

[Opening Session]

Opening Remarks by **Seiji Kihara**
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

1. Opening

I would firstly like to express my deepest thanks to everyone in attendance today for participating in the Eleventh Japan Education Forum. I would now like to make a few remarks on behalf of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is a co-host of this forum.

2. Towards the Achievement of MDGs

As the year prior to 2015, the deadline for achieving the Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this year is an important year for initiative by the international community. According to the latest UNESCO report, issued at the end of last month, progress can be seen with regard to various education-related targets, such as the complete spread of primary education; however, this progress has been losing momentum in recent years and achieving the targets by 2015 is deemed to be difficult. Accordingly, the entire international community must make greater efforts.

Japan is focusing on education from the perspectives of human security and sustainable develop, and in the five years since 2011, educational centers overall have been steadily providing 3.5 billion US dollars to be used to support a total of 25 million children. In order to achieve the MDGs, we intend to continue to promote effective educational cooperation together with everyone in attendance here today and all others involved.

3. Measures Based on the Actions of the International Community for Post-2015

Furthermore, the debate over the form development should take from 2015 onwards is also growing lively. Prior to the inter-governmental negotiations regarding the post-2015 development agenda that are to begin at the 69th UN General Assembly in September this year, discussions forming the foundation for these negotiations are being advanced, with a high-level panel report was being issued in May of last year regarding the post-2015 development agenda and discussions by working groups on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) still continuing.

Japan regards human security that emphasizes protection of individuals and strengthening skills, focusing on each individual person, as the appropriate guiding principle for the post-2015 agenda. In addition, in considering various fields—including education—in the future, discussions based on the latest trends in the international community, such as rapidly progressing globalization, are necessary. This globalization is exerting a huge impact on the environment surrounding education. This impact is especially marked in higher education, with universities and other higher educational institutions in Japan and other developed countries cranking up their recruitment of international students from developing countries and training domestic human resources capable of contributing on the global stage. In addition, the impact of this globalization is spreading also to the field of basic education.

In undertaking education cooperation activities in developing countries as well as promoting discussion on the post-2015 development agenda, I believe that it would be extremely meaningful to discuss the impact of globalization on education in developing countries—an issue that has so far not been examined adequately.

4. Closing

For this forum, it was decided to select themes concerning education in developing countries amidst the advancement of globalization based on the actions of the international community.

With participants comprising people involved in educational cooperation both in Japan and overseas, this forum provides an extremely valuable opportunity. In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that discussions today will be lively and that this forum will be truly fruitful in considering the future form of educational cooperation and the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you very much for your attention.