

Keynote Address by Ambassador Suzuki at “2nd Rajasthan IoT Summit”

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Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Introduction)

It is a great honor for me to participate in the 2nd Rajasthan IoT Summit, today.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere respect to all the medical professionals - working day in and day out - in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. I also wish that the current situation would get settled as soon as possible.

(Society 5.0)

So, here goes the main part:

IoT connects everything, including goods and persons, and AI integrates various forms of knowledge and information.

With emerging technologies like IoT and AI, millions of services are now going digital. This is generating newly-added values. As a result, the socio-economy of the world and people's lifestyles are getting drastically transformed.

Against the backdrop of such a remarkable global trend, Japan has been trying to realize the "Society 5.0", to achieve efficient productivity and human welfare.

We call it "Society 5.0", where a lot of social problems can be solved by disruptive innovations that also help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Let me give you some examples. These are things like:

- providing telemedicine,
- diversifying and stabilizing energy supply,
- optimizing traffic and transportation,
- reinforcing supply chains and manufacturing, and
- managing national disasters.

(COVID-19)

Even in this COVID-19 pandemic situation, new technologies are playing a huge role for curbing infection, diagnosing symptoms, developing drugs and vaccines.

To cite an example of countermeasures using AI for preventing infection, one Japanese company is offering “Thermal Monitoring with Face Detection and Recognition Solution” for automatic screening and tracking of people. It flags the security personnel on a real-time basis, to take proper measures for those who walk into the premises with a fever.

On the other hand, I think that all of us are truly facing the inconveniences caused by lack of essential items these days. The COVID-19 experience has actually become a wake-up call for recognizing the importance of maintaining supply chains for strategic materials, from the viewpoint of economic security. We need credible partners for diversifying supply chains. From this perspective, I would like to stress today that, such diversification can only be achieved through joint efforts by all the parties concerned. In this context, I have high hopes for further efforts in India to drastically improve the business environment.

(Japan-India Cooperation)

In India, PM Modi's "Digital India" Initiative is making the country more and more transformative. It is digitally empowering the society. Japan is paying growing attention to this innovative policy.

When Prime Minister Modi visited Japan in October, 2018, our two Governments signed an MOC on the "Japan-India Digital Partnership". Supporting digital start-ups is an important pillar, and many start-ups from both countries have been successfully paired.

I am confident that the Japan-India collaboration can offer many solutions for overcoming challenges in this complicated and problematic world, in the midst of a kaleidoscope of changing circumstances.

("Data Free Flow with Trust", and cyber security)

It is crucial to have stable, reliable and secure network accessibility. Presence of an enhanced broadband like 5G is also desirable. Moreover, the concept of "Data Free Flow with Trust" is the most important, because the engine of economic growth is now driven, not any more with oil, but with data.

At the G20 Summit hosted by Japan last year, the leaders launched the “Osaka Track”, a process which promotes international policy discussions on data flow. We need to accelerate this activity of preventing data-fraud and intensive blockage, without excessive regulations, for harnessing the full potential of data. Only by doing so, we may be able to foster innovation, so that we can keep pace with the fast-growing digital economy.

In addition, ICT network with a conscious design to avoid cyber attacks is an urgent matter. We must take care while selecting supply chains of network gear, so as not to deploy suspicious telecom products, that is to say, those products which cannot exclude concerns on data security. This is another possible area where Japan and India have a vast potential to work together. Already, both Governments are cooperating by holding regular “Cyber Dialogues”.

(Conclusion)

Lastly, as I have been emphasizing, I firmly believe that Japan-India collaboration could have a positive impact on the world digital economy. And as we all know, FICCI is one of the biggest promoters of the relationship between our two countries. I am therefore looking forward to an active future

role to be played by FICCI in this regard.

I would like to conclude my address by offering all of you my best wishes for your good health, and also a fruitful discussion during the course of this IoT Summit.

Thank you very much.

(End)