

**Opening Remarks by KIKUCHI Hiroshi, the Commissioner
of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan
for the 3rd Tokyo Immigration Forum**

Your Excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am KIKUCHI Hiroshi, the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you participating in the 3rd Tokyo Immigration Forum today.

I am so delighted to meet delegates from many immigration authorities, and experts of the international organizations here in Tokyo face to face.

As Minister Koizumi has mentioned already, given the current global situation, it is essential that we continue to work closely each other in order to tackle promptly and accurately common challenges our immigration authorities are facing today.

Of course, mutual understanding and sharing values can never be

achieved in a day. So, I believe that it is essential for us to continue the dialogue, while respecting the institution and social situation in each country or region, as well as the culture, history and the like.

I hope that this forum, which is held every year, will provide an opportunity for continuous dialogue and build next-generation partnerships.

Now, let me briefly provide an overview of this forum.

First, today's keynote speech is a recorded statement by Ms. Amy Pope, the new Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), who was appointed on October 1st of this year.

Then, at today's Plenary Session, the panelists will discuss the theme of human rights, which are universal values.

After the discussion among the panelists, all participants are invited to join the discussion. I hope you all will actively participate in the discussion.

Tomorrow, four Breakout Sessions will be held. Due to the humanitarian crises that have been prolonged and have become

more severe around the world, the number of displaced people has already surpassed 1.1 hundred million, and to address this problem, we have set an agenda related to refugees for this year's Breakout Session for the first time and decided to invite UNHCR experts to this forum.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the UNHCR experts for their support. They will facilitate the Breakout Session and also give a lecture tomorrow.

On the third day, Friday morning, we will have the Excursion to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, which includes visits of residency examination counters and the Immigration detention facilities.

Now, I would like to conclude my remarks, hoping that you all will be able to acquire a lot of knowledge and achieve a fruitful outcome in this forum.

Thank you very much.