

UN Women/UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International
Women's Day 2022

Video message by the Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister on
Women's Empowerment MORI

March 8, 2022

Distinguished participants,

It is a great honor to participate in this event on the occasion of International Women's Day as the Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister on Women's Empowerment.

Climate change is one of the most serious issues that threatens global security and economic prosperity.

Since it leads to an increase of natural disasters, disaster preparedness and adaptation measures are critical.

Notably, the Asia-Pacific is the region where 60% of the world population resides and natural disasters occur frequently. We need to analyze and consider the linkage between the impact of climate change on natural disasters and the socio-economic vulnerability of the region. In this regard, Japan believes that we need to ensure women's participation at all levels of the decision-making process regarding climate change.

Japan actively promotes capacity building on effective disaster risk reduction against tsunamis, which may cause greater damage in the future due to rising sea levels. As part of this effort, Japan has been supporting the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to provide a training programme on women's leadership in tsunami-based disaster risk reduction for small island states in the Pacific since 2016.

While climate change is already taking a heavy toll in recent years, Japan is extending support to disaster risk reduction policy planning that considers gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region through ESCAP since 2021.

In order to deal with global challenges, it is essential to cooperate with other countries based on the concept of human security, rather than prioritizing one's own interests. I hope today's valuable event will be a big step toward achieving our common goals, while

sharing good practices and lessons learned from women's engagement in climate change action. Thank you.