

## Global Warming and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

# Koichi Miyazawa[1]

[1] Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Based on this Government Buildings Green Program, the Government Buildings Department is ensuring that all environmental programs are organically linked and that they thoroughly and effectively work to reduce the environmental load of government facilities over the life cycle of the facilities. The department is also working with other government bodies and working to promote these programs among public bodies at the local level. Since the Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005, the need to address the issue of global warming has become more urgent. In Japan, the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan has been formulated based on the Law Concerning the Promotion of the Measures to Cope with Global Warming, and the government is being called upon to take the lead in implementing measures to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases by setting an example in its work and projects and to maintain and reinforce mechanisms that absorb these gases. Accordingly, the government has established a new implementation plan to ensure that it meets the targets set for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from government activities (a 7% reduction by 2006 from 2001 levels). The plan calls for each government body to formulate a plan for achieving a 7% reduction by 2006 in the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its own activities compared to 2001. This means that all government bodies will have to work harder than ever to address the issue of global warming.

In particular, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from government facilities is a priority, as such emissions account for more than half of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with government activities. To address this pressing need, the Government Buildings Department has recently completed a review of its "Environmental Load Reduction Program on Government Facilities" (July 2004) with an eye to strengthening efforts related to reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from government facilities. This Action Plan is based on the revised "Environmental Load Reduction Program on Government Facilities" (June 2005), and highlights the strategies to be implemented in the provision and maintenance of government facilities, one of the necessary features of the implementation plans created by the various government bodies to achieve their targets in line with the government's plan. At the same time, the Action Plan focuses on the areas in which the Government Buildings Department is expected to play a major role.