
Japan's Initiatives to Tackle the COVID-19 and Climate Change

January, 2021

Ministry of the Environment



“Platform for Redesign 2020”

Climate actions and environmental policies in the context of recovery
from the coronavirus pandemic

- COP26 has been postponed to November 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The platform was proposed by Minister Koizumi to share information and exchange opinions (at “Petersberg Climate Dialogue” in late April).
- We should keep in mind the need for a **“Virtuous cycle of environmental protection and economic growth”** in recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Online Platform

1. Sharing information among countries on efforts to address environmental degradation and climate change in the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.
2. Creating opportunities for an online ministerial dialogue to help enhance the continued exchange of opinions among countries

Online Ministerial Meeting: September 3 (JST 20:00-24:30)

Exceeded the original schedule by an hour

- Host: **Japan** + the UNFCCC Secretariat
- Invited all UNFCCC parties (197 countries/regions) and the UN Secretary-General (Participation in the meeting, submission of video messages, and/or in-advance submission of information on countries' efforts)

<Meeting Program> Chaired by Minister Koizumi

- Opening : Video messages from **Prime Minister Abe** and the UN Secretary-General
- Session 1 : Panel discussion “Post-coronavirus Redesign of socio-economy” (Koizumi’s speech)
- Session 2 : Ministerial roundtable : COVID-19 recovery and climate/environmental measures and actions
- Session 3 : Panel discussion: Non-State Stakeholders Interests (including messages from the Japanese youth and local governments)

- Launched an online platform for information-sharing (<https://platform2020redesign.org/>)

Outcomes of the meeting

Participating countries

- Sharing of information **among ministers and vice ministers of 46 countries**
- **A total of 96 countries participated in the meeting** including video messages and written statements, making it one of **the world's largest meetings** on climate change organized post-pandemic (as of September 3)

Achieving the meeting objectives:

- promoting international solidarity
- maintaining momentum for climate actions

Contents of discussions

※Details are publicly available on the [“Chair's Summary”](#)

Minister Koizumi said in the beginning that it is necessary to advance the three transitions (to a decarbonized society, to a circular economy, and to a decentralized society) aimed at redesigning socio-economic systems. Based on this understanding, the following discussions took place.

- Sharing and transmitting the will and concrete actions to confront the dual crises of the coronavirus pandemic and climate change could contribute to strengthen international solidarity and to keep up momentum for climate actions.
- Showcasing Japan's efforts towards decarbonization to the world (**drastic revision of its policy on export of coal-fired power plants, “Zero Carbon Cities” movement etc.**) => a big step towards **Japan's return as a global environmental leader**
- Recognition of the need for **technological innovations**, including the use of hydrogen and ammonia produced by renewable energy and CCUS/carbon recycling, and the need for **social implementation of technology** through cost reduction and other means
- Sharing specific information of each country about **strengthening climate action, energy, transportation, urban planning, and the adaptation measures in infrastructure, disaster prevention, biodiversity**, etc.
- Confirming the need of **boosting efforts of, and collaboration with, non-state actors** (businesses, local governments, youth, etc.) in the recovery from coronavirus pandemic
- The expectation for **the platform website to serve as a hub** to gather and share information, experiences and efforts on recovery plans from the pandemic and measures against both climate change and environmental degradation.

PLATFORM for REDESIGN 2020

Online Platform on Sustainable
and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19

Images from the meeting

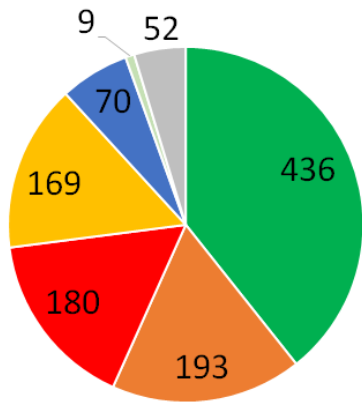
Opening remarks:
with the co-host
Ms. Patricia Espinosa,
UNFCCC Executive Secretary



Images from the discussion:
(Left) Online meeting screen
(Right) Venue

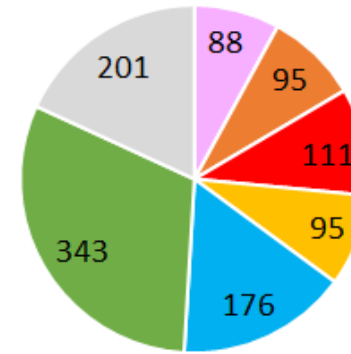


General Trends & Statistics (as of 6 November 2020)



