

Video message by Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
at IUC 60th Anniversary Ceremony
Tokyo, Japan (December 6th, 2023)

Distinguished guests, Good Evening.

Unfortunately, I cannot be with you today, but it is my great pleasure to deliver you this video message at a historical milestone for IUC.

Congratulations to all of you for the 60th anniversary of the institution! My respect goes to the faculty staff, and supporters who have run and supported IUC's activities from its establishment to today.

A little about myself. I was born in Tokyo but spent most of my school years in Canada. Columbia University, one of member institutions of IUC, I did my Masters at the School of International and Public Affairs is my alma mater. At Columbia, I was a student of an IUC alumni; Burgess Professor Emeritus Gerald Curtis.

It goes without saying that IUC has played a major role in the development of relations between Japan and the United States as well as Canada. Since its establishment, IUC has produced 3,000 graduates and made a significant contribution to raising Japanese experts, many of whom play active roles in various fields related to Japan, such as academia, politics, economics, and culture. They are indeed the first running promoters of U.S.-Japan and Canada-Japan relations.

To date, 21 graduates have received the "Order of the Rising Sun" from the Japanese Emperor, and this year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented IUC with the Foreign Minister's Commendation to acknowledge its longstanding and distinguished contribution to Japanese language education.

The U.S., Canada and Japan have built an unwavering friendship through many years of exchange. The international community is now at a historic turning point with Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the situation in Israel and Palestine as well as one in the Indo-Pacific. The

bond among these three countries, which share universal values and play a leading role in the international community, is important not only within but also for the peace and stability of the world beyond. These relations between countries are built on human relationships. In this regard, we expect an even bigger role of the IUC in our future relations.

I would like to conclude my remark by wishing IUC all the best in the future.

Thank you for your attention.