

Opening Remarks by SAITO Ken, Minister of Justice of Japan  
For the 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum

Distinguished Participants,

Good afternoon. I am SAITO Ken, the Minister of Justice of Japan.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those who are participating in the 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum today.

This Forum brings together the heads of the immigration authorities of many different countries and regions, and I am very pleased to meet with you all in person here in Tokyo.

In recent years, we have seen the rapid increase in the number of people travelling across borders, and so it is obvious that the immigration authorities of all countries are faced with common challenges in establishing appropriate border control policies and building an inclusive society in their respective countries.

In order to appropriately respond to these challenges, each country has to work closely together with other countries, instead of responding individually. For that reason, the Forum was established as a place to share best practices and information about common challenges between our immigration authorities as well as to build cooperative relationships between us.

The discussions during this forum will strengthen partnerships and cooperation between our immigration authorities and will contribute greatly not just to Japan but also to the international community.

Specifically, immigration authorities have urgent tasks to handle, that is to say, the various challenges foreseen in the post-COVID-19 world, such as the rapid increase in the number of people traveling across borders in the near future.

In recent years, many countries have problems with “social fragmentation”. As the situation now stands, in order to build an inclusive society where people treat each other with respect and live safely and comfortably, it is important to allow foreign nationals to enter Japan following the rules and provide proper support while the law is applied securely and properly to those who violate the rules.

In order to build a society of harmonious coexistence where Japanese citizens and foreign nationals can live together in harmony, accepting and respecting their cultures, while preventing the spread of various threats, from the COVID-19 pandemic to terrorism at the border, I would like to continue working closely with the immigration authority of each country and region based on the fundamental values of “freedom”, “democracy”, “human rights”, and “the rule of law”.

I hope that the 2nd Forum will provide an opportunity for us to proactively take steps towards solving the common issues faced by the participating countries and regions, and to achieve immigration control that fosters harmonious and inclusive societies in the post-COVID-19 world.

Now, I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my hope that the Tokyo Immigration Forum will play an important role as an international platform for immigration authorities.

Thank you very much.