

「質の高いインフラ投資の推進に関する国連サイドイベント」

UN General Assembly High-Level Side Event:

Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investments

9月19日(火) 13:15~14:30

河野大臣ステートメント

H.E. Mr. Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development,

H.E. Ms. Faremo, Under-Secretary-General and UNOPS Executive Director,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, and my fellow students,

Thank you for joining us today.

Allow me to begin by posing a question: What do you think of when we say infrastructure?

There are indeed many types of infrastructure from social, economic, and even to digital. There is nonetheless, a common thread among them. They all form the foundations of a nation's economic growth. Moreover, by enhancing connectivity between nations and regions, infrastructures are also the fountains of global economic growth. In other words, there would not be growth without infrastructure.

This is not to say that any types of infrastructure will suffice. Substandard infrastructure will not only inhibit sustainable development, but could even become bottlenecks to growth.

Infrastructures of high quality entail high safety standards and low environmental costs. They create employment and lead technology transfers to the local population. Only such quality infrastructure with transparent and non-exclusive operation will truly contribute to the sustainable growth of its recipients.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted here at the United Nations, also calls for the provision of quality infrastructure.

There is a huge global demand for infrastructure investment. Asia, for example, requires 1.7 trillion dollars of infrastructure investment annually from 2016-2030 according to the Asia Development Bank. Nevertheless, at present, only half of this demand is being met.

With this gap in mind, Japan is making robust efforts to increase investment, and actively promoting “quality infrastructure” projects throughout the world. And we are leading discussions concerning the standardization of the “quality infrastructure” concept.

In particular, we are promoting the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” to enhance connectivity via infrastructure projects in rapidly growing Asia and potential-rich Africa, with the understanding that the development of the two regions will greatly contribute to the peace and stability of the international community.

Individual nations’ efforts by themselves, no matter how important, will not be sufficient in promoting quality infrastructure. The question of infrastructure development is a challenge for the entire international community.

Last year, the G7 Summit held in Japan outlined the standards for quality infrastructure in the “Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment”.

These principles consists of ①Ensuring economic efficiency and resilience from a life-cycle perspective, ②job creation, capacity building and transfer of technology and know-how for local communities, ③ Addressing social and environmental impacts, ④Alignment with local

economic and development strategies, and ⑤Promoting effective resource mobilization. These are in line with Japan's long-standing policy. That is, when Japan provides assistance, we do not force solutions on others. Rather, we place ourselves within the local communities. We think and act with them, taking a long-term view towards their sustainable development.

Japan is taking robust measures to address the global gap in funding for infrastructure projects. For example, Japan recently announced our policy, aiming at providing approximately 200 billion USD in the next five years for infrastructure projects across the world.

And we doubled the amount of our concessional yen loans in 2015. Our assistance is not limited to traditional roads and bridges, but includes a wide-range of sectors. For example, during my visit to Africa/ Middle East last week, we provided approximately 170 million dollars in concessional loans to Egypt in order to assist quality education there.

We also need to mobilize not only public funds but also private capital in order to fill the large funding gap.

But because investments in some developing markets carry risks, the private sector may sometimes be reluctant to invest by themselves. It is incumbent on us to encourage private investment through the effective use of public funds.

Japan will continue to utilize our ODA and other public funds to serve as catalyst for mobilizing private capital. Meanwhile, we will continue to lead in setting an example at the OECD on how we may increase public capital that encourages private investment.

Cooperation with international organizations is also important in increasing funds for quality infrastructure. Japan will collaborate with

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), and build up capacity of these organizations.

I hope that the panel discussion will allow us to share best practices on how to promote “quality infrastructure” and help us reach a common understanding on its importance.

Thank you.