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**Key note speech by Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane
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**At the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
6 July 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am honored to give a key note speech at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development today.

The theme of this session is “Thinking Ahead: emerging issues that will matter in the future”. For this year marks an extremely important milestone for the global process concerning sustainable development, I believe it is especially meaningful for us to discuss emerging issues at this forum with a vision toward the future.

The world today faces various challenges to sustainable development. Urgent global issues such as development, climate change, the environment and disaster risk reduction are inter-related, complicated and diversified. The implications from these issues are different for each individual depending on his or her unique situation, and it is therefore ever more important to address these issues based on the concept of human security, which is to take a people-centered approach that focuses on each individual.

Natural disasters in particular are enormous threats to sustainable development, as they can wipe out years of hard-won achievements in national development in an instant. It is an area in which preparedness and prior investment make a huge difference. Today, I would like to focus my remarks on the importance of disaster risk reduction, as a representative of the host country of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

(The Outcome of WCDRR)

The last WCDRR was held last March in the city of Sendai, Japan. With the participation of 187 Member States, this conference is the largest UN international conference convened in Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my sincere gratitude for all the cooperation extended toward the success of the conference.

The WCDRR adopted the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030”, which is an international guideline for disaster risk reduction for the next 15 years. The Sendai Framework includes not only the expected outcomes for the next 15 years but also seven global targets and four priority actions. I would like to explain three points in this framework to which Japan attaches great importance:

The first point is prior investment in disaster risk reduction from a long term perspective. The necessary costs of prior investment are vastly less in sum than the costs for emergency response and recovery after the occurrence of a disaster, and are therefore cost-effective. Prior investment also contributes to sustainable development.

The second point is the concept of “Build Back Better”. The post-disaster phase provides an opportunity to implement thorough measures to re-build countries and regions that are more resilient to disasters than they were before.

The third point is the involvement of various stakeholders. It is necessary to build a system where the central government and all other actors, including local governments, private companies, civil society, women and people with disabilities cooperate to address disaster related issues.

(Follow up of the WCDRR and Japan’s contribution)

Now, is the time to take action based on the outcomes of the WCDRR. At the Conference, the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, announced the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction”, which includes assistance totaling up to 4 billion US dollars and the training of 40 thousand personnel for disaster risk reduction and post-disaster reconstruction in the coming four years. Based on this initiative, Japan will actively promote cooperation for disaster risk reduction that effectively combines three approaches: (i) human resource development and institutional development, (ii) development of quality infrastructure and (iii) the promotion of global and region-wide cooperation.

For example, in the wake of earthquakes in Nepal in April, Japan immediately dispatched a Disaster Relief Team and provided emergency relief goods and emergency grant assistance. We have also dispatched a research team on post-disaster needs assessment and experts on earthquake-resistant technologies. Furthermore, at the International Conference on Nepal’s Reconstruction held on June 25th, Japan announced that we would provide assistance totaling 260 million US dollars, mainly in the areas of schools, housing and community infrastructure as support that is needed for the time being, and made various proposals to support Nepal to become a more resilient country. Our assistance is based on the concept of “Build Back Better” which is incorporated into the Sendai Framework.

Moreover, we have a proposal as a further follow-up to the WCDRR; namely, to designate the 5th of November as “World Tsunami Day”. Tsunami are a common challenge for many countries, and the best ways to prevent the damage cause by tsunami are preparedness and the prompt dissemination of information through ‘early warning systems’. The Sendai Framework mentions early warning systems and the use of traditional knowledge and practices in addition to preparedness for disasters. The establishment of “World Tsunami Day” would be certainly a follow-up to the WCDRR.

We believe that further increasing global awareness on the threat of tsunami and precautionary measures against tsunami through the establishment of such an international day will reduce the number of victims by tsunami, which have brought great tragedy to many countries, and lead to the achievement of the targets of the Sendai Framework.

Japan will make its utmost efforts to contribute to minimizing damage caused by tsunami and thereby protecting as many precious lives as possible by utilizing the knowledge and technology it has accumulated. We would be grateful for your support and cooperation toward the establishment of “World Tsunami Day” by the end of this year.

(Towards the post- 2015 development agenda)

The global process for sustainable development this year commenced at the WCDRR. The post-2015 development agenda, which is at the final stage of intergovernmental negotiations, is a set of universal goals towards the world of 2030, which will present a holistic approach, centering on poverty eradication and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development.

In the implementation of this agenda, cooperation under a global partnership, which includes not only developed countries but developing countries, the private sector and civil society, will have greater importance. Japan would like to establish a true global partnership through the success of such important international events as the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa next week, the UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda in September and COP21 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the end of the year.

The High-Level Political Forum will be the center of the follow up and review of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level. We hope this forum will be the place where countries not only share their experiences and lessons learnt but also discuss emerging issues and common challenges, and provide political leadership for sustainable development. Involvement of the entire UN system and wide participation of stakeholders will be indispensable.

Based on the concept of human security, Japan will continue to cooperate with each Member State and all stakeholders towards the formulation and implementation of an effective agenda.

Thank you for your attention.