

Opening Remarks by KIMIZUKA Hiroshi , the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, for the 5th Tokyo Immigration Forum

Your Excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is KIMIZUKA Hiroshi, Associate Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan. As our Commissioner MARUYAMA is unfortunately unable to attend today due to health reasons, I have the honor of delivering his remarks on his behalf. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you participating in the 5th Tokyo Immigration Forum today.

I am so delighted to be here in Tokyo, meeting in person with so many immigration authorities, FRONTEX, IOM and UNHCR.

Amid rising international tensions, it is essential that we continue to work closely with each other in order to promptly and accurately tackle challenges our immigration authorities are facing today.

Of course, mutual understanding and sharing of values can never be achieved overnight. So, I believe that it is essential for us to continue dialogue while deepening our understanding of each other's systems, social conditions, cultures, histories and other issues, and respecting each other's positions.

This annual forum provides a platform for such ongoing dialogue and contributes to building cooperation with an eye toward the next generation. Furthermore, it is hoped that through this

dialogue, we can find clues to solving various challenges in each country.

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

First, following my opening remarks, Ms. Amy Pope, the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will deliver a keynote speech via video message.

Next, in today's plenary session, participants will present on the theme "Recently Introduced Immigration Control Measures, focusing on digital transformation (DX) initiatives". We will share best practices and other approaches for addressing various challenges.

Moreover, tomorrow's plenary session will discuss medical challenges in immigration detention facilities under the theme of "Health Management and Hygiene Management for Detainees."

Additionally, a breakout session will be held on the theme of "Best Practices in Recruitment and Human Resource Development, Including Training Programs for Immigration Officers," and immigration management equipment will also be exhibited at the venue.

Furthermore, we are honored to welcome Mr. Uku Särekanno, Deputy Executive Director, who will deliver a keynote address on the theme "The Future of Border Control in Europe – New Technologies and Digitalisation."

Through these programs, I hope to foster deeper mutual

understanding and further strengthen collaboration among the participants.

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks, hoping that these three days will be a meaningful and productive time for all of you.

Thank you very much.