

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Country: Japan

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Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Climate Change has been studied thoroughly throughout the years although one aspect of climate change that is sometimes disregarded are the health risks associated with it. Countries are often too concerned about the physical damage climate change has on their land but fail to realise that the damage it can have on mental health, disease, and other health factors is quite catastrophic. Furthermore, Japan is extremely concerned about not only the short term effects on mental health but also the long term effects that climate change can have on a nation's people.

Climate Change, as outlined in the background guide, causes an increase in thermal stress, infectious diseases, and prolonged droughts/floods. Japan strongly believes that none of these concerns can be tolerated and that all three must be addressed and accounted for equally. Furthermore, Japan strongly believes that we must not only find methods to help cure and treat these health risks but we must also come up with ways to help mitigate and prevent the further escalation of these risks as treatment without prevention is inefficient.

Previously, Japan has mainly focussed on reducing climate change as a whole in hopes of mitigating the health risks come with it. Japan has made tremendous donations to developing countries in the past in hopes of reducing climate change and Japan plans on donating another 1.3 trillion Yen to developing countries by 2020. This money is in hopes that the developing country will better its infrastructure and invest in cleaner energy. Also, this money can be used to investigate into the health risks of climate change and come up with better treatment and prevention measures. Furthermore, Japan would like to see a task force comprised of health professional and scientists from around the world who will dedicate their time to find a way to help those who suffer from these health risks as well as advise countries on methods in which they could mitigate these health risks.

Overall, Japan sees the great importance of this topic and strongly hopes that it will be discussed in great detail during the conference. The health risks associated with increasing climate change is severe and if it remains untouched, it can prove to be extremely devastating. Furthermore, Japan hopes that not only treatment of these health risks will be discussed but also

methods that can be implemented to help mitigate and reduce them. Through doing this, we can be effective in both addressing the short and long term problem.

Topic 2: Climate Refugees

Climate Refugees are an every growing problem throughout the world, especially in coastal regions. The quickly rising sea level and prolonged natural disasters due to climate change are affecting millions of people around the world each year. These refugees do not classify as a “Refugee” under the UN definition which often times causes trouble, confusion, and hardship for both the refugee and country that they are immigrating to.

As outlined in the background guide, Climate Refugees are every growing and, in turn, so is their need to be addressed. Furthermore, many Climate Refugees arise from natural disasters which can happen suddenly. This will cause a great influx of climate refugees needing to leave their country and so Japan believes that we need a system to help address and guide those in need. Generally, there are two areas of concern for Japan, the need to better categorise climate refugees to ensure their own rights are met and a need to create a task force to help those affected by natural disasters in an efficient and collaborative way.

Previously, Japan has not thoroughly looked at Climate Refugees as they have not been brought up in great detail. At the COP 22, Japan looks to expand the definition of refugee to include climate refugees and strongly believes that it must be resolved or mitigated soon before it gets out of hand. Also, Japan looks to create an international task force or possibly expand the mandate of other UN bodies to incorporate a system of addressing these refugees. This task force would be comprised of individuals who are politically neutral and have a strong background in international aid. They will be responsible for aiding those who suffered from natural disasters and those who are having trouble finding refuge in another country. Furthermore, this task force would focus its abilities on developing countries as they, in general, have a harder time finding a country to go to. Lastly, Japan would like to see greater education and awareness into this topic. This will raise awareness, get more countries addressing it, and coming up with legislation to resolve it

Overall, Japan would like to see three things happen. Firstly, Japan would like to like to see greater talk about this topic on both an international and country level. This way, we can raise awareness and get the issue out there. This is extremely important especially since Climate Refugees are every growing. Also, Japan would like to see the definition of “Refugee” to be expanded to include Climate Refugees. This will allow these refugees easier acceptance into countries and will help to ensure them their rights. Lastly, Japan would like to see a task force created to help individuals affected by natural disasters to get immediate help as well as to help those having trouble finding refuge in other countries.

Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris agreements are two very comprehensive ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help solve this problem as a whole. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by numerous countries. unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Paris agreements. Furthermore, the Paris agreements must be ratified by many more countries or else six years of negotiations would have gone to waste. Japan, would like to see the Paris agreements ratified by more countries and would like to see programs such as the JCM to be implanted on an international level to help further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As outlined in the background guide, the Paris agreements have yet to be ratified by the majority of countries. Japan believes that this should be at the top of our priority list. This issue is ever-growing and by addressing it, the UNFCCC can help mitigate the impact of climate change on health risks and its can reduce the number of climate refugees. Also, Japan believes that another mechanism should be implemented to help countries reduce greenhouse gas emission while not compromising their economy.

Although Japan has yet to ratify the Paris Agreement, it is planned to be presented to the government this year and will be ratified. Japan has also helped in addressing climate change numerous times before whether it be the Kyoto protocol, donating large sums of money, or helping countries reduce emissions on a case by case basis. Japan has come up with a system called the JCM which stands for Joint Crediting Mechanism. This is a system where Japan helps another country slowly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through providing it with the means to

create cleaner energy. This crediting system is done through individual project propositions that are agreed upon by both countries and the UNFCCC. The JCM has been proven to be efficient in reducing emissions while building up the country's economy as well. This system is similar to certain aspects of the Kyoto protocol but it is more thorough and efficient in what it does. Japan would like to see this implemented on an international level. Also, Japan believes that this mechanism should only be given to countries who have ratified the Paris Agreements as it shows that are serious about reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall, Japan would like to see this issue discussed the most as by solving it, we can help mitigate the other two issues. Also, Japan believes that the JCM implemented by Japan in the past should be brought on to an international level in which other developed countries can get involved. The JCM would only be given to countries who have ratified the Paris Agreement as they are showing strong interest in reducing emissions. Through doing this, we can encourage countries to not only ratify the Paris agreement but to also transition to cleaner energy that will benefit the whole world for generations to come.

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