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Session Sketches

Luncheon Special Speech

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[Luncheon Special Speech]: [Mongolia's New Vision: From Coal to Renewable]

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Mongolia retains huge amount of resources such as coal, uranium, and vast potential for renewable energy development of both solar and wind power. The majority of the country's power production needs is met by the coal-fired power plants, about 20% via imports and the rest is supplied from hydropower plants and other renewable energy sources. Currently, there is not any oil refinery in Mongolia. Therefore, Mongolia imports 100 percent domestic needs of petroleum products from neighboring countries.

Coal is still the major fossil fuel produced in Mongolia while oil production is very limited. Coal and crude oil are the biggest trading energy source of Mongolia as Mongolia has a

significant crude oil and coal resources. Main energy resource's reserves in Mongolia nowadays is coal, generated energy by coal accounts for 84% of total energy production. But, in near future, renewable energy resources including solar, wind, and hydropower energy can be a leading one. For example, 10% of the total land area in Mongolia can be classified as excellent for utility scale applications, which can generate 1,100 GW of installed capacity.

However, there is a limited circumstance not to easily manage and build infrastructure for renewable energy because the density of the population in Mongolia is low, and the land scale is huge. Although electricity consumption in Northeast countries has become greater, Mongolia only accounts for small portion of total energy consumption of Northeast countries. In addition, electricity demand of Mongolia will be increased 5-6%, which is projected twice time than before and requires more coal-based energy production or utilizing renewable energy. Increasing energy demand in Mongolia might be larger in industry field which makes the future potential more complicated.

Regarding the current status of Mongolian energy compared with northeast Asia countries, Mongolia is coal-based to be changed in the future toward being green. Mongolia's status as a supplier of energy to northeast Asia may expand in the future to Korea and Japan, as more of the country's significant renewable energy resources are exploited. How Mongolia chooses to develop energy resources may have impacts not only on the country's own economy and environment, but also on global climate change.

Increased application of renewable energy resources from Mongolia and to establish Asia Super Grid with focus of reducing greenhouse gases in the future, advances sustainable development and generates multiple co-benefits with positive impacts on society, environment and the local and global economy.

Nearly 40% of global CO2 emissions are from the Northeast Asia region. Asia Super Grid project is ongoing initiatives on power grid integration and energy connectivity in Asia. For this integrated energy system within Northeast Asia, Asia Development Bank (ADB) has provided a technical assistance on power system interconnection, and the initiatives is co-financed by China, Korea, and Japan. Asia Super Grid aims to analyze the current transmission lines and possible expansion proposal, and to assess the grid capacity, demand and supply region wise. If Mongolia can be supplier in accordance with Asia Super Grid, rich primary energy endowment is the regional economic cooperation opportunity for Mongolia.

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