

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of ITU Mr. Houlin Zhao, and the members of the WSIS Secretariat and all stakeholders.

10 years ago, we set a common goal in the information society for everyone, and toward the common goal, we could facilitate to disseminate the use of ICT worldwide.

As a result, we recognize that the common vision of the WSIS is being achieved and the achievements are significant. This is because of the cooperation among the government, private sector, civil society and academia and all stakeholders.

Based on these basic understanding, I would like to comment on 3 important points.

The first point is about the recognition of technological innovations. Look at the changes that have happened since 2005. Like the spread of mobile communication, and recently, developments in cloud computing, SNS, IoT, AI and so on, technological innovation has progressed more than we expected, and it makes a great contribution to achieve our common vision.

We believe we need to promote to further innovation, and to keep a basic stance that ICT policies is a neutral for the progress of technology. we have a common mission with all stakeholders that “ICT innovation benefit all people around the world”, it’s of great significance to accelerate the relevant actions.

The second point is about ensuring the free flow of information. The exponential increase of the quality and quantity of information distributed around the world, means the increasing role of 'communication' that connects people, things, and money – that is to say, cyberspace. Such expansion of information distribution will contribute greatly to economic progress and to solving global and social issues facing each country.

We should agree on a fundamental principle of ensuring this free flow of information. Likewise, we should actively tackle our common goal of vitalizing the distribution of information: within each country, within each region such as ASEAN and EU; and finally, a global-scale distribution, with each element bringing a synergetic effect. The reason is that whether or not we can make good use of this cyberspace that has appeared for the first time in history, will determine human prosperity.

The third point is on the understanding of multi-stakeholder approach. The Tunis Agenda declares that multi-stakeholders are essential.

But at the 2012 WCIT debates, international opinions ended up divided in two. Unfortunately, even now, after 10 years, we do not have common understanding.

It should go without saying that last year's the two outcome documents of WSIS+10 High-Level Event, and NetMundial, showed success due to the multi-stakeholder approach.

When Japan was struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, it was because we recognized that "information is a lifeline for protecting our lives", and

adopted a multi-stakeholder approach, thus we were able to overcome the unprecedented crisis. There are many other success cases from all over the world.

I hope this will be the last time I need to mention about the importance of multi-stakeholder approach, which was agreed on 10 years ago. From now on, we should focus on *how* we should put the multi-stakeholder approach to practice, for endeavors such as solving global issues. Governments, private sector, civil society and academia and all stakeholders should join forces to speed up efforts in the future.

In addition, we have many other important challenges, such as bridging the digital divide, dissemination of ICT education, and improving resilience.

It is of vital importance to cooperate among all stakeholders towards solving challenges. We will keep maximizing our efforts.

Finally, to solve challenges worldwide, it's important to cooperate among UN organizations like ITU, UNESCO and WHO, and all relevant organizations. ICT holds the key to solving the world's problems. For this reason, I believe that ITU will play an increasingly important role in the future.

Let us all share this common understanding, and work towards creating human being prosperity.