

Japan's 2008 G8: Plans for the Hokkaido Toyako Summit

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Preface

This report on "Japan's 2008 G8: Plans for the Hokkaido Toyako Summit" is compiled by the G8 Research Group largely from public sources as an aid to researchers and other stakeholders interested in the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. It will be updated periodically as plans for the 2008 Summit evolve. This report continues, under a more accurate name, the earlier report on "Japan's 2008 Agenda." It adds material on the physical summit, Japan's internal preparations and G8 ministerial meetings. This edition only includes material post-March, 2008. All material from before April 1, 2008 can be found in 'earlier versions' of Japan's 2008 G8.

Introduction: Japan's 2008 G8

Japan will host the G8's 2008 Summit from July 7-9, 2008 at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa in Toyako, Hokkaido in northern Japan. The World Economy, Climate Change, Development and Africa and Non-Proliferation and Political Issues should be a prominent part of the Japanese focus.

Agenda: The Policy Summit

Food supply and environmental issues will dominate the G8 agenda in July. “Water and food issues are critical not only to **health**, but also to socio-economic development,” said Fukuda. “It is imperative that issues such as water and food do not become impediments to Asian development.” “I intend to focus on **water, health and food issues** at the upcoming G8.” “I wish to examine a comprehensive and integrated response to issues such as climate change, development, water and food.” “As chair of the G8 Hokkaido-Toyako summit, I will ensure that the assembled leaders hold a thorough discussion so that we will be able to state, as the G8, our determination to reach a solution to these issues.”¹ (June 16, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

World Economy

Growth

Fukuda has said that he sees no reason for new **economic stimulus measures**. So, policies such as tax cuts are not an option that we can take,” Fukuda said.² (June 17, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Credit Crises

Intellectual Property

Climate Change

The MEM failed to reach an agreement in Seoul on a target to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050, sources said. The delegates, however, agreed that major emission cuts are necessary. The failure to reach an agreement will make it very difficult for the MEM leaders to reach an agreement in Hokkaido on the sidelines of the G8 summit.³ (June 22, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Representatives from the **MEM-16** met in Seoul on June 21 and 21 to work out a **long-term** commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The delegates were expected to come up with a draft MEM leaders’ declaration to be issued on July 9 on the sidelines of the G8 summit. The Seoul session is the last chance for delegates to coordinate view on future emission reduction goals before the leaders’ meeting. The draft, dated June 10, said the MEM is considering four options for long-term targets: a 50% reduction in

¹ *Agence France Presse* (June 16, 2008), “Food, environment to dominate G8 summit: Japan PM.”

² *Agence France Presse* (June 17, 2008), “Japan PM says no need for stimulus package.”

³ *Kyodo News* (June 22, 2008), “Major carbon emitters fail to agree on 50% cut by 2050.”

global emissions by 2050, and unspecified percent cut by 2050, a 50% reduction by 2051 or later, or a more than 50% cut by 2051 or later.⁴ (June 22, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 leaders are planning to back the Japan-proposed **sector-by sector approach** to cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the **chair's summary** of the G8 summit this July. It is likely that the leaders will agree that the sector-by-sector approach is 'useful' or 'important' for setting quantified national targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. It is likely that the countries will adopt the approach to calculate their emissions reduction potential as part of bottom-up efforts to craft a new carbon-capping framework to succeed the **Kyoto Protocol**, which will expire in 2012.⁵ (June 21, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 will call for 'deep cuts' in emissions of greenhouse gases to address climate change with an 'aspirational **long-term goal**' during their summit in Japan, according to a draft of a post-meeting declaration. The **MEM-16** meeting that will take place on July 9, however, has yet to decide whether the statement "should refer to a particular quantitative long-term goal," such as halving global emissions by 2050, according to the draft declaration. There are **four options** regarding a target—a 50% reduction in global emissions by 2050, an unspecified percent cut by 2050, a 50% reduction by 2051 or later and more than 50% cut by 2051 or later.⁶ (June 19, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Fukuda has said that the upcoming summit will not set **medium-term** targets for global cuts in carbon emissions but should help push forward UN-led climate negotiations. "Agreeing on a medium-term target is the core challenge of the UN negotiations that will take place up to the end of 2009." "The G8 is not a forum to agree on that target." "We will strive to engage in constructive discussion so that we will be able to come up with a concrete outcome with regards to **long-term targets**," Fukuda said.⁷ (June 17, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The Japanese government is set to announce self-imposed greenhouse gas emissions reductions of between 60 and 80% by 2050 in order to show the other G8 countries that they are serious about combating climate change at the upcoming summit. They hope that the announcement will serve as an incentive for the other nations to get on board with reductions and setting targets.⁸ (June 6, 2008, *Greenwire*)

Fukuda plans to say that Japan will advance specific work toward the possible introduction of the **emissions trading system**. Fukuda decided to consider the introduction of the emissions trading system after industry leaders gave the green light at a recent meeting of the premier's task force on global warming issues on condition that the system ensures fairness while taking into account each country's international competitiveness. On the **medium-term target**, Fukuda plans to urge other countries to employ 'rational and equitable' measures to build such targets, the sources said. He will

⁴ *Kyodo News* (June 22, 2008), "Major carbon emitters continue talks in Seoul on CO2 reduction goal."

⁵ *Kyodo News* (June 21, 2008), "G-8 back sectoral emissions cut approach at summit."

⁶ *Dow Jones International News* (June 19, 2008), "G8 To Call For Deep CO2 Cuts At July Summit – Kyodo."

⁷ *Agence France Press* (June 17, 2008), "Japan PM says G8 not to set medium-term climate targets."

⁸ *Greenwire* (June 6, 2008), "Japan sets emissions reductions goals."

also pledge Japan's contribution to a fund to promote **clean energy** such as solar power in developing countries, they said. During their meeting in Kobe last month, G-8 environment ministers urged their leaders to agree at the July 7-9 summit on a target of **halving global emissions by 2050**, while prodding developed countries to 'take the lead in achieving a significant reduction.'⁹ (June 5, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The U.S. will tell the G8 that it cannot meet big cuts in emission of planet-warming gases by 2020, Harlan Watson said. "It's frankly not doable for us." he said, referring to a goal for rich countries to curb greenhouse gases by 25-40% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.¹⁰ (June 3, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Prime minister Fukuda has said that the **G8 leaders must be united** in order to secure positive responses from major emitters such as China and India.¹¹ (June 3, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Japan's environment ministry plans to compile an English version of a government white paper calling for households to save energy as a means of cutting **greenhouse gas emission** in Japan for distribution to foreign media and officials of foreign governments at the G8 summit.¹² (June 2, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

A **draft summit declaration**, dated May 5, shows that the U.S. wants the main forum for emissions cuts to be the **Major Economies grouping**. "In the U.S. view, the appropriate place for addressing **long-term** and **mid-term** goals is the Major Economies Leaders Declaration," said a U.S. comment in the draft. "The expansion of **nuclear energy** would help to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and would provide the greater global energy security by diversifying supply options," said the U.S. comments. EU comments on the G8 draft stress G8 leadership, and state that the developed countries must commit to carbon emission cuts between 25 and 40% by 2020. The draft also called for agreement in the **Doha** round of world trade talks on eliminating barriers to trade in green goods and services, adding that a voluntary deal within the G8 would not be the right approach.¹³ (June 2, 2008, *Reuters News*)

According to a draft of the G8 declaration, the United States wants to make the Major Emitters grouping the major forum for climate action, taking the initiative away from the G8. "We would be prepared to address mid-term goals in the G8 only if the Major Economies Leaders Statement does not do so and only in a way that points to the need for commitments from major emerging economies," said a U.S. comment in the draft. In the draft, the U.S. endorses the expansion of civil nuclear power as a low carbon technology and says biofuels are not the main cause of the recent surge in world food prices."¹⁴ (June 2, 2008, *Reuters News*)

⁹ *Kyodo News* (June 5, 2008), "Fukuda to show positive stance on emissions trade in new climate plan."

¹⁰ *Reuters News* (June 3, 2008), "Tough 2020 climate goals unachievable-U.S."

¹¹ *Kyodo News* (June 3, 2008), "Fukuda, Sarkozy agree to fully cooperate in run-up to G-8 summit."

¹² *Kyodo News* (June 2, 2008), "White paper urges households to save energy to curb global warming."

¹³ *Reuters News* (June 2, 2008), "U.S. seeks to deflect emissions cuts from G8."

¹⁴ *Reuters News* (June 2, 2008), "G8 climate draft shows US blocking mid-term targets."

“We need to set a clear direction on how we could cooperate in addressing **global warming**,” Fukuda said ahead of his departure to Europe and Rome for the FAO summit.¹⁵ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Fukuda said an important focus of the G8 meeting would be to ensure that emerging nations like China and India sign up to measures to **cap the production of greenhouse gases**. “We have to bring those two countries on board,” he said.¹⁶ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Carbon capture and storage will play a key role in climate change discussion. IEA Chief Economic Fatih Birol said “At the G8 meeting next month in Hokkaido in Japan, this will be our message: If you are serious on the climate change issues, your support, and the support of carbon capture and storage, will be your litmus test.”¹⁷ (May 22, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Fukuda’s stance on climate change is expected to be included in an envisaged “**Fukuda Vision**,” which he plans to unveil in early June as Japan’s new initiatives to fight global warming ahead of the G8 summit. Emissions trading “is useful as one policy” to combat global warming, Fukuda told of House of Councillors special committee on foreign aid.¹⁸ (May 16, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda plans to announce Japan’s 2050 target for cutting emissions of greenhouse gases in June ahead of July’s Group of Eight summit, the top government spokesman said. The target will be announced as “Fukuda’s Vision,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said in a speech in Sapporo.¹⁹ (May 10, 2008, *Dow Jones International*)

In preparation for the upcoming G8, Japan and the European Union have expressed support for the International Partnership for Cooperation on Energy Efficiency (IPEEC), which they have been developing with the U.S. and other countries, to be an open, broad and inclusive partnership of nations seeking to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency.²⁰ (April 24, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

The third Major Economies Meeting (MEM) is scheduled to take place in Paris at the end of April. The MEM is working on a “leaders’ declaration” to be published at the G8 summit in Japan in July and on a raft of recommendations to be handed to the UNFCCC.²¹ (April 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

¹⁵ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan PM leaves for Europe for talks on food crisis.”

¹⁶ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan’s Fukuda urges relief measures amid food crisis.”

¹⁷ *Reuters News* (May 22, 2008), “Burying CO2 vital in climate battle.”

¹⁸ *Dow Jones International News* (May 15, 2008), “Japan PM Fukuda Hints Support For Emissions Trading-Kyodo.”

¹⁹ *Dow Jones International* (May 10, 2008), “Japan PM To Announce 2050 Emissions Cut Target In June.”

²⁰ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (April 24, 2008), “Japan-EU joint press statement on climate change cooperation.”

²¹ *Agence France Presse* (April 14, 2008), “Climate change: Major polluters to meet in Paris.”

Energy

Oil Prices

With no immediate relief in sight from record-high crude oil prices after a meeting of energy ministers in Saudi Arabia, attention is turning to the July G8 summit. The meeting in Saudi Arabia gave a ‘strong impetus’ to the upcoming summit. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the importance of **improving transparency and regulation of financial markets, and capturing reliable data on oil supply was clearly expressed**. “You could say that the statement has reached the level where there is no more room for the G8 to do anything,” said Amari, minister of economy, trade and industry. “But that’s wrong. We have to make sure that **the spirit of the Jeddah statement is put into practice**.” “That is to say, we have only developed a design plan.” “Next we must begin construction and that process will start in Hokkaido.”²² (June 23, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Fukuda said that the rapid rise in oil prices had to be taken seriously and that market signals had to be heeded. “We cannot ignore the market and just decide something,” Fukuda said. “The problem is that the oil price is rising faster and this does not only have a negative impact on the economy, but on our people,” he said. “We should take this rapid rise in the oil price very seriously. What is important is that more oil should be produced and we should invest in this. We need a stable supply.” Fukuda said there was a need for more investment in exploiting crude reserves and increased efforts to save energy.²³ (June 2, 2008, *Deutsche Welle*)

Japanese prime minister Fukuda has said that the rapid rise in **oil prices** has to be taken seriously. He stressed the need for more investment in **oil production** and increased efforts to improve **energy efficiency**.²⁴ (June 2, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Fukuda has called for steps to increase **oil production** and **supply stability** as **prices soar** above 130 dollars per barrel. “What is important is that more oil should be produced and we should invest in this. We need a stable supply,” said Fukuda, but warned: “We cannot ignore the market and just decide something.”²⁵ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Referring to the high oil price, Fukuda said, “What is important is that more oil should be produced and we should invest in this. We need a **stable supply**,” but he warned, “We cannot ignore the market and just decide something.”²⁶ (June 1, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

²² *Kyodo News* (June 23, 2008), “Focus shifts to G-8 summit with no relief from oil prices in sight.”

²³ *Deutsche Welle* (June 2, 2008), “Merkel Calls for Action on Food, Oil Crisis.”

²⁴ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 2, 2008), “Japan, Germany seek coordination ahead of G8 summit.”

²⁵ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan’s Fukuda urges relief measures amid food crisis.”

²⁶ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 1, 2008), “Japan, Germany express concerns on food, climate change.”

Biofuels

Prime minister Fukuda has expressed concerns about the production of bioethanol from corn, which many blame in part for soaring food prices. “It is a fact that the production of bioethanol in some cases compete with food production,” Fukuda said. “In order to make sure world food security is not threatened by bio-fuels, we should accelerate research into and use of ‘second generation’ raw materials and make sure that they can be produced continuously” he added.²⁷ (June 3, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Fukuda warned that the production of **biofuels** as an alternative energy source must not be allowed to interfere with crop cultivation and aggravate food shortages.²⁸ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Fukuda said he agrees [with Germany] that we “need **biofuels** that do not threaten the production of food.”²⁹ (June 1, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Among other steps, the Japanese PM will propose is a switch to “**second generation**” **bio-fuels** that “do not harm food production.” His FAO draft also calls for long-term action that includes a re-thinking of policies that **encourage production of ethanol and other bio-fuels**.³⁰ (May 31, 2008, *Business Times Singapore*)

A **federal biofuels workgroup** which includes EPA officials is facing high pressure from the State Department to quickly develop a biofuel sustainability framework ahead of the G8 because negotiations have increasingly begun to focus on developing a sustainability standard for certifying biofuel. The indicators, along with numerous agency position papers, will play a role in the G8 on the issue of biofuel. U.S. officials are expected to discuss biofuel at the summit, and plan to discuss lifecycle greenhouse gas emission calculations on a teleconference with EU official as well, Alan Hecht, EPA’s director of sustainable development said.³¹ (May 23, 2008, *EPA Weekly Report*)

The issue of **biofuels** is now expected to appear on the G8 agenda in July as food prices continue to rise. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has said that crop-based fuels are vital to meeting current and future energy demands and the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has estimated that biofuels have only accounted for 10% of the food price spike.³² (April 26, 2008, *Financial Times*)

Japan is concerned that **biofuels** are contributing to rising crop prices. They are encouraging other countries to rethink the use of such an energy source.³³ (April 26, 2008, *Financial Times*)

²⁷ *Reuters News* (June 3, 2008), “Japan to release 300,000 tonnes of imported rice.”

²⁸ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan’s Fukuda urges relief measures amid food crisis.”

²⁹ *Dow Jones International News* (June 1, 2008), “Germany Wants Common G8 Approach In Fight On High Food Prices.”

³⁰ *Business Times Singapore* (June 1, 2008), “Strong backing seen for Japan’s call to lift food export curbs.”

³¹ *EPA Weekly Report* (May 23, 2008), “EPA Pushed to Develop Biofuels Sustainability Framework.”

³² *Financial Times* (April 26, 2008), “Energy watchdog backs drive to biofuels”

³³ *Financial Times* (April 26, 2008), “Consensus descends into acrimonious row.”

Nuclear Energy and Clean Energy

Japanese prime minister Fukuda reaffirmed his support for **nuclear power** at the opening session of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum's 41st annual conference in Tokyo on April 15-16. "Because Japan depends on other countries for almost all of its energy and natural resources, it is critical for us to strengthen the utilization of nuclear energy as a major source of power." Nothing that he will be chairing the G8 summit, Fukuda said he would 'take leadership' on climate change. "Nuclear power is the key to solving the problems of global warming," and during the summit he would be "giving special attention to the importance of nuclear energy in our fight against global warming."³⁴ (May 23, 2008, *Nuclear Engineering International*)

Prime minister Fukuda expressed an intention to exert leadership as chairman of the G8 summit in holding discussions on the major agenda item of climate change while taking note of the importance of **nuclear power** in steps against global warming. "Nuclear power generation, which does not emit carbon dioxide in the process of generating electricity, is a trump card in measures against global warming," Fukuda said at the opening session of the two-day conference organized by the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum. "Global warming is a major issue which the world faces in common, and I believe it is Japan's important role to contribute to the spread of safe and peaceful use of atomic energy in Asia and the world while making use of our high-caliber nuclear energy technologies," he said. Fukuda emphasized the significance of **ensuring safety** as the "principal necessity" for countries thinking of developing nuclear power and said that Japan has taken utmost care in terms of safety measures, particularly as it is an earthquake-prone country.³⁵ (April 15, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Nuclear Safety

The G8 countries are expected to announce a new \$U.S. 470 million dollars to increase safety around the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site. The assistance is expected to be announced at the G8 summit in July.³⁶ (April 28, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

International Organization on Energy Saving

Food Security

Japanese prime minister Fukuda said he will focus on the need to boost **agricultural production** as well as access to **clean water** and **climate change** at the July G8 summit. "It is imperative that issues such as water and food do not become impediment to Asia's development." "I will ensure that the assembled leaders hold a thorough discussion so that we will be able to state, as G-8, our determination and response to reach a solution to

³⁴ *Nuclear Engineering International* (May 23, 2008), "Oma go-ahead."

³⁵ *Kyodo News* (April 15, 2008), "Nuke power generation trump card in global warming measures: Fukuda."

³⁶ *Agence France Presse* (April 28, 2008), "G8 to unveil fresh support for Chernobyl safety: report."

these issues,” he said. “I appeal for more agriculture development and the support [from governments] to see it through.”³⁷ (June 16, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

John Holmes, head of the UN task force on the food crisis, said a ‘broad concensus’ had built around an action plan which is to be presented at the G8 summit in July. In the summit declaration, the leaders vow to “use all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the current crisis, **stimulate food production** and increase **investment in agriculture**.”³⁸ (June 6, 2008, *SBS World News Headline Stories*)

“I’m determined to issue a robust message [at the G8 Summit], which will offer assurance and instill confidence regarding the **future of food**-the foundation for life and closely related to security,” said prime minister Fukuda.³⁹ (June 5, 2008, *Yomiuri Shimbun*)

The G8 leaders are expected to compile a special statement on the **food crisis issues** and to come up with more concrete measures to tackle it on the basis of the discussion at the Rome FAO summit.⁴⁰ (June 5, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

“This is a multi-faceted problem that calls for a **multi-faceted** response,” Fukuda said on the eve of the UN FAO conference in Rome. “We would like to build on the outcome of [the Rome] meeting and engage... at the G8 on the various complex factors behind rising food prices” worldwide, he said.⁴¹ (June 2, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

“Food producing countries no longer have sufficient stocks and are therefore trying to export less. This has become the case with more and more countries in recent months,” Fukuda said. In the longer term **richer nations must help poorer ones**, particularly in Africa, to be in a position to produce more food and become self sufficient. “We need to export seed and know-how to those countries [which] need it.”⁴² (June 2, 2008, *Deutsche Welle*)

“We need **short, middle and long term solutions** to the crisis,” Prime Minister Fukuda said. He stressed that poorer nations cannot cope with the rising food prices on the world market. “The international community must sit down to work out short-term relief measures.” In the long run, rich nations should help poor countries, particularly those in Africa, to be self-sufficient in food supply by exporting know-how and seeds to them, Fukuda said.⁴³ (June 2, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

³⁷ *Dow Jones International News* (June 16, 2008), “Japan’s PM Urges Boosting Farm Produce To East Food Crisis.”

