

2 Content of Sessions

OPENING CEREMONY

— Part 1 —

Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now begin the opening ceremony of the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit.

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPATING CITIES

Chairperson

I will now introduce the participants, representatives from the participating 23 cities of 12 countries. I would like to ask the representatives to step up on the stage and, in their own language, say to the audience, "Ladies and Gentlemen of Fukuoka, how do you do?"

REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING CITIES STEP UP ON THE STAGE

WELCOME ADDRESS BY SPONSOR

Chairperson

On behalf of the organizer, I'd like to ask Mr. Kuwahara to welcome you all.

Mr. Keiichi Kuwahara, Mayor of Fukuoka

Honorable ministers, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the host city, I'd like to say a few words to launch the Third Asian-Pacific City Summit. We are pleased to have representatives from 15 overseas cities and seven cities in Kyushu as well as distinguished guests and representatives from the United Nations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, the Japan Foundation, and many other organizations. We are very happy to have so many citizens of these cities taking part in this Asian-Pacific City Summit. I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to the delegates from participating countries who came so far and also to our distinguished guests. Finally, I'd like to thank all the participants for taking part in the summit.

This occasion marks the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit. The first summit was held in 1994 here in Fukuoka. The second was held in Guangzhou in 1996. And we are very happy to welcome the summit back to Fukuoka for its third session. We have two new cities participating: Brisbane from Australia and Honolulu from the United States. And we have the largest number of participants ever at 23 cities. This summit

promotes the frank exchange of opinions in a face to face atmosphere. Here, top administrators and mayors of cities in the Asian-Pacific region assemble to discuss common urban issues arising from economic development. At the past two meetings, we successfully promoted mutual understanding and created new links among many cities. In the course of the summit, we held working-level conferences to reinforce its spirit. Both of these working-level conferences have helped us make steady progress in solving urban problems. Now at this, the third meeting, I hope we can further promote the summit's spirit by bringing mutual understanding and exchange to the level of mutual cooperation between cities. Doing so will be the key to bringing sustainable prosperity and development to cities of the Asian-Pacific area, which is now facing an economic crisis. The sub-sessions have been arranged with these factors in mind. We will discuss education, health and medical systems, and waterworks and sewer systems. And in the plenary session, we will cover the networking of cities. The top administrators of major cities have come to frankly relate the problems their cities have. The information we exchange will be useful not only for the participating cities, but also for the major cities of the world. It will give insightful opinions to make the 21st century full of new promise. I sincerely hope that the summit will not only contribute to the prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region, but also bring a deeper peace, prosperity, and stability to the world.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank all those kind enough to offer their assistance and cooperation and to wish health and prosperity to each and every participant. Thank you very much.

CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS BY GUEST //

Chairperson

Since we are honored today by the attendance of so many of distinguished guests, I would like to ask some of them to give a congratulatory address. First of all, I would like to ask Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Councillor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to give us a congratulatory speech on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Nishida, please.

Mr. Tsuneo Nishida, Councillor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Thank you for the introduction. I am Tsuneo Nishida of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Allow me to read a congratulatory message from Foreign Minister Obuchi.

My sincere congratulations on the opening of the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit with mayors and other officials of cities from the Asian-Pacific region attending.

The end of the Cold War sparked a surging trend of increasing interdependence and globalization within the international community. In the Asian-Pacific region, mutual interdependence and cooperative relations are proceeding within such firmly-established regional frameworks as ASEAN-PMC and the ASEAN Regional Forum in the political and security fields and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in the economic arena. And in an environment where globalization and interdependence are prominent, an event that occurs in one

nation propagates and in no time crosses borders to go worldwide. The Asian-Pacific region is not immune. For instance, many nations of Asia are faced with economic difficulties triggered by the currency crisis in late 1997. This situation stems from the advancement of regional economic interdependence. Together with the related countries and international organizations, our nation has so far offered a total of 42 billion US dollars in support. This amount is of the largest scale ever in the world. I know that Asian nations maintain strong foundations today, and I am confident that Asia and the Asian-Pacific region will be an engine for worldwide growth.

The region faces a series of critical problems involving population, food, energy and the environment, to give a few examples. APEC, an organization that I mentioned before, is being analytical in taking long-term measures to adjust influences attributable to population increases and abrupt economic growth of the region upon food, energy and the environment. It is not an overstatement to say that the rise or fall of the world in the 21st century depends on how the problems common to mankind can be solved successfully.

Aside from these national-level efforts, I am well aware that your unceasing endeavors are directed at solving urban problems brought about by economic progress and population influxes in the Asian-Pacific region at the city level. Your presence tells me this. In order to make cities attractive and functional; it is necessary to pursue sustainable growth while contemplating environmental conservation. Such a goal is unreachable without inter-municipal cooperation and the structuring of a network that makes common access to information possible. The first Asian-Pacific City Summit was held in 1994 as a concrete measure for existing urban problems. Now four years later, the third summit has returned to Fukuoka, an increasing focus of attention as a hub of communication between Japan and the rest of the world. It is not only meaningful but quite timely that the municipal leaders of the Asian-Pacific region have gathered here to discuss solutions to these problems and to deepen friendships. The summit should be particularly valuable in structuring links among the cities to reach solutions to urban problems and in building up a network for friendship and mutual cooperation. I am convinced the summit will offer a unique contribution to the sustainable peace and prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region.

In closing, I wish success to the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit, good health to the sponsoring mayor of Fukuoka and the other participants, and further development and success to the cities represented.

July 11, 1998

Keizo Obuchi

Minister of Foreign Affairs

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairperson

Now I would like to introduce the other distinguished guests who are present today. As I call your name, would you please stand where you are?

◀ GUESTS STAND ▶

Chairperson

This concludes the introduction of our distinguished guests.

WELCOME ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF FUKUOKA //

Chairperson

Now I would like to ask Mr. Koishihara, the Chairman of the Fukuoka City Council, to deliver his greetings on behalf of the citizens of Fukuoka. Mr. Koishihara, please.

Mr. Junichi Koishihara, Chairman of the Fukuoka City Council

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for your introduction. I am Junichi Koishihara, chairman of the Fukuoka City Council. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to extend a welcome address here at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit. Following the 1994 Asian-Pacific Summit held here, it is a pleasure to welcome the summit, now in its third session, back to Fukuoka. I am delighted and honored to be able to meet with you all again.

Welcome to Fukuoka. As you all know, the Asian-Pacific region has shown outstanding and rapid economic growth even on a worldwide basis. The area is receiving attention from around the globe. But with this growth comes the inflow of job seekers from rural areas into the cities of the region. This generates various problems quite relevant to the themes of this summit, namely "Future Directions for the Next Generation", "Establishment of Health and Medical Systems", and "Urban Waterworks and Sewer Systems", as well as issues relating to city transportation, housing, and ethnicity. In addressing these problems, it is impossible to expect significant results to come from the efforts of just one country or city. And therefore, networking and collaboration among many cities, which is happening here at the summit, will be critical. This is why I find it meaningful and timely that the many cities represented here are sharing ideas and knowledge to bring mutual understanding aimed at solving urban problems and creating and strengthening networking for friendships. The representatives of this third summit have the ultimate responsibility of administering their cities; they work day and night to protect the lives of the citizens they represent. I'd like to congratulate you all for your outstanding efforts. I sincerely hope and expect that you will make many good things happen here at the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit that will reflect well on your administrations.

The city of Fukuoka has long prospered and been known as an Asian gateway. The city once boasted the *Korokan*, a state guesthouse, which was said to be Japan's face to the rest of the world. Fukuoka is also well known as a city of excellent cuisines, offering many varieties of very delicious foods. We the citizens express a cordial welcome to all delegates and participants. We sincerely hope that you will make yourselves at home in our city of friendly and warm-hearted international exchange and of many delicacies. Please enjoy your stay.

In closing, I wish for a very successful summit and for your health and prosperity. Thank you very much.

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF PARTICIPATING CITIES

Chairperson

Thank you, Mr. Koishihara. Next I would like to ask Mr. Lin Shu-sen, the Mayor of Guangzhou, to deliver his greetings on behalf of the participating cities. Mr. Lin Shu-sen, please.

Mr. