**Essay 4**

**Topic: What are the major policies of your assigned country in tackling climate change?**

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**Assigned Role: Japan**

**Introduction**

Japan, recognized as a dominant force in the global economy, has been proactively engaging with climate change and striving for a sustainable trajectory. This examination delves into Japan's strategies and actions aimed at combating climate change, scrutinizing its areas of advantage, limitation, potential for growth, and areas of concern (SWOT). Furthermore, we delve into Japan's position on the matter, propose potential approaches to address challenges, and offer a concluding viewpoint.

**SWOT Analysis**

**Strength:**

**Technological Innovation:** Japan is recognized for its technical innovations, especially in the field of renewable energy. For example, with investments totaling $28.6 billion in 2020, Japan ranked as the fourth-largest investor in renewable energy worldwide (REN21, 2021).

**International Collaboration:** Japan regularly engages in efforts and forums related to global climate change. It has been a significant participant in the UNFCCC discussions and has pledged financial support for climate-related initiatives in poor regions (Yoshida & Akimoto, 2019).

**Weakness:**

**Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** The closure of nuclear power plants in Japan after the Fukushima accident resulted in a heavy reliance on fossil fuels in the country's energy mix. Consequently, 91% of Japan's energy production in 2019 was derived from fossil fuels (International Energy Agency, 2021).

**Complex Energy Mix:** Japan's complex and diversified energy mix makes the switch to sustainable energy sources more difficult. It takes diligent preparation and collaboration to integrate renewable energy sources with traditional energy sources while ensuring grid stability (Matsuo, Yamamoto, & Managi, 2019).

**Opportunity:**

**Renewable Energy Potential:** Renewable Potential Energy: Renewable energy resources including sun, wind, and biomass are abundant in Japan. Increasing investments and facilities in these areas can increase the production of renewable energy and help reduce emissions. For example, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan estimates that by 2040, its offshore wind power production would have increased to 45 GW (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 2021).

**Technological Export:** Japan has a unique chance to sell its solutions to other nations thanks to its competence in clean technology. This may promote economic expansion, lead to the creation of new jobs, and aid in the fight against global climate change (Yoshida & Akimoto, 2019).

**Threats:**

**Economic Impact:** Especially for sectors that significantly rely on fossil fuels, the shift to a low-carbon economy could come at a short-term financial cost. According to Matsuo, Yamamoto, and Managi (2019), thorough planning and mitigation strategies are necessary to balance economic growth with emissions reduction goals and reduce any negative effects.

**Natural Disasters:** Typhoons and flooding are two climate-related dangers that can impair infrastructure in Japan and obstruct attempts to mitigate global warming. The key components of Japan's response to climate change are resilience development and risk adaptation (World Bank, 2021).

**Stance and Possible Responses**

**Stance:**

Japan is dedicated to lowering emissions of greenhouse gasses, promoting the utilization of renewable energy sources, and enhancing energy efficiency. By 2050, it wants to have net-zero emissions (Japanese government, 2020).

**Possible Responses:**

**Strengthen Renewable Energy Policies:** Japan implemented the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) System in 2012, guaranteeing fixed payments for renewable energy generation, resulting in over 70 GW of installed capacity by 2020 (Ueta & Okazaki, 2019).

**Global Engagement (financial support):** Japan has pledged approximately $11.6 billion in financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in Green Climate Fund (GCF), spanning five years starting from 2020 (Smith, 2020).

**Technological Advancements:** Japan aims to achieve 10 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, with plans for significant expansion, starting from the initial capacity of 20 MW in 2020. (Yoshida & Akimoto, 2019).

**Conclusion**

To sum up, Japan is dedicated to combating climate change via creative policies and global cooperation. Dependence on fossil fuels and a complicated energy mix are problems. However, Japan may benefit from exports of clean technologies and renewable energy. In order to succeed, Japan has to support international collaboration, tighten its policy on renewable energy, and improve energy efficiency. As a result, Japan will be able to spearhead the global effort to combat climate change and promote sustainable economic growth.

**Words: 608**

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