³⁸ *SBS World News Headline Stories* (June 6, 2008), “UN summit vows to halve world hunger.”

³⁹ *Yomiuri Shimbun* (June 5, 2008), “Fukuda sows seeds of success in Europe/Meeting with heads of G-8 countries seen as attempt to smooth way for summit.”

⁴⁰ *Kyodo News* (June 5, 2008), “5TH LD: U.N. food summit ends with call for studies, dialogue on biofuels.”

⁴¹ *Agence France Presse* (June 2, 2008), “G8 summit will build on Rome food talks: Japanese PM.”

⁴² *Deutsche Welle* (June 2, 2008), “Merkel Calls for Action on Food, Oil Crisis.”

⁴³ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 2, 2008), “Japan, Germany seek coordination ahead of G8 summit.”

The G8 may adopt a special statement to demonstrate their strong intention to tackle the issue of global surges in **food prices** when they meet for their annual summit. The plan is under study by the Japanese government at a time when developing countries have been struggling amid surging prices of such food as rice and wheat.⁴⁴ (June 2, 2008, *Organisation for Asia-Pacific News Agencies*)

“I will make sure what I heard from African leaders about many challenges including soaring **food prices** will be reflected in discussions at the Rome meeting and the G8 Hokkaido summit,” Fukuda said.⁴⁵ (May 30, 2008, *Reuters News*)

“I would like to frankly exchange views on the impact of surging oil prices on the economy, and on food crisis,” Fukuda said. A foreign ministry official has said Fukuda “will outline his sense of crisis in strong words as the chair of the G8 summit,” adding he would ask the international community for “comprehensive measures” on **food prices**. Japan has already promised 100 million dollars in emergency food aid and pledged last week at a summit with African leaders to help the continent double production of rice within a decade. “There is an urgent need for the international community to address this issue in the near, medium and long term,” Fukuda said at the summit with 51 African nations in Yokohama, near Africa. To ease the food crisis, Japan is also releasing 200,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines, one of the world's largest rice importers. The rice is part of a stockpile which Japan reluctantly imports, mostly from the United States, due to an obligation under the World Trade Organisation.⁴⁶ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Fukuda called for urgent measures to provide food security to poor nations amid runaway prices that have sparked riots around the world. “We need **short, middle and long term solutions** to the crisis,” Fukuda said. The prime minister said the international community must act together to tackle **soaring prices and shortages** and vowed to put it at the top of the G8 agenda in July. “Food producing countries no longer have sufficient stocks and are therefore trying to export less. This has become the case with more and more countries in recent months,” he said. “This has pushed up prices and countries who cannot cope with the additional cost, no longer have enough food. So we have to sit down as the international community and come up with short-term relief measures.” Fukuda said on the **longer term** richer nations must help their poor counterparts, particularly in Africa, to be in a position to produce more food and become self sufficient. “We need to export seed and know-how to those countries who need it.”⁴⁷ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Fukuda has emphasized that the world food production should be improved and called for developed countries export more **advanced technologies** and **good seeds** to poor countries.⁴⁸ (June 1, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

⁴⁴ *Organisation for Asia-Pacific News Agencies* (June 2, 2008), “G-8 Leaders May Adopt Special Statement on Food Crisis.”

⁴⁵ *Reuters News* (May 30, 2008), “Resource-poor Japan vows to help Africa as partner.”

⁴⁶ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan PM leaves for Europe for talks on food crisis.”

⁴⁷ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), “Japan’s Fukuda urges relief measures amid food crisis.”

⁴⁸ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 1, 2008), “Japan, Germany express concerns on food, climate change.”

“Soaring **food prices** are posing imminent and serious global challenges,” Mr. Fukuda said. “The threat of hunger and malnutrition is increasing, and high prices have brought about social unrest.” Given the support of the UN chief, who met Mr. Fukuda during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Japan’s moves to outlaw restrictions on food exports are likely to find favour with the international community during the Rome summit. “Mr Fukuda will call for corrective action by international society to deal with the food-supply and price crisis,” the Japanese foreign ministry official said. “He will call for short and long-term remedies” in his presentation to the Rome summit, the official added. Japan has announced U.S. \$100 million of emergency food aid to help stave off what is seen as the growing danger of social unrest in poorer countries where food price inflation is causing suffering. There is speculation that Tokyo will donate a further U.S. \$50 million in such aid, although foreign ministry officials said yesterday that ‘no concrete decision’ has been made. A draft to be presented to the FAO conference in Rome calls not only for a ban on restrictions on food exports but also for short-term measures such as further food aid to poorer nations. Some food prices have begun to fall recently from record peaks reached earlier this year, and a predicted bumper rice harvest among Asian and other producers is expected to further reduce prices. But **agriculture** experts warn that prices of many food staples will stay well above long-term trends for at least a decade. And both next week’s Rome meeting and the G8 summit in July are expected to focus on long-term supply issues. Japan will push G8 leaders to look at all aspects of the crisis and not just agricultural matters, a Tokyo official said. The role that financial markets and distribution networks are playing in influencing food shortages and price rises, as well as the effects of globalisation, will need to be examined, he said. The impact on economic development will also need to be gauged. “We need to take an objective approach.”⁴⁹ (May 31, 2008, *Business Times Singapore*)

The World Bank’s President Zoellick has outlined a 10-point plan to deal with the food crisis. “First, we should agree in Rome to **fund fully the World Food Programme’s emergency needs**, support its drive to purchase food aid locally and ensure the unhampered movement of humanitarian assistance. Second, we need **support for safety nets**, such as distributing food in schools or offering food in return for work, so that we can quickly help those in severe distress. The World Bank, working with the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, has already made rapid needs assessments for more than 25 countries. In Rome we should agree on co-ordinated action. Third, we need **seeds and fertiliser for the planting season**, especially for smallholders in poor countries. Together, the FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, regional development banks and the World Bank can expand this effort by working with civil society groups and bilateral donors. The key is not just financing, but fast delivery systems. Fourth, we need to **boost agricultural supply and increase research spending**, reversing years of agricultural underinvestment. We must be neither Luddite nor advocates of a single scientific fix. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research has been receiving about \$450m a year. We should double this investment in research and development over the next five years. Fifth, there needs to be **more investment in agribusiness** so that we can tap the private sector’s ability to work

⁴⁹ *Business Times Singapore* (June 1, 2008), “Strong backing seen for Japan’s call to lift food export curbs.”

across the value chain: developing sustainable lands and water; supply chains; cutting wastage; infrastructure and logistics; helping developing country producers meet food safety standards; connecting retailers with farmers in developing countries; and supporting agricultural trade finance. Sixth, we need to develop **innovative instruments for risk management and crop insurance** for small farmers. Next week the World Bank's board will consider weather derivatives for developing countries, with Malawi being identified as a likely first client. Should Malawi suffer a drought it would receive a payout to offset the price of imported maize. Seventh, we need action in the U.S. and Europe to **ease subsidies, mandates and tariffs on biofuels that are derived from corn and oilseeds**. The U.S.'s use of corn for ethanol has consumed more than 75 % of the increase in global corn production over the past three years. Policymakers should consider "safety valves" that ease these policies when prices are high. The choice does not have to be food or fuel. Cutting tariffs on ethanol imported into the U.S. and European Union markets would encourage the output of more efficient sugarcane **biofuels** that do not compete directly with food production and expand opportunities for poorer countries, including in Africa. We need to find ways to advance to second-generation cellulosic products. Eighth, we should **remove export bans** that have led to even higher world prices. India has recently relaxed its restrictions. But 28 countries have imposed such controls. Removing these could have a dramatic effect. With only 7 % of global rice production traded on markets, if Japan released some of its stocks for humanitarian purposes and China sold 1m tons of its rice, we could damp the price immediately. Ninth, we should conclude a **Doha World Trade Organisation** deal in order to remove the distortions of agricultural subsidies and create a more adaptable, efficient and fair global food trade. The need for rules that are agreed multilaterally has never been stronger. Tenth, there should be greater collective action to counter global risks. The **interconnected challenges of energy, food and water** will be drivers of the world economy and security. We might explore an agreement among the G8 and key developing countries to hold "global goods" stocks, modelled on the **International Energy Agency**, governed by transparent and clear rules. This would act as insurance for the poorest people, offering affordable food. To support this agenda, the **World Bank** is launching a global food crisis response facility. We will fast-track \$1.2bn to address immediate needs arising from the crisis, including \$200m of grants for especially vulnerable countries such as Haiti, Djibouti and Liberia for seeds, fertiliser, safety net programmes and budget support. Overall, the World Bank Group will expand assistance for agriculture and food-related activities from \$4bn to \$6bn over the coming year. The danger is now clear to everyone. The Rome and G8 meetings need a clear plan to overcome it."⁵⁰ (May 30, 2008, *Financial Times*)

The G8 are considering asking food exporting countries to refrain from restricting **outflows**. However, it is not clear whether their request will be accepted, given that the fight against **inflation** is one of the top priorities of food exporting countries.⁵¹ (May 15, 2008, *Nikkei Report*)

⁵⁰ *Financial Times* (May 30, 2008), "A 10-point plan for the food crisis."

⁵¹ *Nikkei Report* (May 15, 2008), "China To Take More Steps to Stem Rice Exports As Prices Soar."

The Japanese government is considering Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's participation at a summit-level meeting of the **Food and Agriculture Organization** slated for early June in Rome, Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said. "Japan is the chair country of the Group of Eight summit, and it would be very meaningful if the prime minister can attend" the meeting organized by the UN group, Machimura said. In April, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said the United Nations will upgrade the FAO meeting on June 3-5 to an **emergency summit** to discuss ways to tackle the **global food crisis** and try to come up with measures to counter the effects of soaring food prices that are seriously affecting developing countries.⁵² (May 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

With a global food shortage and rising prices, the Japanese government has indicated that the G8 summit will focus on assistance to combat such problems. At the summit, Japan will call on participants to refrain from restricting food exports because restrictions by food exporters could lead to a further rise in food prices, this measure is expected to have an effect in keeping prices down.⁵³ (April 28, 2008, *Asia in Focus*)

Japan has included the current global leap in food prices in a draft agenda for the G8 summit, according to a senior Japanese government source. Fukuda has had letters sent to the UN secretary general and the World Bank president on April 18 asking them to state their positions on the issue at the summit.⁵⁴ (April 25, 2008, *Russia & CIS Business and Financial*)

The Japanese government has decided to take up the issue of **global food price rises** at the G8 summit. Japan hopes to share a sense of crisis over the food price rises, which are seen hitting hardest poor people in developing countries. The G8 countries are likely to discuss short- to long-term measures such as emergency aid programs and boosting food production. The prices of wheat, corn and rice have shot up due to soaring demand from emerging economies such as China and India, together with the increasing use of such crops to produce **biofuels**. The higher prices are expected to worsen poverty in the sub-Saharan region. The Japanese government believes the food issue is closely linked to other key agenda items at the G8 summit, such as aid to Africa and the fight against global warming.⁵⁵ (April 11, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

⁵² *Kyodo News* (May 14, 2008), "Japan mulling Fukuda's participation in U.N. food summit in Rome."

⁵³ *Asia in Focus* (April 28, 2008), "Japan to use G8 to pressure nations not to limit food exports."

⁵⁴ *Russia CIS Business and Financial* (April 25, 2008), "Japan seeking to put food crisis on G8 summit agenda."

⁵⁵ *Jiji Press English News Service* (April 11, 2008), "Japan to Take Up Global Food Price Rises at G-8 Summit."

Environment

3Rs

Biodiversity

Development and Africa

The Japanese government has promised to rally its G8 partners, due to meet in July, to honour their pledges to Africa and play a more pro-active role in speeding up **development**.⁵⁶ (May 30, 2008, *All Africa*)

Fukuda vowed to raise Africa at the G8 summit. “I’ll make my utmost efforts to answer this expectation of the participants,” he said. Japan pledged at the TICAD summit in Yokohama to double its aid to Africa and to encourage businesses to double their investment in five years. The declaration of the summit also called for urgent action to ramp up **food production** to alleviate a crisis of spiralling prices. Japan has pledged to focus on **global health, poverty** and **global warming** at the summit of the G8.⁵⁷ (May 30, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 leaders will discuss the Yokohama Declaration, a **five-year plan** made at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, at the upcoming summit.⁵⁸ (May 29, *All Africa*)

Health

The G8 are discussing setting **numerical targets** to tackle the world’s shortage of **health workers**, especially in Africa and Asia, by meeting the **World Health Organization’s** minimum threshold. Japan is particularly pushing for G8 cooperation to promote universal access to **reproductive health services and increased birth attendance by skilled attendants in Africa to 75% in five years** to drive forwards the UN MDGs. The G8 are also considering including in a set of guidelines **the WHO goal of having at least 4.1 health service providers and support workers per 1,000 population**, including 2.3 health workers-doctors, nurses and midwives-per 1,000 population, by 2015. While not planning to make any new commitments, the G8 are likely to **mention the WHO figures as targets for strengthening their financial and other support to train and retrain health workers**. A draft document stresses the urgency for international cooperation while calling for **a better mechanism to deliver aid** as this year marks the midpoint of the MDGs. It also stressed the importance of **a multi-sectoral approach in dealing with the health issue which is interrelated with other development goals such as**

⁵⁶ *All Africa* (May 30, 2008), “World Bank Urges Continent to Take Advantage of High Food Prices.”

⁵⁷ *Agence France Presse* (May 30, 2008), “African Union chief hopes for boost at G8.”

⁵⁸ *All Africa* (May 29, 2008), “Museveni Woos Japanese Investors.”

eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal access to primary education and securing environmental sustainability. The G8 sherpas are also discussing setting up a ‘follow-up mechanism,’ such as having **an annual report to ensure accountability.** An appendix to the draft guidelines lists existing G-8 commitments to support the global fight against infectious diseases and tackle other health-related issues.⁵⁹ (June 22, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Japan announced that it had pledged **\$560 million to the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.** Prime Minister Fukuda said the funds will be allocated “in the coming years” from 2009, but he did not specify over how many years the aid will be disbursed. A foreign ministry official said that the pledge aims to “demonstrate Japan’s diplomatic efforts to help Africa” as Japan prepared to host TICAD and the G8.⁶⁰ (May 23, 2008, *All Africa*)

Water

Education

Peacekeeping

Fukuda will propose beefing up the G8’s support for international **peace-building activities** at the G8 summit in July. Assistance measures, such as stepped-up training programs for UN peacekeepers and financial aid, will be included in a G8 leader’s document. The G8 nations are set to agree on plans to carry out more training of UN peacekeepers in cooperation with the African Union and to provide more financial assistance for training programs. The G8 document is expected to refer to Japan’s past assistance measures, including its **financial aid** to a facility to train peacekeepers which was set up by such countries as Ghana and Rwanda with the help of the UN.⁶¹ (May 15, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

Millennium Development Goals

Intellectual Property

Sudan

Resource-poor Japan wants to play a higher-profile role in the Sudan, resource-rich region ahead of the G8 summit on the northern island of Hokkaido in July. Earlier this

⁵⁹ *Kyodo News* (June 22, 2008), “G-8 summit eyes targets to tackle global shortage of health workers.”

⁶⁰ *All Africa* (May 23, 2008), “Daily HIV/Aids Report.”

⁶¹ *Jiji Press English News Service* (May 15, 2008), “Japan to Propose G-8 Support for Int’l Peace-Building.”

month Japan pledged to extend \$200 million in aid for Sudan in the next four years.⁶² (May 30, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Japan wants to show a positive attitude toward peace-building in Sudan.⁶³ (May 16, 2008, *The International Herald Tribune*)

Outreach

Non-Proliferation

Iran rejected a Japanese request to comply with UN calls to cease uranium enrichment. "If Iran continues to be isolated, Iran loses the most," said Kasuo Kodama.⁶⁴ (June 3, 2008, *Associated Press Newswires*)

The Japanese government has indicated that it will lead discussions on tackling the **North Korean** and **Iranian** nuclear standoffs and strengthen the non-proliferation **framework** at the G8 summit, according to Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura. On **North Korea**, the Japanese have noted that "the path towards realizing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula remains long" and that their nuclear testing causes "serious threats" to East Asia and the world. On **Iran**, the Japanese noted that it is "extremely regrettable" that Iran continues to pursue uranium enrichment. The Japanese government has also indicated that they will push to encourage Iran to stop cooperating with North Korea on nuclear activities.⁶⁵ (April 1, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Political Issues

Afghanistan

The outcome of the international ministerial conference on **assistance to Afghanistan** in Paris will be a part of the G8's discussion when they meet in Toyako in July.⁶⁶ (June 12, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

"Afghanistan is especially a matter of international concern and is expected to become a topic for international discussion at the G8 summit. In addition, more than 40 countries

⁶² *Reuters News* (May 30, 2008), "Sudan says to study Japan's offer to send troops."

⁶³ *The International Herald Tribune* (May 16, 2008), "Despite safety concerns, Japan plans to show it is actively engaged in addressing African problems by dispatching a fact-finding team to Sudan for a possible Self-Defense Forces' peacekeeping mission, sources said Thursday."

⁶⁴ *Associated Press Newswires* (June 3, 2008), "Japan Says Iran president rejects uranium request on sidelines of U.N. summit."

⁶⁵ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (April 1, 2008), "Japan to lead discussions on North Korea, Iran nuclear issue at July's G8."

⁶⁶ *Kyodo News* (June 12, 2008), "Afghan conference starts in Paris, Japan to pledge \$550 mil. aid."

have sent troops there,” Nobutaka Machimura said.⁶⁷ (June 5, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Japan’s foreign minister told U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that they plan to discuss **aid to Afghanistan** at the G8. Japan will call on the international community to strengthen efforts to help rebuild the war-torn country, the foreign ministry said.⁶⁸ (May 22, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Kosovo

Trade

The new chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, Victor Fung of Hong Kong met with prime minister Fukuda to discuss to the **Doha trade round**. Fung expressed two major concerns ahead of the G8 summit: one, that the global multilateral trade system is currently under great pressure from high oil prices and the U.S. subprime crisis fallout, which could cause serious consequences for the poorer nations if the multilateral trade system vanishes. Fung said 99% of the Doha Round talks had resulted in an agreement, but according to World Trade Organization tradition, an agreement has to be 100% to be effective. He urged world leaders to show political courage to resolve the remaining problems.⁶⁹ (June 23, 2008, *NewsTrak Daily*)

The G8 countries will discuss the **Doha Development Agenda** at the July summit.⁷⁰ (May 30, 2008, *Financial Times*)

Outreach and Expansion

Outreach

China’s president Hu Jintao has confirmed that he will take part in the 2008 G8 summit.⁷¹ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

A **special meeting** has been set aside at the G8 leaders’ summit in July to discuss the issues that are most import to the **O5 countries**. These will include food security, high oil prices and the parlous state of the global economy. The O5 sherpas are to begin their meetings again soon. During a recent meeting in Beijing between top official of the O5 countries [India was represented by foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon], it was clear that the O5 will go along with the G8 agenda. There had been earlier rumblings among

⁶⁷ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 5, 2008), “Japan mulls sending team to explore Afghanistan force deployment.”

