

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu at Maharashtra Investors' Summit:  
"Magnetic Maharashtra: Convergence 2018"  
in the session "MH: The Journey to a trillion dollar economy"  
on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, at 1430-1700hrs

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis,
- Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Shri Sumit Mullick,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to join you to this Maharashtra Global Investors' Summit. Let me wholeheartedly congratulate Chief Minister Fadnavis on the successful inauguration last evening, with the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Mumbai is the center of gravity of India's finance and economy, and the heart of India's culture and lifestyle. I have come and visited Mumbai many times, and interacted with political leaders, industrialists, bankers, film makers, intellectuals and other leading figures in this cosmopolitan city.

Let me talk about Japan's contribution to achieve CM's vision to achieve trillion dollar economy.

First of all, Japan is keen to provide high-quality infrastructure, which is durable and efficient. We are conscious about environmental aspects as well.

This place, BKC, has the special significance to Japan. BKC is going to be the terminal where our High Speed Rail will commence its service, bounded for the Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad. Japan's HSR, Shinkansen, is famous for safety, high efficiency, punctuality and comfort. There are no fatal accidents in the last 50 years. I have intensively discussed with Chief Minister Fadnavis on the plan of the BKC terminal, as well as the entire vision of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail. This project is the true symbol of Japan-India cooperation, connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad in 2 hours, that will expand dramatically business opportunities. The BKC terminal will be the future model for railway station integrated into surrounding business development, with shopping centres, hotels and museums. By 2023, we hope you will experience comfortable ride in Shinkansen, and enjoy the stay in BKC terminal.

Together with Chief Minister Fadnavis, I have also worked on various

infrastructure projects as well as land acquisition for Shinkansen. I recall our in-depth discussion on Mumbai Trans Harbor Link, and Mumbai Metro, which are financed by Japanese Official Development Assistance. I hope these projects will provide people of Mumbai with great comfort and efficiency.

I welcome great progress in the Supa Japanese Industrial Zone, which is near Pune, land acquisition has been completed in a timely manner, and the site preparation work is steadily ongoing. This is thanks to the strong leadership of the Chief Minister.

Japan has also assisted the development of Maharashtra in other sectors, such as forest conservation and pollution mitigation project on River Mula-Mutha in Pune. We will continue to support high-quality infrastructure development in areas such as urban transport system in Maharashtra by utilizing Japanese Government's soft loan and advanced Japanese technologies.

Secondly, I will introduce how Japanese industry is contributing to the development of Maharashtra. Maharashtra has the highest GDP amongst all States of India. Japanese industry has heavily invested in Maharashtra. In this State, we have more than 200 Japanese companies, only second to Haryana, while we have 1369 Japanese companies in entire India, and more than 750 Japanese business establishments, like factories, design centers, and sales offices.

In Mumbai, for example, we have an electric appliances factory by Panasonic-Anchor, data centres of NTT Communications, stationary & colour material production plants of Kokuyo Camlin, lifestyle retail shop of MUJI, and many more.

In Pune, there are auto-tire factory of Bridgestone, automobile wire harness plant of Yazaki Corporation, vehicle electronic parts unit by Hitachi, and numerous others.

In Aurangabad, NHK Automotive Components is manufacturing industrial springs, JL Morison by Rasoi Group is making Japan's "Bigen"-brand hair colour products, and Compo-ADVICS, again by Rasoi Group, is producing brake pads for passenger vehicles. This evening, Rasoi Group is celebrating their yet another partnership with a Japanese company, TBK, which is Japan's largest brake parts

company for commercial vehicles.

In other areas of the State, you can find Japanese companies, in Nagpur, Nashik, Taloja, Thane, Khopoli, and on and on.

There are competitions among states for attracting investments. Many Chief Ministers ask me to bring Japanese investments. The other day I was in the State of Assam for investors' summit. I hope the State of Maharashtra will give good incentive, as well as good infrastructure such as road connectivity, power, and water supply.

Japanese investments are not limited to manufacturing sector. Food processing industry is up-coming. Last week, Japan's food processing company, Oriental Yeast, conducted the earth breaking ceremony for a factory to produce yeast for making bread. Another Japanese food processing company, Kagome, is growing tomatoes in Nashik. Japan's Ministry of Agriculture is jointly working on developing food value chain, with the Government of Maharashtra.

IT , AI and IoT are also important. NTT Communications is going to sign an MOU with the Government of Maharashtra today. Under this MOU, NTT Communications, through its wholly-owned subsidiary in India, Net-Magic Solutions, is going to construct a data centre, and the Government of Maharashtra will facilitate necessary approvals and incentives.

In the Japan pavilion of this Summit, there are exhibitions from Mitsubishi Electric, Kawasaki Motors, Horiba, Glory, and many companies that I just mentioned. I hope you will visit them, and experience the Japanese service and technology by yourself.

Thirdly, I will talk about skills development and Japanese language education. Skills development is one of the key areas for our cooperation. Last year, with the collaboration of Japanese companies, four Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIMs) were inaugurated. This attempt is directed towards handing down Japan's culture of manufacturing to Indian engineers, and to contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Indian Government. Also, Japan is ready to support the Indian Institute of Skills, which the Indian Government is now working to establish.

Moreover, soon we will start the Technical Intern Training Program for Indian technicians. Under this program, Indian technicians will be accepted at Japanese Companies to undergo them technical training and acquire skills from the Japanese Industry. We hope Maharashtra will be part of our endeavor for skills development.

Pune is the central city in Maharashtra for Japanese language education. Pune University is the major source of engineers and managements, who can understand Japanese language. Tilak Maharashtra University has reputation in Japanese language studies. Japanese Government has been supporting their Japanese language studies. I will encourage interactions among Japanese and Maharashtra's universities and schools, even further. I also hope that more institutions, especially in engineering and management, will start Japanese language courses.

Lastly, I will talk about tourism. Maharashtra is rich in amazing tourist destinations like Ajanta, Ellora, and Mumbai. The State of Maharashtra and Wakayama prefecture renew the MOU for partnership. Japan and India are working on tourism cooperation. Japan has supported infrastructure development in Ajanta and Ellora. Encouraging more Japanese people to visit India, and vice versa, from India to Japan, will lead to more businesses between Japan and India.

I hope this Summit will provide a good insight for Japanese people on Maharashtra's business opportunity, and I hope that many more Japanese companies will come and make investments. Let me congratulate, once again, the success of the Summit.

Thank you very much.