

(2018 FNCA Ministerial Meeting)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for attending the 19th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting. On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to say a few words to welcome all of you, our distinguished participants from the Asian countries and our guest from Joint FAO/IAEA Program.

It is the 19th meeting, since the FNCA was established as a framework with a goal of enhancing cooperation between 12 Asian countries toward the peaceful use of nuclear power for the sake of socio-economic development.

The continued development of nuclear science and technology has expanded in a wide range of fields, in the form of advanced science and technology, industrial applications, and medical care, among others. It has great potential to contribute to the improvement of our overall Quality of Life (QOL). It can also contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

It is in this background that FNCA's various projects, in the area of medical care, industry and environment, have been demonstrating solid achievements and have been actually contributing to the sustainable development and social well-being of Asian countries. We should warmly congratulate all relevant parties involved in delivering these splendid and outstanding outcomes.

Also, the FNCA projects with respect to nuclear safety have been contributing toward achieving the highest level of nuclear safety in the Asian region by actively sharing information and experiences. This subject is critically important in the Asian region, when we consider the scale of

economy and electricity demand that is growing faster than any other part of the world.

In this regard, Japan spares no effort to cooperate with other member countries by sharing the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, and discussing how we can continuously develop safer nuclear regimes in the Asian region.

At today's Roundtable Discussion, "Contributions to Asian agriculture via radiation technology." will be discussed. As a result of this discussion, we are expecting complete actions in this area, and that these actions will be articulated in the form of the Joint Communiqué that will be finally discussed and decided at the end of the meeting. I believe that the FNCA's activities, in collaboration with the FAO/IAEA, will enhance the contribution of nuclear power to the social and economic development of the member countries and the welfare of the citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, nuclear science and technology is utilized in a wide variety of areas that one could not ever imagine before. I hope that the benefit of nuclear science and technology will be widely shared and promoted through strong commitment by the distinguished delegations through the discussion among experts that is taking place today. This, I believe, will lead to further broadening of the benefits of nuclear science and technology, and that is our mission to undertake.

Thank you for your attention.