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Closing Remarks

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<Speech by Ms. Ogata >

What I have keenly realized through my devotion to refugees and development issues is how much globalization affects the environment. As a result, I have come to promote the idea of “human security”. The old era when a nation is completely capable of securing people’s safety and welfare is over. From now on, it is necessary to empower the people themselves, and at the same time, to strengthen the ability of government and society. Today, I would like to consider “human security” in various dimensions.

First, let’s think about people’s lives and security from the viewpoint of cities as space. People tend to gather and live in cities, and it is important that we understand how these people behave.

It is worth considering Tokyo as one model. Edo was the world’s premier recycle-based eco city. Even nowadays, Tokyo is one of the few cities in the world with high quality social systems, such as public transportation and waste separation, despite a population of 10 million people. Mr. Shinpei Goto, famous for the development of Taiwan and Manchuria, the reconstruction of the capital city of Tokyo after the Great Kanto Earthquake, and a great many other things, conducted thorough on-site surveys of the local land, history and government. Together with professionals in the fields of railways, education, sanitation and art, he had these survey findings reflected in concrete ways. I think it is worth learning how our predecessors tried to understand the way of people when we consider our future.

JICA is engaged in urban development in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, etc. Kabul is not properly functioning as a capital due to a drastic increase in population, and in order to reconstruct this city as an inland oasis type city, a great plan is under way to gather water from surrounding rivers and pool it in a high place to supply it downhill, as well as to build a sewage treatment plant. In Ulan Bator where 40% of the Mongolian population lives, we are engaged in a new traffic plan and compact city development with appropriate land usage and forest conservation in mind.

Asia does have both a bright side and a dark side. The bright side is that many countries like China, Korea, and Malaysia are growing. There is a growing number of Africans eager to learn from Asia, and at the 4th Africa Development Conference, which was held in Yokohama last year, we discussed the significance of Asia's experiences for Africa. On the other hand, the dark side is that the economic crisis directly affected weak people and the income gap widened between and within nations. The regional conflicts in Afghanistan and other areas are big problems, and so are environmental and influenza issues attributed to globalization. It is important that Japan contributes to the bright side, while keeping in mind the negative aspects of globalization.

JICA reorganized its operations last October, and all employees hammered out a new slogan, "Inclusive and Dynamic Development." "Inclusive" means development that does not create gaps and that everyone can benefit from.

With regard to environmental issues, no country, neither developing nor advanced, can proceed with development without addressing this problem. To solve this problem, in addition to individual thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, new environmentally friendly technologies, such as photovoltaic power generation, are mandatory. It is necessary to utilize Japanese top caliber technologies, products, and innovation to build environment-friendly cities and nations.

< Q&A with Mr. Idei >

Idei :

- Japanese ODA is currently more than 1 trillion yen, which makes it among the world's top class. In addition, many Japanese are dispatched from JICA to developing countries and are achieving wonderful results. But I'm afraid that these activities are not well recognized by the public.

Ogata :

- It is a fact that Japanese activities are not well known. Japanese are not good at properly expressing what they are doing.

Idei :

- One of the reasons may be that Japanese media doesn't report overseas news. JICA is carrying out modernization and urbanization projects in agricultural towns, and its know-how could be applied to Japan, too. How about embarking on a project in Japan based on what JICA is doing overseas?

Ogata :

- It's possible to do so not only in Japan but also in Korea or China. First of all, we need to recognize that one-country prosperity is no longer valid in this world. There is hardly a single meal in Japan that can be made without ingredients from abroad. When it comes to security, it is impossible for one country to be secure by itself.

Idei :

- You talked about how Africans are focusing on Asia. Is it because they observed the growth of Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore, following Japan?

Ogata :

- In Asia, such countries as China, India, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore have been growing rapidly. There is a movement to utilize what these countries possess for the world growth. For example, Africa is inviting Indonesians who are engaged in rice cropping.

Idei :

- What is your perspective of Japan's position?

