



DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ichiro OGASAWARA,
at the Online Side Event "Mine Action is Peacebuilding - Rise of Cambodian Mine Action Centre as
Major Partner of South-South Cooperation and JICA's Role"
on the occasion of the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties of Anti-Personal Mine Ban
Convention,
15 November 2021.

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to kick off today's side event entitled "Mine Action is Peacebuilding - Rise of Cambodian Mine Action Centre as major partner of South-South cooperation and JICA's role". At the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to JICA's staff who has responded to my request, in as constructive a way as possible, to hold an event focused on the South-South cooperation on the occasion of the 19th MSP of the Anti-personal Mine Ban Convention. Their efforts led to today's event. I would like to present my sincere gratitude to members of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, CMAC as well as to those of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia who are present today. I am convinced that their experience and achievements are of great value to share with as many participants to this MSP as possible. I would also like to thank the Dutch host who has generously provided all necessary services so that today's event can take place.

While regretting that the pandemic has again deprived us of the pleasure to meet each other in person, I believe today's virtual event can deliver the intended result in a most effective manner. The Chair's decision to hold all MSP activities exclusively virtually due to a surge of COVID-19 victims remind us again of the unprecedented challenges which mine action practitioners have been facing since the outbreak of the pandemic. At the same time, this new challenges have highlighted the importance of solidarity among the countries concerned and that of the South-South cooperation. I am encouraged by the fact that the international community has not stopped moving towards a world free of anti-personnel mines, even during the Covid-19 pandemic, and is continuing to work on anti-personnel mine measures.

Japan is strongly committed to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty. For many years, Japan has provided a wide range of assistance, including anti-personnel mine clearance and mine avoidance education, mainly through JICA, and in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), relevant international organizations and NGOs. In 2020, a total of approximately 39 million dollars was provided by Japan to mine action projects in 21 countries.

The purpose of today's event is to present the significance and relevance of sharing good practice

among mine-affected countries, to achieve the goals under the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention and the Oslo Action Plan. We believe that this effort is also in line with the objective of Article 6 of the Convention, which sets out the international cooperation and assistance.

Promotion of regional and South-South cooperation is one of the key areas to which Japan attaches particular importance in the field of the mine-action assistances. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also cooperating with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Cambodia to promote capacity building through South-South cooperation between CMAC and Angola, Colombia, Iraq, Laos and other countries.

I hope today's virtual event will unfold smoothly despite of last minutes changes in modality due to COVID 19 and all the participants as well as viewers can fully enjoy it in an interactive manner.

【Screenshot showing the speakers of the side event】

