

“Nordic Green Japan 2013“  
Iino Hall  
Tokyo, 24 October 2013

***Welcoming remarks***  
*by*  
*Ambassador Arne Walther*

Honourable Member of the House of Representatives Taro Kono,  
Vice President of Energinet Peter Jørgensen  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the five Nordic Ambassadors to Japan, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to “Nordic Green Japan 2013“.

In 2010, the Embassies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country Norway joined hands to establish a platform for promoting Nordic environmental technologies in Japan. Our intent was to offer a venue, where Nordic and Japanese companies and institutions could meet to develop ideas for joint business development and research cooperation within important areas of “Green Technology“.

We did this because the Nordic countries share with Japan a strong commitment to meet the twin challenge of energy and environment in a sustainable way, both at home and as responsible global citizens also abroad, by developing and utilizing our advanced technology and innovations. Our efforts were greatly inspired by the first “Nordic Green Japan“, a very successful two-day event at Miraikan in 2011 that drew more than 450 participants from Nordic and Japanese government, industry and academia.

Today, we are happy to do “Nordic Green Japan“ once more, this time in Iino Hall.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The development of a sustainable energy system is a prerequisite for economic and social development. Production and use of energy can, however, also cause environmental and climate change concern. The world will need more and cleaner energy used in a more efficient way and accessible not only to us, but also to the quarter of the world’s population that lack access to commercial energy today.

Countries determine their energy mix in line with national circumstances. The Nordic societies are fuelled by all energy sources - renewables such hydro, geothermal, solar, wind and biomass, fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas as well as safe nuclear. We are continuing our determined efforts towards realizing a sustainable energy system through green innovation.

Nordic Green Japan 2013 is a forum for exchanging experience as well as identifying both successes, challenges and joint venture opportunities. We hope that it can contribute in a useful way to your discussions of Japan's energy system in the years ahead.

Let me highlight four objectives that we hope to achieve here today:

- We hope to promote cooperation between Nordic and Japanese stakeholders for sustainable energy systems and in green technology by providing a meeting place for companies, research institutions and policy makers.
- We hope to facilitate exchange of new ideas and concepts in selected technological areas of special relevance to the Nordic countries and Japan.
- We hope to enhance the profile of the Nordic countries as a proactive force in the forefront for development and deployment of green technologies and policies.
- And, we hope to facilitate business development both for Nordic companies into the Japanese market and for Japanese companies into the Nordic and wider European green tech market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We can achieve these objectives because the Nordic countries have state-of-the-art energy technology to share and because our countries are strong proponents of sustainable development and technologies at home and abroad. And not least, because also likeminded Japan can pride itself, as we do, of focusing resources to develop such technologies.

Furthermore, Japan represents an important and growing market for Nordic green technologies as your discussions continue to determine Japan's future energy mix. Likewise, the Nordic countries represent an enabling gateway for Japan into the huge European green technology markets.

“Nordic Green Japan 2013“ is, indeed, a timely venue to discuss how we can benefit from these gateways as dedicated partners and in win-win cooperation. Let also the overall relations between the Nordic countries and Japan benefit from synergetic effects of our cooperation and shared commitment to a sustainable energy future.