India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum

"India and Japan: Anchoring Global Order and Indo-Pacific Stability"

Namaskar. I am Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the convening of the 9th DPG-JIIA India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum.

Since its inception in 2016, this Forum has served as an important platform for Track 1.5 diplomacy.

The theme of this year's Forum, "India and Japan: Anchoring Global Order and Indo-Pacific Stability," is particularly timely as the international community faces an increasingly challenging security environment.

Today, the world is facing the significant structural shift driven by changes in the balance of power, the intensification of conflicts and geopolitical competition, and rapid technological innovation.

Even in these challenging times, Japan and India share a duty to shape and uphold an international order which is free, open, and based on the rule of law. In this increasingly volatile and uncertain geopolitical environment, the role of Japan and India, have become increasingly significant.

This May, the government of Japan announced the updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)", placing greater emphasis on strengthening countries' resilience and the capability to have freedom to decide for themselves. This vision closely aligns with Prime Minister Modi's Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) and Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI).

As reaffirmed by our Prime Ministers, Japan and India will further deepen their strategic partnership so that we can become more resilient and prosperous together across the entire region. I look forward to working together with my longtime friend, External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar, to further strengthen and develop Japan-India cooperations.

Advancing such efforts requires cooperation from government, industry, and

academia, all of which are represented here today. I hope that this Forum will provide an excellent opportunity to further deepen relations between Japan and India as our two countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year.

Dhanyawad.