Main category

- A. Climate mitigation measures
- B. Climate adaptation measures
- C. Cross-cutting measures
- D. Other environmental measures
- E. International cooperation
- F. Others
- Not classified



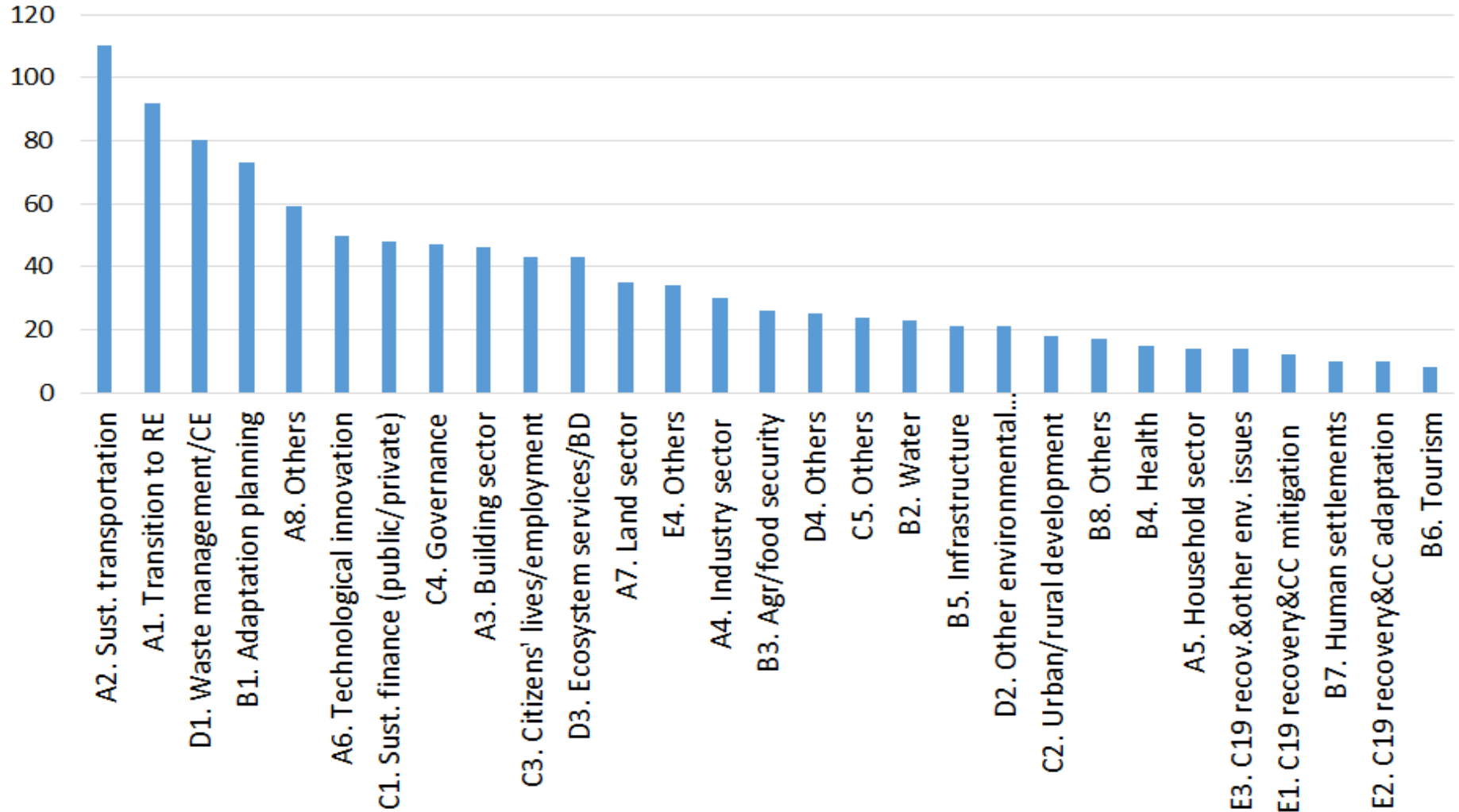
Time frame

- Response
- Response-recovery
- Recovery
- Recovery-redesign
- Redesign
- All terms
- Not classified

