonia co-firing in coal-fired power generation, this article focused on nitrogen, a key ingredient in ammonia production, and summarized the impacts of the massive use of ammonia on the nitrogen cycle, as well as environmental impacts such as air pollution, ocean eutrophication, and groundwater pollution. Written by Tetsuji Ida, director of Climate Integrate.

Twitter (Jan. 2022 to Mar. 2023)

- In addition to information from Climate Integrate, we tweeted fact-based comments on domestic and international trends, in Japanese and English.

- Total tweets: 233
- Total impressions: 757,297
- Total engagements: 22,004
- Total retweets (without comment): 1,518
- Total likes: 3,165
- Total replies: 144

Top tweets

- #1 (46,221)
2022 Japan Climate Calendar Top Ten Highlights
- #2 (44,879)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ‘Emissions Gap Report 2022’ released
- #3 (44,879)
BBC’s “100 Women” list in 2022 (Climate Integrate’s Kimiko Hirata is on the list)

Webinars (video recordings, in Japanese unless indicated otherwise)

- **Thinking about Climate Change and Tourism @ Kannabe Kogen vol.1**
August 23, 2022
Organizer: Hidaka Kannabe Tourism Association Cooperation: Climate integrate, Toyooka City
Speakers: Kimiko Hirata, Representative Director, Tetsuji Ida (Kyodo News)
<https://youtu.be/BM5mQeyeImU>
- **Thinking about Climate Change and Tourism @ Kannabe Kogen, Vol. 2: How to make use of local resources**
October 31, 2022
Organizer: Hidaka Kannabe Tourism Association
Cooperation: Climate Integrate, Toyooka City
Speakers: Takeshi Minoshima (Cre-en Inc.), Shuichi Miura (Professor, Department of Architectural and Environmental Design, Tohoku University of Art & Design)
<https://youtu.be/vVPkuOHcEds>
- **Thinking about Climate Change and Tourism @ Kannabe Kogen, Vol. 3: Climate crisis and specific actions as seen from skiers and snowboarders**
January 25, 2023
Organizer: Hidaka Kannabe Tourism Association
Cooperation: Climate integrate, Toyooka City
Speakers: Goro Komatsu (POW Japan), Nao Yoshizawa (University of Tsukuba Graduate School)
https://youtu.be/6qk_eyLASnE

- **Symposium on “Strategies for decarbonization of Japan’s power system by 2035”**
March 1, 2023
Organizers: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Climate Integrate
Speakers: Richard Duke (Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State), Kenji Shiraishi (Researcher, Berkeley Lab), Amol Phadke (Staff Scientist, Berkeley Lab), Jiang Lin (Staff Scientist, Berkeley Lab), Toru Morotomi (Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University), Yukari Takamura (Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, the University of Tokyo)
Original audio: <https://youtu.be/iaZ6T-VVygI>
Japanese: <https://youtu.be/9A8qUVUITxk>
English: <https://youtu.be/0mPz2Ir-jQ0>

Other

- “Understanding climate action since the Paris Agreement, with Kimiko Hirata”
Column series by Climate Integrate’s executive director Kimiko Hirata in the Japanese language bimonthly magazine “Prevention of Global Warming” (Jan. 2022 to Mar. 2023)
 - No. 35 - “Coal, cars, money, wood: The aims of COP26”
 - No. 36 - “GFANZ: - A scheme to decarbonize the economy with megafunding”
 - No. 37 - “Will the situation in Ukraine delay decarbonization?”
 - No. 38 - “G7 moves toward fossil fuel phase-out: How long will Japan use its own Interpretation?”
 - No. 39 - “Is nuclear power still necessary?”
 - No. 40 - “The future of carbon pricing”
 - No. 41 - “COP27: Progress in addressing impacts, stalled on emission reductions”
 - No. 42 - “What is GX”?

(4) Dialogue, advice, and support for domestic and overseas stakeholders relating to climate change policies and actions

We engaged in the following dialogue, collaboration, and support for local governments and organizations.

Hidaka Kannabe Tourist Association (Toyooka City)

We started supporting the climate change efforts of Toyooka City (Hyogo Prefecture) and tourism association members in the city’s Kannabe district. Climate Integrate, together with the Kannabe Sustainable Tourism Committee (Kannabe Tourism Association), held three study sessions with experts to discuss measures that can be taken in conjunction with tourism in areas that are beginning to be impacted by a reduction in snowfall due to climate change. After discussions with the city, citizens, and business operators, the tourism association announced Japan’s first “Yukimirai 100 Year Declaration,” which aims to achieve carbon neutrality in the 2040s, and a nature positive approach. Going forward, the aim is to promote the region’s attractions from the perspective of “climate change and tourism.” The city is also applying to be a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration. There are plans to develop an action plan during FY2023.

Hakuba Village, POW Japan, Patagonia

After participating in the POW Japan (Protect Our Winters Japan) Ambassador Summit, we connected with people in Hakuba Village and started collaboration and cooperation. During the visit, we met with the mayor of Hakuba Village, visited various sites, and exchanged opinions with local civic groups, businesses, and the village office. Hakuba is undertaking a variety of initiatives, and we have built a relationship to further support carbon neutrality. Goro Komatsu, CEO of POW Japan, took the

stage at the “Yukimirai 100 Year Declaration” ceremony in Kannabe, Toyooka City, connecting people from the two ski resorts of Kannabe and Hakuba and promoting inter-regional cooperation.

Sakata City

To explore the potential for a regional energy transition in Sakata City and Yuza Town (Yamagata Prefecture), we held meetings with local governments and organizers and made site visits. Meetings were held with the mayors of Sakata City and Yuza Town, wind and coal-fired power plant operators, representatives of local companies, and a group of students and young people. We also presented guest lectures to classes of second and third-year students at Sakata High School.

Ichikawa City

In October 2022, Kimiko Hirata was appointed as an advisor for environmental policy promotion in Ichikawa City (Chiba Prefecture) and has been supporting the city’s zero carbon initiatives.

Other

Lectures, articles, interviews, panel discussions, etc.:

We provided lectures, articles, and interviews and joined panel discussions, upon request from various organizations, companies, and media.

Examples:

- Universities: Chiba University of Commerce, Takasaki University of Economics, Tokyo University of the Arts, Toyo University, Kyoto University, Ochanomizu University
- Municipalities: Ichikawa City (Chiba), Toyooka City (Hyogo), Nerima Ward and Sugunami Ward (Tokyo)
- Consumer groups: Green Coop Cooperative Society, Seikatsu Club Consumers’ Cooperative Union, Palsystem Consumers’ Cooperative Union
- Institutional investor organizations, labor unions, NGOs, industry associations, etc.

(5) Other activities supplementary to and/or associated with the above items

- Besides implementing the above activities we also took steps to strengthen our financial base.
- We responded to various interview and media appearance requests.

Major programs and publications:

- NHK: Sunday Debate
- *Nikkei Shimbun*: “[Human Discovery](#)” March 13-17, 2023.8 (5 episodes)
- *The Mainichi Shimbun*: “[The Achievements and Challenges of COP27](#)” 2022.12.14
- *Tokyo Shimbun*: [Interview](#)
- *Huffington Post*: [Interview](#)

Radio, etc.:

- J-Wave
- NHK Radio
- TBS Radio
- Amazon podcasts

Comments quoted in articles:

- Domestic newspapers in Japan
- *Bloomberg*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, Reuters, etc.