EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation
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JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND POLICY NEWS
September - October, 2021

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Legislation and Policy News

WTO installs panel on anti-dumping measures for Japanese stainless-steel products by China

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on September 28 that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has set up a panel (first instance) on anti-dumping measures for stainless steel products that China has been implementing since July 2019. On August 19, 2021, Japan requested the WTO to install a panel on anti-dumping measures by China.

In July 2019, China began imposing an anti-dumping (AD) tax, saying that dumping of stainless-steel products imported from Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and the EU has damaged China's domestic industry (Scheduled for 5 years). As the government of Japan, this AD measure has a defect in the recognition and investigation procedure of the Chinese investigative authorities, and it could violate the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Anti-Damping Agreement (1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade No. 6), it requested the WTO to install a panel. The Government of Japan plans to proceed with future procedures so that this matter will be properly resolved in accordance with WTO rules.

China claims that the surge in imports from Japanese companies has caused damage to its domestic industry and has imposed a 18.1% or 29% tariff since July 2019. The target is mainly stainless steel, which is a raw material for automobiles and home appliances, and includes three types: unprocessed steel pieces (slabs), hot-rolled steel sheets and hot-rolled coils. According to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the annual export value of stainless-steel products from Japan to China is about JP¥ 70 billion, of which about JP¥ 9.2 billion (both in 2019) is targeted products. Due to Chinese taxation, Japanese companies are forced to bear an additional tariff of about JP¥ 1.1 billion annually.

METI website: https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0928_001.html

Image from Nippon steel website

Patent dispute, online oral hearing possible

Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has announced that it will be possible to conduct an online oral hearing from October 1 regarding a patent dispute case that will be held in the trial court of the Japan Patent Office. This is the first attempt in Japan to allow the claimant who is the complainant to participate online through the trial court of the Japan Patent Office and the general court. Allowing online participation improves the convenience of distant patent dispute parties.

The Patent Law provides a system of "trial for invalidation" in which interested parties such as companies with competing technologies file for invalidation of rights. The trial for invalidation is conducted by oral communication between the parties, and both the claimant of the trial and the demandee who is the patentee collide with each other. It is a mechanism in which three judges judge the validity of the right after both sides have made all their claims. At this time, the claimant and the demandee had to appear in the trial court and undergo a face-to-face oral hearing. The main reason is that "it is necessary to exhaust the opinions of both parties at the hearing. And it is difficult to just have a written hearing because the technical discussions collide with each other," said a JPO official.

However, the situation has changed significantly due to the COVID-19 infection. In some cases, the JPO could not hold an oral hearing, and there were voices requesting an online oral hearing. In addition, the performance of the communication video has improved so that the facial expressions and voices of

the parties can be understood well, which also supported the introduction of online oral hearings. With the trend of digitalization in the world, it is expected that it will be easier for home-based and local parties to participate in the hearing, and the convenience of the parties will improve.

METI website (in Japanese):
https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2021/10/20211001001/20211001001.html

Image from METI website

Company & Organization News

ENEOS acquires JRE, a major renewable energy company for JP¥ 200 billion

ENEOS Holdings announced on October 11 that it will acquire Japan Renewable Energy (JRE), a major renewable energy company, for about JP¥ 200 billion. JRE was established in 2012 by Goldman Sachs and an affiliate of Singapore Government Investment Corporation (GIC) and will be a subsidiary of ENEOS.

The ENEOS Group was originally a company focused on oil refining and sales, but its long-term vision states "contribution to a decarbonized and recycling-

oriented society," and it is a next-generation energy supply including renewable energy and an environment-friendly is promoting. By the end of 2022, the goal is to expand the total power generation capacity of the renewable energy business in Japan and overseas to over 1 million kW and to achieve carbon neutrality for CO2 emissions from the company by 2040.

As one of the leading renewable energy companies in Japan, JRE is consistently engaged in everything from power development to power plant operation and maintenance. Since the establishment of Goldman Sachs in 2012, it has been actively promoting the development of renewable energy power sources for solar power, onshore wind power and biomass against the background of the abundant financial power of Goldman Sachs and GIC.

