

Opening Remarks
by Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
at the 27th Asian Export Control Seminar

February 12, 2020

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, I would like to welcome you all to the 27th Asian Export Control Seminar.

Japan has been working to strengthen global frameworks and regional efforts to prevent proliferation. The Asian Export Control Seminar has grown into one of the most important events in Japan's nonproliferation efforts over the past twenty-seven years. I am delighted to welcome participants from Asia and other regions, the United Nations, export control regimes, industry, and academia.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a challenge that the international community should tackle in unity. Japan deeply regrets North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches, which are in violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In fact, last year alone North Korea launched more than twenty ballistic missiles. It is clear that their aim is to develop missile technology. These launches are serious challenges not only to Japan but also to the entire international community. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the goal of achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges, as well as related programs and facilities, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, Japan also calls upon all States to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including measures related to export control.

Another important challenge is preventing proliferation to non-state actors, including terrorists. UN Security Council resolution 1540 requires States to enforce measures for that purpose. Japan made a contribution of

approximately one million US dollars to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs' Trust Fund to support the work of the 1540 Committee to strengthen domestic nonproliferation systems, especially in the Asian region.

In addition, new challenges are emerging in the field of nonproliferation. In particular, emerging technologies such as AI and 3D printing could threaten the security of states and societies if diverted to military use. More and more discussions are taking place at the international level on how to address these technologies. Also, intangible technology transfer is another challenging area which requires an international and whole-of-society response, including from industry and academia.

A key component in efforts to tackle these new patterns of proliferation challenges and evolving threats is export control. In order to effectively implement export control, it is essential to establish appropriate domestic control systems and to cooperate internationally. In this year's seminar, you will hear discussions on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the work of export control regimes, as well as the latest developments in participating countries. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to connect with each other and share best practices, in order to help strengthen the implementation of export control without creating any loopholes.

This summer, Japan will host the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, where we will see many gold medals awarded for accomplishments in athletics. I hope that this year's Asian Export Control Seminar of 2020 will bring about many fruitful outcomes deserving of gold medals in export control.

Thank you.