

**Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Japan
Kazuya SHIMBA
at the meeting of the OSCE Troika Ministers
with the OSCE Asian Partners
in Dublin, Ireland on December 7, 2012**

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Guest,

(Opening Comment)

- I would like to commend Troika, including Chair Ireland, for their leadership and efforts leading up to this Ministerial Council. I also thank Chair of Asia Contact Group Lithuania for coordinating with Asian partners over the past one year.
- It was the OSCE Helsinki Summit in 1992 that Japan took part in OSCE meetings for the first time, including Summit and Ministerial Council. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Japan's decision to participate in the OSCE as a partner. At this critical juncture, I am honored to attend the Ministerial Council on behalf of the Japanese Government.

(Japan's Involvement in the OSCE)

- Japan shares with the OSCE fundamental values such as basic human rights, democracy, and rule of law and highly appreciates comprehensive activities of the OSCE covering security as well as the economy, the environment, human rights, and humanitarian affairs.

- Japan's contributions to the OSCE consists of two main pillars.
- First, Japan is active about attending OSCE meetings. A Japanese dignitary participates in every single Summit or Ministerial Council. We have made utmost efforts to pursue attendance at the Ministerial level including myself.
- Second, Japan is supporting the OSCE in carrying out field missions. The OSCE dispatches election observers to Central Asia in its efforts to promote democratization, to which Japan has contributed a total of 235 personnel since 1992. In October this year, 16 election observers were sent to the supreme parliamentary election in Ukraine and parliamentary election in Georgia.
- Besides, Japan extended financial assistance to various missions including border control missions in Central Asia and reforms in constitutional law and election. This year we supported women's entrepreneurs projects by providing 0.8 million yen.

(Future Direction)

- The OSCE has offered an effective platform and achieved great results by implementing field missions in areas where multilateral cooperation works better than an effort by a single state. As we create multilayered networks in the Asia-Pacific region, learning roles and experiences played by the OSCE during the Cold War is beneficial in relation to security of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan is committed to continuing its involvement in the meetings and activities of the OSCE.

(End)