

Opening Remarks
By Mr. Odawara Kiyoshi,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs,
at the 28th Asian Export Control
Seminar

February 15, 2022

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, I would first like to warmly welcome all of you to the 28th Asian Export Control Seminar.

I am honored to speak, even if virtually, to this distinguished group of export control experts at this juncture when proliferation challenges are mounting globally.

Since the commencement of this Seminar in 1993, we have witnessed significant progress on export control in Asia and beyond. While I applaud the tremendous efforts by all parties involved, there is no room for complacency given the realities we face.

In East Asia, North Korea has been launching ballistic missiles with extremely high frequency, especially since the beginning of this year, demonstrating steady improvement in its missile

technology. Over the past decade alone, it has conducted four nuclear tests and launched about 90 ballistic missiles.

Such activities are clear violations of a series of UN Security Council Resolutions. North Korea's nuclear and missile development poses a serious challenge to the international non-proliferation regime and also threatens the peace and security of the entire international community.

It is important to send a clear and robust message that we will never accept the possession of nuclear weapons by North Korea and all States must fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Concerns over threats are not limited to our region. Nuclear and missile proliferation has been observed across the globe.

In the Middle East, Iran has been reducing its commitments under the JCPOA, including the

removal of any restrictions on its uranium enrichment activities.

Recent attacks claimed by the Yemen-based Houthis against the United Arab Emirates also pose a grave threat to the peace and stability in the Middle East.

And let me add that in 2009, the IAEA issued its DG report mentioning an allegation that Syria had built a nuclear reactor with the assistance of North Korea.

These examples remind us that global proliferation challenges remain serious. We must step up our efforts to ensure that our goods and technologies will not be used for malign purposes through robust export controls.

In this regard, I would like to underline the importance of Security Council Resolution 1540 (fifteen forty), which seeks to prevent the proliferation of WMDs and missiles to non-State

actors. This Resolution requires all States to implement effective non-proliferation measures, including relevant domestic controls.

This month, the first “Regional UNSCR 1540 Coordinator” for the Asia-Pacific region was nominated. Japan is fully committed to supporting and cooperating with this coordinator with a view towards promoting the implementation of Resolution 1540 in this region.

To counter the spread of ballistic missiles, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. This year marks the 20th anniversary of its establishment, and Japan is even more convinced that we should work towards the universalization of this framework. It will not only reinforce our political commitment to preventing ballistic missile proliferation but also promote transparency and mutual confidence.

In this year's seminar, there will be discussions on the implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the work of export control regimes, as well as the latest developments in participating countries.

I believe that this seminar provides a tremendous opportunity to share achievements, best practices, and valuable insights with a view to strengthening the implementation of export control and avoiding the creation of any loopholes.

In conclusion, I hope that this seminar will bring about many fruitful outcomes through productive and informative dialogues among the participants.

Thank you.