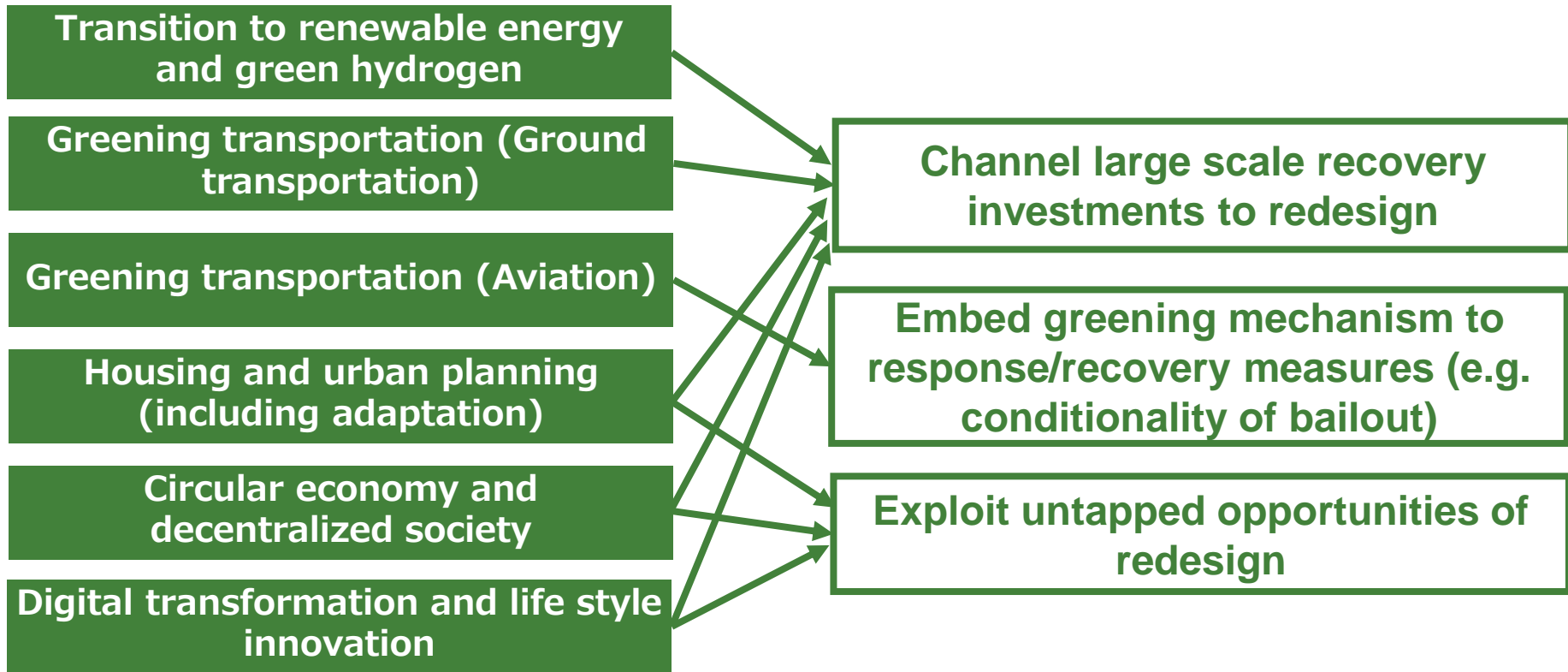
Source: Platform2020redesign.org (processed by the author)

Results of Analysis

General Trends & Statistics (as of 6 November 2020)



Examples of Redesign



Channel large scale recovery investments to redesign

- ◆ Next Generation EU (the EU's recovery instrument) aims to ensure sustainable, inclusive and fair recovery for all EU Member States. (EU)
- ◆ An economic stimulus package in a more climate-friendly manner, with investment grants of EUR 50 billion (Germany)
- ◆ EUR100 billion recovery plan with ecological transition as its first priority with EUR 30 billion (France)
- ◆ All final electricity consumption will be renewable by 2030, and the installation of PV on 1 million rooftops (Austria)
- ◆ The Energy Island project connects offshore wind power stations that can supply electricity to other countries (Denmark)

Embed greening mechanism to response/recovery measures

- ◆ Requires cooperation on future climate action and agreement to tax airfares as a condition of the aviation industry bailout (Switzerland)
- ◆ As a condition for the bailout of the aviation industry, demands stronger measures to combat global warming and achieve a 25% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2025, five years ahead of schedule (Sweden)
- ◆ Abolition of short distance air routes that can be reached by train in less than 3 hours (Austria)

Exploit untapped opportunities of redesign

- ◆ Promotion of teleworking with legislation (El Salvador, Costa Rica)
- ◆ Promotion of digital tourism (Morocco, Iran)
- ◆ Community based development approach (Japan, China, Ireland, Bulgaria)