As of September 2021, the capacity of renewable energy power generation in operation will reach about 379,000 kW (capacity according to the equity ratio of each project), and will reach about 708,000 kW (same as above) including those under construction. Furthermore, they are also working on commercialization studies such as wind condition observation and construction planning for offshore wind power generation, which is expected to become widespread as a trump card for making renewable energy the main power source. After the acquisition of all JRE shares, the total power generation capacity of ENEOS in operation and construction in Japan and overseas will be approximately 1.22 million kW.

ENEOS website:
https://www.hd.eneos.co.jp/english/newsrelease/upload_pdf/20211011_01_02_0960492.pdf

Image from JRE website

MOL, feasibility study of "wave power generation" business in Mauritius
MOL announced on October 8 that the feasibility study project for wave power generation in Mauritius has been adopted as a subsidized project by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

In this project, the British ocean energy equipment development maker Bombora Wave Power (Bombora) will investigate the feasibility of wave power generation by their wave energy converter "mWaveTM" and by utilizing GIS (Geographic Information System) in Mauritius. They will identify technical issues for the practical application of wave power generation, verify the CO2 reduction effect, examine the power generation business management system and forecast business profitability.

MOL has been carrying out local natural environment protection and restoration projects and social contribution activities since the accident in which the chartered bulk carrier "WAKASHIO" ran aground off the coast of Mauritius in July 2020. In addition, Mauritius has formulated a roadmap to raise the proportion of renewable energy to 35% or 40% by 2030, of which wave power generation is positioned as one of the future power source configurations. MOL proposed this project to contribute to the country's environmental policy.

MOL signed an agreement with Bombora in January 2021 and began studying the development of a wave power generation business using the wave energy converter "mWave" in Japan and Asia. By connecting "mWave" to offshore wind power generation facilities, it will also consider the possibility of projects that utilize two offshore renewable energies.

"MWave" is a wave that bends a rubber film to send air to a turbine to generate electricity. Electricity is transferred directly to the coast via underwater cables. In addition, the device will be installed 10 meters below sea level, so it will not affect the landscape. Wave power generation is one of the renewable energies in the ocean that has not yet been fully commercialized in Japan, but according to the company, large-scale demonstration experiments and commercialization using subsidies have been conducted in some regions of Europe and the United States.

MOL website: https://www.mol.co.jp/en/pr/2021/21086.html

Image from Bombora website

Sanyo Shokai recycles marine plastic into T-shirts with ECOALF Spain
From October 8, Sanyo Shokai launched the first product "UTO JAPAN T-shirt" which is consistently produced in Japan by separating and recycling PET bottles from collected marine debris, under the sustainable fashion brand "ECOALF" of Spain.

According to the company, the cost of producing recycled products from waste PET bottles is high, so there is almost no production background in Japan that handles everything from collection and sorting to spinning and commercialization. It took two years to investigate and inspect a mechanism for making products from plastic waste including marine PET bottles in Japan.

Regarding the collection of PET bottles, which are the raw material, in cooperation with Shima City, Mie Prefecture, which supports "UTO JAPAN", they conducted collection activities on the coast with city office staff, fishermen, environmental activists, etc.

In the future, Shima City will take the lead in installing a stocker in the Anori fishing port with the cooperation of the Mie Outer Bay Fisheries Cooperative Anori Office. From October 4, they will start a demonstration experiment in which fishermen bring marine debris, including PET bottles caught in nets, back to the land during fishing and put it in the stocker.

The products will be sold at two stores of the same brand (Tokyo and Osaka) and an online store. Available in two colors, white and black. By blending GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) organic cotton, it pursued comfort. The price is JP¥ 7,920.

