

Welcome speech by H.E. OMI Asako,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at Reception for the 72nd session of the Council of the UN University,
Tokyo, Japan, 12 December 2019

Professor. Kane, Chair of the Council of the United Nations
University,

Members of the United Nations University Council,

Directors of the United Nations University Institutes,

Dr. David M. Malone, Rector of the United Nations
University,

Ambassadors,

Distinguished guests;

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt
welcome to Japan to all the Members of the United Nations
University Council and Directors of the United Nations
University Institutes. As I've been a frequent participant of
this Reception, now serving as Parliamentary Vice-Minister
for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I am very grateful to say a
few words on this occasion.

Since United Nations University's headquarter's establishment in Tokyo about 50 years ago, Japan has extended a wide range of support to accomplish its mission; that is to contribute to resolving global issues including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by offering practical solutions and promoting gender equality.

And please allow me to take this opportunity to express my appreciation as a host country to the UNU's kind support by organizing multiple events during G20 and TICAD7 this year, such as hosting a side event featuring promotion of the SDGs in Africa through sharing its valuable research outcomes from its training program in Africa.

While the UNU has played a key role in the UN system as its main source of wisdom for resolving pressing global problems that are the concern for the UN, we are also highly appreciative of UNU's tireless efforts to raise its visibility by sharing its knowledge in Japan.

For example, Dr. Malone's proactive visits to local universities are of great help in the context of expanding international expertise in Japan's local communities, providing excellent opportunities for various groups to get more interested in the UN matters. Likewise, we appreciate those useful seminars organized by Professor. Oki, Senior Vice-Rector of UNU, to facilitate attempts to achieve SDGs by aligning the Japanese private sector's multiple efforts with the most updated global landscapes.

Through these dedicated extensive activities by the UNU, I truly hope that a relationship between Japan and the UN will be further nurtured to an even higher level.

I would like to conclude my remarks by once again extending my heartfelt appreciation and respect for Dr. Malone and all the people engaging in all those very valuable activities.

I thank you for your kind attention.

-end.