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Since becoming director at Japan International Transport Institute (JITI), Institution for Transport Policy Studies (ITPS) in April 2008, Ms. Tanaka has been managing various researches in the field of international transport. One of the main projects is a Study of a Transport System in a Low Carbon Society where ITPS has been building transportation scenarios towards 2050 together with several prominent international partners.

Before joining ITPS, she had been serving as a director at the Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency (JRTT) for two years since April 2006.

Ms. Tanaka has been a civil servant of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (originally the Ministry of Transport) since April 1990. During her career, she became engaged in transport policies regarding maritime transport, tourism, navigation safety, port administration, international air transport and others. Ms. Tanaka has also worked in the Ministry of Environment where she dealt with policy for emission control of automobiles and the dissemination of environmentally friendly vehicles.

Ms. Tanaka graduated from Hitotsubashi University in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in economics. She received a MS in environmental economics in 1996 and a MS in urban and regional planning studies in 1997 both from the University of London.

The Japan International Transport Institute (JITI) is comprised of two offices, Washington D.C. Office (U.S.) and Tokyo Office (Japan). The Institute engages in survey studies and research on matters concerning international transport. The Institute also widely provides information and offers recommendations on the current circumstances affecting international transport policy issues. In addition, the Institute is expanding its activities from gathering of information on transport sector issues in the U.S., the European Union, and the East Asian region to now encompass a more global perspective, which includes conducting research and holding symposiums and seminars on the global environment and international security.