

**An Intersessional event of CSD19**  
**~ the Intersessional Conference on Building Partnerships For Moving**  
**Towards Zero Waste ~**  
**Opening Remark**  
**The Minister of the Environment of Japan**  
**Mr. Ryu Matsumoto**

Good morning. Mr. Abdelghani Merabet, the Vice-Chair of CSD19, Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, distinguished participants from the national and local governments, public utilities, private corporations, local communities, international organizations, donor agencies, experts and NGOs from all over the world.

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, I would like to open by extending my deep appreciation to all of you for your participation at this Conference.

My sincere gratitude also extends to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, especially to Ms. Kenza Robinson, and to the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and its Director, Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa for their dedicated preparation to jointly organize this Conference with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has addressed “waste management” as one of the themes for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 for 2010 and 2011. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan has offered to be the host of two intersessional conferences for the CSD to deepen discussion and produce meaningful output for sustainable development at CSD. One is the “International Consultative Meeting on Expanding Waste Management Services in Developing Countries” which was held in March, 2010 in Tokyo ; and the other is the “CSD Intersessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste,” which

commences here today.

I am extremely honored to host these important conferences in Japan.

Japan hosted the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity last October. As the chair of the Conference, I was pleased that significant output was produced, such as the Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan. This could only be achieved due to the diligent discussion by the participants.

I am sure that this CSD intersessional conference will also produce a significant output through productive discussion and cooperation among participants.

Along with global economic growth and industrialization, there has been a recent surge and diversification of solid waste, and this places a burden on human health and the environment.

In developing countries, lack of systems, institutions, human resources and funds have resulted in improper treatment of rapidly increasing waste. In some cases, such improper waste management causes a severe impact on human health and living environment.

As Japan achieved its rapid economic growth, it also suffered from serious waste problems, such as shortage of landfill sites and illegal dumping.

The Japanese people have made a great effort to solve these problems over the years. Government has consolidated a legal system to promote proper treatment of waste and the 3Rs; the private sector has developed various technologies for waste treatment.

Local communities and NGOs are also active in promoting the 3Rs. These examples indicate that private corporations, local communities and NGOs can play major roles in proper treatment of waste and the promotion of the 3Rs. They also show good models of how waste management and the 3R activities can be improved by developing partnership among various stakeholders.

Based on these experiences, I fully acknowledge the significance of building partnerships in the field of waste management, which is the theme of this Conference.

We need to move forward to construct partnerships to carry out waste management internationally. Japan has taken the initiative to launch the “Regional 3R Forum in Asia,” in the Asian region in 2009, by obtaining endorsement from other Asian countries, with the cooperation of UNCRD and UNDESA. I hope that this forum will function as a meaningful platform for cooperation among the relevant national governments, international organizations, donor agencies, civil societies, experts, and NGOs toward promotion of the 3Rs in Asia.

I hope this Conference will lead to the promotion of partnerships and cooperation among many stakeholders involved in waste management, and contribute to promote effective and efficient waste management and the 3Rs, leading to accomplishments in CSD 19, as well as RIO+20.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.