

Keynote Speech by Ambassador KAWAMURA Yasuhisa at The Macdonald Laurier Institute's Webinar 'Securing Cyber Space: How we can protect against digital threats to a free and open Indo-Pacific' on June 1, 2021

First of all, I would like to thank MLI for inviting me to this very important webinar.

A webinar like this and working from home are examples of the 'new normal' brought upon by COVID 19. The communication system plays a bigger role today and is anticipated to advance to be a social infrastructure. 5G, for example, is now being introduced internationally and is expected to provide various social services. While we live in a world where people increasingly depend on information and communication technology infrastructure, we also come across news reporting the rapid increase in cybercrimes caused by the misuse of cyberspace and information and communication technology. Cybersecurity needs to be urgently ensured. The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security also points out, in its National Cyber Threat Assessment 2020, that the number of cyber threat actors is rising and state-sponsored actors will almost certainly continue to conduct commercial espionage against businesses, academia, and governments to steal intellectual property and proprietary information. Webinars like today, which will be an opportunity to discuss the issue of cybersecurity with experts from different countries, are therefore very crucial not only for Canada but also for all of us.

I am going to talk about the actions taken by Japan for the realization of a free,

fair and safe cyberspace. There are three pillars. The first pillar is the promotion of rule of law. Actions taken in the cyberspace are often characterized as anonymous and borderless. These spaces require international coordination and cooperation as well as a rules-based international order in the cyberspace. Japan has joined the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts in 2014 and has actively participated in the discussion to promote a rules-based cyberspace, for example by promoting the discussion on the application of international law to cyberspace and the development of non-binding norms in cyberspace. Japan has also been an active member of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Cybersecurity and participated in the preparation of the consensus report on rules in cyberspace, which was adopted unanimously in March. In the G7, Japan has been actively involved in the discussion to promote a rules-based cyberspace. For example, at the Ise Shima Summit in 2016, which was Prime Minister Trudeau's first G7, the Ise-Shima G7 Principle and Actions on Cyber was endorsed. It affirmed the openness, interoperability, reliability, and security of the Internet would enhance the common values of the G7, such as freedom, democracy, and human rights. From the point of view of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision, which aims to secure peace and prosperity of the region and the world through the realization of a rules-based order in the region, Japan is also increasing its cooperation on cyber security matters with the US, Australia, India, the UK and other like-minded partners.

The second pillar is the development of confidence-building measures. In order to avoid escalation of tensions in cyberspace caused by miscalculation and

misunderstanding, it is important to deepen the understanding of each other's domestic laws, regulations, policies, strategies and perceptions among governments. Japan has made an effort to develop confidence-building by conducting cybersecurity dialogues with 14 nations and regions including bilateral dialogues with the US, UK, France, Australia, and India; trilateral dialogues with China, the Republic of Korea and with the US, Republic of Korea as well as dialogues with ASEAN and EU.

The third pillar is cooperation on capacity building. In the borderless cyberspace, there is always a risk of cyberattacks via a country which does not have enough awareness and capacity to ensure cybersecurity or so-called security hole. This security hole can be a risk factors for the entire world. In order to fill such security hole, Japan has been conducting capacity building and providing assistance for human resource development in various countries. For example, the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting has been held annually since 2009. The ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre was established in Thailand to provide technical assistance including cyber exercises, joint awareness raising, capacity building and mutual notification for incidents

Cyberspace and information and communication technology is changing daily. In order to build and maintain a free, fair and safe cyberspace, the international community needs to keep making efforts. I have just talked about Japan's actions to show one example of such efforts. I am looking forward to listening to the discussion among experts from various countries on the latest cyber risks which the world is

exposed to today and how the international community needs to respond to them.

Thank you very much for your attention.