

**Statement by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Hamachi at a Side Event of the World Tsunami Awareness Day
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the
Pacific (ESCAP)**

(Opening Remarks)

Distinguished guests, I would like to thank you for attending this event.

I would also like to express my appreciation to you on behalf of the Japanese people for your kind messages of encouragement and providing assistance, including emergency relief goods, following the Kumamoto earthquakes in Japan last month.

(Establishment of World Tsunami Awareness Day)

Disaster risk reduction has made steady progress. For example, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted last year, and disaster risk reduction has been incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing disaster risk reduction is an important element of development. As a follow-up measure, World Tsunami Awareness Day was established at a United Nations General Assembly in December last year with cooperation from the member countries of ESCAP. Thank you, once again,

for your cooperation.

(Japan's Contributions in the Field of Disaster Risk Reduction)

At the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Prime Minister Abe announced the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction, which includes 4 billion dollars in assistance and training of 40,000 people as leaders who will play key roles in disaster risk reduction and reconstruction over the next 4 years. Japan will continue to promote “investment in disaster risk reduction from the long-term perspective” and “risk assessment” while providing its knowledge and experiences in the Asia-Pacific region as a country combining science and technology with traditional knowledge. In the event of a disaster, Japan intends to promote reconstruction support under the concept of “Build back better” in order to build a society resilient to disasters.

Japan supports for international organizations through the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness and the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. Since last year, Japan has been promoting a new initiative to communicate timely and accurate information to residents in need of assistance in times of disaster. Japan is enhancing the ability to utilize

artificial satellite information and GIS in all Pacific island countries that are sensitive to natural disasters. This contributes to the development of nationwide resilience to tsunami and other natural disasters, at the regional, and local level.

Second, Japan is also promoting regional and bilateral initiatives. In Pacific countries, Japan is training personnel of meteorological agencies of the countries using the Fiji Meteorological Service. This serves as a regional, specialized meteorological center as a base to establish a disaster early warning system in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan is also promoting the improvement of radio networks, necessary for quick communication of forecasts and alarms. On a bilateral basis, Japan supports the improvement and reconstruction of infrastructure resilient to natural disasters, and it is also dedicating efforts to the development of local emergency responses , including evacuation drills.

Finally, I would like to talk about Japan's science, technology and innovations related to tsunami risk reduction. Tsunamis occur frequently along Japan's coastal areas, so enhancing the early warning system is important. Based on the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake,

Japan has installed seismometers and tsunami meters on the ocean beds and has enhanced the real-time observation system. Japan distributes emergency emails using mobile phones in order to immediately issue alerts to residents. Japan is promoting quality infrastructure investments to protect human lives and property through the improvement of coastal facilities in preparation for a “once-in-a-century” tsunami. Meanwhile, as for a “once-in-a-millennium” tsunami, Japan does implement physical measures and places emphasis on disaster risk reduction education and improvement of hazard maps, focusing on evacuation. Japan will continue to combine science, technology and innovations, and traditional knowledge to meet the challenge of disasters.

(End)