

Report of the International Conference on Sustainable Environment, Clean Energy and Safe Mobility

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Abstract

In 2015 history was made in international affairs with (a) the adoption of the Treaty of Paris on Climate Change adopted by 196 countries and (b) the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly. As a follow up an International Conference was held at the United Nations on November 29, 2016 on Sustainable Environment, Clean Energy and Safe Mobility: multifaceted dimensions of EcoDrive in Promoting Sustainability focusing on specific implementation efforts being made. The World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows (WAFUNIF serving as a think tank) and ASUA of Japan (also a think tank) were the main organizers of the conference along with the Government of Japan. The participants were delegates from the United Nations as well as UN staff members, business executives and scholars. What is interesting about the two instruments mentioned above is that implementation efforts are not to be undertaken by the governments concerned alone but by private companies, NGOs and sub-national entities such as cities. There were three sets of presentations, first by representatives of the main automobile manufacturers on their efforts to make transportation technologies more eco friendly. The second set of presentations were by representatives of three major cities in the world, namely Paris, New York and Tokyo underscoring their specific efforts to make these cities more eco friendly. Then there were presentations on various subjects which have a bearing on human beings as such in the evolving context. A major thread throughout the conference was about the effort to make driving more eco friendly (both for the drivers and for the specific environment concerned) and an instrument was submitted to the conference participants called the Eco Drive Declaration, a guide for governments and other entities concerned in all the countries of the world to make driving more eco friendly. The report of the conference will now be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly so that the entities concerned in all countries of the world would be inspired to take actions as they consider appropriate in their own specific contexts based upon the presentations made at the conference.