⁶⁸ *Agence France Presse* (May 22, 2008), “Japan FM tells Rice G8 to discuss Afghan aid.”

⁶⁹ *NewsTrak Daily* (June 23, 2008), “Fung stressed Doha Round importance.”

⁷⁰ *Financial Times* (May 30, 2008), “Business leader hits out at protectionism.”

⁷¹ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), “China’s Hu confirms attendance at G8 summit: Japan.”

the O5 that the G8 format was making their presence little more than tokenism, because while the G8 met for a day and a half, their meeting with the O5 was confined to a couple of hours. And the O5 had not been given any say in drafting the G8 resolution which annoyed the emerging powers. There has been no more talk of not showing up for the G8, however. Issues like the **sub-prime crisis** and the consequent lack of **regulation of the international financial system**, as well as **development** issues like Africa will be discussed. “We need a new global compact between the developed and the developing countries, between the land surplus and labour surplus economies, between food exporters and food importers, to stabilize **global food prices**,” Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said.⁷² (May 20, 2008, *The Times of India*)

President **Hu Jintao** could visit Japan again in July after Beijing said it would “seriously consider” Tokyo’s invitation to him to attend the G8 summit in Hokkaido. For its part, Beijing has invited Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda to attend the seventh Asia-Europe Summit in October. CNS reported the Japanese side would seriously consider the invitation.⁷³ (May 10, 2008, *South China Morning Post*)

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will be invited to a G8 summit to discuss the world **food and energy crisis**, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said.⁷⁴ (April 16, 2008, *Asia Pulse*)

Expansion

Japanese prime minister Fukuda continued to show a cautious stance when French president Sarkozy proposed **increasing the membership** of the G8. Fukuda reiterated that the G8 is a place for candid exchanges of views among a small number of leaders. But he also said that it is important for the G8 to hold dialogue with representatives of emerging economies in order to tackle global issues.⁷⁵ (June 3, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

Additional Participants

Egyptian president Mohamed Hosni Mubarek said he will be unable to take part in the outreach session of the G8 summit due to parliamentary commitments.⁷⁶ (June 4, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

⁷² *The Times of India* (May 20, 2008), “G5 gets its say, G8 to discuss its wishlist.”

⁷³ *South China Morning Post* (May 10, 2008), “Education G8 Summit invitation leads to possibility of return visit in July.”

⁷⁴ *Asia Pulse* (April 16, 2008), “Indonesian President to be Invited to the G-8 Summit in Hokkaido.”

⁷⁵ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 3, 2008), “French Pres. Sarkozy Proposes Expanding Summit.”

⁷⁶ *Kyodo News* (June 4, 2008), “Fukuda, Mubarak agree to continue helping poor African nations.”

Program

July 7 is the day of Japan's traditional 'tanabata' star festival. Therefore, Japan is prepared to have the G8 leaders write down their wishes on a strip of paper and display them on bamboo branches as many people in Japan do on the day. A local group will also likely perform for the G8 leaders.⁷⁷ (June 6, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

The 2008 G8 summit will take place July 7-July 9, 2008. The prospective program for the summit is as follows:

Day One-July 7, 2008: Meeting of G8 members and African Nations.
Discussions will focus on African Development including food security, water, health and education.
Additional Participants include Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and the African Union.

Day Two-July 8, 2008: Meeting of G8 members only.
Discussions will likely include world economy, climate change, development and other political issues such as political security and non-proliferation.

Day Three-July 9, 2008: Meeting of G8 members and O5 members plus South Korea, Indonesia and Australia.
Discussions will focus on climate change.

Leaders of major emitters of greenhouse gases will join those of the G8 countries to discuss climate change on the final day of the G8 summit in Japan. The first day of the three-day meeting will focus on issues related to development in Africa. Representatives from South Africa, Nigeria and six other African nations will meet with G8 leaders to discuss a number of issues including the UN Millennium goals on poverty eradication and how to provide effective assistance to Africa. On the second day, G-8 leaders will discuss climate change, the global economy and regional issues. On the third day, the G8 countries plus five emerging economies-China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa-will be joined by the leaders of Australia, Indonesia and South Korea to discuss ways to fight climate change.⁷⁸ (April 22, 2008, *Daily Yomiuri*)

Communiqué

⁷⁷ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 6, 2008), "Japan announces G-8 summit schedule."

⁷⁸ *Daily Yomiuri* (April 22, 2008), "G-8 schedule released; meetings to include emerging economies heads."

Process: The Physical Summit

Site

Some creative thinking has resulted in innovations being adopted to make the surroundings of the G8 summit eco-friendly. In an indirect way, the electricity for the summit will come from solar power. There is also hope that a gas-hydrogen blend vehicle will be ready to show off at the summit.⁷⁹ (June 23, 2008, *Nikkei Weekly*)

The Petroleum Association of Japan will sell **biogasoline** in Toyako during the G8 summit.⁸⁰ (June 23, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

Government Preparations: External

Bilateral Meetings

Japan will host a ministerial meeting with **Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan** on July 2 to discuss a Japan-proposed initiative for an **agro-industrial park** in the West Bank. Bilaterals will also be held with **U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice** and **Australian foreign minister Stephen Smith** on June 27.⁸¹ (June 20, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Japan's foreign minister is planning to hold a four-way meeting with **Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan** ahead of the G8 summit.⁸² (June 16, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The foreign ministers from **China, Japan and South Korea** are scheduled to hold a trilateral meeting. The discussion will focus on North Korea's nuclear programme, trade and regional issues, such as Tibet. "This diplomatic triangle can send a message that 'Asia is united'" to the world ahead of the G8 summit, one Japanese scholar said.⁸³ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Japanese prime minister Fukuda will have **met with all of his G8 counterparts** except for Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper at the end of the FAO summit in Rome.⁸⁴ (June 2, 2008, *The International Herald Tribune*)

⁷⁹ *Nikkei Weekly* (June 23, 2008), "Summit spotlights green tech."

⁸⁰ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 23, 2008), "Biogasoline to Be Sold in Northern Japan during G-8 Summit."

⁸¹ *Kyodo News* (June 20, 2008), "Japan to hold ministers' meet with Israel, Palestinians, Jordan."

⁸² *Agence France Presse* (June 16, 2008), "Japan says to hold Mideast talks ahead of G8 summit."

⁸³ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), "Japan, China, South Korea foreign ministers hold rare joint talks."

⁸⁴ *The International Herald Tribune* (June 2, 2008), "Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, fresh from hosting an international conference on helping Africa, will call for stepping up research and development on biofuels not derived from grains at a U.N. meeting on food security in Rome, sources said."

Fukuda is also planning to meet with **Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak** on the sidelines of the FAO summit in Rome.⁸⁵ (June 1, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Fukuda met with German chancellor **Merkel** on June 1 to discuss rising food and fuel prices and climate change.⁸⁶ (June 1, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

Japanese prime minister Fukuda is planning to meet with **British prime minister Gordon Brown** on June 2 where they will talk about climate change and inflation.⁸⁷ (June 1, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Fukuda is planning meetings with **Merkel, Brown, Sarkozy** and **Berlusconi** around the time of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) summit taking place June 3 to 5 in Rome. He will likely go to Berlin to meet Merkel, London to meet Brown and Rome to meet Sarkozy and Berlusconi who will both be attending the FAO summit. The trip is apparently aimed at laying the groundwork for the G8 summit in July. Fukuda hopes to win understanding of Japan's proposals on **climate change** issues by holding direct talks with the leaders. Chief cabinet secretary Nobutaka Machimura said that it would be "meaningful" to meet the leaders even if the G8 summit is only a month away.⁸⁸ (May 21, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd is planning on meeting with Japanese prime minister Fukuda for their first bilateral summit in June, as well as during the G8 summit in July.⁸⁹ (May 15, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The Japanese government is considering Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's participation at a summit-level meeting of the **Food and Agriculture Organization** slated for early June in Rome, Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said. The top government spokesman expressed hope that such a trip by Fukuda would also provide opportunities for the Japanese leader to **meet with counterparts from other countries** before hosting the G8 summit in July. Fukuda was considering traveling in early May to some G8 member states in Europe to prepare for the July summit, but had to give up the idea due to parliamentary commitments at home. French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have expressed their intention to attend the meeting, according to UN officials.⁹⁰ (May 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

President **Hu Jintao** visited Japan and the two countries discussed a number of relevant topics including climate change and energy. President Hu Jintao has said he will "seriously consider" attending the G8 summit in Japan this July.⁹¹ (May 8, 2008, *China Daily*)

⁸⁵ *Agence France Presse* (June 1, 2008), "Japan PM leaves for Europe for talks on food crisis."

⁸⁶ *Xinhua News Agency* (June 1, 2008), "Japan, Germany express concerns on food, climate change."

⁸⁷ *Reuters News* (June 1, 2008), "Troubled Japan PM shares woes with UK's Brown."

⁸⁸ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (May 21, 2008), "Japanese PM plans to visit Germany, Britain in early June."

⁸⁹ *Kyodo News* (May 15, 2008), "Fukuda, Rudd agree to prevent discord on whaling from harming ties."

⁹⁰ *Kyodo News* (May 14, 2008), "Japan mulling Fukuda's participation in U.N. food summit in Rome."

⁹¹ *China Daily* (May 8, 2008), "Fruitful Season for Bilateral Relations."

Prime Minister Fukuda visited **Russia** on April 25 and 26. His meetings with President Vladimir Putin and President-elect Dmitri Medvedev included discussions on economic cooperation, preparations for the G8 summit and the Northern Territories disputes.⁹² (April 30, 2008, *WPS*)

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda is planning on heading to Russia on a tour of G8 member countries ahead of the summit in July.⁹³ (April 10, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Sherpa Meetings

Other

Russia and **Japan** are in the final stages of preparing an intergovernmental agreement on the peaceful use of the atom, which is to be signed on the sidelines of the G8 summit in July. The document will broaden cooperation in the **nuclear energy sector**. It includes uranium output, increasing supplies of low-enriched uranium, the establishment in Russia of joint ventures for production of equipment for nuclear power engineering, and cooperation in the construction of nuclear power plants in other countries. The signing of the agreement will open access to Japanese technologies of nuclear power plant construction. Japan already has similar agreements with Australia, Britain, Canada, China, the U.S. and France. It is also planning to sign ones with Kazakhstan.⁹⁴ (June 23, 2008, *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News*)

The Japanese government is planning to send prime minister Fukuda's special envoy to **India** next week for talks on climate change.⁹⁵ (May 21, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Government Preparations: Internal

Election

Prime minister Fukuda and his party suffered another blow after the southern island of Okinawa held its **elections**. Fukuda's LDP-led coalition won only 22 seats, which is down from the 27. The opposition increased its strength from 20 to 26 seats. The opposition has threatened to use its power in the upper house to pass a censure motion against Fukuda's government. But Fukuda has already said he will ignore the motion,

⁹² *WPS: Defense & Security* (April 30, 2008), "Russia knows what Japan is interested in: Japan and Russia Focusing on Trade Relations Rather than Islands Dispute."

⁹³ *Agence France Presse* (April 10, 2008), "Japan minister to head to Russia for island talks: official."

⁹⁴ *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies* (June 23, 2008), "Russia, Japan preparing uranium agreement."

⁹⁵ *Dow Jones International News* (May 21, 2008), "Japan To Send Envoy To India For Climate Change Talks-Kyodo."

which is non-binding. He has said he does not want political instability before the G8 summit.⁹⁶ (June 8, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to call the next lower house **election** for September-November 2008, after Japan hosts the G8 summit in July.⁹⁷ (May 6, 2008, *Economist Intelligence Unit*)

Prime Minister Fukuda's ruling Liberal Democratic Party lost a recent by-**election**. The loss as well as some unpopular policies being put forth by the party is bringing Fukuda's leadership into question once again. Certain individuals are uncertain whether or not Fukuda will even be around to host the July G8 summit.⁹⁸ (April 28, 2008, *The Australian*)

Calls to replace Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda are emerging from his own party. In a by-**election** seen widely as a reflection on Fukuda and his administration, the Prime Minister's Liberal Democratic Party was defeated. Analysts have suggested, however, that Fukuda will "hang on" at least until the G8 summit in July.⁹⁹ (April 28, 2008, *Reuters*)

Other

The regular **Diet session** has ended.¹⁰⁰ (June 21, 2008, *Daily Yomiuri*)

Japan's parliament is preparing to end centuries of discrimination by recognising the **Ainu people of northern Japan as indigenous**. Japan's courts acknowledged the Ainu's indigenous status a decade ago, but Japanese politicians have dragged their feet. But with next month's G8 summit in Hokkaido fast approaching, the issue of recognition has regained momentum.¹⁰¹ (June 1, 2008, *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*)

Prime minister Fukuda's LDP party is now plumbing record-breaking depths. At the end of April, the LDP lost an important by-election to the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan. **Government approval** sank as low as **20%**, the lowest since Japanese opinion polls began, and fully 10 points lower than the 30 per cent rating that was enough to force Abe from office. Having changed leaders twice, each time for the worse, the Japanese government seems to have run out of options. This parliament still has another 16 months to run, until September next year, and the opposition, in predictably high spirits, is demanding an early election.¹⁰² (June 1, 2008, *Independent on Sunday*)

⁹⁶ *Agence France Presse* (June 8, 2008), "Defeat in Okinawa vote new blow to Japan's Fukuda."

⁹⁷ *Economist Intelligence Unit* (May 6, 2008), "Japan: Key developments."

⁹⁸ *The Australian* (April 28, 2008), "World Fukuda under the pump over LDP's pledge on petrol tax."

⁹⁹ *Reuters* (April 28, 2008), "Beleaguered Japan PM in pinch after by-election loss."

¹⁰⁰ *Daily Yomiuri* (June 21, 2008), "Diet closes ahead of G-8 meet."

¹⁰¹ *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (June 1, 2008), "Japan to officially recognise Ainu as indigenous."

¹⁰² *Independent on Sunday* (June 1, 2008), "Gordon Brown's Japanese lesson."

Fukuda, facing slumping **approval ratings**, is hoping to use the G8 summit to boost Japan's diplomatic clout and spotlight its efforts to help tackle global warming and food shortages in some developing countries.¹⁰³ (May 22, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Cost

Security

Japan will impose a **no-fly zone** with a radius of 46 kilometers around the Windsor hotel Toya. The no-fly zone will be imposed from July 6 to 9. It will be restricted to aircraft transporting summit participants and other officials as well as Japan's Self-Defense Forces and police helicopters involved in maintaining security. The no-fly zone radius should provide people sufficient time for the evacuation of people inside the hotel if a suspicious aircraft is spotted near the area.¹⁰⁴ (June 10, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The Japanese government will take all possible measures to prevent terrorist attacks ahead of its hosting in July of the G8 summit in Hokkaido, Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said. Machimura's remarks were in response to a question on how Japan plans to deal with the development in which al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader hinted in an audiotape posting on websites used by Islamic militants that Japan could be a target of an attack. "I have heard that there was such a posting on websites. It is nothing new as there were similar postings before, so I believe it is not something to be so surprised about," the top government spokesman said. He said some of the steps Japan is taking to prevent possible attacks are to make sure immigration controls are conducted properly, clamp down on people staying illegally in Japan, keep watch on major infrastructure and take part in international exchanges of information and other such cooperative measures. "I believe we must expend all possible means to take measures in these areas ahead of the Toyako summit," Machimura said. Ayman Al-Zawahri, deputy of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, vowed to punish Western countries that had participated in the Iraq war, hinting that Japan could be a target of an attack in responding to questions received from *Kyodo News* and others on the websites.¹⁰⁵ (April 22, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The Metropolitan Police Department is busily preparing to dispatch more than 1,000 riot police officers to Hokkaido, where this year's G8 summit is scheduled to be held. In addition to summit facilities, important locations in Tokyo also might be targeted by international terrorists, radical antiglobalization movements and other such groups—something that Japan has never before experienced. The Metropolitan Police Department is stepping up its efforts to ensure security, such as asking for cooperation from local residents and former riot police officers. This is the first time the MPD has asked for residents' cooperation with regard to security operations. In the Shinjuku and Ikebukuro districts of Tokyo, residents associations and shop owners unions have formed organizations, boasting more than 3,000 members, to be on the alert for suspicious

¹⁰³ *Agence France Presse* (May 22, 2008), "Japan PM to visit Europe for talks on food crisis: govt."

¹⁰⁴ *Kyodo News* (June 10, 2008), "Japan to impose no-fly zone over G-8 summit venue."

¹⁰⁵ *Kyodo News* (April 22, 2008), "Japan to take measures to prevent terrorism ahead of G-8: Machimura."

persons or objects around train stations and important facilities. “We can’t prevent terrorist actions unless we create a network across the whole of society to help nip such actions in the bud,” one senior MPD official said. Similar organizations had been launched within the jurisdiction of 19 police stations as of the end of March. By July, it is expected that such organizations will exist within the jurisdiction of about 96 police stations, excepting islands belonging to Tokyo. About half the nation’s 3,000 MPD riot police will be dispatched to the G8 summit venue. As security in Tokyo could potentially be weakened as a result, temporary riot police teams, mainly comprising young police officers who usually work at koban police boxes, will be established.¹⁰⁶ (April 15, 2008, *Daily Yomiuri*)

Media

Major news agencies from the G8 renewed their resolve to redouble their efforts to deal with various challenges such as how to make better inroads into areas such as online news in the face of continuing sluggish sales of newspapers.¹⁰⁷ (June 18, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Hokkaido Broadcasting Company launched its English website to provide G8 summit related news videos and archives that have been produced since spring 2007. Currently, the site contains over 60 news videos with English subtitles that cover all aspects of the summit.¹⁰⁸ (June 12, 2008, *PR Newswire Europe*)

Name

¹⁰⁶ *Daily Yomiuri* (April 15, 2008), “MPD steps up security for G-8 summit.”

¹⁰⁷ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 18, 2008), “Major G8 news agencies meet in Japan, resolve to boost business.”

¹⁰⁸ *PR Newswire Europe* (June 12, 2008), “Hokkaido Broadcasting Co. Launches Its G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008.”

Ministerial Meetings

Overall

Representatives from the Japanese government released the following information on ministerial meetings to journalists covering the Heiligendamm summit:

- Tokyo International Conference on African Development, May 28-30, Yokohama
- Science & Technology: June 15, Okinawa
- G20-Gleneagles Dialogue: March 14-16, Chiba
- Development: April 5-6, Tokyo
- Labour: May 11-13, Niigata
- Environment: May 24-26, Kobe
- Justice and Home Affairs: June 11-13, Tokyo
- Energy: June 7-8, Amori
- Finance Ministers: February 9, Tokyo, April 5-6 and June 13-14, Osaka
- Foreign Ministers: June 26-27, Kyoto
- Summit: July 7-9, Toyako, Hokkaido¹⁰⁹

Finance

June 2008

The G8 finance ministers did not discuss action to help the plunging **U.S. dollar**. **Currencies** were not mentioned in the finance ministers' statement. The statement focused on the threat posed by surging **commodity prices**. "The world economy continues to face uncertainty and downside risks persist," the statement said. "Elevated commodity prices, especially of oil and food, pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable and may increase global inflationary pressures." Oil has doubled in price since the G8 finance ministers met in Germany a year ago. Food prices are 50% higher. While financial markets have 'improved somewhat in the past few months, the ministers said problems persist in money and credit markets.¹¹⁰ (June 16, 2008, *Globe and Mail*)

The G8 finance minister pledged to help **developing countries** tackle **climate change**. "Climate change is one of the most urgent issues for the world to tackle," the G8 finance ministers said in their action plan on climate change. "We are convinced that urgent and concerted action is needed and accept our responsibility to show leadership in tackling

¹⁰⁹ *Japanese Government* (2007), "The Japan G8 Presidency in 2008: Locations of Ministers Meetings," Available in the G8 Information Centre archives.

