

Address from H.E. Mr. Kenji HIRAMATSU, Ambassador of Japan to India,
on the occasion of Global Technology Summit (GTS)
1130-1215hrs on 7th December 2017

1. It is my pleasure to have an opportunity to participate in the Global Technology Summit, together with Dr. Jaishankar, the Foreign Secretary. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Raja Mohan, Director, Carnegie India, and his team, for their aspiration and hard work that realized this initiative. I am honored that Japan has become the Partner Country for this second Global Technology Summit. This morning we had another session called the Bengaluru-Tokyo Technology Initiative (BTIT). I first heard of this Initiative from the team of Carnegie India when I visited Bengaluru, February this year. At that time I immediately thought that putting technology at the centre of the India-Japan cooperation was an excellent idea, and I strongly supported this Initiative. I am especially delighted to see that this Initiative has come into reality in this way today. I am particularly happy that this event takes place in Bengaluru. I see a huge potential that Japan can tap into in Bengaluru, and I am discussing this possibility with Japanese business leaders.

2. Let me first talk about Japanese view and its policy on Technology developments. Throughout their history, the Japanese people have appreciated craftsmanship. They respected and nurtured techniques of craftsmen. In modern times, Japan, not being rich in natural resources, achieved a rapid growth by way of developing cutting-edge manufacturing technologies. The background for such technology developments is the traditional craftsmanship and the extensive work on basic sciences.

3. Today the world is dramatically changing because of disruptive technologies. Smartphones, digital payment, biometrics and others are quickly becoming part of our daily life. The recent advancements in ICTs and other new technologies have brought us to an “era of dramatic change” in which the social and economic structures of the nation are significantly changing, literally on a daily basis. We are witnessing: emergence of markets and businesses that do not fit within existing frameworks, shift from “the tangible” to “the intangible”, and changes in knowledge and value creation processes with emphasis on open-innovation and open-science.

4. Domestic as well as global challenges are increasing in scale and complexity. In Japan we are facing energy restrictions, declining national birth-rate, aging population, natural disasters, and changes in security environment. Globally, there are numbers of issues such as food security, poverty, pollutions, migrations, threat of pandemics, and

Climate Change.

5. In the light of all these, it is critical to pursue Science & Technology Innovation, appropriately utilizing its advantages.

6. The Government of Japan has been steadily supporting the development of the R&D environment and the enhancement of Japan's international competitiveness. Those efforts led to the creation of new Science & Technology that changed people's lives and the economy, such as LEDs and iPS cells. The fact that Japan has produced the second highest number of Nobel Prize winners in the natural sciences this century, namely 14 Nobel laureates, proves that Japan's Science & Technology has a strong international standing.

7. In today's "era of dramatic change," in order to enable Japan to remain a world leader in the technological sphere, the current "Science and Technology Basic Plan" of Japan proposes to reinforce R&D that generates discontinuous innovation and to boost efforts to devise mechanisms for realizing the world's first "super smart society" that creates new value and services in rapid succession.

8. Around the world, initiatives that use networks and the Internet of Things (IoT), centered on manufacturing fields, are now being launched. In Japan, the use of such networking will not be limited to manufacturing. Instead, it will be extended to various other fields in order to promote economic growth, the formation of a healthy and long-living society, and social transformation. It will help the fruits of Science & Technology to penetrate into all kinds of fields and spheres, and thereby lead to enhanced business capability and higher-quality services. The "National Plan" shares the vision of our future, which is characterized by the sophisticated integration of cyberspace with physical space, under the concept of "Society 5.0". This is an extremely efficient society, which is capable of providing the necessary goods and services to the people who need them at the required time, in just the right amount, by making full use of the advances in Science and Technology. This is the vision of the ideal society that the Government of Japan is pursuing, aiming at prosperity for all.

9. To create new value and rapidly pursue its use in society, using domestic and overseas human resources, knowledge, and capital, the "National Plan" sets up the vision to establish an eco-system to generate innovation by promoting full-scale collaboration between companies, universities, and public research institutes, and by encouraging entrepreneurship and boosting the creation of startup companies.

10. To enhance Japan's competitiveness in creating new values, R&Ds in 11 themes are assisted by the "Strategic Innovation Promotion program," or "SIP program" in areas like power electronics semiconductors, strong materials for airplanes, ocean resource exploration technology, automated car driving, disaster management, and agriculture.

11. Turning to the context of India-Japan bilateral relationships, on the basis of these policies and our own experience, Japan is implementing several Science & Technology cooperation projects. I believe that People-to-People exchanges are the key for boosting this cooperation, and we are paying special focus on this area.

12. Under the "Sakura Science Plan", Japan is inviting Indian high school and college students, as well as young researchers, to Japan for a couple of weeks to have a first-hand experience in Japan's advanced Science and Technology. The numbers of invitees are constantly increasing from 326 in 2015 to 548 last year. This year we are inviting 750 Indian young people.

13. In addition, from this year onwards, under "Innovative Asia" project, Japan is inviting young and bright Indian students in the field of ICT for 2 years as a master's student, or 3 years as a doctor's. This year we are receiving 14 students from IITs Madras, Bombay, Guwahati, and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, as well as IITDM-Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

14. In order to boost the numbers of Indian talented students to work in Japanese companies, seminars on internship and job opportunities for Indian experts at Japanese companies in the field of IoT, big data, and AI, are hosted in Indian schools. Japanese leading companies, such as NEC, Toshiba, and NTT Data, are already recruiting top-notch Indian ICT engineers. I believe that Indian talented ICT engineers and Japanese companies and venture capitals are the ideal combination, and I would like to strongly promote this collaboration even further.

15. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has established joint laboratories for ICTs with IITs Delhi, Bombay and Hyderabad, with help of Japan's University of Tokyo and Kyushu University.

16. With respect to biotechnology, Kyoto University's CiRA: Center for iPS Cell Research & Application, which is headed by the Nobel laureate Professor Shinya

Yamanaka, is providing training courses on how to handle iPS Cells to Indian young researchers. Last year 5 Indian researchers went through the course, and this year 8 researchers just completed it last week. Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), have opened joint laboratories for advanced biomedicine in India's 5 institutes, namely Manipal University here in Karnataka, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, Sikkim University, and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad, Haryana.

17. In the field of space science, last month, here in Bengaluru, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Japan (MEXT), and ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) co-hosted the 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF24). More than 500 experts from the entire region participated to have intensive discussions.

18. To facilitate these efforts, it is also important to encourage entrepreneurship. Three months ago, at our Embassy in Delhi we hosted a match-making event among Japanese leading companies and Indian startups, which was greatly appreciated by both sides. I am very happy to hear from many Japanese companies who participated in the pitching that they are discussing with the Indian startup participants to collaborate on projects at various stages. I expect they will bring about some concrete results in the near future. To facilitate some more collaboration, this evening, Carnegie India and our Embassy is co-hosting another pitching event with participation from Japanese Venture Capitalists.

19. To oversee all these cooperation, in January this year in Delhi we held the 9th round of India-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation. Responsible Ministries and Institutes in the fields of life science, medical science, space, ICT and so on, discussed further cooperation.

20. I am happy to see that so many distinguished panelists are going to share their thoughts in the Global Tech Summit. I am looking forward to hearing what these entrepreneurs, industrialists, political leaders, and great thinkers have in mind for the bright future guided by Science and Technology. Once again, let me congratulate Dr. Raja Mohan, and the team of Carnegie India for organizing such a wonderful event.

Thank you.