Opening Remarks by ITO Yutaka

Commissioner, Financial Services Agency, Japan

ADB 2nd Digital Bond Market Forum

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Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, everyone. I am Ito, Commissioner of the Financial Services Agency of Japan. Following last month's seminar in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, I am truly honored to have the opportunity to deliver remarks once again at this distinguished gathering.

This week marks the core week of "Japan Weeks 2025," during which approximately 90 diverse events are being held to showcase the appeal of Japan's financial markets both domestically and internationally.

This year, in addition to promoting investment into Japan, one of the key themes is the development of mutual investment within the Asian region— "From Japan to Asia, and from Asia to Japan."

This afternoon's "Asia Day" will feature discussions on this theme from the perspective of capital market's stakeholders. Tomorrow's "Asia GX Consortium High-Level Meeting" will bring together financial regulators and financial institutions from ASEAN countries to exchange views on transition finance.

The theme of this forum, the Digital Bond Market Forum (DBMF) which focuses on promoting cross-border transactions through the use of digital asset technologies, is both highly relevant and timely in the context of advancing mutual investment in Asia.

Digital assets offer benefits such as financial inclusion and reduced remittance costs. At the same time, enhancing regulatory consistency is essential for their further development.

I understand that during the first DBMF meeting, participants recognized the need to compare regulatory approaches to digital assets across markets, identifying both commonalities and differences.

An approach that seeks regulatory common ground while respecting the unique circumstances of each country is crucial for improving regulatory alignment across Asia and removing bottlenecks in cross-border investment.

At tomorrow’s session, the FSA will present Japan’s regulatory approach to digital assets. We remain committed to actively contributing to these discussions going forward.

I look forward to the fruitful discussions at today’s forum and to the outcomes that will emerge from this important dialogue.

Thank you very much.