"ECOALF" was launched in Spain in 2009. Since 2015, based in Spain, they have been working on the project "UPCY CLING THE OCEANS" to collect marine debris and utilize it for new products. In Japan, Sanyo Shokai started its business in March 2020. In order to establish "UTO" activities in Japan, they are trying to build an upcycle system in Japan as "UPCYCLING THE OCEANS JAPAN (UTO JAPAN)".

Sanyo website (in Japanese): https://www.sanyo-shokai.co.jp/brand/news/2021/09/29-02.html

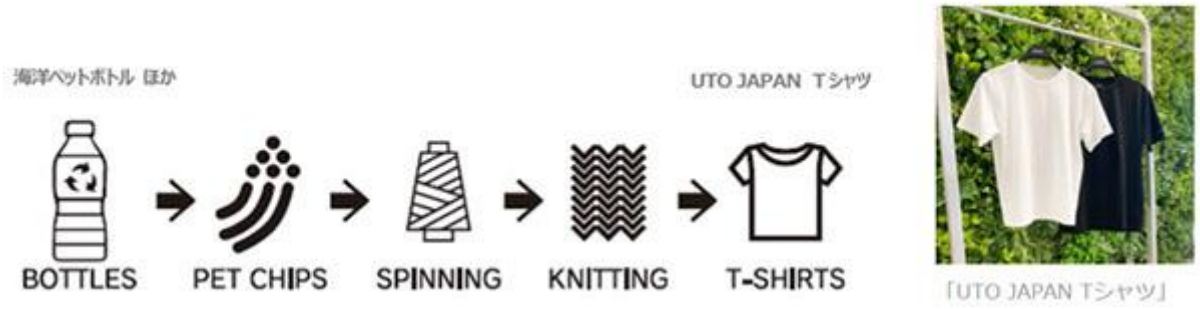


Image from Sanyo website

Sumitomo Forestry and NTT Urban Development construct Net Zero Carbon Wooden Skyscraper in Australia

Sumitomo Forestry and NTT Urban Development will work with major US developer Hines announced on October 6 that they will start to realize a net zero carbon building by combining the effective use of wood with a carbon fixation function with energy saving, energy creation and renewable energy utilization of the building.

The official name of the project is "36 Wellington Project". As a stepping stone, they will build a large 15-story wooden office in Collingwood, near Melbourne,

Australia. Construction will begin in December of this year and will be completed in August 2023. According to Sumitomo Forestry and NTT Urban Development, this skyscraper construction aims to obtain net zero carbon certification based on the country's standard "Carbon Neutral Standard for Building" in addition to the highest 6 stars of Australia's environmental certification Green Star.

In this project, it is estimated that about 4,000 m3 of wood will be used for the structural frame and about 3,000 tons (CO2 base) of carbon will be fixed. Including this fixed amount, the entire structure of CO2 (embodied carbon) emitted during building construction (processes such as procurement, manufacturing, construction, and demolition of raw materials for building materials) is equivalent to the reduction of about 40% compared to RC (Reinforced Concrete).

The Sumitomo Forestry Group aims to realize and develop the "Net Zero Carbon Building" with wooden construction as one of the efforts to build a circular bio-economy system. In Australia, medium- and large-scale wooden buildings are becoming widespread and expanding due to the revision of the Building Standards Law after 2016. Taking this project as an opportunity, it plans to promote medium- and large-scale wooden buildings with low environmental impact in Australia, and to return the knowledge gained here to Japan for the development of the same business in Japan.

Currently, it is said that the construction sector accounts for about 38% of the world's CO2 emissions. The WGBC (World Green Building Council), a global action network consisting of about 70 green building councils around the world, will operate carbon in all new buildings as a climate change measure toward the realization of the Paris Agreement. The goal of the number of operational carbons is zero and embodied carbons is eliminated by 40% or more in 2030. And the operational carbons and the embodied carbons in all buildings are zero by 2050.

Sumitomo Forestry and NTT Urban Development say that this project is an advanced development that will achieve the WGBC's goal for 2030 seven years ahead of schedule.