Ogata :

- Sometimes I want to cry out about the Japanese tendency to be extremely inward looking. I have been advocating the end of one-country prosperity and it is my challenge to try to change people's way of thinking. In other words, instead of just thinking it is good enough if I am better off, I want people to realize that when other people are better off, we are all better off, too. Another reason why Japanese stick to the illusion of one-country prosperity is because of language. Unless you learn and are able to use a foreign language, you cannot improve communication.

<Open floor Q&A>

Q1. From a human security perspective, what crisis preparation or management measures should Japan take?

Ogata :

This concept was born from an increasing understanding that development efforts in developing countries must view problems not as lifeless issues, but with the understanding of the importance of favoring the local people. In terms of refugee support, we have seen that domestic disputes result in some citizens becoming victims of the nation. A nation is governed by law, while at the same time, its people are trying to enhance their autonomy. People's happiness lies in the balance between these two approaches. This way of thinking began in the United Nations and is being proliferated throughout the world. Beyond the framework of national security, it is also being recognized as a broader concept of globalization that affects all domestic and foreign people.

Q2. I am concerned about ODA in the sense that just providing aid money may promote dependency. Shouldn't ODA be utilized to promote their independence?

Ogata :

It is difficult to simplify the issue in that way because the same aid may have a

different impact depending on who receives it. Recently, however, there is an increased realization that aid must be judged not based on how much the giving country has spent but based on what kind of effect is being generated in the receiving country.

Q3. What is your advice to the Hatoyama Government regarding what Japan should do to fulfill its duty to the world?

Ogata :

As you saw their manifesto, there is not much about globalization and foreign policies. I look forward to their initiative from now on.

Q4. From the viewpoint of the environment and national security, nuclear power is so much cheaper that we should utilize it more. As the only country to have suffered an atomic attack, isn't it Japan's role to deliver the message of peaceful usage of nuclear power?

Ogata :

It is necessary to divide military and non-military use to promote the peaceful usage of nuclear power. I hope this direction will be enhanced thanks to Mr. Amano's assignment as secretary general of IAEA.

Idei :

Without even a disposal system for spent nuclear fuels, I doubt that proper calculations of nuclear power that include post-use costs are being made. Nuclear power needs to be understood based on its impact to the whole eco system. I have heard that nuclear power is already considered obsolete from an academic perspective in Japan. I think it dangerous to try to make nuclear power a business based on the simple argument that it is cheaper than wind or photovoltaic generated electricity. The Japanese government must seriously try to build an infrastructure with a 100-year perspective.

Q5. What is your dream?

Ogata :

My dream is to realize a world with human security. It is important that economic development does not have a negative impact on society, but always benefits society.

Q6. International cooperation activities are a good opportunity to promote globalization of the Japanese people. How about taking full advantage of these opportunities to nurture people?

Ogata :

Whether or not you see it, globalization is moving forward. With globalization comes wider disparities and greater antipathy. We also have to recognize the influence these globalization-created disparities and sense of despair will have.

<Wrap-up by Mr. Idei>

Thanks to your tremendous support, we have been successful in organizing Asia Innovation Forum 2009. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the busy Group 20 members, speakers, panelists, and participants from all over the world.

I started Quantum Leaps to share and convey my global experience at Sony. This forum is one of the activities to realize this aspiration. Other activities include “Koi-nobori no Kai,” a venue for venture companies to get together, the CEO Forum, and others. I am also pursuing consulting business opportunities to re-define business strategies in various domains, taking full advantage of my experiences and knowledge as a corporate executive.

Talented Japanese people who are engaged in international projects tend to limit their participation to being consultants or design advisors. I think that for any Japan-organized project, however small, these people should lead the actual project

in Asia. I will attend a conference in Taiwan this week of top Asian CEOs. It is my intention to make various proposals, such as projects between Japanese and Asian private companies and venture business ideas. I hope that Japanese young people will not hesitate to participate and actively discuss and contribute in such opportunities.

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