

Recent Seminar Activities on Practical Approaches to Climate Strategy and Decarbonization Goals

Submitted by:

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1. Overview

Between March and May 2025, I conducted two executive-level seminars organized by the Japan Management Association (一般社団法人 企業研究会), targeting sustainability officers and technical managers in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. These seminars focused on practical and strategic aspects of decarbonization management, with a particular emphasis on the role of mid-term targets in achieving Science Based Targets (SBT), TCFD-aligned disclosure, and Scope 3 emissions management.

2. Seminar 1: “Optimizing Information Disclosure in Decarbonization Management”

Date: March 10, 2025

Participants: 30+ sustainability professionals and corporate strategists

Organizer: Japan Management Association (JMA)

Main Themes:

- Global and domestic developments in climate policy, including the Paris Agreement, IPCC AR6 recommendations, and Japan’s 2030/2050 targets.
- Role of TCFD and SBT in driving investor expectations and shaping disclosure frameworks.
- Practical integration of TCFD’s four pillars (Governance, Strategy, Risk Management, Metrics & Targets) into corporate management systems.
- Rational design of Scope 3 emission inventories: priority categories, calculation methods, and data acquisition strategies.
- Examples of governance structures and KPI systems in leading companies (e.g., TDK, Kao, Hitachi, Toyota).
- Proposal of a management model that integrates decarbonization strategy with day-to-day operational planning.
- Introduction to the SBT for SMEs framework as a stepping stone for smaller companies in the supply chain to align with large clients' Scope 3 requirements.

Impact:

The seminar emphasized the need for transparent, manageable, and investor-relevant climate disclosure. Attendees appreciated the practical examples of internal data collection systems and cross-departmental collaboration frameworks.

3. Seminar 2: “Designing Actionable and Sustainable Carbon Reduction Targets”

Date: May 9, 2025

Participants: 35 professionals from manufacturing, logistics, food, chemicals, and retail sectors

Organizer: Japan Management Association (JMA)

Main Themes:

- Structural challenges in target setting: the disconnect between long-term vision and short-term execution.
- Introduction of the “Three-Layer Target Framework” (Long-Term / Mid-Term / Short-Term).
- Classification of climate-related targets into eight types: absolute, intensity-based, ratio-based, maintenance, reduction rate, etc.
- Benchmarking study across 32 Japanese companies (166 targets) to analyze sectoral differences and mid-long term consistency.
- Importance of mid-term targets as “translators” connecting vision (e.g., 2050 Net Zero) with operational KPIs.
- Data-driven examples of successful alignment between mid-term and long-term targets in CO₂ and resource use.
- Organizational readiness and governance: Scope definition, PDCA-based systems, and KPI coherence (SSK framework).
- Workshop session: Participants designed mid-term decarbonization targets based on a hypothetical company scenario.

Impact:

This session emphasized the role of mid-term targets in maintaining corporate consistency and facilitating stakeholder communication. The SSK framework (Scope / System / KPI) was introduced as a practical tool for internal alignment and implementation.

4. Relevance to SBTi Registration

These activities directly contribute to capacity building for SBT-aligned climate action. The seminars addressed core principles of:

- Target validity: Through case analysis and numerical reasoning aligned with IPCC 1.5°C pathways.
- Internal integration: Emphasizing data quality, organizational consensus, and resource allocation.
- Scope 3 strategy: Presenting sector-specific challenges and supplier engagement models.
- SME pathway promotion: Introducing the SBT for SMEs as a feasible option for smaller firms in large supply chains.

The content is tailored to SMEs as well as large organizations, with attention to data availability, feasibility, and regulatory trends. These efforts exemplify our firm’s commitment to scalable, realistic, and science-aligned climate strategy.