Sumitomo forestry website:
https://sfc.jp/english/news/pdf/20211006_01.pdf

Image from Sumitomo website

6 companies including Iwatani to carry out a survey to build a liquefied hydrogen supply chain between Japan and Australia

Iwatani Corporation, Kansai Electric Power, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Marubeni and two Australian-based energy infrastructure companies, Stanwell and APA agreed to jointly conduct a commercialization survey on a project in the Gladstone area of Queensland, Australia (Central Queensland Hydrogen Project) that manufactures and liquefies energy-derived hydrogen on a large scale and exports it to Japan and have signed a memorandum of understanding on September 15.

This business aims to produce and supply hydrogen in a stable and inexpensive manner for a long period of time. Finance and environmental assessment, commercialization models will be considered. The survey will be conducted with the support of the Japanese and Australian governments (Australia: Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Japan: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry).

The roles of each company in the survey are as follows.

- Iwatani Corp.: Coordination of Japanese companies, operation of liquefied hydrogen plants, provision of know-how, support for studying hydrogen production plants

- Kawasaki Heavy Industries: Examination of technology and cost related to hydrogen liquefaction, cargo bases and liquefied hydrogen carriers
- Kansai Electric Power: Providing information on the potential utilization of hydrogen (such as the use of fuel for power generation at thermal power plants and the use of customers to meet heat demand)
- Stanwell: Coordination of Australian companies, examination of hydrogen production plants (examination of hydrogen generators, renewable energy power sources, water resources), coordination of overall project development
- APA: General advice on Australian studies (general hydrogen production plants, infrastructure such as electricity and water), advice on laying hydrogen pipelines, advice on plant management and operations in Australia

They have an estimation of specific production volume of 100 tons / day by around 2026 (estimated renewable energy requirement is 1 GW) and 800 tons / day after 2031 (estimated renewable energy requirement is 7 GW). The above hydrogen production is assumed. The current production of liquefied hydrogen in Japan is up to 30 tons / day, and since 2031, the production scale of 800 tons / day or more will be about 26 times the current production scale in Japan.

Iwatani corporation website:
http://www.iwatani.co.jp/img/eng/pdf/newsrelease/109/20210915_news_e1.pdf

Rendered image of Aldoga Site, a hydrogen production base from Iwatani website

Sojitz enters the European electricity retail business and supplies 100% renewable energy-derived electricity

Sojitz Corporation announced on September 13 that it will invest in Nexus Energi, a major Spanish electricity and gas retailer, to participate in the Spanish electricity retail business for the first time as a Japanese company.

Nexus Energia is engaged in the supply of 100% renewable energy-derived electricity in Spain and other countries. By adding the business foundation of Nexus Energia to the development and operation know-how of the renewable energy power generation business, Sojitz will operate electricity and energy-saving services in addition to the current power retail business, customer power usage optimization and energy saving services of Nexus Energia. It will also develop the EaaS (Energy as a Service) business, which provides gas in combination with other services, and the BaaS (Battery as a Service) business, which provides storage batteries as services such as leasing and sharing.

This time, Sojitz became the largest shareholder undertaking a third-party allotment of shares by Nexus Energia through a Sojitz European company. Nexus Energia has an extensive customer network, strong sales network and business base in Spain. It operates electricity retail businesses in Spain, Portugal, and Mexico, and is one of the top five electricity retailers in Spain, excluding the five former state-owned electricity companies, on an annual electricity sales volume basis (2020 / Electricity sales volume: 3.8TWh). It has strengths in electricity retailing for government offices and small and medium-sized enterprises, and is characterized by the fact that 100% of the electricity sold is derived from renewable energy.

It also offers power plans that incorporate fan services to fan club members of soccer clubs belonging to the Spanish 1st division league, and sales are increasing at a pace of over 20% every year for the past three years.Sojitz cites two characteristics of the Spanish electricity market. The first is new electric power, in which electric power consumers such as small and medium-sized enterprises and public institutions are changing their partner to 100% renewable energy-derived power from the former state-owned electric power company. The tendency to switch to a company is remarkable. The second is that renewable energy has already surpassed fossil fuel-derived power sources and

has become the most price-competitive power source due to good solar radiation and wind conditions, in addition to the government policies.

