

**Video Message by H.E. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the STS Forum Latin America and the Caribbean High-level Conference**

December 8, 2021

Your Excellency Mr. Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States,
Prof. KOMIYAMA Hiroshi, Chairman of the STS Forum,
Distinguished participants,

Good morning, and *Buenas tardes*.

As a frequent participant in Kyoto STS Forum, I am honored to take part in the first Latin American and Caribbean High-Level Conference of the STS Forum. I would like to commend the initiative of Foreign Secretary Ebrard and the efforts of the STS Forum and those involved in making this conference a reality, amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries are important partners with which Japan shares fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law. In the field of Science, Technology and Innovation, or STI, Japan and the countries in the region have carried out numerous cooperation projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss approaches for further enhancing our collaboration, by addressing the three dimensions of STI Diplomacy.

Firstly, "Science in Diplomacy", which focuses on utilizing STI for resolving global diplomatic challenges. For example, we have been conducting various joint research projects through a program called SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development) through JICA and other Japanese funding agencies. SATREPS includes projects to advance technologies for disaster mitigation on earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, which are common challenges to Japan and the region, and also projects on R&D for sustainable food production and the better management of marine resources.

Secondly, "Diplomacy for Science" from the viewpoint of promoting international STI cooperation as well as domestic STI advancement in each country. This is well exemplified in the field of ICT, in which Japan's ISDB-T terrestrial digital broadcasting system has been widely adopted in the Latin American region. Moreover, we have seen the development of public-private partnerships between Japan and the region, while cooperation is in prospect on establishing 5G networks and submarine cables.

Thirdly, "Science for Diplomacy", which utilizes STI and the networks of researchers as a form of soft power for better international relations. Clearly, our long-standing exchanges of researchers and students have contributed to enhancing our friendship and deepening mutual understanding.

Global issues, such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic, have had a negative impact on human security and the achievement of the SDGs. We should remain united in addressing the challenges ahead. Against this backdrop, STI will play a more critical role than ever.

The STS Forum is certainly a valuable asset in terms of providing a platform for combining expertise and expanding networks for STI Diplomacy and thus for enhancing its role as the "network of networks" in the future.

I hope that this meeting will help to make the networks among industry, government and academia in each country become more closely connected to the regional and global multi-layered networks, and that they will function more effectively and continuously generate synergies, thereby helping to advance our STI Diplomacy in all its dimensions. It is also my hope that concrete cooperation projects will be further developed between Japan and the region.

Last but not least, I am looking forward to visiting the region in the near future to see the fruits of our STI Diplomacy and our cooperation projects.

Muchas gracias.