

Speech by Mr. Kazuyuki HAMADA,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,  
At the 4th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the  
Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia  
(CICA)  
September 12, 2012, Astana

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the invitation to the 4th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Let me also express my respect to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, as Presidency, as well as the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as the host country, for all their efforts to organize this Meeting. In addition, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to all CICA member states, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Many countries from geographically diverse regions participate in the CICA and freely discuss broad-ranging issues. The Government of Japan regards the CICA as an important forum for dialogue with regard to the security of the Eurasian Continent, exerting a strong and steady presence.

In Eurasia, there are several regions with the potential to develop into new economic zones that will drive the global economy through closer economic exchanges. Some members of the CICA will become a major part of such economic zones. In fact, there are some moves to step up regional cooperation for economic growth in several parts of the Eurasian Continent.

The Continent, however, has challenges to overcome including regional conflicts. These problems hamper the process for the region to develop into an economic zone and bringing greater prosperity. It is indispensable to solve these problems by overcoming the differences in opinions through dialogue. Steadily removing the impediments by building confidence is the only way forward. The CICA offers truly excellent opportunities for the dialogue to build confidence and its role will become increasingly

important.

Japan launched the “Central Asia plus Japan” dialogue in August 2004, hoping to make the framework serve as a “catalyst” to promote regional cooperation in Central Asia, where each country has its own cultural and historical background as well as the state of progress in economic development. This framework is based on the belief that developing Central Asia as an “open region” is critical in ensuring regional stability and economic growth. Since the beginning of the Dialogue, we have held several meetings, including those of Foreign Ministers and the dialogues enabled relevant countries to share the ideal of tackling common challenges together. Japan intends to continue building on the outcome through the Dialogue. This approach corresponds to the concept of the CICA, which aims to cooperate in priority areas, and stabilize and develop the region through confidence-building between neighboring countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The CICA values peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Declaration adopted at the 3rd Summit two years ago says: “It is imperative for all CICA Member States to defend, preserve and promote principles of the UN Charter and generally recognized principles and norms of international law”. Japan has consistently emphasized the importance of conflict resolution under international law and is pursuing the “rule of law” - one of the most important values for the peaceful coexistence of mankind - in the international community. The “rule of law” forms the basis for the peaceful resolution of conflicts as well as for the prevention of new conflicts. Japan is committed to taking advantage of every opportunity, including that of the CICA, to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts by international laws and strengthen the “rule of law” in cooperation with other countries.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.