

Opening Remarks by Ms. Miki Yamada,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
At the 6th Session of Assembly of IRENA
On January 16, 2016

(Opening)

Director-General Amin, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today representing the Japanese Presidency for the last year's session of the IRENA Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to all the delegations for their kindest cooperation throughout Japan's presidential term. Our appreciation also extends to the IRENA Secretariat for its dedicated work. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Jaber and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for their continued support.

Now our Presidency is about to end. It is indeed a privilege for Japan to have served as the IRENA President during a year that

marked a historical watershed for all humankind and the globe. Last September, we witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Summit, with the target of substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. Also fresh in our memory is the touching moment of the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21. The Agreement successfully embodied the fair and effective framework with the participation of all countries.

This new year is a critical year to build on the great achievements the world made in 2015 and to take action to fulfill these goals.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Japan has strengthened its international cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

Japan made voluntary contributions of 692 thousand US dollars to the development of Rethinking Energy, REmap2030, Technology Roadmap for Battery Storage, and to the Renewables Readiness Assessment. Japan also made voluntary contributions of 208 thousand US dollars to the field of biomass energy.

As for intellectual contributions, together with IRENA and the ASEAN Energy Center, Japan hosted a round-table meeting regarding smart grid technology in March of last year. Japan also conducted an international seminar in Tokyo on optimum use of renewable energy in Pacific Island countries. In addition, IRENA and Japan co-hosted an international workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, regarding how to finance projects in Small Island Developing States and Asian countries.

Japan has also contributed to human resource development by carrying out training programs in Okinawa for Pacific Island and African nations. Next month, Japan and IRENA will host a

training program called "Supporting Renewable Energy Deployment in Asian and Pacific Island Countries" in Tokyo. Through this program, Japan will strengthen Asian and Pacific Island nations' capability to introduce renewable energy, and contribute to stable energy supply and the realization of a low-carbon society.

To combat climate change, Japan announced various measures at COP21, including the assistance of approximately 1 trillion and 300 billion yen by both private and public sectors to developing countries by 2020 and the enhancement of innovative technological development. Japan will continue to contribute to solutions to global warming.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

IRENA plays an extremely important role in tackling climate change and carrying out the energy policies of each country.

Japan will continue its utmost efforts to further its collaboration

with IRENA.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my respect and appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates, Director General Amin and all IRENA staff for preparing for this Assembly. I wish for a successful Assembly under the capable Presidency of Egypt.

(end)