

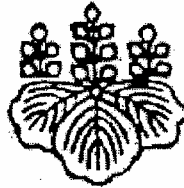
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Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1.12.05

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Tape No. \_\_\_\_\_



# Japan

**Statement by Ambassador Shigeru ENDO**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan in Geneva**

## JAPAN's Statement

The 90th Session of IOM Council

Geneva, 1st December, 2005

**Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva**

# JAPAN's statement

on the 90th Session of IOM Council

(1st December, 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Masood KHAN of Pakistan on your appointment as the Chairman of the IOM Council, as well as the new Vice-Chairs and the rapporteur. I would also like to express my respect and gratitude to the outgoing bureau officers for their excellent leadership and activities over the past year.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director-General for his statement which highlighted the key challenges and issues in people's migration. Given the current global situation, I believe the IOM's importance in the international arena is steadily increasing.

Concerning the relationship between Japan and the IOM,

Japan highly commends the IOM and the Director-General for their efforts toward further improvement, especially in the areas of emergency humanitarian assistance and counter-trafficking.

I am very happy to note the recent developments in cooperation between Japan and the IOM in the field, for example in such recent cases as the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster, the South Asia Earthquake, and in the Sudan. In this connection, I'd like to thank the Director-General for supporting the relief assistance from Japan's Self-Defense Forces in operations in Aceh and Pakistan, and also for giving Japanese NGOs the opportunity to collaborate with the IOM in activities for the Tsunami relief in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and also earthquake-affected areas in Pakistan. It is through means of such as these that the relationship between Japan and the IOM can be strengthened, and I hope to see this trend continue in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to now elaborate on Japan's fundamental concept and objectives in its international cooperation.

We attach importance to a "pragmatic approach," and its

basic spirit is "**solidarity**" with the people of the aid recipient countries, based on "**ownership**" and "**partnership.**"

This is different from the concept of "charity." We respect the ownership of the people of the countries concerned for the improvement of their lives, and support their own efforts, as an equal partner, with our cooperation. We think the ownership of ordinary people is the foundation of nation building. For this purpose, Japan especially attaches importance to its field-oriented assistance.

In other words, in our view, the real key is to work with ordinary people of their own volition on equal footing. Those people who are assisted and become more self-reliant will then be in a far better position to empower other vulnerable people. We believe people are most empowered when they engage themselves in empowering others, and that community empowerment with local ownership will thus materialize. This is why people can be the agent for development, and how the bottom-up approach works on the ground.

This, Japan's human-centered concept, is called "**Human Security.**" Japan's "**Human Security**" aims to support vulnerable people by enhancing human fulfillment and respecting their dignity. For these objectives, human

security tries to integrate and strengthen initiatives that emphasize human-centered perspectives through the **empowerment of vulnerable people** to help them survive on their own, respecting each person's potential to be a self-reliant human being.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I wish to emphasize that, Japan, as a major donor to the IOM, continues to extend our strong support to the IOM in its effort to further enhance its effectiveness in consideration of the impact on vulnerable people and donors alike, as well as on the efficiency and accountability in its financial and operational mechanisms.

Japan, in this regard, commends the initiative of the IOM on cost-saving, and requests the IOM to further address carefully all the issues by employing a clear idea of the prioritizes among the various needs and demands.

I thank you very much for your attention.