

*Opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Kazuo Kodama,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations*

Thursday, May 12th, 2011 (CR B, NLB)

Co-facilitators,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

I welcome you to this event co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment and the Permanent Mission of Japan in cooperation with UNDESA and UNCRD entitled “Building Partnership for Moving towards Zero Waste.” The objective of this event is to share with you the main outcomes of the CSD Intersessional Conference on the same theme held in February in Tokyo.

It is my great pleasure to have with us today high-level representatives of our co-organizers, especially Mr. Minamikawa, Vice-Minister of the Environment as well as other eminent experts from the Environmental Management Centre and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

I would like to take this opportunity to share my views on why waste management is so important in our efforts toward the common goal of sustainable development and toward the Rio + 20 Conference.

The growing scarcity and degradation of natural resource coupled with the pressure of world population and economic growth calls for a new paradigm. We must develop a green growth model, which reconciles economic development and environmental protection.

Japan turned away from being a society of mass production and consumption in 2003 by adopting the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society, promoting the principle of the 3R’s: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Based on these experiences, my Government is taking initiative globally to promote the 3R concept and to advance proper waste management. Therefore I welcome any initiatives for that purpose by international organizations and other stakeholders including local communities, industries, academia, civil society and highly motivated personalities like you. I am happy to witness with you today the birth of a new partnership called IPLA (the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities).

Thank you for your kind attention.