Sojitz Corporation web site:
https://www.sojitz.com/en/news/2021/09/20210913.php

Nexus Energia's Company Logo from Sojitz website

Mitsubishi Corporation supplies Amazon with renewable energy approximately 450 locations in Japan, 22 MW of solar power generation
On September 8, Mitsubishi Corporation announced it signed Japan's first long-term power sale agreement (corporate PPA) utilizing renewable energy with Amazon.com. In Japan, the spread of corporate PPA for renewable energy power generation is far behind that in Europe and the United States, and it is expected that this contract will be an opportunity for a leap forward.

The deal is for Amazon to purchase renewable energy from 22 MW intensive solar power project run by the Mitsubishi Corporation Group. This solar power project is currently under development at more than 450 locations in the Tokyo metropolitan area and the Tohoku region. It consists of a large number of ground-based solar power generation facilities, and is scheduled to start operation sequentially from 2022 to 2023. With all the equipment in operation, the entire project will be able to generate 23,000 MWh of renewable energy annually.

According to Amazon, it is the he first and largest intensive solar power

generation project utilizing corporate PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) in Japan, and will propose a new method of purchasing renewable energy in Japan. The project will also support employment and investment in the environmental sector in many parts of Japan.

Amazon has set a goal of "substantially zero" CO2 emissions by 2040, and is aiming to achieve 100% renewable energy consumption by 2025 for global renewable energy development and green power procurement.

In 2020, Amazon became the world's largest purchaser of renewable energy, achieving a 65% renewable energy ratio for the entire business. It has more than 230 solar and wind projects around the world with a total capacity of over 10GW. So far, five practical projects have been implemented in the Asia-Pacific region. Mitsubishi Corporation will be the second corporate PPA for Amazon, following Custonode, Holland, an offshore wind farm through its subsidiary ENECO in Holland.

Mitsubishi corporation website:
https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/jp/en/pr/archive/2021/html/0000047708.html

Image from Amazon Japan website

Sumitomo Corporation and Nishitetsu convert used diesel bus to EV

On September 27, Sumitomo Corporation and Nishi-Nippon Railroad (Fukuoka City) introduced the "Retrofit Electric Bus," which is a remodeled used domestic diesel bus into an electric bus, on the route between Ogura and Kurosaki (about 14km one way), and announced that it will verify various issues in terms of driving performance, environmental load and operation.

This retrofit electric bus was jointly developed with RAC Electric Vehicles (RAC), the largest electric bus manufacturer in Taiwan, in which Sumitomo Corporation participates. It is equipped with a lithium-ion battery (235kWh) as a drive battery, has a cruising range of 150km (estimated value), and is expected to have a CO2 reduction effect of 57% (estimated value) compared to existing diesel buses.

Since it has a longer cruising range than the conventional retrofit electric bus, it is expected to contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions. In this demonstration, they will verify the vehicle performance of the newly introduced bus, the cruising range for no-load / air-conditioner load / passenger boarding, and the optimum charging operation. The service is scheduled to start after February 2022. In the future, they aim to reduce the cost of remodeling by retrofitting in Japan and to popularize and promote high-performance, low-priced electric buses.

Four companies, Sumitomo Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation Kyushu, Nishi-Nippon Railroad and Nishitetsu Bus Kitakyushu will participate in this demonstration. Through the demonstration, they will jointly work to promote the further introduction of electric buses in the Nishitetsu Group, and aim to achieve "2050 carbon neutral achievement", solving problems for the spread of electric buses, and build sustainable public transportation.

In order to do the "achievement of carbon neutrality in 2050" set by the Japanese government, the importance of public transportation such as electric buses, which has a low environmental load, is increasing. While the four companies expect that the introduction of electric buses will contribute to further reduction of CO2, they point out that there are challenges such as high introduction costs, optimal charging infrastructure / operation management and

operational aspects such as power procurement.

