

Opening Remarks by Ambassador YAMANOUCI Kanji in the webinar titled ‘Quest for Economic Security: Japan, Canada, and the Indo-Pacific’ co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the University of Ottawa on June 15, 2022

Introduction

- Good morning and Bonjour to the audience from Canada. こんにちは to the audience from Japan. Je m'appelle YAMANOUCI Kanji. My name is YAMANOUCI Kanji, Ambassador of Japan to Canada. One month has passed since my arrival to Canada in May. Today, I am glad that the Embassy of Japan is holding this webinar on ‘Economic Security’ with the Centre for International Policy Studies and CN-Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy at the University of Ottawa. I would like to thank the keynote speaker, Mr. Yasuhiko Ota, a senior writer at Nikkei newspaper. And I am grateful to Professor Scott Simon and Professor Patrick LeBlond of the University of Ottawa as well as Ms. Lynn McDonald, Director-General of International Economic Policy at Global Affairs Canada for their cooperation to make this webinar possible.

Mesdames et messieurs

2 Status quo

- Today, the world is facing more diversified threats than ever before. Urgent responses need to be taken to address the new reality.
- One of such threats is the expansion of security risks in the economic domain,

in other words, economic security. The COVID 19 pandemic and Russia's aggression against Ukraine have made clear that the global supply chains cannot be taken for granted. Even a little shock to the supply chain could make logistical operations unstable and vulnerable. The disruption in the supply of critical and core goods could cause surges in their international market prices and even lead to security risks. We recently witnessed such cases with supplies of personal protective equipment, PPE, at the early stage of the pandemic. And we also see serious challenges in energy and food supply stemming from the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The supply of semi-conductors also became a problem due to lower rates of factory operations caused by the pandemic.

- Cutting-edge technologies such as semi-conductors, AI and quantum computing are critical technologies that bring economic prosperity more than ever. But at the same time, we should not forget that these high-tech could also pose security risks if they are used for military purposes.
- Now, we know there are countries that do not hesitate to put pressure on other countries by taking advantage of their economic dependence. This kind of fact implies that these risks are not necessarily transitory.

3 Japan's response to pursue economic security

- Given such changes in the security environment today, Japan recognizes 'economic security' as a new and critical challenge for its national security. Therefore we give high priority to responding them. Prime Minister Kishida has been putting his effort into establishing the strategic autonomy of Japan's economic structure and achieving technological superiority. For example, Prime

Minister Kishida created a new ministerial position for Economic Security at the inauguration of his cabinet in October last year. Moreover, the Economic Security Promotion Bill was enacted in the National Diet. This new legislation aims at supply chain resilience, essential infrastructure protection, technology development and the protection of patent applications.

- In order to effectively address such economic security challenges, it is critical to work together among allies and other like-minded countries. As a matter of fact, Japan has had various discussions with Canada and other G7 countries, as well as European and Southeast Asian countries.

Mesdames et messieurs

4 Conclusion: Japan-Canada cooperation

- En mai dernier, le Japon et le Canada ont partagé leurs points de vue sur la coopération dans six domaines prioritaires qui contribuent à une région Indo-Pacifique libre et ouverte.

(In May of last year, Japan and Canada shared their views to cooperate in six priority areas contributing to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.)

- Ils incluent notre coopération en matière d'énergie et de la promotion du libre-échange et la mise en œuvre des accords commerciaux, y compris la résilience des chaînes d'approvisionnement.

(They include our cooperation in energy, free trade promotion and trade agreement implementation including supply chain resilience.)

- Nous avons poursuivi notre discussion sur la coopération spécifique dans ces

domaines.

We have continued our discussion about specific cooperation in those areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- In their summit meeting in this February, Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Trudeau also agreed to cooperate in the areas of energy and natural resources. With the Ukraine crisis, LNG Canada, the largest private investment project in the history of Canada, has become far more important for energy security in Japan and Indo-Pacific region. As you know, in LNG Canada, a Japanese company, namely Mitsubishi, has played a significant role.

- Today, we will be listening to a discussion between Mr. Ota and Canadian economic security experts both in the government and in academia. Mr. Ota is an expert in geopolitics of critical technologies including semi-conductors. I hope that today's webinar will invigorate economic security discussion between Canada and Japan. And I expect today's webinar to give insightful implications for our future cooperation. Canada-Japan cooperation will not only bring about prosperity and stability of our two nations but also contribute to betterment of the Indo-Pacific and the world based on a free and open international order.

- Thank you very much for your attention. Merci pour votre attention. ご静聴あ

りがとうございました。