¹¹⁰ *Globe and Mail* (June 16, 2008), "G8 resists expectations to prop up U.S. dollar: While weak greenback fuels U.S. inflation, hurts Canadian, European exports, there's a reluctance 'to interfere with a market currency.'"

climate change,” the ministers said. “Developing countries will both influence the scale of climate change and will be affected by it” and “the poorest countries tend to have the least resilience to climate variability and change.” “Market mechanism, including emission trading, tax incentives, performance-based regulation, fees or taxes and consumer labelling are key to addressing climate change, as well as enhancing energy security and efficiency,” the action plan said.¹¹¹ (June 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 finance ministers vowed to **assist Africa** in luring private investment to support the recent booming growth of the resource-rich continent and to avert the threat posed to steep rises in food and energy prices. “To maintain the favourable momentum of high growth and to stem unfavourable headwinds, fostering private-sector led growth supported by a sound policy framework is indispensable,” the ministers’ said in an action plan for Africa.¹¹² (June 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The IMF is going to investigate the surge in **crude oil** after the G8 finance ministers asked it to. The ministers asked the **IMF** and **IEA** to investigate the ‘real and financial factors behind the recent surge in **oil prices and volatility**, and the effects on the global community.’¹¹³ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 finance ministers said they recognized the benefits of **government-controlled sovereign wealth funds**. Their statement said “we recognise the benefits of commercially-driven investment from government-controlled investors such as sovereign wealth funds,” encouraging them to work with the IMF to improve transparency.¹¹⁴ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

“Further declines in **housing prices** in the United States and greater strains in the the financial markets may adversely affect the global outlook,” the G8 ministers statement said. “Elevated **commodity prices**, especially oil and food, pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable, and may increase global **inflationary pressures**.” “These conditions make our policy choices more complicated.” “We will remain vigilant, and will continue to take appropriate actions, individually and collectively, in order to secure stability and growth in our economies,” the statement also said. The statement also mentioned rising **oil and food prices**. “Elevated oil prices fundamentally reflect rising world demand and supply constraints, but other elements such as geopolitical concerns and financial factors also play a role,” the statement said. The idea that the **weak dollar** may be contributing to increasing energy prices was not discussed, while **currencies** were discussed but not mentioned in the final statement. The ministers said there should be an increase in **food aid** to countries that are short of food and in the medium term, ministers asked **international organizations to increase food production**.¹¹⁵ (June 14, 2008, *AFX Asia*)

¹¹¹ *Kyodo News* (June 14, 2008), “G-8 pledges to assist developing nations in tackling climate change.”

¹¹² *Kyodo News* (June 14, 2008), “G-8 finance ministers vow to foster African growth by private investment.”

¹¹³ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), “IMF says will probe oil market, role of speculators.”

¹¹⁴ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), “G8 powers recognise benefits of sovereign wealth funds.”

¹¹⁵ *AFX Asia* (June 14, 2008), “G-8 minister say US housing, financial strains ‘may adversely affect’ world.”

“Passing on price signal to consumers for example by reducing **subsidies**, while giving targeted support to the poorest, is also important,” the G8 said in its joint statement. “We commend several **emerging market economies** for their recent moves in this direction and encourage further progress in this area.”¹¹⁶ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Finance ministers from the G8 called for an urgent boost to **global oil production** and a probe into the recent wild swings in energy prices, including the role of speculators. “We urge all [oil] producing countries to increase production and to invest to enhance refinery capacity,” they said in their joint statement. The G8 called for an investigation involving the IMF into the recent spike in **crude oil prices**. The ministers asked the **IMF** and **IEA** “to work together with appropriate national authorities in carrying out further analysis of real and financial factors behind the recent surge in oil prices and volatility, and the effects of the global economy.”¹¹⁷ (June 14, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 finance ministers are grappling with **rising crude oil prices** and a **global food crisis**. They discussed ways to limit the damage sparked by a doubling of food costs in three years and skyrocketing oil prices. “Elevated commodity prices, especially of oil and food pose serious challenges to a stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable and may increase global inflationary pressures,” a draft document said. “We will remain vigilant and will continue to take appropriate actions, individually and collectively, in order to secure stability and growth in our economies and globally.” The meeting also focused on the food crisis and climate change, including a proposed **fund for technology** to combat global warming.¹¹⁸ (June 14, 2008, *SBS World News Headline Stories*)

The G8 finance ministers held an **outreach meeting** with participants from Brazil, Australia, Thailand, China, South Korea and South Africa. They discussed soaring oil, food and other commodity prices as well as its impact on the world economy. The **European Union**, **IMF**, **Asian Development Bank**, **IEA**, **World Bank** and **FSF** also attended some of the discussions.¹¹⁹ (June 14, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

The G8 finance ministers will discuss long-term measures to tackle worldwide **inflationary pressure** that stems from surging fuel, food and commodity prices. The ministers will confer on macroeconomic policies to cope with the risks posed by continued instability in **world financial markets** as well as the **foreign exchange markets**. Issues such as measures to curb **global warming**, aids to **African development** and the adoption of **actions plans** will also be discussed.¹²⁰ (June 14, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

¹¹⁶ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), “G8 finance chiefs call for cut in energy subsidies: statement.”

¹¹⁷ *Agence France Presse* (June 14, 2008), “G8 finance chiefs call for oil output hike, IMF probe: statement.”

¹¹⁸ *SBS World News Headline Stories* (June 14, 2008), “G8 wrestles with oil, food crisis.”

¹¹⁹ *Xinhua News* (June 14, 2008), “G8 finance ministers holds outreach meeting on climate change.”

¹²⁰ *Xinhua News* (June 14, 2008), “G8 finance ministers start discussion on world economic outlook.”

“For a long time the world economy enjoyed a combination of robust growth and low inflation, but it now faces headwinds,” the G8 finance ministers draft said. “Elevated commodity prices, especially of **oil and food**, pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide... [and] may increase global inflationary pressures.”¹²¹ (June 13, 2008, *AFX UK Focus*)

The **IMF** emphasized the risk of global **inflation** in a report prepared for the G8 finance ministers.¹²² (June 12, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Proponents of a multi-billion dollar **climate fund** to clean up emissions in developing countries will push the idea at the finance ministers meeting. “The intent is to build support for it so I wouldn’t want to set a specific timeline for that,” U.S. treasury under secretary David McCormick said.¹²³ (June 10, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Currencies will not be on the formal agenda of the G8 finance minister meeting, according to the U.S. There will not be “a formal discussion of currency on the agenda or language in the statement” because central bankers do not attend the G8 meetings. However, the Americans were willing to admit that currencies were likely to be discussed “in some form or fashion” in the meetings.¹²⁴ (June 10, 2008, *Dow Jones Chinese Financial Wire*)

The G8 finance minister may have to take on **currency traders** at their June meeting, something they have not done in years. The ministers will also discuss the surge in **food prices, climate change**, the **credit crisis** and the **state of the economy**. Several ministers indicated that **currencies** would not be on the official agenda but that they would be discussed. An information approach to **exchange rates** this weekend would be in keeping with the meeting’s tradition.

G8 finance minister plan to create a **rapid reaction food fund** in support of the poorest countries of the world. The ministers will be looking at the world financial crisis and the measure their countries should take to respond to such critical situations. They will pay special attention to **food price hikes** and their effects on the poorest countries.¹²⁵ (June 9, 2008, *ITAR-TASS World Service*)

IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn will attend the June G8 finance ministers meeting.¹²⁶ (June 9, 2008, *Reuters News*)

G8 finance ministers will discuss various issues concerning the functioning of the global **economy during a crisis**, as well as steps to prevent such a crisis from arising. They are expected to discuss the consequences of **food price** growth for the world’s poorest

¹²¹ *AFX UK Focus* (June 13, 2008), “G8 draft: commodity prices pose serious challenge.”

¹²² *Reuters News* (June 12, 2008), “IMF report to G8 says inflation risks higher-source.”

¹²³ *Reuters News* (June 10, 2008), “G8 finance chiefs to boost global technology fund.”

¹²⁴ *Dow Jones Chinese Financial Wire* (June 10, 2008), “DJ Tsy McCormick: Won’t Be Formal Discussion Of Currencies At G8.”

¹²⁵ *ITAR-TASS World Service* (June 9, 2008), “G8 finance ministers to set up food fund for poor countries-Kudrin.”

¹²⁶ *Reuters News* (June 9, 2008), “IMF outlook on U.S. economy remains bleak.”

countries. The parties will consider the creation of a fund providing aid to the poorest countries, as well as a mechanism that would alleviate the crisis in such countries. The ministers are also expected to discuss the establishment of a **fund for biofuel research**, as well as providing the poorest countries with **medical aid** and **modern drugs**.¹²⁷ (June 9, 2008, *Ros Business Consulting*)

Currencies could figure prominently on the G8 finance ministers agenda at their upcoming meeting in Osaka.¹²⁸ (June 8, 2008, *Reuters News*)

The G8 finance ministers will look at ways of increasing the global **oil supply** when they meet on the 13 and 14. **Fuel subsidies** will not be an option however. Canada and the U.S. are among those opposing subsidies, arguing that the best way to lower prices is to let market forces work. That means allowing the higher prices to curb demand. The other side of the equation is production. The G8 finance ministers should take a **longer-term** view of problems in the energy market, said Angel Gurría, who heads the Paris-based OECD. “This is not a flare-up,” he said. “This is not a spike.” Policy makers should centre their discussions around the boosting of energy in general and not just oil, he said, urging more investment in **deep-sea oil** exploration and more of a focus on **nuclear power** and on **carbon sequestration**. G8 finance ministers will tackle **food prices** at a dinner on June 13 that will include ministers from Australia, Thailand, South Korea and Brazil. Those countries will also take part in a discussion about the environment and climate change on the 14th. The G8 ministers will then turn to the state of the global economy, which will include an assessment of credit markets. The G8 countries are concerned that recent spikes in the price of oil suggest the market is being affected by speculators.¹²⁹ (June 10, 2008, *Globe and Mail*)

Japanese finance minister Nukaga who will host the upcoming G8 finance minister meeting has said “The world economy faces a very uncertain outlook and a very difficult period ahead.” U.S. house prices are still falling, securitised products are marked down to very low prices and short-term spreads remain high, suggesting that markets have not yet normalised.¹³⁰ (June 5, 2008, *Financial Times*)

A proposed **clean technology fund** is expected to be a main part of the G8 finance ministers June discussions. “We are aiming, along with our donor partners in the G8 and beyond, at a global effort of up to \$10 billion over the next three years with the U.S. as the lead donor,” David McCormick said.¹³¹ (June 5, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

“Fiscal and financial authorities of each economy must brace themselves for a situation in which a rise in **inflationary** expectation makes macroeconomic policy management more difficult,” said Japanese finance minister Fukushima Nukaga. The G8 finance ministers will discuss long-term measures to address the **oil prices** hikes, such as promoting

¹²⁷ *Ros Business Consulting* (June 9, 2008), “G8 Finance Ministers to discuss anti-crisis measures.”

¹²⁸ *Reuters News* (June 8, 2008), “Global Markets Weekahead-Dollar fate in focus before G8.”

¹²⁹ *Globe and Mail* (June 10, 2008), “Soaring oil spurs call for new supply/ Prices ‘not a spike,’ OECD head says.”

¹³⁰ *Financial Times* (June 5, 2008), “Global outlook ‘still uncertain.’”

¹³¹ *Kyodo News* (June 5, 2008), “Global green tech fund may reach \$10 billion, U.S. official says.”

energy-saving and efforts to develop alternative energy among oil-consuming countries, while urging oil-producing countries to boost production capacity and enhance transparency of the market. On food prices, Nukaga said “Developing countries should introduce ways to boost their agricultural production such as by improvement in their irrigation facilities.” He also pointed out the need to support international research institutions in their attempts to improve the quality of crops and raise agricultural productivity. The finance ministers will also discuss the establishment of a multilateral fund to help developing countries cope with global warming. “To tackle **climate change**, huge amounts of funds from both developed and developing countries are necessary. Not only from the public sector but also private-sector funds will be needed to realize a low-carbon society.” There will also be a focus on boosting **African development**. “Specifically, we should focus on cross-regional infrastructure building, setting up systems to facilitate investment and establishing local financial and capital markets” in Africa, Nukaga said.¹³² (June 4, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

China and **India** are expected to skip an outreach session of the G8 finance ministers’ meeting for unknown reasons despite an invitation from Japan. Japan plans to take up issues such as the impacts of the soaring food and crude oil prices on the global economy and measures to fight climate change. So far **Australia**, **South Korea** and **Thailand** are certain to join the outreach session along with representatives from international organizations such as the **IMF**. Japan is also asking **Indonesia** and **other Asian countries** as well as **Latin American nations** to participate.¹³³ (June 4, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

At the G8 finance ministers meeting, nations will discuss ways to try and rein in soaring **oil and food prices** when they meet, Japan’s finance minister said. But with growing demand, supply uncertainties and investment inflows all driving commodity prices higher, the ministers may not be able to come up with measures “to reduce them overnight,” Nukaga said. “It is important with regard to oil prices that consumer countries think about energy saving measures while producer countries can work to expand their production capabilities and raise market transparency.” “For the past four years, oil prices have shot up greatly so if the current level of prices is maintained for a long time then of course it is bound to have an impact on countries’ corporate earnings and personal spending,” he said. Nukaga also said that they would discuss the ongoing fallout from a **global credit squeeze** sparked by a housing slump. However, he indicated that it was still “too early to say” whether an end to recent turmoil in financial markets was in sight as the problems in the U.S. housing and credit markets had not yet been fully resolved.¹³⁴ (June 4, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 finance minister are likely going to announce a joint initiative to develop **bond markets** in Africa with the goal of spurring Africa’s economic growth by luring

¹³² *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 4, 2008), “Japanese finance minister says G8 Osaka meet to consider energy, food prices.” (June 4, 2008), “Japanese finance minister says G8 Osaka meet to consider energy, food prices.”

¹³³ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 4, 2008), “China, India to Skip G-8 Outreach Session Next Week.”

¹³⁴ *Agence France Presse* (June 4, 2008), “G7 to tackle soaring oil, food prices next week: Japan.”

investment to the resource-rich continent, government officials from a G8 country said Wednesday. The plan highlights wealthy countries' belief that private-sector investment can do more to propel African growth over the long term than government aid, and that steady economic expansion will help reduce poverty there. In addition to bond markets, the G8 finance heads are likely to unveil a plan to better develop the overall **African financial system** to make it easier for small African companies to get loans from banks, they said. Improving Africa's **transportation systems** and rule over land tenure will also be part of their efforts.¹³⁵ (June 3, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Australian Treasurer Swan will attend the G8 finance ministers meeting in Osaka on June 13-14. Japan's vice finance minister, Hiroki Tsuda, said G8 ministers will likely talk about the impact of **commodity price hikes**, notably oil and food prices, on the global economy and countermeasures.¹³⁶ (June 1, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Japanese vice finance minister Hiroki Tsuda said that the G8 finance ministers would discuss how to deal with the impact of **rising oil and food prices** at their gathering next month. "The global community is highly interested in rising oil and food prices," Tsuda told a news conference. "We will likely discuss how to respond to this." He added that the ministers would also discuss climate change and the global economy as a whole.¹³⁷ (May 29, 2008, *Reuters News*)

The G8 are set to endorse two **multilateral funds** designed to help developing countries curb global warming during their June meeting. Forty developing and industrialized countries agreed last week in their meeting in Potsdam to create the **Clean Technology Fund** and the **Strategic Climate Fund**. The funds will be launched at the G8 leaders' summit in July. Australia, France, Germany, Norway, Spain Sweden and the Netherlands will all provide funds. The technology fund will "accelerate investments in state-of-the-art technological solutions to help developing countries mitigate the rise in greenhouse gas emissions," according to the World Bank. The strategic fund will "Help more vulnerable countries adapt their development programs to the impacts of climate change while also addressing issues of forest management and access to green energy."¹³⁸ (May 27, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Naoyuki Shinohara, Japan's vice minister for international affairs, ministry of finance said that "Japan wholeheartedly welcomes the significant progress made towards the establishment of the **Climate Investment Fund** and is planning to take it up at the forthcoming G8 Finance Ministers meeting."¹³⁹ (May 23, 2008, *States News Service*)

At the G7 finance ministers meeting in June, there will be a follow-up session on the recommendations presented by the FSF in April. "The follow-up session will cover tasks

¹³⁵ *Dow Jones International News* (June 3, 2008), "G9 To Unveil Initiatives To Grow Africa Bond Mkts: Officials."

¹³⁶ *Dow Jones International News* (June 1, 2008), "Australia Treasurer To Attend G8 Mtg In Japan, Visit China, UK."

¹³⁷ *Reuters News* (May 29, 2008), "Japan Tsuda: G8 fin mins to discuss oil, food prices."

¹³⁸ *Kyodo News* (May 27, 2008), "G-8 set to endorse multilateral funds to tackle climate change."

¹³⁹ *States News Service* (May 23, 2008), "Developing and Donor Countries Agree to Common Vision for Climate Investment Funds."

that have to be urgently tackled, such as strengthening the regulatory framework for [financial institutions'] capital adequacy ratios, enhancing information disclosure, improving credit ratings and boosting authorities' crisis management capabilities," vice finance minister Hiroki Tsuda said. FSF Chairman Mario Draghi, who is governor of the Bank of Italy, will attend the follow-up session. Tsuda also said Japan's finance ministry and the IMF will jointly hold a symposium in Tokyo to examine the recent global financial market turbulence in the run-up to the G7 meeting in Osaka.¹⁴⁰ (May 19, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Japan's vice finance minister Hiroki Tsuda said that at their June meeting, the finance ministers are likely to discuss issues about the **global economy, development and environment**. "[Details] of the meeting have not yet been decided so it's difficult to tell [what will be discussed in the meeting] at this point," Tsuda said. "But I guess these [three issues] will be the main topics [of the meeting]." There will also be a progress update from the **FSF** on its economic report that was published in April.¹⁴¹ (May 19, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck won't attend the G8 finance ministers meeting in Osaka in June, a ministry spokesman said. Steinbrueck will stay in Berlin to oversee the 2009 budget talks, which are expected to end June 20, his spokesman Torsten Albig said. The G8 is scheduled to meet in Osaka June 13-14 and European Union finance ministers are scheduled to meet their Asian counterparts on Jeju Island, South Korea, June 15-16. Steinbrueck won't attend either meeting.¹⁴² (May 14, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

The G8 finance ministers are likely to explore ways to tackle rising food prices across the globe when they meet in Japan in June, according to Japan's finance minister. "We have to think about what we can do" to counter food shortages and inflation in the world, Japanese finance minister Nukaga said. "That should be one topic of discussion at the G8 meeting to be held in Osaka in June." Nukaga also commented on the role of biofuels. "I think we have to be more mindful of the fact that rising commodities prices are linked to attempts to turn food into fuels," he said.¹⁴³ (April 24, 2008, *Dow Jones*)

April 2008

Pressure to sell the dollar increased, in part because of speculation that the G7 finance ministers and central bankers would not touch on the weakening of that currency. Usually, it would become difficult to sell the currency ahead of a G7 meeting. But this time, it is being sold on the view that the central bankers are unlikely to comment on its weakness. The majority view in the market is that on foreign exchange rates, the G7

¹⁴⁰ *Kyodo News* (May 19, 2008), "G-8 finance ministers to discuss global economy, development."