Sumitomo corporation website:
https://www.sumitomocorp.com/en/jp/news/release/2021/group/15110

Retrofit Electric Bus from Sumitomo Corporation Website

Toshiba / Sojitz / CBMM cooperates with commercialization of next-generation lithium-ion batteries for commercial EVs

Toshiba, Sojitz and Brazil's CBMM which sells and produces metal niobium (Nb), signed a joint development agreement on September 24 for the commercialization of next-generation lithium-ion batteries using niobium-titanium oxide (NTO). The three companies aim to commercialize next-generation lithium-ion batteries with high energy density and quick charging in 2023, which are mainly suitable for commercial electric vehicle (EV) applications.

NTO is a material that has twice the theoretical volume capacity density as graphite, which is generally used as a negative electrode material for lithium-ion batteries. The adoption of NTO is expected to extend the cruising range of EVs by reducing the size of the on-board batteries and increasing the capacity. In June 2018, the three companies signed a joint development contract for a negative electrode material for lithium-ion batteries using NTO, and Toshiba R

& D Center has been playing a central role in the development. This time, the development of the prototype cell has been completed, and further collaboration has been promoted toward the establishment of a mass production process for commercialization and the early introduction to the market.

Next-generation lithium-ion batteries using NTO will be installed in new commercial electric vehicles designed by Latin American commercial vehicle maker Volkswagen Caminhões e Ônibus. This company is a member of the TRATON Group, a subsidiary of the Volkswagen Group, which develops and produces electric trucks. CBMM has signed a contract with Volkswagen Caminhões e Ônibus to demonstrate the actual introduction of next-generation lithium-ion batteries using NTO. Toshiba and Sojitz will cooperate with this demonstration to collect the characteristics and vehicle operation data of next-generation lithium-ion batteries using the NTO installed in new commercial electric vehicles.

Niobium (Nb) is one of the metal elements and is mainly used as a steel additive in high-grade steel materials such as high-strength steel and stainless steel. Among them, niobium (Nb) is indispensable for weight reduction and rigidity of steel materials for automobiles. CBMM boasts the world's largest production and sales volume in the niobium market, and has high technology and product development programs. On the other hand, Sojitz, as the sole agent of CBMM for the Japanese market, has been building a stable raw material supply system and cultivating applications.

https://www.sojitz.com/en/news/2021/09/20210924-1.php

Prototype cell & Niobium Titanium Oxide (NTO)
from Sojitz website

Mitsubishi Corporation with Shell to manufacture ammonia for power generation in Canada

Mitsubishi Corporation announced on Sept. 8 that it will start producing ammonia in Canada in the latter half of the 2020s in partnership with Royal Dutch Shell, a major British oil company. It is planned to be used as fuel for coal-fired power plants in Japan, and the investment amount is expected to reach JP¥ 100 to 200 billion. Promote decarbonization with ammonia power generation that can reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. Mitsubishi Corporation and Shell's Canadian subsidiary signed a memorandum of understanding at the end of August.

Mitsubishi Corporation will build a manufacturing facility in Alberta, Western Canada, to produce hydrogen from locally procured natural gas. Since hydrogen is difficult to transport, it reacts with nitrogen, which accounts for 80% of the air, to produce about 1 million tons of ammonia annually and exports it to Japanese electric power companies.

At power plants in Japan, 20% of ammonia is mixed with coal and burned. It can operate a power plant for 2 million kilowatts, which is the power for about 700,000 households. The cost will increase by 20% compared to the case of

coal alone, but CO2 emissions can be reduced by 20%. CO2 generated in the process of producing hydrogen from natural gas is confined 2 kilometers underground using the underground storage facility being developed by Shell.

Coal-fired power plants, which emit a lot of CO2, are exposed to headwinds worldwide, but the existing power plants can be used for ammonia. In the future, they plans to increase the ratio of ammonia to more than half and promote the development of power generation technology that burns only ammonia.

