

I am MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Foreign Press Center Japan (FPCJ) and on the International Journalists' Conference.

Since its establishment in 1976, the FPCJ has played an important role in supporting foreign news media organizations and in bringing Japan to the world, from Japan's policies and initiatives to the unique charms of its regions. I would like to express my deep respect for the long-standing dedication and contributions of all those involved.

The world is currently undergoing profound structural changes driven by shifts in the balance of power and the intensification of conflicts. The widespread use of social media and generative AI has enabled enormous amounts of information to spread across borders. Under these circumstances, responding to disinformation and misinformation has become an urgent challenge for the international community.

It is precisely in these times that reporting based on accurate information and sound understanding is indispensable, and the mission and role of journalists have never been more important. Free, responsible, and trustworthy journalism is the foundation that supports democracy and is the cornerstone of dialogue and trust in the international community. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to value dialogue with members of the press and strive to communicate Japan's views and initiatives to audiences around the world.

This International Journalists' Conference is a valuable opportunity for journalists around the world to engage in wide-ranging and candid discussions on the future role of the media in the current international situation and the information environment.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my hopes for the success of this conference and for the continued growth of the FPCJ over the next 50 years.