

**Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Japan
Kazuya SHIMBA
at the 19th OSCE Ministerial Council,
in Dublin, Ireland on December 7, 2012**



Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

<Opening Comments>

On the occasion of the opening of the 19th Ministerial Council at this historic city of Dublin, I would like to express my deepest respect to Chairperson, Ireland Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Eamon Gilmore for his leadership.

<Security Environment of East Asia and Japanese Diplomacy>

- First, although Tokyo is far away from Dublin, and

notwithstanding geographic distance between us, security of the Euro-Atlantic region is closely-intertwined with security of Asia.

- While the Asia-Pacific Region has now a potential to drive economy growth as a global growth center, the security environment of the Asia-Pacific Region is becoming increasingly severe with more evident conflict of interests among relevant countries.
- Under such circumstances, it is extremely important to look several decades ahead and “build a prosperous and stable order underpinned by democratic values in the Asia-Pacific region.” As part of such efforts, Japan has strived to “create multilayered networks and rules conforming with international law,” made the Japan-US security alliance a cornerstone of our foreign policy, and promoted bilateral and multilateral dialogues with neighboring states.
- Among others, regarding maritime security, Japan will develop the framework of the ARF and others and contribute to building a maritime order based on international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- In forming an order in the Asia-Pacific, we believe that the experience of the OSCE is effective as it is a comprehensive and multilateral framework.
- North Korea announced that it would launch an artificial satellite between December 10 and December 22. This move clearly violates relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and goes against the presidential statement of the Council in April this year. Japan is strongly calling for North Korea to refrain from launching. In this regard, we would like to cooperate with OSCE members.

<OSCE in Japan's Diplomacy>

- Japan is not a member of the OSCE, but from the perspective of a partner, we regard the OSCE as one of the networks to build an order supported by democratic values.
- The OSCE comprehensively covers political and security issues, economic and environmental issues, and humanitarian issues. The ideal has a commonality with Japan's distinctive diplomacy placing an emphasis on human security.
- For this reason, Japan has been cooperating with the OSCE. Among others, Japan is also paying close attention to the activities of the OSCE benefiting Afghanistan and its neighbors in Central Asia. For this reason, Japan has cooperated with the OSCE to build capacity in border management for Afghanistan and its neighboring countries. For instance, we contributed funds to training officers for anti-drug measures. We will consider the possibility of future cooperation as well.

<Cooperation between Japan and the OSCE in supporting women in Tajikistan>

- Finally, I will end my speech by introducing the successful case of assistance jointly carried out by Japan and the OSCE in Central Asia.
- There is an organization called Najoti Kudakon in Tajikistan long supported by the OSCE. This organization has supported women who suffered from domestic violence or human trafficking. However, this organization hasn't had its own office since the establishment and continued the activity in a small

room of an apartment.

- As Japan is promoting support for women, Japan discussed with the OSCE and decided to offer assistance to construct a women's supporting center in November last year. The OSCE is to support management and capacity building of the center. This case is an example of effective and efficient cooperation in line with the reality of the field using resources of both sides.

<Concluding Remarks>

Let me conclude my address by promising that Japan will maintain cooperation with the OSCE, with which Japan shares fundamental values such as rule of law and democracy, and continue to contribute to peace and stability of the international community.

Thank you.

(End)