

Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
at the 80th Session of the Commission (ESCAP)  
Bangkok, Thailand, April 22, 2024

Madam Chairperson, distinguished participants,

This year, ESCAP celebrates its 80th session.

This year also marks the 70th anniversary of  
Japan's accession to ESCAP.

I would like to express my appreciation for the  
important role that ESCAP has been playing in the  
Asia-Pacific region and pay my respects to the  
efforts of the Executive Secretary, Madam  
Alisjahbana, and all those involved.

Japan and ESCAP have been working closely together to address the challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region.

For example, the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, SIAP, in Japan has sent out approximately 34,000 trainees and has been contributing to regional economic development by building the statistical capacities of each Member State.

Japan will continue to make further contributions as a key partner for ESCAP to play an increasingly important role in the future,

Madam Chairperson,

It will be essential for multi-stakeholders to work together, and critically important for us to make the utmost use of innovative digital technologies.”

AI and other digital technologies have great potentials to make significant progress in achieving the SDGs.

At the same time, new technologies also carry risks, including negative aspects related to cybersecurity and disinformation.

In this regard, I look forward to deepening discussions at this Commission towards the Summit of the Future to be held this September to utilize digital technology to protect human dignity.

I would also like to point out the importance of a gender perspective in promoting these efforts.

According to UN Women, the exclusion of women from digitization could cost low- and middle-income countries 1 trillion US dollars in lost GDP per year.

A gender-inclusive approach to innovation can promote greater awareness of women's rights and civic participation.

From this perspective, we would like to work closely with ESCAP to take a gender-inclusive approach and promote women's participation.

Thank you for your attention.