

5th Tokyo Immigration Forum Keynote

10 December 2025

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor to address the Fifth Tokyo Immigration Forum.

I want to thank the Ministry of Justice, and the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, for convening this important dialogue. And thank you for inviting IOM to contribute to it.

We gather at a time of profound shifts.

Aging populations and labor shortages challenge nations, while cross-border mobility rises as people seek opportunity and flee conflict.

It's critical for migration to be safe, regular, and orderly.

And that requires efficient, secure, rights-based migration systems.

The effective use of technology can help us get there.

Integrated data systems, biometric verification, and risk-based screening enable faster, more secure processing, while reducing the burden on officers and migrants.

To make this innovation work, we need to also focus on the people who implement it, with professional development.

Through it, border officials can develop not just technological literacy and procedural expertise, but also intercultural understanding.

IOM works closely with immigration authorities worldwide to navigate these challenges.

We support Member States in adopting technical standards, implementing secure

travel documents, and advancing digital solutions like ePassports and eVisa systems.

In Palau and Tonga, electronic passports ensure secure travel documents are accessible to all, including marginalized communities.

Technology, along with well-trained staff, makes it easier for countries to work together for more efficient, secure systems that also protect people.

Initiatives like the Data Exchange Solution for Counter-Smuggling, and the Reporting and Information Sharing Platform in the Pacific, enable data interoperability and real-time coordination.

Ladies and gentlemen, migration - when well managed - benefits individuals, communities, and societies.

We *can* achieve this through effective systems, shared values, and strong partnerships.

IOM remains committed to supporting Japan and all our partners as we work toward better solutions. Human mobility can and should be governed through regular, transparent, and humane pathways, supported by innovation and cooperation.

Thank you.