

# グローバル・ビジネス・セミナー・オープニング・セッション における鈴木憲和外務大臣政務官スピーチ

Ambassador Flor, Mr. Chua Taik Him,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

(冒頭)

First of all, thank you very much for joining today's Global Business Seminar. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Ambassador Flor and Mr. Chua Taik Him for their time to be here, and to relevant Ministries and institutions for their critical support to hold this seminar.

(自由で公正な経済圏を世界へ広げる)

Today the world is facing a growing trend of protectionism and deepening confrontation among countries. This is due to concerns and dissatisfaction caused by rapid changes in the world economic landscape, including emerging country development and the digitalization of the economy. As a result, global economic instability and uncertainty are increasing. At this juncture, the Government of Japan hoists high the flag of free trade. Our mission is to expand the world's free and fair economic sphere through various concrete actions.

Firstly, the TPP 11 entered into force last December creating a free and fair economic zone in the rapidly growing Asia-Pacific region. This comprises a total population of approximately 500 million people, total GDP of around 10 trillion US dollars, and an overall trade amount of about 5 trillion US dollars.

Secondly, the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement entered into force on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This has opened an advanced free economic zone, the largest in the world, covering approximately 30% of global GDP and about 40% of global trade.

Thirdly, Japan and the United States will begin negotiations for a Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement on goods this year. We will further expand trade and investment between Japan and the United States in a mutually beneficial manner, and realize economic development in the Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, and based on

fair rules.

Lastly, the RCEP, if concluded, will accomplish an economic zone that comprises almost half of the world's population and about 30% of world GDP as well as global trade. We will continue to make our utmost efforts to conclude “a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP” within this year. This is in accordance with our strong commitment expressed in the Joint Leaders' Statement in November 2018.

(投資の分野における日・東南アジア・米国・欧州のプレゼンス)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The theme of today's seminar is the investment trend between Japan and Southeast Asia, the United States, and Europe. The volume of trade between Japan and these countries and regions is quite substantial, comprising 41.8% of global trade.

However, in terms of direct investment, while Japanese investment to these countries and regions amounts to approximately 125 trillion yen, incoming investment amounts to only about 26 trillion yen. Therefore, increasing investment to Japan is quite important.

(開かれた投資環境整備)

From this standpoint, the Government of Japan attaches importance to improving the investment environment in Japan, and has set a goal of doubling the volume of direct investment to Japan from 19.3 trillion yen as of the end of 2012 to 35 trillion yen by the year 2020. To achieve this goal, the *Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment* was established.

This year the Council has introduced the *Support Program for Regional Foreign Direct Investment in Japan* in order to promote investment in local cities. In addition, the *Regulatory Sandbox Scheme* was established under the *Act on Special Measures for Productivity Improvement* last June. This scheme enables businesses to experiment new technologies and business models that could eventually lead to regulatory reforms. Businesses can try the “FinTech” sandbox as well as diverse innovative business models in various areas, and the outcomes

will be used for future rulemaking and policy formulation.

In the second Panel Discussion today, the Cabinet Secretariat will make a presentation on the *Regulatory Sandbox Scheme*. Then there will be a discussion among local governments now conducting advanced undertakings to attract foreign investment. We will also hear from foreign companies which have been conducting business in Japan regarding the potential and challenges of Japan's local cities.

(外務省の取組)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has also taken various measures to promote direct investment in Japan. In addition to the conclusion of investment treaties, the Ministry has also designated Contact points for Direct Investment toward Japan in 126 Japanese overseas missions. Their role is to collect information regarding foreign companies interested in investing in Japan, and to help conclude investment projects.

In the coming years, the international community will pay special attention to our country as Japan will host the G20 this year, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, and the World Expo 2025 in Osaka. Taking advantage of these opportunities, the Japanese government will closely collaborate with relevant actors to achieve our 2020 foreign investment goal.

(結語)

Two-way investment expansion between Japan and Southeast Asia, the United States, and the EU is the foundation for gaining access to the developing international market and achieving strong economic growth. As the trend of protectionism and anti-globalization sentiment is spreading, now is the time to deepen our bonds of solidarity in order to lead the way toward world economic growth.

I sincerely hope that, despite the limited time, this seminar will offer an opportunity for vibrant discussions among all participants present here today.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(end)