

## Statement from Japan at Opening Segment

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

• To accomplish this year's WSIS forum theme, "Information and Knowledge Societies for SDGs", I'd like to comment on 3 Key Factors today from a view point of multi-stakeholders partnership.

### ■ 3 Key Success Factors

#### **The first is to ensure access to ICT for all people everywhere.**

- Building an enabling environment for access to ICT and the Internet is the essential foundation for inclusive growth.
- Bridging digital divides is the most crucial and urgent issue because still half of people on globe do not have access.
- Japan promotes the public-private initiative named "Quality Infrastructure Investment" and contributes bridging digital divides through developing ICT infrastructure in the world.
- From a long-term perspective, the key is how to reduce Life Cycle Cost of infrastructure considering operation and maintenance cost, not only focusing on cheap initial cost.
- This initiative includes not only developing long-term sustainable infrastructure with a high operation rate, but also capacity building and technological transfer for operation and maintenance.
- It is also important to make fair and transparent policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage competition and investment through open process of decision making or joining multi-stakeholders.
- These can achieve affordable access, and as a consequence, people around the world regardless of income, region, gender and disability can have an access means to ICT.

#### **The second is to promote and protect the free flow of information.**

- The free flow of information is essential for multi-stakeholder approach to make the best use of ICT and innovation such as AI and Big Data by every stakeholders.
- Effective utilization of information is a powerful enabler of further innovation and economic development.

#### **The third is to promote and utilize Innovation.**

- Promoting innovation will increase the number of entrepreneurs, provision of new services and goods, and create a new business and market.
- Then create employment and wealth will be created. This will contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Innovation like IoT, big data and AI is a great opportunity for economic development.
- AI can improve productivity and quality of life by relieving workers of monotonous and tedious labor.

**To address these 3 points, we need to strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders, at national, regional and international levels.**

- Last year, Japan hosted the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting after an interval of about 20 years.
- In response to that momentum, this April, "G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Conference" related to Information and communications was held for the first time at the G20.
- At the conference, the new common goal was set, as "We will encourage the domestic deployment of connectivity to all people by 2025".
- We, the government of Japan, will continue to put forth our best possible efforts to achieve this goal and SDGs, together with all stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention.

■ **Question from the moderator**

In order to promote ICT innovation, what kind of activities do you do in partnership with multi-stakeholders?

■ **Answer**

- In Japan, when we make new decision and activities such as IoT and AI, we always establish an dialogue platform including multi-stakeholders such as private sector, academia, citizen and government.
- For example, now in Japan, in collaboration with related stakeholders, we are working on the standardization of IoT and 5G, development of Big Data analysis method and creating AI R&D Guideline.
- This AI guideline is the unbinding soft law, so that related stakeholders like private sector, citizen and academia can develop and utilize AI without any concern.