

Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO)

Delegation's Statement to COP15

16 December 2009

1. Greenhouse gas emissions have made global climate change issues serious, affecting the natural environment. Humans must rescue, as their own responsibility, the climate change issues which have been caused by humans to develop industries and to improve the lives.

During the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, being held here in Copenhagen, Denmark, an agreement on an international framework of “post Kyoto Protocol” is sought to be reached on the basis of the “Bali Action Plan” adopted in December 2007. Tough negotiations in terms of the time and the contents have been conducted as the Conference faces its crucial stage.

2. Addressing global climate change is critical to the economic, social and environmental interest of all peoples of the world. With the principle that burdens must be fairly shared and distributed between and within countries in accordance with their respective responsibility and capacity, we must realize a Just Transition towards a low-carbon economy with proper employment policies. We therefore strongly call for establishment and promotion of a mechanism for consensus-building with the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders (“social dialogue”).

3. The target for a greenhouse gas emissions reduction announced by Prime Minister Hatoyama during his speech at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change in September 2009 is premised on an international framework participated by all major GHG emitters on the basis of their common but differentiated responsibilities. In order to achieve effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible participation and action by not only developed countries but also all emerging and developing countries are needed accompanied by provision of the necessary resources and technological capacities, and the building of a global framework by fair and equal standards is indispensable.

From this standpoint, the “continuation of Kyoto Protocol” involving only a few countries would not contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions nor secure fairness among developed countries as well as between developed and developing countries.

In addition, our country's target might lead to considerably high national burdens

and GHG emissions reduction expenses, and in this context it is essential to secure fairness with other countries.

4. Our country has developed its economy through “*monozukuri* (manufacturing)” and improved people’s lives, which in turn has contributed to the international society. The driving force for this has been the high technological skills developed over the years at workplaces. The backbone of the innovative development was the workforce backed up by continuous training, capacity-building and handing-down of skills based on stable employment.

The promotion of deepening and innovation of our country’s advanced environmental technology and technologies which each industry has developed, as well as the support for emerging and developing countries through providing technological assistance, are extremely effective for the mid- and long-term reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions.

5. The RENGO Delegation expresses the above-mentioned recognitions and strongly urges to the international community for the incorporation of Just Transition expressed in the ITUC Statement included employment security, into an international agreement.