

The Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) Video Message by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs HAYASHI Yoshimasa

Ladies and Gentlemen in attendance, and distinguished guests participating online from all over the world—welcome to the Indo-Pacific Business Forum.

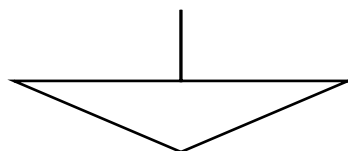
My name is HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Let me first express my appreciation to the U.S. State Department and the USTDA for their leadership, as well as those who have worked tirelessly to hold today's conference.

I am also grateful for such broad participation from the Indo-Pacific region.

Now in its fifth year, today's IPBF is memorable since it is the first time that Japan and the United States co-host this event.

Without doubt, the Indo-Pacific region is this century's main engine of growth.



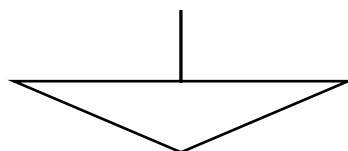
As the region grows further in its strategic importance, I am honored to hold this forum in Tokyo.

The pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region has been an important mission for Japan's diplomacy.

Together with our regional partners, Japan has worked towards realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific".

We are further accelerating our efforts, including strengthening our diplomatic initiatives by expanding ODA.

To renew our commitment to the Indo-Pacific, we plan to announce a new FOIP plan by this spring, with emphasis on areas such as maritime law enforcement, cyber security, digital, green economy, and economic security.



Unless we maintain and strengthen the rules-based economic order, we cannot unleash the Indo-Pacific's full potential unless we maintain and strengthen the rules-based economic order.

It is from this perspective that Japan is fully committed to advancing the TPP, and strongly hopes for the early return of the U.S.

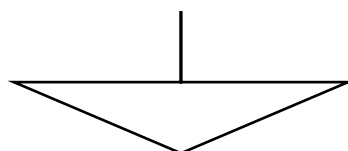
Moreover, Japan attaches importance to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, launched here in Tokyo last May.

Japan is determined to take the lead in cooperating with our IPEF partners toward materializing swift tangible benefits.

For example, we are currently considering capacity-building initiatives that would help IPEF partners implement IPEF commitments.

The four IPEF pillars—trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy—share much in common with today's theme of inclusiveness and sustainable growth.

For such economic growth in the region, investment and economic cooperation are key.



And, of course, cooperation with business leaders like you is indispensable in order to maximize the IPEF's potential.

Now is an opportune time for public and private representatives in the Indo-Pacific to exchange ideas on innovation and future prospects in the fields of digital economy, clean energy, infrastructure investment and supply chains.

This year, Japan will hold the G7 presidency, just as the United States takes on its role as APEC host.

I look forward to making good use of today's discussions in such international fora in hope of an even brighter future for our Indo-Pacific region.

Thank you.

(443 words)