

Remarks by Ambassador of Japan Makoto Yamanaka
Japan-Poland Clean Coal Seminar 2014
2nd June 2014
At the Ministry of Economy

Minister Tomczykiewicz,
President Namiki,
Distinguished speakers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I am pleased to join you in this important seminar, and I welcome you all here this morning. I would like to commend the JCOAL for its efforts and to thank the Ministry of Economy for its assistance in organizing this seminar.

Today's theme, clean coal technology, has long been associated with environment protection, energy supply and economic growth. However, with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, and efforts led by the Polish government to build the Energy Union, the clean coal technology has gained even more attention and momentum to achieve energy security of Poland and Europe.

I am pleased to note that Japan and Poland have

strengthened their bilateral relations in recent years, and energy has been the cornerstone of such cooperation. It was agreed upon during Prime Minister Abe's meeting with Prime Minister Tusk last June, and followed up by Deputy Prime Minister Piechoczinski's visit to Japan last October. The clean coal technology has been always highlighted as an important pillar for our bilateral energy cooperation.

At this juncture, I would like to point out the great initiative taken by His Excellency, Minister Tomczykiewicz. He is the minister who launched our bilateral energy policy dialogue in March last year. As His Excellency said earlier, he has just completed his trip to Japan last week along with Polish energy business leaders to explore possibilities of further cooperation. So I wish to express my gratitude to His Excellency for his contribution to the closer energy cooperation between our two countries.

JCOAL embarked on its cooperation with Poland three years ago, and it is high time to proceed with specific projects. In

business context, I am pleased that Mitsubishi-Hitachi is participating in the construction of a state-of-the-art coal-fired power plant in Kozienice. A host of other Japanese companies are willing to utilize their cutting edge technology to help make the Polish energy sector more efficient, environment friendly and sustainable from an energy security perspective.

Coal continues to be the most important energy source for Poland. It has been underlined by the recent development in Ukraine. Japan on its part is trying to formulate a policy with best energy mix particularly in the wake of Fukushima nuclear power accidents. In fact, the Japanese Government adopted the New Strategic Energy Plan, in which coal was identified as an indispensable energy source. Therefore, Japan is to use coal and reduce its environmental burden by applying its highly efficient thermal power generators and other relevant technologies. And Japan highly value its cooperation in clean coal technology with Poland.

Coal is easily singled out and blamed as a source of

greenhouse gas burden. But advanced technology – and I would say Japanese technology is the best – has made great gains and reduced this burden. Just replace old coal-fired power plants with new and efficient ones, and we will greatly alleviate the world greenhouse gas situation. With this in mind, Poland and Japan can further work together to make better use of coal, to secure our energy and to reduce its environment impact.

I hope that this seminar provides a venue for lively discussion in this spirit and for cooperation and innovation in the field of clean coal technology among government, industry and academia of our two countries.

Thank you.