Mitsubishi Corporation website:
https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/jp/en/pr/archive/2021/html/0000047710.html

Planned location of the project from Mitsubishi corporation website

Other Topics

Honda Aircraft Company unveils HondaJet 2600 concept in NBAA 2021
On October 12, Honda Aircraft Company, a subsidiary of Honda's aircraft business, announced the "HondaJet 2600 Concept," a small business jet concept aircraft. This is a reference exhibit at the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), the world's largest business aircraft show held in Las Vegas, USA.

HondaJet (Elite) achieved the top category in the market for very light jets (about 50% share in this class) in the calendar year 2017-2020 (January-December) for the fourth consecutive year. The "HondaJet 2600" announced this time is a light jet aircraft that is one class higher than the HondaJet (Aircraft equipped with a twin-engine with a maximum takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or more and 20,000 pounds or less) with the engine placed on the upper surface of the main wing, which is Honda's original technology, the natural layer flow wing type/nose and composite fuselage further evolved.

When the aircraft is released, it will be the first light jet in the world to become a small business jet that enables "non-stop US transcontinental crossing". It can accommodate up to 11 passengers (incl. pilot), and has excellent quietness, a large cabin space suitable for long-distance flights and low fuel consumption.

The cockpit can be operated by a single pilot and it has a newly introduced advanced technologies such as auto throttle and autobrake that have realized the autonomous and electrified operation. In addition to reducing the load on the pilot, it also contributes to ensuring the safety of aircraft operation.

Honda is aiming to improve fuel efficiency is 20% higher than regular light jets and 40% higher than medium-sized jets (aircraft with twin engines with a maximum takeoff weight of 20,000 pounds or more and 35,000 pounds or less/between New York and Los Angeles). It was exhibited for reference as a concept aircraft at this NBAA, and Honda investigate new demands and market needs of users.

Honda website: https://global.honda/newsroom/news/2021/c211013aeng.html

HondaJet 2600 concept image for illustration purposes
from Honda website

Current HondaJet Elite from Honda website

Dubai Expo opens, Gundam also attends at the Japan Pavilion opening ceremony

The 2020 Dubai International Exposition (“Dubai Expo”), the first registered exposition in the Middle East and Africa, opened in Dubai Emirate of the Arab Emirates (UAE) on October 1. The opening ceremony was also held at the Japan Pavilion. Gundam (Dubai Expo Japan Pavilion specification), who is a PR ambassador for the Japan Pavilion and has many fans both in Japan and overseas, was present, and a Japanese calligraphy (SHODO) performance by a Japan Pavilion attendant was also held to liven up the ceremony. The Dubai Expo will be held for 182 days until March 31 next year.

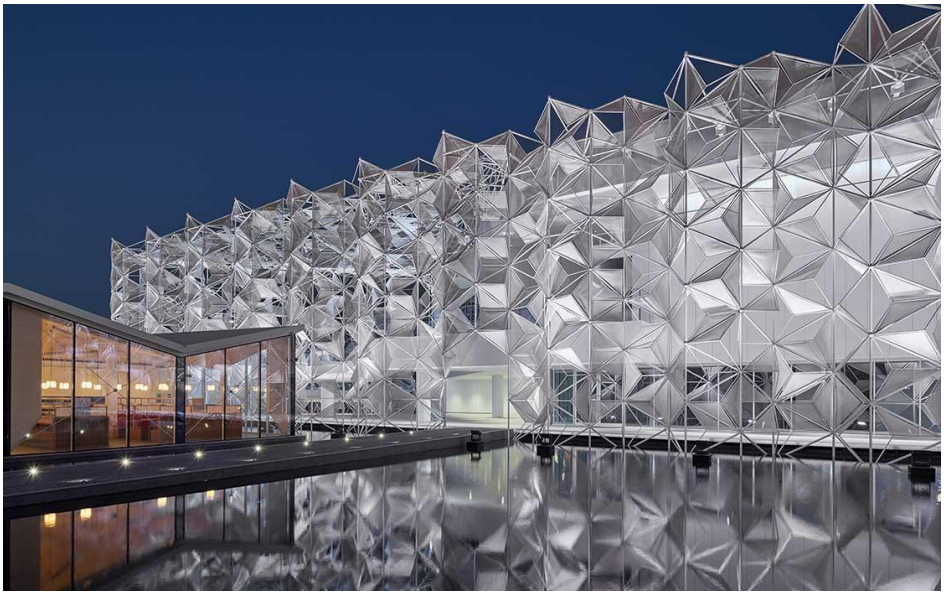
Based on the theme of “Connecting Minds and Creating the Future” for the entire Dubai Expo, the Japan Pavilion has the theme of "Where Ideas Meet" as an approach for solving various social issues. It aims to create new value by making the Japan Pavilion a point where people all over the world can meet ideas. Information on the Osaka / Kansai Expo to be held in 2025 is also provided.

