

November 5, 2021

**Statement by President Teruo Fujii of the University of Tokyo
at the Official Launch of ETI-CGC**

As President of the University of Tokyo, it is a great pleasure for me to take part, from here in Tokyo, in the launch of ETI-CGC in Glasgow, where a truly historic moment for confronting climate change is taking place.

The climate crisis requires us to address many issues. Some of the key issues include: how to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; collaboration between the Global North and South; and realizing transformations while safeguarding biodiversity and other aspects of our ecosystem.

ETI-CGC will allow us to tackle many of these very significant issues. The University of Tokyo is working closely with Japan's business leaders to chart our country's pathway to net zero and provide the world with new solutions for the Global Commons.

About a month ago, as the newly inaugurated president, I announced a statement of the guiding principles of the University of Tokyo. I named it "UTokyo Compass," as it shows the direction and aspirations of our university during my tenure and beyond.

It comprises policy initiatives to integrate three perspectives essential to the university: "knowledge," "people," and "place."

The University of Tokyo will contribute to ETI-CGC by sharing our knowledge and people, sustained by our standing as a place of leading research and education in Japan and East Asia.

The university will offer perspectives that effectively complement those of the business sector. This will enable a cutting-edge approach to our industry-academia partnership.

In the UTokyo Compass, ETI-CGC is defined as a "place" to solve global challenges.

Such a place is enabled only through a constructive cycle of dialogue that opens ways to find new solutions for complex global challenges. These challenges are not limited to specific energy-related problems. They also include broader and more fundamental issues, such as transforming our industrial structure, our social and economic systems, and our culture in general.

These are challenges that we need to confront to maintain the Global Commons. The path to confronting these challenges might seem like sailing out onto a rough sea without a nautical chart.

But I am confident that ETI-CGC will make it possible to find ways to overcome these difficulties by allowing us to engage in meaningful communication and to build trust with each other.

We must make this “voyage” of ours into the rough sea a role model for successful international and interdisciplinary dialogue so that together we can solve the grave global crisis that we face today.

Thank you very much for listening.