

麻生副総理兼金融担当大臣祝辞

2017年4月3日 IFIAR事務局開所式

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. As the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Financial Services of Japan, it is my pleasure to speak here today and extend my congratulations upon the opening of the Secretariat of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators in Japan.

First, let me ask a question. What is this area of ‘Ohtemachi’ where you are standing now?

This area of Tokyo, Ohtemachi, which means the main gate for the Imperial Palace, has been the business center of Japan for hundreds of years since the Era of ‘Shoguns.’ A number of Japanese leading companies have headquarters here. In addition, Ohtemachi is the center of Tokyo’s financial district with very sophisticated modern infrastructure, which has been attracting global financial players from all over the world. I assure you that IFIAR has made a good choice to establish its Secretariat office here.

Though very global and modern, Ohtemachi still keeps good Japanese tradition. Guess what? It’s a hot spa in the building where the IFIAR Secretariat is located! This is a unique global financial center with natural hot springs! I believe that IFIAR members and its secretariat will enjoy flows of new initiatives like hot-spring water.

Ohtemachi has also been the center of Japan’s post-war economic development. The banking sector in Japan has supported the growth of the Japanese industry and many large banks have headquarters in this area. With the growth of Japanese capital markets as well as the globalization of financial markets, this bank-led economic growth has been replaced by market-led financing and economic growth. This has led to the increased role of external audit to ensure market integrity and investors’ confidence in capital markets.

Ladies and gentlemen, thus, no wonder, we fully recognize the importance of

IFIAR's role to enhance audit quality globally. IFIAR and audit regulators around the globe need to strengthen their cooperation to achieve this goal.

Two years ago, Japan proposed to host the Permanent Secretariat of IFIAR to contribute to this important mission. It is our great honor that IFIAR concluded to establish the Secretariat in Tokyo.

I would like to stress that Japan, as the host country, is fully committed to supporting IFIAR and its Secretariat in Tokyo to achieve its goal. Also as member of IFIAR, Japan, together with other members of IFIAR, will further contribute to the activities of IFIAR through policy discussions as well as outreach to potential members.

Today is the first working day of this fiscal year in Japan. The Japanese government ministries as well as private companies welcome new graduates, and also schools in Japan accommodate new students at the beginning of the each fiscal year. So, I could say that today is "a day of new start". What is more, beautiful cherry blossoms celebrate this day of new start all over Japan.

I believe today is the perfect day for IFIAR with its new Secretariat to commence its new initiatives under the beautiful cherry blossoms celebrating all of our members.

Wishing IFIAR and its members all the best for the future.

Thank you for your attention.