

第28回カリブ諸国連合（ACS）閣僚会議大臣ビデオメッセージ  
（英文）

Distinguished Ministers of the Association of Caribbean States,  
Distinguished participants,

Greetings from Tokyo. I am HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

First, I would like to congratulate the leadership of the Government of Guatemala for hosting this ACS meeting and convey my gratitude to Foreign Minister Búcaro for his warm invitation to Japan as an observer country, as well as my deep regret for not being able to attend in person.

Japan cherishes its long-standing friendships with the member countries of ACS, and we are honored to have participated in the ACS as an observer country since 2017.

ACS member countries are maritime nations like Japan, and both face the common challenge of being vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change.

Japan has cooperated with ACS member countries in a wide range of areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, and marine conservation including the removal of Sargassum seaweed, and we will continue to further cooperate in these areas.

Today, the international community is at a history's turning point.

As we work toward the goal of leading the international community in the direction of cooperation rather than division and confrontation, a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, which is our vision to defend freedom and the rule of law, free from any form of coercion, and to respect diversity, inclusiveness, and openness, is becoming more important than ever.

The concept of FOIP is not geographically limited, and it has developed in a flexible manner by accepting various voices and has been gaining widespread support and endorsement from the international community.

As Japan is united with ACS members through our common values, I would like to call on you to also share the vision to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law and to expand the network of efforts to achieve it.

Following my visit to Latin America in January of this year, I visited various Caribbean and South American countries at the beginning of this month.

I have been encouraged and reassured through my discussions with the leaders of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, as we reaffirmed our strong will to defend the free and open international order based on the rule of law and firmly rejected any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force.

Your Excellencies, I firmly believe it is important to strengthen our solidarity with you to uphold the rule of law, to protect the earth and to grow together.

Cooperation with the ACS member states is becoming more and more important for Japan. Together with all of you, I am determined to further promote cooperation in order to tackle common challenges and expand the networks of solidarity.

As the G7 president, Japan will listen carefully to your voices, and incorporate them to subsequent discussions at the G7, to build a better world together with all of you.

Thank you very much.

Muchas gracias (ムーチャス グラシラス).

(End)