

**The Statement by Mr. Satoshi NAKANISHI
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan
at the OECD Development Centre Governing Board
6th High-Level Meeting
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I became Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on September 19. In January this year, I visited project sites in Bhutan and Thailand as a member of the ODA research mission of the House of Councillors.

Japan provides development cooperation to help partner countries to be more self-reliant by finding what is most suitable to them. For donors to adequately respond to the needs of partner countries, it is important that both sides pursue close dialogue, as we are doing today. Therefore, we will continue to use this forum to better realize cooperation on development by members of the international community, including Japan.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a human security crisis. Developing countries have been hit particularly seriously due to the vulnerability from which they were suffering even before the crisis. We have to ‘build back better’ from this unprecedented crisis. In assisting developing countries, it is necessary not only to respond to their urgent short-term needs but also to strengthen their medical and health systems, thereby building economic resilience in the medium to long term.

For these purposes, Japan pledged to provide assistance of more than 1.54 billion US dollars to the medical and health sectors, giving due consideration to the elements of gender and social protection, and it has swiftly implemented it. In addition, we have established an emergency loan scheme worth approximately 4.5 billion US dollars for two years to help revitalize the economies of developing countries affected by the disease. We have already decided to provide approximately 2 billion US dollars in total to 6 countries.

We cannot forget the importance of the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment” in realizing sustainable recovery and economic resilience. Both donors and

partner countries need to implement each project in line with international standards such as openness, transparency, economic efficiency and debt sustainability. Infrastructure investment without quality will undermine the inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth of developing countries as it does not consider environmental and social aspects and harms the fiscal reliability of partner countries.

To realize economic resilience, it is important to improve connectivity among people, goods and services at the regional level. The report published by the Development Centre and the African Union Commission called “Africa's Development Dynamics 2019” contains useful policy recommendations on the productive transformation and improvement of connectivity, reflecting the circumstances of each region in Africa.

The Development Centre has excellent expertise and analytical capability in the area of infrastructure investment, and is an important partner for us in disseminating the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment” endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 and in ensuring they are widely applied in the international community. The Centre has also made a valuable contribution by writing the “Compendium of Policy Good Practices for Quality Infrastructure Investment” to be used by each government when it makes policies and implements them.

We will hold a side event to launch the Compendium on the margins of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting at the end of this month. As the Development Centre is involved in the preparation of the Compendium, we expect that the event will be a good opportunity for practical and useful policy dialogue among traditional donors, emerging donors, and partner countries.

We expect that the Development Centre will continue to apply its unique capacity in providing analyses and suggestions specific to the needs of the countries concerned. Japan will continue to play an active role in ‘building back better’ in cooperation with various partners in the international community, including the Development Centre.

Thank you.