

中野外務大臣政務官スピーチ

ロシア加盟署名式

Mr. Chair,

Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation,

Honorable Igor Shuvalov,

Minister of Economic Development, Honorable Elvira

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Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a neighboring country in the Asia-Pacific region, having long supported Russia's accession, Japan whole-heartedly welcomes the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO after 18 years of negotiation.

Let me also extend our great appreciation to those Members who made outstanding contribution to

the accession, particularly Iceland, Switzerland, and Georgia.

Japan is convinced that the accession of Russia, one of the major economic powers in the world, will have a strong, positive impact on the still struggling global economy, by further expanding trade and investment including that involving Russia. The accession will also significantly contribute to the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region, the growth center of the world.

In the Asia-Pacific region, APEC has been playing a vital role in realizing free and open trade and investment. Next year, Russia will host APEC for the first time to enhance cooperation for achieving this goal. We look forward to seeing the great role Russia will carry out as APEC host economy in addressing successfully new challenges surrounding this dynamic economic center of the world.

We also believe that Russia's trading system, now poised to comply with WTO rules, will improve the predictability for business sector. Japan is convinced that Russia's accession will further enhance the economic relationship between the two countries.

Lastly, let me assure you that Japan is determined to further contribute to maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system, together with our new WTO partner, Russia.

Thank you.