

Opening Remarks by Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs,
at the 29th Asian Export Control Seminar

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, I would first like to warmly welcome all the participants to the 29th Asian Export Control Seminar. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the CISTEC for organizing this event, as well as to the presenters and moderators for their contributions.

This year the Asian Export Control Seminar is held in person for the first time in three years. I am delighted to assemble distinguished officials and experts on export controls from around the world once again.

The international community has been facing serious challenges. Russia's outrageous invasion of Ukraine has shaken the very foundation of the international order, and North Korea has been accelerating its nuclear and missile activities. Economic prosperity in Asia should not be inadvertently exploited for such activities.

Distinguished participants,

Japan assumes the G7 Presidency in 2023. We are determined to play an even greater role in promoting peace and stability, which includes non-proliferation, in the international community.

Efforts surrounding non-proliferation, including export controls, are essential to realizing 'a world without nuclear weapons', which Prime Minister KISHIDA emphasizes as one of the key pillars of his proposed 'Hiroshima Action Plan'.

Following Prime Minister KISHIDA's instructions, I attended the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York in August 2022 and called for constructive actions by the Parties.

Although the final document unfortunately failed to be adopted due to the opposition from Russia, I underline that the final draft recommends the Parties to pursue the implementation of export controls in accordance with the International Export Control Regimes rules as a part of non-proliferation efforts. Japan remains committed to serving as a point of contact for the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

In addition to the nuclear non-proliferation measures covered by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as well as by the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group are crucial to ensuring international security. All International Export Control Regimes are important platforms for international efforts in non-proliferation and thus the United Nations Security Council Resolutions refers to the control lists of those Regimes. I would like to extend a cordial welcome to the heads of all International Export Control Regimes for their participation today.

Distinguished participants,

Implementation is more important than anything else for non-proliferation as it can only be achieved through the accumulation of daily efforts. Japan will support non-proliferation efforts under the 'G7 Global Partnership', which includes implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in Asia, by mobilizing the resources of the international community including

the G7.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, adopted in 2004, establishes obligations for all its members to take specific measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the means of delivery to non-state actors. Export controls are a key tool for delivering this obligation.

With Japan's contribution last February, Ms. Amanda Cowl was appointed as the first Regional Coordinator for Asia, United Nations Security Resolution 1540 Support Unit. I am very glad that she has been working vigorously to better facilitate the implementation of the Resolution in Asian countries.

Efforts by the entire non-proliferation community are critical in order to maintain international peace and security. I hope that this Asian Export Control Seminar will, through discussion, bring about opportunities to deepen understanding of the challenges surrounding export controls and to learn from each other.

Let us work together to realize a peaceful and stable world. Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)