¹⁴¹ *Dow Jones International News* (May 19, 2008), "Japan Tsuda: G8 May Discuss Global Economy, Environment, Devt."

¹⁴² *Dow Jones International News* (May 14, 2008), "MOF: German Fin Min To Miss Osaka G8 Mtg Due To Budget Talks."

¹⁴³ *Dow Jones* (April 24, 2008), "G8 Finance To Debate Food Issues-Japan Nukaga."

statement will pretty much maintain the language from before.¹⁴⁴ (April 11, 2008, *Nikkei Report*)

The Financial Stability Forum (FSF), which includes central bankers and global regulators who have worked on the problematic issues the G7 countries as facing for eight months, recommended the following to the G7 finance ministers and their central bank governors: By July, supervisors should improve their guidelines for the way banks plan for cash shortages. Banks should run “stress tests” to ensure they can get cash in emergencies; By year-end, teams of supervisors from major countries should be assigned to monitor the biggest banks which work across international borders; Financial institutions should improve risk management by establishing larger buffers for capital and liquidity needs, and the Basel Committee should impose higher capital requirements for off-balance sheet securities and complex instruments; Banks should increase transparency by more fully disclosing exposures to risk and offering fair-value estimates for complex securities, while the International Accounting Standards Board should quickly set tougher standards for off-balance sheet entities; Credit rating agencies should be required to distinguish the ratings set for structured products and improve their transparency as well as ensure information used to set ratings on structured products is of the highest quality; Central banks and supervisors should meet more frequently, exchange more information to ensure greater awareness of cross-border risks; Central banks should take steps to ensure they can effectively offer liquidity when the financial system is under stress and strengthen plans for dealing with weak or failing banks, whether domestic or cross-border institutions.¹⁴⁵ (April 9, 2008, *Reuters News*)

It was reported that Japan would host a finance ministers meeting on April 5-6, 2008.¹⁴⁶ (April 1, 2008, *Philippines News Agency*)

The G7 finance ministers were expected to focus on ways to boost **financial stability** at their April 11 meeting, while the topic of **exchange rates** was expected to take a backseat.¹⁴⁷ (April 1, 2008, *Reuters News*)

February 2008

Foreign Affairs

There is little hope that the **six-party process** will be advanced before the G8 foreign ministers meet in Kyoto at the end of June.¹⁴⁸ (June 19, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

¹⁴⁴ *Nikkei Report* (April 11, 2008), “Dollar Sold Again on View that G-7 Will Tolerate Weakness.”

¹⁴⁵ *Reuters News* (April 9, 2008), “Recommendations of the Financial Stability Forum.”

¹⁴⁶ *Philippines News Agency* (April 1, 2008), “Indonesia urges G-8 countries on carbon emissions.”

¹⁴⁷ *Reuters News* (April 1, 2008), “G7 focus on financial system, not FX-Ex-BOJ Hirano.”

¹⁴⁸ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 19, 2008), “Japan, US, South Korea envoys to meet to discuss North nuclear issue.”

The G8 foreign affairs minister will send a strong message for progress on the **North Korean and Iranian nuclear issues, Afghan reconstruction, the Middle East peace process** and the **Sudan humanitarian** crisis when they meet in Kyoto at the end of June.¹⁴⁹ (June 16, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

G8 foreign affairs ministers will discuss the reconstruction of **Afghanistan** at their meeting in Kyoto.¹⁵⁰ (June 11, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

The Japanese government is planning to issue a joint statement on assistance for **Afghanistan** at the upcoming G8 foreign ministers meeting. The government has coordinated with the countries concerned to draw up a statement, which is to be released separately from the planned chair's summary. The Japanese concluded it was necessary to show the determination of the G8 to fight terrorism and rebuild the war-torn country. The statement likely will point to deteriorating security in the southern, south-eastern and eastern parts of Afghanistan as a key concern. The statement is likely to urge G8 countries to provide Afghanistan with assistance to stabilize the country. The assistance is expected to be offered in various forms, such as the building of schools and roads, removal of land mines, relief efforts for displaced people and food aid.¹⁵¹ (May 19, 2008, *Daily Yomiuri*)

Foreign ministers from the G8 called for the swift release of the results of Zimbabwe's disputed presidential polls, condemning recent violence there. The ministers urged "a speedy, credible and genuinely democratic resolution to this situation in accordance with the wishes of the Zimbabwean people." In a joint statement issued by Japan the ministers called for the result of the presidential election "to be released expeditiously and in accordance with the due process of law." "Violence and intimidation must have no place in this process," they added. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai says he beat 84-year-old President Robert Mugabe outright in Zimbabwe's March 29 presidential poll, but the ruling party says neither won a clear victory and insists a run-off will be needed. The G8 ministers expressed "deep concern" that the official results have not yet been released and said any verification of the vote should be done in the presence of all the candidates or their representatives.¹⁵² (April 17, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Energy

The 11 energy ministers, comprising of the G8 plus China, India and South Korea, said in a joint statement, "a growing number of countries have expressed interest in **nuclear power** programs."¹⁵³ (June 10, 2008, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

¹⁴⁹ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (June 16, 2008), "Japan, G8 nations to send "strong message" on North Korea, Afghanistan – agency."

¹⁵⁰ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 11, 2008), "G-8 Foreign Ministers to Discuss Afghan Reconstruction at Kyoto."

¹⁵¹ *Daily Yomiuri* (May 19, 2008), "Govt eyes G-8 joint statement on assistance to Afghanistan."

¹⁵² *Agence France Presse* (April 17, 2008), "G8 calls for swift release of Zimbabwe poll results."

¹⁵³ *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (June 10, 2008), "G-8 sees new nuclear dawn."

The energy ministers' joint statement released at the end of their meeting affirmed 'the need to maximize our own domestic **production**' while "call[ing] on other oil-producing countries to increase investment to keep markets well-supplied in response to rising world demand."¹⁵⁴ (June 8, 2008, *Dow Jones Energy Service*)

"We're at the verge of a new **nuclear age**, and that would be a positive thing for the world," said John Jutton, UK Secretary of State for Business. He described nuclear energy as a 'proven form of low-carbon power generation.' Amari, the Japanese minister hosting the meeting, said the discussions included "positive comments from many countries regarding **nuclear energy**."¹⁵⁵ (June 8, 2008, *Dow Jones Energy Service*)

Energy ministers from the G8 and China, India and South Korea recognized the role that innovative energy technology research, development and demonstration will play. "We should collectively endeavour to increase **energy R&D** and demonstration according to our national circumstances," the 11 countries said in their joint statement.¹⁵⁶ (June 8, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 energy ministers said they hoped to launch 20 large projects to bury greenhouse gas by 2010 and aimed to broadly deploy the technology a decade later. The ministers said that **Carbon Capture and Storage** (CCS), which stops emissions at their root, played a 'critical role' in 'tackling the global challenge of climate change and energy security.' "We strongly support the recommendation that 20 large-scale CCS demonstration projects need to be launched globally by 2010... with a view to supporting technology development and cost reduction for the beginning of broad deployment of CCS by 2020," the statement said.¹⁵⁷ (June 8, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 energy ministers will likely agree on the establishment of a new multilateral framework to promote **sharing** of best energy-saving practices. They are ready to set up the structure, called the **International Partnership for Cooperation on energy Efficiency**, and to invite China, India and other countries to participate on the initiative. Cooperation under the new platform will be **voluntary**, but the G8 countries hope this kind of initiative, making fast-growing economies involved on an equal footing, is essential to tackling climate change.¹⁵⁸ (June 7, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

"The situation regarding energy prices is becoming extremely challenging," Japanese economy, trade and industry minister Akira Amari said at the opening of the G8 energy ministers meeting. "If left unaddressed, it may well cause a **recession** in the global economy." In his opening remarks, Amari also focused on climate change, "we have entered a critical period" with a deadline looming next year for a new emissions-reduction pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. "**Climate change**

¹⁵⁴ *Dow Jones Energy Service* (June 8, 2008), "G-8 Energy Ministers Demur On Tax Cuts To Ease Pump Prices."

¹⁵⁵ *Dow Jones Energy Service* (June 8, 2008), "G-8 See Energy Efficiency As Quickest Fix To High Oil Prices."

¹⁵⁶ *Kyodo News* (June 8, 2008), "R&D spending recovery high priority for energy security."

¹⁵⁷ *Agence France Presse* (June 8, 2008), "G8 supports launching 20 carbon-burying projects by 2010."

¹⁵⁸ *Kyodo News* (June 7, 2008), "G-8 countries highlight importance of energy-saving steps."

issues and energy issues are two sides of the same coin, and it's essential that we address these [and] solve these two together," he said.¹⁵⁹ (June 7, 2008, *Dow Jones Energy Service*)

Energy ministers from the G8 countries as well as China, India and South Korea will discuss **climate change** at their upcoming meeting. Together they release 65% of the carbon dioxide emissions blamed for global warming.¹⁶⁰ (June 7, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Energy chiefs from Japan, the U.S., China, India and South Korea voiced concerns over rising crude **oil prices** and pledged efforts to save energy at a recent meeting in Japan. "We share serious concerns over the current level of oil prices," the energy ministers said in a joint statement. The G8 energy ministers plus their counterparts from China, India and South Korea plan to discuss an **international framework** aimed at promoting energy saving during their meeting.¹⁶¹ (June 7, 2008, *Jiji Press English News Service*)

The **U.S., China, Japan, India and South Korea** met before the G8 energy ministers and argued that the unprecedented prices of oil were against the interests of both producers and consumers, and imposed a 'heavy burden' on developing countries. The ministers also vowed to **diversify their sources of energy, invest in alternative and renewable fuels**, ramp up cooperation in **strategic oil stocks** in case of a supply shortage, and improve the quality of **data on production and inventories** available to markets. The group diverged over the issue of **oil subsidies**.¹⁶² (June 7, 2008, *Associated Press*)

The International Energy Agency (**IEA**) published a report on the sidelines of the G8 energy minister meeting which stated countries need to invest in cutting-edge energy technologies, including the construction of 17,500 wind turbines and provide carbon-capture mechanisms for all coal-fired electricity plants. The IEA report was produced at the request of the G8 leaders, who demanded a comprehensive set of 'clean and green' energy scenarios as the developed world struggled to reduce its use of oil, coal and other fossil fuels.¹⁶³ (June 7, 2008, *Ottawa Citizen*)

G8 energy ministers are poised to agree on the establishment of a new multilateral framework aimed at sharing energy-saving expertise to address climate change when they gather this weekend in Japan. "The framework, which is voluntary and flexible, is aimed at supporting participating countries' energy-saving policies," Amari, minister of economy, trade and industry, said in an interview prior to their meeting. "We will likely agree on the establishment." Under the framework, the countries are aiming to learn best practices from each other regarding how to save energy by sharing information on

¹⁵⁹ *Dow Jones Energy Service* (June 7, 2008), "Japan Amari To G8: Oil Prices Could Cause Global Recession."

¹⁶⁰ *Agence France Presse* (June 7, 2008), "Asian powers, US warn oil shock to hit global economy."

¹⁶¹ *Jiji Press English News Service* (June 7, 2008), "Top Energy Ministers Show Concern over High Oil Prices."

¹⁶² *Associated Press* (June 7, 2008), "Oil producers urged to boost output as prices soar."

¹⁶³ *Ottawa Citizen* (June 7, 2008), "Energy revolution to cost \$45 trillion, report says Leo Lewis."

individual goals and action plans as well as technological know-how.¹⁶⁴ (June 2, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

A senior Japanese government official blamed speculative money for skyrocketing crude oil prices and pledged to make a strong statement against it at the upcoming **G8 energy ministers** meeting in Aomori, northern Japan. “Reasonable crude oil prices are around \$60 a barrel based on fundamentals,” said Takao Kitabata, vice minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). “The rest [of the surge] was caused by speculative money...[oil has reached] abnormal prices. We have to make efforts to push it back to normal levels,” he said. Benchmark front-month crude oil futures prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange are hovering above \$126 a barrel in Friday Asian-hours electronic trading. Although they are below their all-time high of over \$135 a barrel marked last week, they are still roughly 25% higher than at the start of the year. Earlier this week, another senior METI official said that major energy consumers must use the G8 meeting on June 7-8 to press oil producers to accept more outside investment. A lack of investment in oil projects, coupled with rising global demand, has strengthened expectations that supply will be tight in the future. This in turn has led to speculative buying of crude oil by funds, said Jun Arima, Counselor of International Energy Negotiation at NETI. Officials from **15 countries** are scheduled to attend the energy ministers meeting in Aomori, including U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman and India’s Oil Minister Murli Deora. Zhang Guobao, vice-minister of China's National Development and Reform Commission and head of the newly established State Energy Bureau, and Russian Energy Minister Sergey Shmatko are also due to attend.¹⁶⁵ (May 30, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Major energy consumer use the G8 energy ministers meeting on June 7-8 to press for oil producers to become more open to outside investment, a senior Japanese official said. Officials from fifteen countries are due to attend the meeting. “We need to change the medium to long-term fundamentals of [the] crude oil [market] by improving the investment environment at the same time as promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources,” Jun Arima, Counsellor of the International Energy Negotiation at Japan’s ministry of economy, trade and industry said.¹⁶⁶ (May 27, 2008, *Dow Jones News Service*)

Justice and Interior

Justice and home affairs ministers from the G8 agreed to strengthen cooperation on fighting **cross-border crimes** which are threatening regional stability. The ministers adopted a declaration calling for enhances and improved assistance to those countries

¹⁶⁴ *Kyodo News* (June 2, 2008), “G-8 countries eyeing creation of energy-saving partnership framework.”

¹⁶⁵ *Does Jones International News* (May 30, 2008), “Japan METI Vice Minister: Crude Oil Should be Around 60\$/Bbl.”

¹⁶⁶ *Dow Jones News Service* (May 27, 2008), “Japan: Energy Consumers In G8 Much Push For More Oil Invest.”

which need help for building stronger legal and law enforcement systems.¹⁶⁷ (June 13, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

G8 justice and home affairs ministers key discussions included counter measures against **drug crimes**, counter **terrorism**, the fight against the **sexual exploitation of children**, **identity-related crime** and building capacity to create a fair and functioning **rule of law**.¹⁶⁸ (June 13, 2008, *Market Wire*)

G8 justice and home affairs ministers will discuss the emergence on an environment in which the **Internet** makes it easier for individuals to get access to information they say could incite people to violent and radical acts. Participants will note that utilizing **biometric information** will help countries smoothly and effectively prevent such crime as forging travel documents, officials said. In a session on **drug crime**, the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime** will present an overview of recent global trends in drugs, and participants will talk about their efforts at international cooperation in each of their countries.¹⁶⁹ (June 11, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Newsfile*)

Justice and home affairs minister will discuss issues such as countermeasures against terrorism by extremist groups as well as individuals. The discussions will focus on how to combat **terrorism**, **crimes abusing personal information** such as credit cards and passports, as well as **drug crimes**. **Interpol** secretary general Ronald Noble is also expected to attend. In respect to counterterrorism measures, the ministers will focus on threats of attacks by individuals who do not belong to any terrorist organization.¹⁷⁰ (June 11, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Justice and home affairs ministers of the G8 countries will confirm their intentions to increase efforts for a crackdown on criminals abusing personal identify as the so-called '**ID crimes**' have amounted to serious threat to global economic activities, according to a draft of their statement. The ministers are also expected to call on financial institutions and regulators for cooperation to fight **money laundering** and other organized crimes. "Certain types of organized crimes such as money laundering, which hides financial benefits from criminal acts, and human trafficking are often found closely linked to ID crimes," the documents says. Under the initiative both financial and nonfinancial companies would be required to protect their customers' identification data from being fraudulently obtained, duplicated and abused, while ensuring smooth banking, credit card and other financial transactions. The G8 ministers will be joined by representatives of the European Union and the International Criminal Police Organization. "ID crimes are causing tough challenges to judicial and police authorities," one source said. "This is relatively new as a concept. The number of cases has been on the rise due to the development of the global economy and more popular use of the Internet." "Technological innovation and the prevalence of the Internet have enabled us to conduct transaction even without seeing the face of trading partner or beyond national borders. At

¹⁶⁷ *Xinhua News* (June 13, 2008), "G8 ministers agree to cooperate over cross-border crimes."

¹⁶⁸ *Market Wire* (June 13, 2008), "Ministers of Justice and Public Safety Underline Canada's Commitment to Collaborate in the Global Fight Against Organized Crime and Terrorism."

¹⁶⁹ *BBC Monitoring Newsfile* (June 11, 2008), "G-8 ministers begin full talks on terrorism, crime."

¹⁷⁰ *Kyodo News* (June 11, 2008), "G-8 justice ministers to begin 3-day meeting to address terrorism."

the same time, however, the development ended up offering more opportunities for ID crimes, and their impacts are becoming serious,” the draft says.¹⁷¹ (May 26, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Environment

“Strong political will was expressed to go beyond this agreement and reach a shared vision of a long-term global goal at the G8 Toyako summit,” the chairman's summary issued by Japan said. “In order to halve global greenhouse gas emissions, developed countries should take the lead in achieving a significant reduction.”¹⁷² (May 30, 2008, *Upstream*)

The G8 environment ministers issued a “**Kobe 3R Action Plan**” in a bid to promote the efficient use of resources and the harmonization of the environment and the economy.¹⁷³ (May 26, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

The World Bank will raise at least **\$5.5 billion** with the U.S., Britain and Japan this year for a climate change fund that will help developing nations use clean technology and tackle global warming. “We are hoping that initially the clean technology fund may begin with \$5 billion and the other one may be \$500 million for climate resilience,” Katherine Sierra, the World Bank’s vice president for sustainable development said. She also suggested that a **further announcement** may come at the G8 summit in July.¹⁷⁴ (May 26, 2008, *The New York Times*)

The environment ministers said that **biological diversity** constitutes the indispensable foundation of lives and of global economic development. At their meeting, the ministers encouraged the implementation of the 10 Activities included in the ‘Potsdam Initiative-Biological Diversity 2010’ and the provision of science-based information on biodiversity and ecosystem services to the public and policy-makers. The proposal, ‘Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity,’ highlighted the advancement of sustainable forest management, including the conservation of **forest** biodiversity, by improving forest governance and by addressing illegal logging and related trade collectively and individually, as stated in the G8 Forest Experts Report on Illegal Logging and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (RECC). The document also advocated a boost to **international collaboration** in research, monitoring, assessment and information sharing of biodiversity in particular by strengthening cooperation among existing organizations through the use of remote sensing and ground observation, so that the impacts of climate change can also be monitored.¹⁷⁵ (May 26, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

¹⁷¹ *Kyodo News* (May 26, 2008), “G-8 ministers to step up efforts for crackdown on ‘ID crimes.’”

