

Opening Session

~ *Message from H.E. Mr. Toyohisa Kozuki,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Russian Federation* ~

Today, I heartily welcome the commencement of the “The second STS Forum Japan-Russia Workshop” on behalf of the Government of Japan.

In Japan, Prime Minister Mr. Suga retired on October 4, and Prime Minister Mr. Kishida was newly appointed, and a new government has started. However the government policy of developing the Japan-Russia relationship across a range of fields has not changed.

We hope this workshop will be a new platform for Japan-Russia cooperation in science and technology and its contribution to the development of Japan-Russia relationship.

The STS Forum was founded in 2002 by Mr. Koji Omi, the former Minister of Finance. He had developed the STS Forum into an international conference which gathers high-level leaders in various fields on science and technology. I would like to pay my respects to his long-time contributions in science and technology and I also would like to express my gratitude for his achievements. Mr. Komiyama has recently been appointed as the new chairman of the STS Forum. He has made great achievements in science and technology. For example, Mr. Komiyama specializes in chemical systems engineering, and after engaging in research for many years, he was appointed as the president of the University of Tokyo. After that he became the president of Mitsubishi Research Institute, which is one of the most famous think-tanks in Japan. With this background, he is an ideal leader of the STS Forum, and I am convinced that the STS Forum will continue to evolve under the leadership of Mr. Komiyama.

The STS Forum has held regional workshops all over the world, and in order to tighten bilateral cooperation between Japan and Russia in science and technology, the first workshop between the two was held last year.

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The main theme of the workshop this time is “ESG” (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) and there are three subcommittees: “Decarbonization”, “Agricultural Technologies”, and “Smart Cities”. All of these themes are truly timely and are expected to promote further development of Japan-Russia cooperation.

First of all, regarding “Decarbonization”, it is a major common issue among people all over the world, and the Japanese and Russian governments are seriously working on it. Japan has technologies for producing and transporting hydrogen and ammonia, and we also have carbon capture and storage technologies. On the other hand, Russia has abundant natural resources that can be used as raw materials for hydrogen and ammonia. By combining the strengths of each country, the possibilities of Japan-Russia cooperation for “Decarbonization” could expand.

Regarding “Agricultural technologies”, In Russia, agriculture has become a driving force of the Russian economy. In addition, both the Japanese and Russian governments place importance on agriculture by setting targets for export values in agriculture-related fields. Currently, Japan-Russia cooperation on projects such as facilities for cultivating greenhouse vegetables in Russia with introduction of Japanese technology is progressing.

Regarding “Smart Cities”, Japan-Russia cooperation can be seen in Russian cities such as Moscow and St. Petersburg in the introduction of Japanese “Design” in urban development. This will contribute to realization of the goal of construction of environment friendly cities.

I expect that many new instances of Japan-Russia cooperation in these fields will be developed through the discussions at the workshop today.

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Also, this year is the 60th anniversary of the first manned space flight in the world piloted by Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. We held a related event this May, and many children participated. Seeing the lively faces of the children, I realized once again the importance of science in attracting children's attention, and that this will create future developments for our society.

In the field of science and technology, which will be responsible for future Japan-Russia cooperation, I think that this workshop, in which representatives of Japan and Russia gather, is very important.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all relevant stakeholders for their efforts.

I strongly expect that by next year, we will be able to meet here in Moscow with all relevant stakeholders to reconvene this workshop.