

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Norio Mitsuya,
Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At the UNCRD/UNDESA Side Event
“Promoting Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Urban Development”**

7 July 2014, New York

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to make the opening remarks for this event today on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the UNCRD and UNDESA for organizing this important event entitled “Promoting Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Urban Development.”

Taking advantage of the fact that the UNCRD Headquarters is based in Nagoya City, Japan, the Government of Japan has maintained close cooperation with the UNCRD since its establishment in 1971. As regional development is one of the critical elements for achieving sustainable development, this side event is expected to provide significant and timely inputs to the discussions on Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda. I expect that our existing solid partnership with the UNCRD and DESA will be further strengthened through the promotion of various activities including today’s event.

In order to respond effectively to the expected growth of urban population in the coming decades, the UNCRD has been addressing various challenges of cities in line with the outcome document of Rio+20, “The Future We Want.” In this context, Japan has been actively collaborating with the UNCRD for the promotion of EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) and 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) initiatives in Asia in particular. Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm our firm commitment to continued cooperation in those main components of sustainable urban management.

I strongly believe that disaster risk reduction is another crucial aspect to be

prioritized in sustainable urban development planning. The UNCRD has engaged in disaster risk reduction in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the outcome document of Rio+20. In order to facilitate the construction of resilient societies across the world, Japan will pursue its collaboration in the field of disaster risk reduction, sharing the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and other experiences from disasters in the past, and making the most of our expertise and technologies. I would like to take this occasion to welcome the participants in this room to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March next year.

I am very pleased that Mr. Toshihiko Ohta, Mayor of Toyota City and Mr. Hiroshi Imanaga, Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu City are joining us today as panelists. I am fully convinced that these two cities are excellent role models for other city leaders in the world in identifying effective policies and tools for promoting sustainable urban development, bearing in mind the importance of resource efficiency. I equally look forward to the presentations from other panelists.

I hope this event will further contribute to raising visibility at the international level concerning the UNCRD's vital role and activities to assist developing countries in their transition to a more sustainable society. Let me conclude by wishing a great success of the event.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.