

*(Provisional translation)*

**Opening speech by Mr. Takao Makino  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
At the Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues  
At the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on SIDS**

Samoa  
2 September 2014

Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to co-chair this multi-stakeholder dialogue with Dr. José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain.

In Japan, Samoa is known both for its great natural beauty, and also for its heroic dance *Siva Tau*.

This May in Tokyo, this dance was performed by the players of the Samoan national rugby team before their match with the Japanese national team, and they captivated and won over the audience.

Both teams demonstrated excellent spirit. Likewise, if SIDS and the international community can form a scrum and tackle issues of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction together, I believe we can achieve quite a bit.

Japan, on its side, has provided SIDS with equipment for weather-monitoring, undertaken evacuation drills, built radio broadcasting stations and introduced flood hazard maps, and we will continue to provide such assistance.

In addition, here in Samoa, we are considering construction of the Pacific Climate Change Center at SPREP, after we received a request from SPREP member states and the Hon. Prime Minister Tuilaepa himself.

Furthermore, in March of next year, Japan will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the city of Sendai, located in the region struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake; and in May, in the same region, Japan will welcome leaders to the 7<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting to discuss various subjects including disaster risk reduction and climate change. We hope to see many of you there.

Finally, I am informed that a new project will be presented by Mr. Rachel KYTE, World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy here with us today, and I am happy to take this occasion to express Japan's support to the project. Likewise, Japan will enhance cooperation with related international organizations, such as the World Bank, who are active supporters of SIDS.

Thank you very much.