

**Keynote Speech by Mr. Shunsuke Takei,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at the Raisina Dialogue
Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

Good Afternoon,

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the holding of the second meeting of the Raisina Dialogue.

This dialogue is very timely, for it allows policy planners to frankly exchange views on how to strengthen multilateral cooperation in Asia, at the time of growing uncertainty.

I express my deep appreciation to the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and the Observer Research Foundation, for giving me this precious opportunity.

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Let me touch upon the future of the Indo Pacific region.

Many project the Indo-Pacific region will become the centre for global growth in the 21st century.

By 2050, ASEAN, India, the Middle East and Africa will become home to 55 percent of the entire world population.

India alone is expected to account for fifteen percent of the global GDP by 2050, becoming the third largest economy.

The Indo-Pacific is set to become the ocean of world trade.

However, unless the Indo-Pacific becomes a region of open and stable seas, regional prosperity and peace and stability of the international community will not be realised.

We have to make tremendous efforts.

Last August, the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD VI, was held in Kenya.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Abe announced the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” as Japan’s new diplomatic strategy.

The message is the following:

The key to stability and prosperity of the international community is the dynamism created by the synergy between the “two continents,” rapidly growing Asia and Africa with latent potential, and two free and open seas: the Pacific and the Indian Oceans.

By regarding these continents and seas as an integrated region, Japan will open up new horizons of Japanese diplomacy.

Japan and India are two major democracies that share values and strategic interests in this region, and India is located at a geographically and strategically key position.

Against this backdrop, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan last November, the two leaders agreed to seek further coordination between Japan’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” and India’s “Act East Policy.”

Japan is committed to work together with India to realise the common goal of ensuring open and stable seas, and the prosperity and stability of the

Indo-Pacific region.

I really appreciate H.E. Prime Minister Modi's statement yesterday that India enjoys a truly strategic partnership with Japan.

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On the other hand, we need to look at the reality in the region.

There are mounting challenges that face the international community, such as terrorism and violent extremism, and threats to maritime security.

We must address these challenges together.

In this context, I would like to emphasise the paramount importance of diversity and tolerance.

Japan has consistently upheld the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

India is all the same. India's great mind Swami Vivekananda once said:

Quote: "India has always had this magnificent idea of religious freedom, and you must remember that freedom is the first condition of the growth. What you do not make free, will never grow." Unquote.

Japan and India are guardians of diversity and tolerance in this region, and also of the rule of law, the essential foundation of diversity and tolerance.

However, in recent years, we have been witnessing scenes of increasing tensions between States, in the seas of Asia,

Absence of the rule of law means giving way to dominance by force.

To ensure open and stable seas and freedom of navigation and overflight, Japan underscores the importance of the observation of international law, including UNCLOS, which is the “constitution of the oceans.”

Concrete actions and cooperation based on such a universal law are needed.

At the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2014, Prime Minister Abe proposed the Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea.

Namely,

- 1) States should make and clarify their claims based on international law;
- 2) States should not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims;
and
- 3) States should seek to settle disputes by peaceful means.

I believe, now is the time to fully implement the principles.

Many countries concerned, including nations in Asia, have shown strong support for these three principles.

The importance of these principles was also confirmed anew at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit last year.

At this juncture, let me underline following four important tasks, we need to address in order to realise “open and stable seas.”

The First is further promotion of international cooperation.

In order to realise the rule of law in the region, countries need to value rules and take unified actions.

Japan, together with India, is strongly determined to promote cooperation

among the countries, through the multinational frameworks of ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

We will also advance trilateral dialogues, such as the Japan-India-U.S. and Japan-India-Australia Dialogue.

The second is achieving more “connectivity” in the region.

Japan will intensify flows of people and goods and build a foundation for economic prosperity.

We will do so by strengthening physical connectivity of seaports, bridges, railways, etc., as well as strengthening institutional connectivity, including facilitation of customs procedures.

From such a point of view, Prime Minister Abe announced the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” in May 2015 and the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative” in May 2016.

Japan will steadily implement these initiatives in accordance with the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment.

We especially underline the following:

- 1) economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost;
- 2) safety and resilience;
- 3) job creation and capacity building;
- 4) consideration for social and environmental impacts; and
- 5) alignment with economic and development strategies.

Japan will assist the creation of an era in which countries surrounding the Indian Ocean, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, ASEAN countries, and furthermore, the Middle East and African countries are connected by quality value chains.

The third is the development of human resources, a vital key for economic growth.

At the occasion of the recent visit by Prime Minister Modi to Japan, we announced that Japan will develop human resources in India by training 30,000 Indian youths over next 10 years.

We will train them with Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices.

Furthermore, last year, a new Initiative “Innovative Asia” was launched. We aim to develop highly skilled professionals from Asian countries, including from India, in Japan.

Many Indian can be trained in Japan under this initiative, and upon returning home, they will serve as precious human resources to support the industrial growth of India.

With the collaboration of Japan’s technology and India’s human resources, an era will come when Indian manufactured goods are exported to everywhere in the world.

Finally, the fourth is the capacity building of maritime law enforcement.

Japan spares no efforts in providing assistance toward efforts made by coastal states in Asia.

We will solve the underlying cause of piracy, armed robbery at sea, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, maritime crime and terrorism. To this end, Japan will combine various options within its assistance menu, including ODA, defence equipment and technology cooperation, and capacity building assistance.

Japan and India share the same view, and take hands to promote capacity building in the region.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to conclude my remarks by stressing the following:

Respecting a world in which the rule of law prevails to maintain our seas and skies as mankind's public property is the only way to serve the interests of all people.

Under this principle, Japan shall make the utmost of efforts to cooperate with the all countries concerned.

Thank you very much.

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