Based on the situation of the COVID-19, the Japan Pavilion is a digital experience "Virtual Japan Pavilion" to provide a new experience style of the Expo Pavilion where the people can know and participate in the Japan Pavilion not only from the venue but also from anywhere in the world. For that it has set up two special websites.

The restaurant in the Japan Pavilion is run by the sushi train restaurant "Sushiro". "Sushiro Dubai Expo" has a menu that uses all halal ingredients so that Muslims can enjoy their meals with peace of mind. It offers 120 kinds of dishes.

The secretary general of Japanese Pavilion is introducing their exhibits on Alroeya.com: https://youtu.be/guX1Eqjz7gA

One of the official sites of Japanese Pavilion: https://expo-junkan.go.jp/en/



Japan pavilion from official site

One of the exabits of Japanese pavilion from official site

National Development and Reform Commission of China policy to ban power supply suspension and restriction measures without notice

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) reported on October 1 that the National Development and Reform Commission of China announced on September 29 that the countermeasure policy has been taken to suspend and restrict electricity supply in some areas.

According to reports from Japanese commercial and industrial organizations in various parts of China, electricity usage restrictions have been taken in several provinces such as Jiangsu, Guangdong and Zhejiang since mid-September, and Japanese companies have been involved in production activities.

The National Development and Reform Commission has acknowledged that China's energy supply and demand is currently tight. Regarding the electricity demand in the winter of 2021, as the economy is growing steadily and the demand for electricity for heating is increasing rapidly, it is expected that electricity demand will exceed the peak value of in the summer of 2021 and the winter of 2020. Based on this situation, the following six priority measures have been listed as future countermeasures.

(1) Orderly increase in coal imports, opening of restrained coal production capacity, increase in natural gas production, (2) Promotion of securing the required amount in advance by concluding medium- to long-term contracts between supply companies and power generation companies in coal and natural gas used for power generation and heating, (3) Establishing the guidance for scientific and rational energy utilization measures to avoid restrictions on consumer power in rural areas, (4) The plant will store coal to a safe level by the time the heating starts to be used, and build a power supply capacity for emergency use and peak shifts, (5) Stabilize energy prices for consumer and public use, and reasonably adjust the price so that the cost of energy producers can be covered based on the policy, (6) Restrict coal use and promote savings for high energy consumption and high pollution companies.

The commission also stressed that it would formulate an orderly power usage policy based on science regarding the future restriction measures. Specifically, it emphasized securing a solid power supply for consumer and important companies (electric power users). On top of that, the commission show the policy of trying to obtain a sufficient understanding of the company about the implementation conditions, and to prohibit the restriction of the power supply without notice.

Since mid-September, even Japanese companies have been cut off from power supply without prior notice, and there is concern that production equipment may

be damaged or employees may be injured. It is necessary to pay close attention to whether this measure is thoroughly implemented in the local government.

JETRO website (in Japanese):
https://www.jetro.go.jp/biznews/2021/10/f7782ed35dbf9684.html

Image from Yahoo news (Reuters)