

H.E. Prime Minister Rasulzoda,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It gives me great pleasure to make remarks on behalf of the Government of Japan at this important conference on water.
- First of all, I would like to pay tribute to the initiative of Tajikistan, who has been actively working to address issues related to water in the international community.
- Water is the basis of life, and the supply of safe drinking water is extremely important in terms of human security. Besides, water is the key element contributing to the achievement of all SDGs, including those related to food, health, education, gender or energy.
- Furthermore, as floods and droughts are becoming more severe and frequent due to the effects of climate change, risk reduction against water-related disasters has become ever more urgent.
- In April this year, Japan hosted the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit. Approximately 5,500 participants from 30 countries, including 18 Heads of State and Government, practitioners, scholars, and representatives of civil society as well as the private sector, discussed various water-related issues and exchanged views from a wide range of perspectives.

- The leaders in the region reaffirmed the importance of water as they deal with widespread damage due to the COVID-19 pandemic and cascading multi-hazards aggravated by climate change.
- They adopted the "Kumamoto Declaration," which manifests their determination to accelerate efforts to realize the transformation towards a quality-oriented society from the perspective of resilience, sustainability, and inclusiveness, stressing the importance of improving governance, closing the financial gap, and engaging the science and technology community.
- At the Summit, Prime Minister Kishida announced the "Kumamoto Initiative for Water," which includes Japan's commitment to provide developing countries with financial assistance worth approximately 500 billion yen over the next five years.
- Under this initiative, our public and private sectors will work together to improve infrastructure, such as dams or sewage systems, by utilizing digitalization and innovation, which will contribute to reducing both flooding and greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative also aims at improving water supply and sanitation.
- Japan has long suffered from disasters, such as typhoons and droughts, and has made continuous efforts towards improving flood control and irrigation. In addition, Japan has been tackling the issues of water resource management and water environment management in its process of economic development and urbanization.

- Japan is the world's top donor in the water sector. We will continue to share with other countries our wealth of knowledge and technology accumulated through our experiences and support the realization of quality infrastructure development from the viewpoints of governance, finance and science and technology.
- Excellencies,  
This high-level conference, as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Water Summit held in Japan, marks an important milestone toward the UN Water Conference in March 2023.
- I sincerely hope that this meeting will offer a valuable opportunity for participants to engage in fruitful discussions that will contribute to building momentum for achieving the water-related SDGs.

Thank you very much