¹⁷² *Upstream* (May 30, 2008), “G8 urges nations to curb emissions.”

¹⁷³ *Xinhua News Agency* (May 26, 2008), “G8 environment ministers announced 3R action plan at Kobe meeting.”

¹⁷⁴ *The New York Times* (May 26, 2008), “World Bank, U.S., Britain and Japan Take On Warming.”

¹⁷⁵ *Xinhua News Agency* (May 26, 2008), “G8 environment ministers urge actions for biodiversity.”

Environment ministers from the G8 sidestepped the major issue of setting midterm greenhouse gas reductions targets for 2020 due to a divide between developing and developed countries over specific targets. Japanese environment minister Kamoshita said that when the G8 leaders meet, they should agree to push for emission reductions from all countries over the next 10 to 20 years. “Developed countries should take the lead in emissions reductions, and identify their fair and equitable quantified national targets so that global greenhouse gas emissions would peak within the next 10 to 20 years.”¹⁷⁶ (May 26, 2008, *The Japan Times*)

A **low-carbon** network will be included in the chairman’s summary from the G8 environment ministers meeting. It will also be in a report from the environment ministers to the G8 leaders at the summit in July. The ‘**Kobe initiative**’ which was put forth at the meeting calls for technical cooperation to help developing countries take measures against global warming and pollution. It also calls for support to help developing countries set up systems to measure, report and verify greenhouse gas emissions, which would then become the infrastructure for gas reductions. The ministers also agreed to a ‘**3R**’ **action plan** to help reduce garbage. The action plan puts priority on reduction use of plastic bags, seen as a symbol of disposable products. The plan also emphasizes using economic measures, such as charging fees for bags, to change consumer behaviour.¹⁷⁷ (May 26, 2008, *The International Herald Tribune*)

Environmental ministers from the G8 neared agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emission in half by 2050, but fell short of the more difficult task of setting midterm targets for 2020. “It is perhaps much more important that the negotiation process leads to meaningful and ambitious midterm targets, because midterm targets lead to... actions, while the long-term is always the long-term. It’s far from here,” European Commission representative Jos Delbeke said. However, Japanese environment minister Ichiro Kamoshita had a slightly different perspective. “Setting the midterm goals is the most difficult of all,” he said. “That’s the main point of the discussions leading to next year’s meeting in Copenhagen.” The ministers also largely defused a rift over Japan’s **sectoral** approach to slash emissions by setting different goals for different industrial sectors. “Remarkably, we have quite a bit of consensus in the sectoral approach,” Delbeke said. “I think this is a very important convergence we’ve begun to observe in the discussion.”¹⁷⁸ (May 25, 2008, *Associated Press*)

At the G8 environment ministers meeting in Kobe, Japanese minister Kamoshita proposed a ‘**Kobe initiative**.’ Referring to that initiative, he said, “emission reduction potentials through a sectoral approach will provide a scientific basis for negotiations on the post-2012” period, when the Kyoto Protocol expires.¹⁷⁹ (May 25, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

¹⁷⁶ *The Japan Times* (May 26, 2008), “G-8 meet sidesteps midterm gas cuts.”

¹⁷⁷ *The International Herald Tribune* (May 26, 2008), “Japan on Sunday proposed creating an international research network to help achieve a low-carbon society at the meeting of environment ministers from the Group of Eight countries.”

¹⁷⁸ *Associated Press* (May 25, 2008), “G8 environment chiefs to set 2050 greenhouse gas target, leave 2020 target for later talks.”

¹⁷⁹ *Agence France Presse* (May 25, 2008), “Japan pushed its ‘sectoral’ approach in climate talks.”

The Asian countries of Japan, China and South Korea jointly urged the rest of the world to substantially reduce the use of **plastic shopping bags**. At the G8 environment ministers 3R session, Japanese minister Kamoshita said that as the use of plastic shopping bags indicates having consumption of resources as well as dumping of a great deal of waste, it is of special importance to make joint efforts on the matter. Delegates at the session also deliberated on issues such as formulating policies on 3Rs, promoting the reuse and recycling of resources and building a worldwide recycling-oriented society.¹⁸⁰ (May 25, 2008, *Xinhua News Agency*)

On May 25, Ichiro Kamoshita called for the launch of an **international network** of institutions to facilitate the transition to low-carbon societies. “I hope that this goal will constitute a shared vision among the participating countries to the G-8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit this year,” he said.¹⁸¹ (May 25, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

European and developing countries urged the U.S. and Japan to commit to deep cuts in **greenhouse gas emission** by 2020, a step they say is needed to defuse a coming ecological disaster. A major focus of the Kobe meeting was midterm targets for 2020, which scientists say are needed to avoid a potentially disastrous rise in world temperatures. “A long-term goal is not a substitute for midterm, mandatory targets,” said German environment minister Matthias Machnig. Japanese environment minister Ichiro Kamoshita called for the countries to take the first steps in battling climate change, urging them to together reduce their emissions by more than 50% by 2050. “Developed countries should take the lead in emissions reductions and identify fair and equitable quantified national targets so that the global greenhouse gas emissions peak within the next ten to twenty years,” he said.¹⁸² (May 25, 2008, *Associated Press*)

The G8 environment ministers were to release a plan at the end of their discussions on May 26 on **technology transfer** to developing countries on waste management. The proposals called for all countries, including China and India, to agree to reductions in certain industries instead of setting national targets. The proposal would only work, however, if the industrialized countries first meet their own responsibilities by setting mid-term targets, according to German environment minister Matthias Machnig.¹⁸³ (May 25, 2008, *Deutsche Welle*)

The Chinese delegate called on developed countries to take the lead in cutting greenhouse gas emission and provide financial support and technology transfer to developing countries. The three major issues on the agenda for the meeting were **biodiversity**, **climate change** and the **3Rs**.¹⁸⁴ (May 25, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

¹⁸⁰ *Xinhua News Agency* (May 25, 2008), “Joint effort urged to slash use of plastic shopping bags at G8 environment meeting.”

¹⁸¹ *Kyodo News* (May 25, 2008), “Japan pushed for G8 accord on climate change.”

¹⁸² *Associated Press* (May 25, 2008), “Environmental ministers to seek deep emissions cuts.”

¹⁸³ *Deutsche Welle* (May 25, 2008), “G8 Environment Ministers Push for Post-Kyoto Agreement.”

¹⁸⁴ *Xinhua News* (May 25, 2008), “Developed countries should take the lead in reducing GHG emissions: Chinese delegate.”

In his opening speech, Japanese environment minister Ichiro Kamoshita said, “This G8 environment meeting is **not a place to negotiate.**” “I hope we minister responsible for the global environment will come to common recognition on issues that need to be given directions for the future.” The meeting is to include the G8 countries as well as the European Union, Brazil, China India, Indonesia, Mexico Australia, South Korea and South Africa.¹⁸⁵ (May 24, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

The G8 environment minister held their first session on **biodiversity conservation** on May 24, highlighting that biodiversity and climate change are not isolated by related issues. During the session, environment chiefs reached a consensus on the importance of biodiversity and the adoption of effective measures to significantly hold down the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. They noted the problem of illegal **deforestation**. The ministers also stressed the important role that systematic monitoring and sustainable exploitation have played in maintaining biodiversity.¹⁸⁶ (May 24, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

The Japanese environment minister conveyed condolences to those affected in the May 12 devastating **earthquake** in China’s Sichuan province and Myanmar’s **cyclone**-hit areas, pledging Japan’s maximum efforts to help the disaster-hit areas recover at an early date.¹⁸⁷ (May 24, 2008, *Xinhua News*)

Climate change minister Penny Wong will attend the G8 environment ministers’ meeting in Kobe, Japan. It is the **first time** Australia has participated in such a gathering.¹⁸⁸ (May 24, 2008, *Daily Telegraph*)

The Japanese have said that the G8 much show initiative so poorer countries can do their part in fighting climate change, blamed for droughts, rising seas and more intense storms. “We need to send a message that we will make it easier for **emerging countries** to act, with financial mechanism and technological cooperation.” Kamoshita said.¹⁸⁹ (May 23, 2008, *Reuters News*)

U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson will lead the U.S. delegation to the G8 environment ministers meeting in Kobe from May 24 to 26.¹⁹⁰ (May 23, 2008, *States News Service*)

The G8 environment ministers and other major emitters, including China, India, Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa will try and build momentum for talks on emissions reduction targets at their upcoming meeting. The Japanese have said the three-day meeting of environment ministers would try to lay the groundwork for the leaders’ summit in July but breakthroughs were unlikely since any agreement would ultimately be left to the heads of state. “Consensus-building among ministers will be a major agenda,

¹⁸⁵ *Agence France Presse* (May 24, 2008), “G8, emerging economies try to bridge gaps over climate change.”

¹⁸⁶ *Xinhua News* (May 24, 2008), “G8 environment chiefs discuss biodiversity conservation.”

¹⁸⁷ *Xinhua News* (May 24, 2008), “G8 environment minister meeting opens in Kobe of Japan.”

¹⁸⁸ *Daily Telegraph* (May 24, 2008), “Local Wong at G8 gathering.”

¹⁸⁹ *Reuters News* (May 23, 2008), “Emerging nations seek G8 help for clean technology.”

¹⁹⁰ *States News Service* (May 23, 2008), “EPA Leads U.S. Delegation to G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Japan.”

but we are not necessarily aiming for a final conclusion,” Ryutaro Yatsu, councillor for global environment at the environment ministry said. “A major part of the chairman’s summary will be agreement among the G8 and outreach countries, but I think there will be a small percentage of the agenda where we cannot reach a consensus.” Another area of contention will be **medium-term targets** for reducing greenhouse gases, such as hammering out a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. Japan has promoted a **sectoral approach** to emissions goals, with curbs set for particular industries such as steel or cement that could be added up to a national target. “In a way we’ve already gone through a breakthrough on addressing the sectoral approach, by starting to discuss how this could be utilised rather than whether it is worthy of being used or not,” said Koji Tsuruoka, director-general for global issues at Japan’s foreign ministry. “This is because people now appreciate the nature of the sectoral approach, not as some kind of a trap, with some kind of intention, it is a neutral tool,” he said. Also on the agenda are ways to **slow the rate of extinctions** of species and steps to **reduce, reuse and recycle** waste.¹⁹¹ (May 19, 2008, *Reuters News*)

The G8 environment ministers will seek cooperation on promoting the “**co-benefits approach**” to help developing countries achieve economic growth while curbing pollution and waste. The ministers will also discuss steps to protect **biological diversity** and to ensure the efficient use of resources with the so-called “**3Rs**” approach of reducing waste by promoting reuse and recycling, officials said. Emerging economies such as Brazil, China and India plan to take part in the meeting in Kobe. With regards to **emissions**, the ministers “will first focus on a long-term target and then confirm the importance of having emissions peak, though we don’t expect [them] to agree on a peak-out period.” an environment ministry official said. As for medium targets, the ministers are expected to discuss methodologies, rather than figures, to ensure “**equitable burden sharing**” among developed countries and other major emitters in a new carbon-capping framework to be implemented after the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. The Japanese are still pushing to that the other G8 countries “understand that the **bottom-up** approach is useful for building an equitable framework.” On biological diversity, Japan plans to unveil the “**Satoyama Initiative**” to ensure the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and to call for the participation of other countries. “Satoyama” is a zoning concept originated in Japan, which consists of coppice woodland, farmland and agricultural ponds surrounding villages. Natural resources have been used in a sustainable manner in Satoyama located between human residential areas and natural areas, with rice paddies, for example, providing feeding and breeding sites for waterfowl. The G8 ministers are also expected to study measures to strengthen monitoring of biodiversity and to reduce **deforestation** in developing countries, as well as to build networks among protected areas, which cover about 12% of the total land surface of those countries, to conserve **endangered species** and **migratory animals**. The ministers also plan to discuss how the G8 can **assist developing countries** in incorporating the concept of the 3Rs into their policies and how advanced countries can effectively transfer relevant technologies to developing countries. The minister are also likely to discuss steps to prevent illegal cross-border movements of **hazardous waste**, while considering a system to allow

¹⁹¹ *Reuters News* (May 19, 2008), “G8 climate talks to discuss targets, rift remains.”

materials that cannot be managed properly in their country of origin to be processed in other countries.¹⁹² (May 18, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Labour

The G8 agreed on the need to incorporate environmental protection into their labor policies under the International Labor Organization's (ILO) green jobs initiatives. "Economic development, social development and environment protection are the vital pillars to achieve a sustainable society," said a statement issued by the participants. Juna Somavia, director general of the ILO, expressed support for **sectoral approaches** in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, an idea presented by business leaders from the G8 nations. "Sectoral and local approaches are necessary," Somavia said. "Industries, workers and communities will be affected differently."¹⁹³ (May 15, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Senior labor officials from the G8 recognized the need to create solid policies to address the so-called "**working poor**," one negative consequence arising from globalization, as well as to promote a work-life balance and career development amid long life spans. But the G8 participants failed to develop their dialogues on specific measures, a Japanese Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry said on the second day of their three-day meeting in Niigata. "The definition of the term 'working poor' and the perspective toward irregular employment differ among the countries," the official said, while stressing that they agreed that "it has been a serious phenomenon among the countries." During talks some participants also suggested that local industries and research institutes should be utilized as a way to help revitalize **rural areas** that often fail to benefit from globalization, which intensifies the low-cost competition and the polarization between haves and have-nots. The participants also shared the importance of promoting the balance between work and private activities such as **nursing care** and **child-rearing**, as well as lifelong learning systems in the G8 economies where people are living longer lives than ever. Japan is hoping to demonstrate leadership in this field, as a nation experiencing graying of its society at a particularly rapid pace. But opinions were split in discussions over a flexible working style among the participants, according to another ministry official. Some addressed the need of encouraging flexibility in ways of working in order to secure stable employment throughout life, while others said too much flexibility may give rise to a further increase in part-time employment. Japanese labor minister Yoichi Masuzoe, the meeting chair, said in his opening speech, "Our societies are faced with negative aspects of globalization, and it's needless to say that we need to closely cooperate to ensure our labor market systems operate in a smooth and orderly manner." Masuzoe noted that **climate change** will be a central theme of the summit and said, "I hope to show our determination to tackle climate change from a labor perspective from here in Niigata to the world." Masuzoe is the only Cabinet labor minister attending the meeting, with the other seven nations being represented by vice ministers and other senior officials. Their talks on Tuesday will focus on links between labor and environment issues, the first time it is being attempted in the G8 framework. A chairman's statement will then be issued, in

¹⁹² *Kyodo News* (May 18, 2008, *Kyodo News*), "G-8 climate chiefs to eye emissions cut target, anti-pollution steps."

¹⁹³ *Kyodo News* (May 15, 2008), "ILO studying impact of climate change on labor markets."

which the participants are expected to agree to ensure harmony between labor and environmental policies, according to a draft obtained. They are also expected to reconfirm the importance of accelerating **job creation** through the use of local resources and of promoting participation of local governments and nonprofit organizations to help redress disparities, the draft says. The three-day meeting kicked off [May 11]. On the first day, the officials held tripartite talks with labor unions and business groups, and shared an understanding on the urgent need to tackle issues related to increasing inequality within the G8 economies.¹⁹⁴ (May 12, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The G8 Labour ministers met with **labour unions** and **business groups** to discuss reduction of workplace emissions of **greenhouse gases** blamed for global warming and other social challenges, officials said. The talks in Niigata are aimed at boosting support for global environmental initiatives before the summit in July. The labour ministers are also expected to address concerns about growing **income disparities**, **aging** and uncertainty over **financial markets** in seeking ways to achieve sustainability, Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry said. Participants issued the 'Business Statement,' urging G8 nations to find ways to create sustainable and rewarding labour markets and promote environmental protection measures at worksites. "The G8 countries should foster a societal approach moving all industry sectors in more environmentally friendly and energy efficient directions," the statement said, also urging workers to adjust to regulatory policy changes. Japanese officials also plan to discuss how industries that are likely to be hurt by climate change can seek alternative income sources, such as ski resorts facing snow shortages pursuing other forms of tourism during the G8 labour meeting. **Thailand** and **Indonesia** were invited to join an outreach discussion.¹⁹⁵ (May 11, 2008, *Dow Jones International*)

In addition to the G8 nations, the **European commissioner** in charge of employment, the heads of the **International Labour Organization** and the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development** are also taking part in the meeting.¹⁹⁶ (May 11, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Development

G8 ministers and senior officials responsible for development met in Tokyo on April 5 and 6, 2008, along with representatives from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, the ASEAN Secretariat, the AU Commission, the OECD, the UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the WHO and the World Bank. At the meeting commitments to strengthening development assistance, make it more effective and add new donors were reaffirmed. They reaffirmed their commitment to double **ODA** for

¹⁹⁴ *Kyodo News* (May 11, 2008), "G-8 meeting calls for addressing working poor, seeking balanced life."

¹⁹⁵ *Dow Jones International* (May 11, 2008), "G8 Minister Meet with Unions, Business Groups on the Environment."

¹⁹⁶ *Kyodo News* (May 11, 2008), "G8 labour ministers start talks in Japan."

Africa by 2010. The importance of economic **growth, climate change** and **human security** were emphasized.¹⁹⁷ (April 6, 2008, *The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*)

Development ministers threw their weight behind a call for action to reduce soaring **food prices**, which they say hurt developing nations as well as donors' efforts to help them. G8 ministers said development assistance needed to be strengthened and partnership between traditional donors and new donors, such as emerging Asian countries, increased. Spikes in food prices cause serious problems for development as a whole, especially for Africa, and we shared the view that this is something the international community needs to tackle," said Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, who chaired the meeting. "The problem of food will directly hit lives of poor people. We reached a common determination that there is the need to take necessary steps," he added, without specifying details. Some Asian countries that attended "outreach meetings" said problems of rising food prices should be taken up at the G8 summit, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. But the official said there had not been enough time to discuss any concrete steps to tackle food prices this weekend.¹⁹⁸ (April 6, 2008, *Reuters Africa*)

Japan plans to use the two-day development ministers' meeting as an opportunity "to share Asia's remarkable growth experience with Africa" and push emerging countries to up their development assistance and emphasis on human rights, according to Japanese foreign ministry officials.¹⁹⁹ (April 3, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

G20-Gleneagles Dialogue

March, 2008

Science & Technology

The G8 science and technology ministers asked both the public and private sectors to step up investment for the development of **clean energy** sources. The ministers agreed that developing clean energy sources is important to realize a low-carbon society for curbing global warming. The chairman's statement also pointed out the need to promote international cooperation in the research and development of next-generation **biofuels** and assist developing countries in the fight against **infectious disease**.²⁰⁰ (June 15, 2008, *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies*)

¹⁹⁷ *The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan* (April 6, 2008), "Chair's Summary of the G8 Development Ministers' Meeting." Accessed 22 April 2008. Available from:

<www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/other/g8_develop_s.html>

¹⁹⁸ *Reuters Africa* (April 6, 2008), "G8 Development Ministers Call for Food Price steps."

¹⁹⁹ *Agence France Presse* (April 3, 2008), "Rich nations to prod emerging donors at G8 meet."

²⁰⁰ *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News* (June 15, 2008), "G-8 Science Ministers Call for Clean Energy Investment."

