

**Opening Remarks by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms. ERI Arfiya for the 5th Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)**

Conference and EvalVisionAsia 2025

November 12, 2025

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all participants attending the 5th Asia Pacific Evaluation Association Conference and EvalVisionAsia2025 held in Japan for the first time.

Japan recognizes the importance of partnership in evaluation to effectively promote development cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. From an early stage, Japan has focused on enhancing the evaluation capacity of partner countries. Approximately a quarter century ago, in 2001, we held the first ODA Evaluation Workshop here in Tokyo. For several years afterwards, these workshops provided a platform for stakeholders to gather and discuss evaluation networks. This culminated in the establishment of APEA in 2012.

It is with great joy and deep emotion that we co-host with APEA the milestone 20th ODA Evaluation Workshop in Tokyo, as part of the 5th APEA Conference program. Japan has continuously supported the establishment of APEA and its activities. We have provided a platform to share experiences and knowledge in evaluation, and invited government officials from the Asia Pacific region to engage in discussions about evaluation.

Against this backdrop, in December 2020, the Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy was formulated by APEA, EvalYouth Asia, the Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation – South Asia, and other key partners through an inclusive process. This is a groundbreaking achievement. This strategy aims to promote the use of evaluation to address the urgent issues in the Asia Pacific region, while also contributing positively to national development goals and the SDGs across the region.

APEA's activities contribute to the human resource development

cooperation that Japan has worked on. Japan and APEA are also working to foster the cultivation of an evaluation culture throughout the region. APEA's contribution to promoting Japan's international cooperation has been recognized, and this year, it received the Foreign Minister's Commendation here in Japan. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations.

We stand here today against the backdrop of compounded crises, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the ongoing situation in the Middle East, and global issues such as infectious diseases and climate change. A decade has passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the SDGs, yet these crises present unprecedented challenges for the global community in achieving these goals.

However, we remain connected with one another more than ever, including through the challenges we share. Japan has long placed the values of co-creation and equal partnership at the core of our international cooperation framework, including in evaluation. Given the current global context, we will double down on this — we will create solutions through inclusive dialogue and collaboration between various stakeholders, uniting everyone's strengths under common goals.

In closing, please accept my personal gratitude and appreciation for all of your attendance today. Capacity building and monitoring and evaluation gives us the tools to institutionalize solutions for various social challenges we face together today. Each of you are important stakeholders for Japan and the world in this endeavor, and we commit today to strengthening our collaboration and partnership with everyone present today, as well as with various stakeholders, including national governments, international organizations, and private companies.

Thank you and we wish this conference every success.