

Keynote by IWATA Kazuchika  
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- It's a pleasure to be with you in this great forum in Japan. As State Minister of Cabinet Office, I am pleased to welcome you all.
- First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mohanty, Mr. Kito, and everyone at GFTN Japan for providing us with this valuable opportunity.
- Today, my role is to offer those of you visiting Japan an opportunity to become part of, or to further strengthen your engagement with, Japan's business ecosystem.
- The world is changing at an unprecedented pace. Uncertainty has grown markedly in areas such as security and trade—domains traditionally grounded in the existing international order—adding new layers of complexity to global business activities.
- Against this backdrop, the question is: “Which direction should Japan take?”
- We are moving forward decisively with bold and strategic investments in growth, alongside investments in risk management. In the growth strategy of the newly launched Second Takaichi Cabinet, we have identified 17 strategic sectors—including AI and semiconductors, quantum technologies, and space—as well as eight cross-cutting challenges.
- By investing in these areas and further strengthening their ecosystems, we aim to deliver products, services, and infrastructure that contribute to solving challenges facing Japan and the world, thereby driving Japan's next phase of economic

growth.

- In this context, technological innovation—particularly AI and digital finance, the core themes of the GFTN Forum—has been positioned as a key priority for the government.
- In particular, in the area of digital finance, Japan has been at the forefront globally introducing legal frameworks for crypto-assets and stablecoins at an early stage among major economies. Through these efforts, we have enhanced regulatory transparency and fostered an environment in which innovation can emerge with confidence and trust.
- Moreover, startups play an indispensable role in driving innovation and bringing new technologies into real-world application. As a politician, I have long been committed to advancing startup policy, and today I am responsible for overseeing the government's growth strategy.
- This is clear evidence that the Japanese government has placed startups at the heart of its growth strategy and is addressing them as a cross-sector priority across multiple fields.
- In relation to capital inflows into Japan—another central theme of the GFTN Forum—we intend to conduct a review of the Corporate Governance Code later this summer.
- In addition, in December of last year, the Japanese government formulated a comprehensive plan to enable regional financial institutions to play a stronger role in supporting local economies amid an aging population, and population decline.
- Building on these and other initiatives, we plan to develop a new strategy by around this summer aimed at unlocking Japan's economic potential through finance. This strategy also strongly supports Japanese economic growth

from the financial side.

- That is Japan's path. We choose transparent regulation and take strong initiative to drive growth through strategic investment.
- This forum serves as a platform to showcase public-private challenges for growth to the world—from here in Japan and to translate those discussions into further innovation.
- To conclude, I would like to underscore that Japan is fully open to working with you and growing together in the years ahead.
- Thank you very much.

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