

**Special Keynote Address by Mr. Masakazu Hamachi
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan
at the OECD Development Centre Governing Board High-Level
Meeting
2 June 2016**

(Preamble)

The HLM co-chair,

His Excellency Li Wei, President, Development Research Center of the
State Council of the People's Republic of China,

Chair of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre,

His Excellency Pierre Duquesne, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to
the OECD France;

Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD,

Mr Douglas Frantz,

Director of the OECD Development Centre,

Mr. Mario Pezzini

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to join you for the OECD Development Centre's 3rd Governing Board High-Level Meeting.

(Introduction)

The year 2015 was a turning point for the international community. Major agreements were made for us to collectively work on global issues, ranging from the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Addis Ababa Action Agenda”, “the 2030 Agenda” to “the Paris Agreement”. Now in 2016, we are in the first year of implementing these commitments. Japan's return to the Development Centre at this critical juncture means a great deal to us; and we hope it resonates just as significantly with other members of the Centre and the international community.

Recently, the Centre has grown into an inclusive platform, with membership increasing to embrace 24 emerging and developing countries along with 27 OECD Member Countries.

(Key Message)

Japan returns as the largest contributor to the Development Centre, with a growing presence. With our return, as an Asian nation, Japan is keen to help the Centre strengthen its relationship with the region.

The latest “OECD Development Centre’s Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India” shows that Asia continues to be “the growth center of the World”. The real growth rate of emerging Asian countries up to 2020 is estimated to be 6.2%, and that of the ASEAN countries to be 5.2%. The region’s growth is solid and surpasses the rest of the world. Currently, Asia generates roughly 40% of the world’s total production, and contributes two-thirds of its economic growth.

In order for its growth to be sustainable, Asia must continue to achieve quality growth in accordance with global standards. In this regard, last year, Japan launched an initiative called the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure: Investment for Asia’s Future”. I believe that Asia must continue to grow and open to other regions. I am convinced this is crucial for both Japan and the world. That is why Japan, as a reliable partner, is committed to playing a role in fostering stronger bonds between Asia and

the OECD.

In 2014's Ministerial Council Meeting, Japan, as a Chair, launched the Southeast Asia Regional Program (SEARP) together with the Secretary General. Since then, we have been actively supporting the OECD's engagement towards Asia. We believe that the combination of Japan's experience in Asia and the Centre's research and analyses will have a positive impact on Asia's development and prosperity.

Of course, the Development Centre is not only focused on Asia's development, but it is a forum that globally engages with all countries and regions. Japan supports such balanced and global activities with tangible results. For example, Japan announced last month "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" in order to promote quality infrastructure investment not only in Asia but also globally, and we will provide about 200 billion USD to quality infrastructure projects across the world.

When we talk about the SDGs' implementation and countermeasures for climate change, Africa occupies a significant position. To engage Africa,

the so-called “last frontier”, Japan started the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993. In August of this year, the 6th TICAD will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, the first TICAD to be held in Africa with participation of 54 Heads of State.

Today, we have agreed that the Centre will:

- Scale up the range of its analytical and policy dialogue activities and make them more relevant and accessible to African partners;
- Support the crafting of innovative strategies and policies that can accelerate Africa’s structural transformation and sustainable development; by
- Delivering the multidimensional country review approach required to development issues such as urbanisation.

We strongly believe that the Centre’s approach of drawing lessons from research and implementation, and providing prescriptions to development issues will continue to serve as an important guide to policy makers and practitioners in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and throughout the world.

Finally, I would like to share our interpretation of the “Strategic response to the 2030 Agenda including SDGs”, which was one of the themes for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and Development Centre’s High-Level Meeting.

The SDGs’ “People-centered approach” and the spirit of “No one left behind” have much in common with the concept of “Human Security” which has consistently been emphasized by the Japanese government within the international community.

In order to accelerate our involvement in the SDGs as well as promotion of human security, the Japanese Government launched the SDGs Promotion Headquarters on May 20th, which is headed by the Prime Minister and includes all ministers as members.

That said, shared prosperity and fulfillment of our intergenerational responsibilities to the SDGs can only be achieved through policy coherence at both domestic and global levels. Collaborative partnership is another key

and all stakeholders, including states, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, academics, cities, and civil societies need to be involved.

The OECD has been providing analysis and policy solutions relevant to the SDGs by fully mobilizing the entire organisation. And the Development Centre helps assure inclusiveness in this process by involving various actors. Against this backdrop, Japan is very pleased to join the Centre once again.

(Conclusion)

In conclusion, let me share some key words from today's Meeting: inclusiveness, innovative solution, multiple actors, dialogue, and partnerships. These words all reflect the Development Centre's relevance. But time is limited towards 2030. Here we are actively engaged in the first year of the SDGs' implementation. As Japan returns to the Centre, we recommit to working together with all of you, learning with each other, to bring forth a world "leaving no-one behind", which is "free of poverty, hunger, disease and want where all life can thrive with human dignity".

Thank you very much for your attention.