

こんばんは to Nagano, hyvää päivää to Karelia and Finland, Hello everyone across the world!

I am FUJIMURA Kazuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Finland.

On the occasion of the closing of the International Zero Carbon Conference 2023, I would like to say a few words.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to Nagano Prefectural Government, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, University of Eastern Finland and ENO Schoolnet Association, for their great efforts in organizing this conference. In addition, I wish to express my appreciation to all for their insightful keynote speeches and presentations at the conference.

Today climate change and environmental issues are one of the most serious challenges facing us in the world.

Mitigation and Adaptation, the key words set out for each day of the conference, are sine-qua-non conditions for us to address these clear and present dangers to the flora and fauna on the planet, and to the humanity. I believe that all participants have gained a lot of takeaways from this two-day-event.

In addition, through the crash-course meetings, I feel convinced that the aim of the conference – “to connect people from Nagano Prefecture and North Karelia, Republic of Finland, and from all over the world, to learn together about climate change and environmental issues facing humanity, to consider solutions together and to trigger action” – has been successfully achieved. So let me say to all congratulations!

I conclude my address by expressing my hope that the participants of the International Zero Carbon Conference 2023 will make full use of the outcomes of this event and carry the torch as 'leaders towards zero carbon' down the road, and that Japan and Finland will make differences the world.

どうもありがとうございました。/Kiitoksia paljon / Thank you very much.