Ministers from **Brail, China, India, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa and South Korea** have all been invited to attend the meeting of G8 science and technology ministers.²⁰¹ (June 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

The main agenda items for the first meeting of science and technology ministers will include **international research and development cooperation** to realize a **low-carbon society**, including energy-related technologies such as **biofuel** that could help the international community **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. They will also discuss ways to promote science and technology cooperation with **developing nations**, including Africa, in **biodiversity**, sustainable **supply of water, food and energy**, and **infectious diseases** to help developing countries cope with these issues. Another main topic will involve large-scale cooperation in research and development activities, including **human resource exchanges**.²⁰² (June 14, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Science and technology minister from the G8 plus the European Union, China, India, Korea, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa will discuss a variety of global science and technology issues, including multilateral collaboration in the development of next-generation large-scale research facilities to advance scientific discovery and address the pressing **global energy challenges**.²⁰³ (June 13, 2008, *Department of Energy Documents*)

G8 science and technology ministers are expected to confirm the ‘potent role’ that the sector will play in **tackling global issues**, Fumio Kishida, Japan’s state minister of science and technology policy said. “It is the **first [G8] ministerial meeting** on the theme of science and technology,” Kishida said. “I want to hold discussions steadily so that we can relay the results to the G-8 summit in July.” “It would be nice if we can agree to share the countries’ various experiences and out come of efforts in the field of science and technology.” The main agenda items at the talks will include international cooperation in **research and development** toward realizing a low-carbon society as well as assisting **African** and other **developing countries** to build capacity based on their respective needs.²⁰⁴ (June 10, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

TICAD

The Yokohama Action Plan, which emerged from the recent TICAD meeting, failed to address the commitment of ensuring universal access to the prevention, care and treatment of **HIV/AIDS by 2010**, according to the Africa Japan Forum.²⁰⁵ (June 2, 2008, *All Africa*)

Climate change emerged as one of the sticking points holding up adoption today of the Yokohama Declaration, an action plan to implement its decisions and plans for a follow-

²⁰¹ *Kyodo News* (June 14, 2008), “G-8 science ministers discuss technological cooperation.”

²⁰² *Kyodo News* (June 14, 2008), “1st G-8 science ministers’ meeting to be held Sunday in Okinawa.”

²⁰³ *Department of Energy Documents* (June 14, 2008), “DOE’s Under Secretary for Science to Attend the G8 Science and Technology Ministerial in Japan.”

²⁰⁴ *Kyodo News* (June 10, 2008), “G-8 ministers to confirm ‘potent role’ of science in global issues.”

²⁰⁵ *All Africa* (June 2, 2008), “Japan-Africa Outcome ‘Inadequate.’”

up mechanism to monitor progress in implementation. **Infrastructure** features high on the list of priorities in the action plan. The action plan acknowledges “the improvement of **energy access**” but it couples this with “promotion of **clean energy**” and **renewable sources**. Japan aims to train African infrastructure specialists and 5000 water managers, key factors in spurring agricultural growth in light of the world’s **food crisis**. Japan said its development aid would be given out on a **first-come, first-served basis**, and without pre-conditions, except in the case of Zimbabwe. ”In the current conditions”, the country will have to wait.²⁰⁶ (May 30, 2008, *Cape Argus*)

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda announced at TICAD IV that Japan would **double its bilateral development assistance to Africa by 2012, train 100,000 African health workers** and **increase its support to the Global Fund** to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He also identified population as a critical concern for Africa's development, and offered assistance in improving maternal and child health.²⁰⁷ (May 30, 2008, *PR Newswires*)

At TICAD, Japan pledged 4 billion dollars in soft loans to help Africa to improve its transportation infrastructure as part of a package of initiatives to hasten economic growth and reduce poverty on the continent. In addition, Japan has created an investment facility within its Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) to finance investments by Japanese companies in Africa and has decided to double its grant aid, Overseas Development Assistance and Technical Co-operation.²⁰⁸ (May 30, 2008, *All Africa*)

The latest draft of the Yokohama Declaration obtained notes that TICAD participants “paid special attention to the issue of **soaring food prices** and its negative impact on poverty reduction in Africa.” The reference to food prices in the latest draft was apparently added to reflect the growing global concern. An earlier draft at the previous preparatory minister meeting in Gabon in March only noted the “sharp rise of food price” among the serious challenges face by Africa. The latest draft also includes more detailed references to issues of **health** and **gender**, such as concerns regarding the “brain drain” of skilled health professionals and the need to promote women’s empowerment by addressing “disparity in education, violence against women, and insufficient participation of women in all spheres of decision-making.”²⁰⁹ (May 27, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

More than 40 African heads of States will gather for the TICAD conference in Japan. The conference will focus on boosting **economic growth**, ensuring **human security**, including the achievement of the **MDGs** and addressing **environmental** issues and **climate change**. “TICAD IV will hammer out a mechanism to help us keep focused on mid and long-term issues five or ten years into the future,” Japanese foreign minister Masahiko Koumura said. TICAD IV is scheduled to conclude with the adoption of the ‘Yokohama Declaration,’ outlining funding principles and approaches to African development among TICAD stakeholders, as well as the ‘Yokohama Action Plan and the

²⁰⁶ *Cape Argus* (May 30, 2008), “Japan’s \$7.2bn boost for ‘cleaner’ Africa.”

²⁰⁷ *PR Newswires* (May 30, 2008), “Stronger Health Systems and Better Maternal Health Critical to African Development, Japan Summit Affairs.”

²⁰⁸ *All Africa* (May 30, 2008), “Japan Pledges 4 Billion Dollars to Support Transportation.”

²⁰⁹ *Kyodo News* (May 27, 2008), “Africa raises food crisis as Japan seeks support on climate change.”

Yokohama Follow-up Mechanism,' laying out a road map for action-oriented initiatives with measurable targets.²¹⁰ (May 26, 2008, *JCN Newswire*)

Japan is expected to present Africa's concerns as raised at the TICAD conference to the G8 leaders at the summit in July. The conference will examine boosting **economic growth** in Africa, including through human resources development, accelerated industrial development, agricultural development, trade and investment and promotion of tourism and the role of the private sector. It will also examine ways to achieve the **MDGs**. Sectors which have been selected for priority consideration include **community development, education, health and gender equality**. The conference will also examine ways of consolidating **peace and good governance** through extending assistance to Africa's own efforts to build peace-keeping capacity through the support of the activities of the African Union peace and security commission. This includes looking at NEPAD's Africa peer review mechanism. The conference will also address **environmental** issues and **climate change** where African countries have requested Japan to accelerate Clean Development Mechanism projects.²¹¹ (May 26, 2008, *All Africa*)

A 'bonanza' of aid to Africa from Japan will be dealt out at the TICAD conference to its 53 governments on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Doubled development aid by 2012 will be given to African countries with no conditions attached. More than 30 heads of state are planning to attend.²¹² (May 26, 2008, *The Star*)

For the first time in TICAD's 15 year history, the fathering will have an **NGO forum** as part of its official program, where different representatives will be able to discuss their views on African development with government officials. The NGO leaders are being allowed to attend as 'observers,' but that does not give them the right to address key TICAD sessions to discuss specific agenda such as development and environmental issues. The NGOs were originally told that only three representatives from groups based both in Japan and Africa would be allowed to attend the general meetings as observers. The NGOs demanded at least nine, among 85 officials, be allowed to enter. The Japanese foreign ministry later promised that around six would be able to enter. "But TICAD is still a high-level diplomatic meeting, like the G8 summit, and it is difficult to systematize and formalize NGO participation as a stakeholder equivalent with the various governments," Shigeyuki Hiroki, deputy director-general of the foreign ministry's international cooperation bureau. "While we recognize the growing presence and influence of civil society in many African countries, we need to also take into account the sentiments of other governments that are highly prejudiced against participatory democracy." The ministry did, however, take into account the opinions of NGOs in formulating the TICAD agenda and the content of the Yokohama Statement through its seven preparatory sessions with NGO leaders. In a nod to NGOs requests, the statement will underscore Japan's commitment to the UN MDGs and it will emphasize Japan's

²¹⁰ *JCN Newswire* (May 26, 2008), "Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) Sets Agenda for Hope and Opportunity."

²¹¹ *All Africa* (May 26, 2008), "Mumbengegwi in Japan to Attend Conference."

²¹² *The Star* (May 26, 2008), "African countries to queue up for Japanese investment drive."

commitment to the democratization of the continent and the importance of civil organizations in development work.²¹³ (May 26, 2008, *The International Herald Tribune*)

Japan, who is scheduled to host 45 African nations for the TICAD IV conference, wants to **play a higher-profile role** in the resource-rich region ahead of the G8 summit in July.²¹⁴ (May 22, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Japan announced an **aid, loan and investment package** ahead of the TICAD summit. Japan expects 2,500 foreign guests for the event, including Bono, Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour and Frene Ginwala, former speaker of the South African parliament. Over the next five years Japan has pledged to **double its aid to \$7.2 billion**. This will be supplemented by **\$4 billion** in soft loans, **\$7.2 billion** in debt relief and promotion of **\$3.2 billion** in foreign direct investment.²¹⁵ (May 23, 2008, *Cape Argus*)

Fukuda is expected to announce a plan for Japan to offer **\$10 billion** over the next five years to help African nations tackle climate change in his speech at the opening ceremony of TICAD in late May, government sources said. His speech is also expected to address Japan's initiative to launch a new lending scheme to promote investment in African countries. Fukuda will advocate the launch of the new lending system and the beefing up of trade insurance in order to reduce risk and promote Japanese investment in Africa.²¹⁶ (May 18, 2008, *Dow Jones International News*)

Japan will reflect the outcomes of the TICAD conference in the discussion at the G8 summit. Japan has offered to assist Africa in three priority areas: boosting economic growth, ensuring human security and addressing climate change and environmental issues in general.²¹⁷ (April 23, 2008, *Ghanaian Chronicle*)

Major donors and international agencies will assist Africa to comprehensively address **climate change** issues through mitigation and adaptation measures, and support the continent's participation in a post-2012 emissions cut framework, an action plan draft for the upcoming Tokyo International Conference on African Development. In addition to the five-year road map, African nations and their development partners will also commit themselves at TICAD to promote "self-sustained" economic growth, ensure human security and set up a three-tier follow-up mechanism to monitor progress, according to a declaration draft. Moreover, African members are also considering having TICAD issue a separate document to highlight concerns over soaring **food prices** as this is a "critical and very contemporary issue that nobody can seriously ignore," Ghanaian Ambassador Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah said. Other **commitments** in the drafts include scaling up financial and technical assistance for region-wide **infrastructure** -- especially highway projects -- utilizing official development assistance to help attract foreign investment, improving **maternal and child health**, expanding post-basic **education** and promoting

²¹³ *The International Herald Tribune* (May 26, 2008), "The significance of NGOs is often emphasized, but their role to date still seems mute when it comes to a say in policymaking at the international level."

²¹⁴ *Reuters News* (May 22, 2008), "Japan eyes troops to Sudan, bigger role in Africa."

²¹⁵ *Cape Argus* (May 23, 2008), "News Japan in aid bonanza for Africa."

²¹⁶ *Dow Jones International News* (May 18, 2008), "Japan \$10B Climate Change Loans to Africa Seen."

²¹⁷ *Ghanaian Chronicle* (April 23, 2008), "Japan Sees Continent of Hope."

peace consolidation. TICAD members reached basic consensus on the declaration draft at a ministerial preparatory meeting in Gabon in late March, but the action plan is still being discussed between the Japanese Foreign Ministry and UN agencies involved, officials said. The Yokohama Declaration draft noted the “sharp rise in **food price**” and “increasing severe effects of **climate change**” as among the “**serious challenges**” faced by Africa. To help increase **agricultural** productivity, the draft plan placed emphasis on developing irrigation schemes, assisting water resources management in arid and semi-arid areas, and providing technologies especially to boost rice production in both rainfed lands and irrigated fields. “At the upcoming TICAD, we will make efforts to bring new elements, new arguments in this field of agriculture,” Masato Kitera, director general for African Affairs and chief of the TICAD secretariat at the Foreign Ministry said, adding that food aid agencies are feeling the impact of soaring crop prices. At this stage, the draft included no new development aid pledges and only said that TICAD participants “stressed the importance for the G8 countries to honor the commitments already made” for African development. Representatives of some **50 African nations**, including about 45 heads of state and government, major donors, as well as regional and international organizations are expected to attend the TICAD in May. Japan, the United Nations, the UN Development Program and the World Bank co-organize the event once every five years.²¹⁸ (April 11, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

²¹⁸ *Kyodo News* (April 11, 2008), “Africa, donors to address climate change, monitor TICAD progress.”

Officials' Meetings

G8 Health Experts

The third G8 Health Experts' Meeting was held on June 11-12 in Japan.²¹⁹ (June 18, 2008, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*)

The second G8 Health Experts' Meeting was held on April 9-10 in Tokyo at the United Nations University. Mr. Jun Yamazaki, Deputy Director-General for Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired the meeting. They held an outreach session, where experts from UNAIDS, the UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the WHO attended.²²⁰ (April 10, 2008, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*)

²¹⁹ *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan* (June 12, 2008), "G8 Health Experts' Meeting." (Accessed June 18, 2008), Available from: <www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2008/4/1178965_1000.html>

²²⁰ *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan* (April 10, 2008), "G8 Health Experts' Meeting." (Accessed April 22, 2008), Available from: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2008/6/1180697_1020.html>

Civil Society Meetings

Several thousand members of Japanese and international groups are expected to descend upon Hokkaido before and during the G8 summit. It is the first time for Japanese authorities hosting the event to give permission for NGOs to set up camp. “If any action violating the law occurs, we will take strict action,” a police official said. The campsites appointed for NGO use are Toyouracho Shinrin Koen camping ground in Toyoura and the Orofure Hotto Piazza campsite in Sobetsu. About 1,000 people will gather at the campsites, and events, such as demonstrations, will be staged.²²¹ (June 21, 2008, *The International Herald Tribune*)

Two **high-tech electric vehicles** began a 1000 kilometer journey from Tokyo to Hokkaido, where the G8 summit will take place, to raise public awareness of the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The event was organized by the **Japan Electric Vehicle Club**, a civic group headed by Tadashi Tateuchi, a leading motor journalist. A group of eight motor journalists and authors of books on automobile technology are taking turns driving the two vehicles.²²² (June 20, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

Fukuda met with representatives of domestic and international NGOs, including Carstensen, director of the global climate initiative at World Wide Fund for nature International and members of the 2008 Japan G8 Summit NGO Forum. The NGO representatives offered opinion on numerous topics, including the environment, poverty, human rights and peace. In a letter to Fukuda from the NGO forum it said, “Japan must set for itself ambitious goals for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions, and give more consideration to conserving biodiversity.” Fukuda told participants, “Let’s work together.” The group also gave Fukuda a CD-ROM filled with over 500,000 messages from people all over the world.²²³ (June 20, 2008, *The Japan Times*)

Bob Geldof and **Bono** hammered the G8 for falling behind in **aid pledges to Africa**. “It is a disgrace that the rich world has failed so miserably,” Geldof said. “It is a disgrace that the lucky part of the world give a small fraction of its wealth to poor who live just 12 kilometers away.” Taking over the EU presidency, the French has a special role to play. “European credibility is on the line,” Bono said.²²⁴ (June 19, 2008, *Globe and Mail*)

The **African Progress Panel**, led by former UN secretary general Kofi Annan is warning the G8 to step up their **assistance to Africa**. “We are in a situation where it is increasingly clear that traditional budgetary resources are too overstretched to meet aid

²²¹ *The International Herald Tribune* (June 21, 2008), “The Hokkaido government will let members of nongovernmental organizations, including outspoken protesters, to set up base at public camping grounds near the venue of the Group of Eight Toyako Summit.”

²²² *Kyodo News* (June 20, 2008), “Electric vehicles begin 1,000-km trip to appeal for CO2 cuts.”

²²³ *The Japan Times* (June 20, 2008), “NGOs press Fukuda for midterm gas emissions goals.”

²²⁴ *Globe and Mail* (June 19, 2008), “Rockers slam G8; portrait gallery tug of war.”

pledges, unless innovative financing mechanisms are promptly put in place,” the report states.²²⁵ (June 16, 2008, *The Washington Post*)

Oxfam called for the G8 to increase **spending on aid, cut emissions** and put a free on **biofuels targets to tackle poverty** and the **food crisis**. A report said the most urgent priority for the governments at the summit was to fill a \$U.S. 30 billion **aid gap**. Oxfam said that the G8 leaders were set to miss by that amount—a pledge made in 2005 to increase aid by \$U.S. 50 billion a year by 2010. Oxfam laid out a six-point plan which demanded the G8 leaders took a series of steps to tackle poverty, the food crisis and the impacts of climate change on developing countries.²²⁶ (June 13, 2008, *Press Association National Newswire*)

The heads of key organizations involved in public health called on leading industrialized countries to invest more in fighting **diseases**. G8 leaders should step up long-term efforts to combat **AIDS, TB, malaria, polio** and other health threats to build on progress that have made from previous commitments, said the heads of **UN agencies** and other organizations. “A world that neglects the health of people is neither stable nor secure,” the letter said. It was signed by the heads to the **WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the UN Population Fund, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the GAVI Alliance** and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. The **World Bank** also backed the letter.²²⁷ (June 9, 2008, *Associated Press Newswires*)

Bono and **Geldof** are backing the G8 to put the developing world on the agenda at the upcoming summit. Bono took the stage at the MTV video music awards Japan to talk up the G8.²²⁸ (June 7, 2008, *Herald-Sun*)

Bono said that Japan’s pledge to double its aid to Africa was “fantastic news” but poor nations deserved mores. “The Japanese government told us about doubling aid. It’s a fantastic news. But you have to ask the question, is it really doubling the aid, or just one piece of aid?”²²⁹ (May 27, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

Oxfam voiced concern ahead of the G8 environment ministers’ meeting in Kobe that political momentum to tackle climate changes appears to be flagging under Japan’s leadership. “The endless debate about ‘considering’ reducing emissions is long gone. We need carbon cuts and we need this to happen now,” Oxfam campaigner Takumo Yamada said. “Japan must overcome its internal squabbling and show the same leadership on this as the Germans did last year. Anything less would be a clear step backward in the fight to combat global warming.”²³⁰ (May 24, 2008, *Agence France Presse*)

²²⁵ *The Washington Post* (June 16, 2008), “Panel Urges G-8 to Increase Africa Aid; Report Echoes Bush’s Complaints About Unfulfilled Promises.”

²²⁶ *Press Association National Newswire* (June 13, 2008), “Oxfam Warns G8 Leaders must Fill £15bn Aid Gap.”

²²⁷ *Associated Press Newswires* (June 9, 2008), “G-8 leaders should invest more in public health, key agencies say.”

²²⁸ *Herald-Sun* (June 7, 2008), “G8 gets star billing.”

²²⁹ *Agence France Presse* (May 27, 2008), “Bono please at Japan’s pledge to double aid, but wants more.”

²³⁰ *Agence France Presse* (May 24, 2008), “G8, emerging economies begin climate talks.”

At a round table discussion environmentalist urged quick action to stem the effects of the rise in world temperatures, which scientists say threaten to drive species to extinction, worsen floods and droughts, and thwart economic development. Bill Hare of the **Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research** says the rapid melting of the Arctic ice, increasing crop damage and other problems show the multiplying effects of higher temperatures.²³¹ (May 24, 2008, *Canadian Press*)

Greenpeace called on the G8 environment ministers to follow the lead of the Governor of Albay Province, Joey Sarte Salceda, who declared Albay a coal-free zone: “We believe there is no place for coal in a world beset by climate change and certainly there is no place for coal in Albay,” he announced. “The G8 countries need to realize that more coal is not the solution to the energy issues we face. If a developing country like the Philippines can do it, wealthy, developed countries, like the G8, can certainly do without new coal fired power plants and instead build up an efficient and clean energy system. Greenpeace’s ‘Energy Revolution’ shows this can be done,” said Jasper Inventor, Climate and Energy Campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.²³² (May 23, 2008, *Targeted News Service*)

A team of four youngsters have been chosen by leading children’s organisation, UNICEF, to represent the United Kingdom at a young person’s version of the G8 in Japan this summer from July 2 to 9. Nearly 200 youngsters took part in the **J8** competition to win the chance to represent their country at the same time as the G8 Summit takes place. The winning teams from G8 countries will get the opportunity to present their own global communiqué at the G8 Summit, appealing to world leaders to listen to the views of young people. The team will write a communiqué of global proposals concerning the G8 topics — the global economy, poverty and development, the impact of infectious diseases and the environment and climate change — that will be given to the world leaders to persuade them to listen to young people’s views. Teams entered the J8 competition, now in its fourth year, by submitting ideas about how to tackle global problems such as climate change and poverty.²³³ (May 5, 2008, *Barry and District News*)

Business

Heads of **100 of the world’s biggest companies** have called political leaders to agree to huge cuts in greenhouse gases to stimulate a ‘green industrial revolution.’ “Climate change is not only a challenges, it is also an opportunity,” says the statement. “A paradigm shift to a low-carbon economy by 2050 has the potential to drive forward the next chapter of technological innovation. It will require a third – this time a green – industrial revolution.” The statement calls for ‘strong leadership’ and even higher targets from the G8 leaders. The statement, to be handed to Japan’s prime minister Fukuda, is signed by companies with headquarters in developing countries, in an attempt to head off

²³¹ *Canadian Press* (May 24, 2008), “G8 environment ministers meet in Japan to discuss climate change.”

²³² *Targeted News Service* (May 23, 2008), “Greenpeace Blocks Coal Shipment, Calls on G8 to Quit Coal.”

²³³ *Barry and District News* (May 5, 2008), “Harry’s off to Japan for G8 summit.”

arguments that poorer countries should not be forced to cut emissions until rich countries have done more.²³⁴ (June 20, 2008, *The Guardian*)

In a joint statement released after a one-day gathering in Tokyo, the heads of the G8 business lobbies said they will continue to address climate change by “voluntarily cooperating with works on sectoral approaches and helping to increase the understanding of the benefits and the role of them.” The G8 business leaders urged their governments to agree on ways to curb global warming during their summit meeting so as to help craft a post-Kyoto Protocol regime later. The business leaders also said the new framework to curb global warming should include all major greenhouse gas emitters and ensure equitable actions in reducing emissions among the major emitters. “We call on the G8 governments to ensure that industry will continue to be competitive without being unduly penalized by unbalanced policy measures that would divert resources away from investments in innovation,” they said in the statement. The G8 business chiefs said they hope their government leaders will reach a consensus to explore measures to reduce carbon emissions that are based on sound scientific, transparent, measurable and verifiable methodologies as well as sectoral and economy-wide consideration. As for their part, the G8 business heads also vowed to keep addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing energy-saving products and innovative technologies, and transferring such technologies to developing countries. This was the second meeting of G8 business leaders. The first was convened in Berlin last April ahead of the Heiligendamm summit.²³⁵ (April 17, 2008, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*)

Religious Leaders

Leaders of Catholics in the G8 countries wrote to the political heads of the group’s member states, urging them to live up to their promised on **development in Africa and global warming**. “The G8 Summit will explore many issues of critical importance to human life and dignity,” they wrote. “We pray that your meeting will be blessed by a spirit of collaboration that enables you to advance the global common good by taking concrete measures to reduce poverty and address climate change.” Signatories of the archbishops’ letter included the presidents of the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada, Russia and the United States.²³⁶ (June 20, 2008, *Press Association National Newswire*)

Academic G8

Approximately 200 people gather for the opening of **Hokkaido University’s Sustainability Weeks**, a series of events tackling environmental issues, held in conjunction with the G8 summit in Toyako. Hokkaido University plans to hold over 390

²³⁴ *The Guardian* (June 20, 2008), “Biggest firms call for huge cuts in emissions to start green industrial revolution.”

²³⁵ *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific* (April 17, 2008), “G-8 business chiefs issue joint statement on climate change.”

²³⁶ *Press Association National Newswire* (June 20, 2008), “G8 Catholic Leaders Urge Action Over Africa.”

symposiums and public lectures to present a variety of views on dealing with environmental issues. The symposium was divided into 4 sessions featuring the current state of the environment, technological innovation, social reform and transmission, with researchers on the world's frontlines briskly exchanging opinions.²³⁷ (June 23, 2008, *Mainichi Daily News*)

Scientists from the G8 and O5 countries urged the summit participants to increase their action against **global warming**, warning that climate change threatens food and water supplies. The 13 academies called for leaders to commit to a goal—halving global emissions of carbon gases by 2050. They also demanded urgent action to **improve energy** efficiency and expand **renewable energy** and for a timetable, to be drawn up by 2009, for building ‘carbon capture’ plants to snare carbon dioxide from power stations and other big emitters. “Key vulnerabilities include water resources, food supply, health, coastal settlements and some ecosystems, particularly Arctic, tundra, alpine and coral reef.” “In the coming years, they will be aggravated by rising populations, and climate change. These threats must be properly assessed and solutions identified if we are to avoid coastal mistakes from investing in technologies and infrastructure that do not take climate change into account.” The joint statement was signed by the heads of the national academies of science of the G8 and O5 countries. It is the fourth appeal on climate change issued by the 13 academies ahead of the annual summit of the G8. The first came in 2005 at Gleneagles.²³⁸ (June 9, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Parliamentarians

Other

The **Indigenous Peoples Summit** will be held from July 1 to 4 in Biratori and Sapporo with participation of groups of indigenous people from eleven countries, such as Australia, Norway and the Philippines. During the summit the adoption of indigenous languages and the topic of underprivileged indigenous people will be discussed. They are planning to adopt an ‘indigenous peoples’ declaration’ to submit to the leaders of the G8 when they meet in Hokkaido. The declaration will urge the G8 to respect the will and the wisdom of indigenous peoples in order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources. “I hope the restoration of the traditional life of indigenous peoples will contribute to the conservation of the **environment**,” Koji Yuki, secretary general of the summit organizing committee said.²³⁹ (June 12, 2008, *Kyodo News*)

²³⁷ *Mainichi Daily News* (June 23, 2008), “Hundreds gather for opening of Hokkaido University’s Sustainability Weeks.”

²³⁸ *Reuters News* (June 9, 2008), “Science academies urge 50 pct CO2 cuts by 2050.”

²³⁹ *Kyodo News* (June 12, 2008), “Ainu to host Indigenous Peoples Summit prior to G-8.”

Japan's G8 Team

Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister

Masaharu Kohno, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sherpa)

Masahiko Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Fukushiro Nukaga, Minister of Finance

Ichiro Kamoshita, Minister of the Environment, Minister in Charge of Global Environmental Problems

Hiroshi Okuda, Special Advisor to Cabinet on the Economy and Global Warming

Yoichi Masuzoe, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Hunio Hatoyama, Minister of Justice

Shigeru Ishiba, Minister of Defense

Kisaburo Tokai, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Tetsuzo Fuyushiba, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Minister for Ocean Policy

Masatoshi Wakabayashi, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Nobutaka Machimura, Chief Cabinet Secretary, Minister of State for the Abduction Issue

Hiroya Masuda, Minister of International Affairs and Communications, Minister of State for Decentralization Reform, Regional Revitalization, Regional Government (doshu-sei), and Privatization of the Postal Services

Hiroko Ota, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy

Yoko Kamikawa, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs

Shinya Izumi, Minister of State, Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister of State for Disaster Management and Food Safety

Fumio Kishida, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Science and Technology Policy, Quality-of-Life Policy, and Regulatory Reform

Yoshimi Watanabe, Minister of State for Financial Services and Administrative Reform

Yoshio Nagasaki, Mayor of Toyako Town²⁴⁰

²⁴⁰ *Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet* (Accessed October 15, 2007), <<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html>>

Participating Leaders

G8 Leaders

Japan

Yasuo Fukuda was born in Gunma Prefecture, Japan on July 16, 1936. In 1959, he graduated from the Faculty of Politics and Economics, Waseda University. Before entering into politics, he worked for a petroleum refining and marketing firm. He was first elected into the House of Representatives in 1990 and has been re-elected six times since then. He is currently the President of the Liberal Democratic Party. On September 25, 2008 Yasuo Fukuda became the 91st Prime Minister of Japan, replacing Shinzo Abe who resigned from the position. This will be the first G8 summit that Prime Minister Fukuda has hosted. It will also be the first G8 summit that he has attended. Masaharu Kohno will serve as G8 sherpa.

Italy

Silvio Berlusconi was born in Milan, Italy on September 29, 1936. In 1961, he received his Degree in Law from the University of Milan. Before entering into politics he worked in business and was quite the entrepreneur—building construction businesses, establishing cable networks, and forming media groups. Berlusconi was first elected Prime Minister in 1994. He served a second term as Prime Minister from 2001 to 2006. On April 29, 2008 Berlusconi became Prime Minister of Italy for a third time. This will be Berlusconi's seventh G8 summit. Giampiero Massolo will serve as G8 sherpa. Italy is schedule to host the 2009 G8 summit.

Canada

Stephen Harper was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on April 30, 1959. In 1985, he received his Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Calgary. In 1991, he returned to the University of Calgary and received his Master's degree in economics. Harper was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993. On February 6, 2006 Harper became Prime Minister of Canada after his Conservative party won the January 2006 election. This will be Prime Minister Harper's third G8 summit. Leonard Edwards will serve as G8 sherpa. Canada is scheduled to host the 2010 G8 summit.

France

Nicolas Sarkozy was born in Paris, France on January 28, 1955. In 1978, he received his Degree in Law from the University of Paris. Sarkozy worked as a lawyer for a while as

he pursued politics. From 1983 to 2002, he was served as Mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine. Since 2004, Sarkozy has been President of the Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (UMP), France's major right wing party. On May 16, 2007 Sarkozy became President of France. This will be President Sarkozy's second G8 summit. Jean-David Levitte will serve as G8 sherpa. France is scheduled to host the G8 summit in 2011.

United States

George W. Bush was born in New Haven, Connecticut, United States on July 6, 1946. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University in 1968 and a Master's in Business Administration from Harvard Business School in 1975. Before entering into politics he served in the National Air Guard and worked in the oil industry. Bush served as Governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000. On January 20, 2001 he became the 43rd President of the United States of America. This will be his eighth and final G8 summit. Daniel Price will serve as G8 sherpa. United States is scheduled to host the 2012 G8 summit.

United Kingdom

Gordon Brown was born in Govan, Glasgow, Scotland, on February 20, 1951. He studied history at the University of Edinburgh and completed his PhD in 1982. Before entering into politics he worked as a lecturer and journalist. Brown was first elected to parliament in 1983. He served as Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister) under Tony Blair from 1997 to 2007. He assumed the office of Prime Minister on June 27, 2007. This will be his first G8 summit as leader of the United Kingdom. He accompanied former Prime Minister Blair to summits in his ministry of finance position. Jonathan Cunliffe will serve as G8 sherpa. The United Kingdom is scheduled to host its next G8 summit in 2013.

Russia

Dmitry Medvedev was born in Leningrad of the former Soviet Union (now known as St. Petersburg, Russia) on September 14, 1965. In 1987 he earned a degree in Law from Leningrad State University. In 1990, he received his PhD in private law from the same university. Before entering into politics, he worked as a lawyer. He is scheduled to become President on May 7, 2008, replacing Vladimir Putin. This will be his first G8 summit. Arkaday Dvorkovich will serve as G8 sherpa. Russia is scheduled to host the G8 summit in 2014.

Germany

Angela Merkel was born in Hamburg, Germany on July 17, 1956. In 1978, she received her doctorate in Physics from the University of Leipzig. Before entering into politics Merkel worked as a physicist. She was first elected to the Bundestag in 1990. She became Chancellor of Germany on November 22, 2005. This will be Merkel's third G8

summit. Bernd Pfaffenbach will serve as G8 sherpa. Germany is scheduled to host the 2015 G8 summit.

O5 Leaders

China

Hu Jintao was born in Jiangyan, Jiangsu on December 21, 1942. In 1965 he received his degree in hydraulic engineering from Tsinghua University. Before entering into politics Hu worked as an engineer. He assumed the office of the Presidency on March 15, 2003. This will be President Jintao's fifth G8 summit.

India

Manmohan Singh was born in Gah, Punjab (now known as Chakwal district, Pakistan) on September 26, 1932. He received both an undergraduate and Master's degree from Punjab University in 1952 and 1954, respectively. He received an additional Undergraduate degree from Cambridge University in 1957 and a D. Philosophy from Oxford University in 1962. He has received several honorary degrees as well since then. Before entering into politics, Singh worked as an economist, including for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He served as Finance Minister of India from 1991 to 1996. He became Prime Minister of India on May 22, 2004. This will be his fourth G8 summit.

Brazil

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was born in Caetés, Pernambuco, Brazil on October 27, 1945. He received no formal education and began working in a copper pressing factory at the age of 14. He became heavily involved in the Worker's Unions at a young age. Lula da Silva was first elected to Congress in 1986. He assumed the office of the President on January 1, 2003. This will be his fifth G8 summit.

Mexico

Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa was born in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico on August 18, 1962. He received his bachelor's degree in law from Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City. Later, he received a Master's in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México as well as a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University. He served as Secretary of Energy from 2003 to 2004. He became President of Mexico on December 1, 2006. This will be Calderón's second G8 summit.

South Africa

Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki was born in Idutywa, Transkei, South Africa on June 18, 1942. He received his Master's in economics from the University of Sussex, while in exile in the United Kingdom. He has received several honorary degrees since then. Mbeki devoted most of his life to the African National Congress, even while in exile. He became President of South Africa on June 14, 1999. This will be Mbeki's ninth G8 summit.

Other Participating Leaders

Algeria

Abdelaziz Bouteflika was born in Oujda, Morocco on March 2, 1937. Before entering into politics he fought in the Algerian War of Independence. He assumed the office of the Presidency on April 27, 1999. This will be his eighth summit, including one occasion in 2000 where he attended a pre-summit meeting hosted by the Japanese.

Australia

Kevin Rudd was born in Nambour, Queensland, Australia on September 21, 1957. He received his degree in Asian studies from Australian National University. Before entering into politics Rudd worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs where he held posts in Stockholm, Sweden and China. Rudd was first elected to Parliament in 1998. He became Prime Minister of Australia on December 3, 2007. This will be his first G8 summit.

Ethiopia

Meles Zenawi was born in Adwa, Tigray, Ethiopia on May 8, 1955. In 1974, Zenawi interrupted his studies at Addis Ababa University to join the Tigrayan Peoples' Liberation Front. He assumed the office of the presidency on August 23, 1995. This will be his second summit.

Ghana

John Agyekum Kufuor was born in Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana on December 8, 1938. He received a degree in Law from Lincoln Inn and a degree in Economics, Philosophy and Politics from the University of Oxford in 1964. He was elected President of Ghana on December 28, 2000. This will be his fourth G8 summit.

Indonesia

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was born in Pacitan, East Java, Indonesia. He received his PhD in agricultural economics from the Bogor Institute of Agriculture in 2004. Before

entering into politics, he served as a military general. He was elected on October 5, 2004. This will be his first G8 summit.

Nigeria

Umaru Yar'Adua was born in Katsina, Nigeria in 1951. He received his bachelor of science in education and chemistry from Ahmadu Bello University in 1975 and his master of science in analytical chemistry from the same institution in 1980. He worked as a lecturer and in the business sector before entering into politics. On May 29, 2007 Yar'Adua became President of Nigeria. This will be the second G8 summit that he has attended.

Senegal

Abdoulaye Wade was born in Kébémér, Senegal on May 29, 1926. He received a PhD in Law and Economics from Sorbonne University in 1970. Before entering into politics, he worked as a professor and a lawyer. Wade assumed the office of the presidency on April 1, 2000. This will be his seventh G8 summit.

South Korea

Lee Myung-bak was born in Kirano, Osaka, Japan on December 19, 1941. He received a degree in Business Administration from Korea University in 1965. He worked in the business sector before entering into politics. He became President of South Korea on February 25, 2008. This will be his first G8 summit.

Tanzania

Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was born in Msoga, Bagamoyo, Tangayika on October 7, 1950. He received a degree in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam in 1975. Before entering into politics he served in the military. On December 21, 2005 he became President of the United Republic of Tanzania. This will be his first G8 summit.

The Physical Summit

Money Mobilized

Prospective

“Cool Earth Partnership” fund: \$10 billion to help **emerging countries** tackle **climate change**, with \$8 billion for assistance in climate change mitigation and \$2 billion for grants, aid and technical assistance for countries switching to clean energy.

Climate fund: The Japanese have pledged ¥100 billion (\$U.S. 995 million) over three years, the U.S. ¥200 billion (\$U.S. 2 billion) over three years and the UK ¥170 billion (\$U.S. 1.58 billion) over the same period.

The World Bank will raise at least **\$5.5 billion** with the U.S., Britain and Japan this year for climate change funds that will help poor nations use clean technology and tackle global warming.

Sudan peace building: \$200 million.

Safety around **Chernobyl**: \$470 million.

Fund to help **African countries** protect and make better use of **intellectual property**: ¥100 million.

African climate fund: The Japanese have pledged \$10 billion over five years.

Over the next five years Japan has pledged to **double its aid to Africa to \$7.2 billion**. (This will be supplemented by **\$4 billion** in soft loans, **\$7.2 billion** in debt relief and promotion of **\$3.2 billion** in foreign direct investment.)

Japan has announced that it pledged **\$560 million** to the **Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**.

At the TICAD conference, **doubled development aid** by 2012 will be given to African countries with no conditions attached.

Promised

Emissions Table

(million tonnes CO₂ equivalent)

Country	2006	2005	2000	1990	% Change 2006/2005	% Change 2006/1990
United States	7,017.3	7,106.6	7,002.6	6,135.2	-1.3	+14.4
Russia	2,190.4	2,123.5	2,038.4	3,326.4	+3.1	-34.2
Japan	1,340.1	1,658.1	1,348.3	1,272.1	-1.3	+5.3
Germany	1,004.8	1,005.0	1,019.5	1,227.7	-0.02	-18.2
Canada	721.0	734.0	718.0	592.0	-1.9	+22.0
Britain	655.8	658.7	673.8	772.0	-0.4	-15.0
France	541.3	555.1	555.6	563.3	-2.5	+3.9
Italy	567.9	577.9	552.3	516.9	-1.7	+9.9
Total	14,038.6	14,118.9	13,908.5	14,408.7	-0.6	-2.6

²⁴¹(May 23, 2008, *Reuters News*)

Sources: national submission to UN Climate Change Secretariat except for Canada, from Environment Canada

²⁴¹ *Reuters News* (May 23, 2008), "TABLE-Greenhouse gas emission in G8 members.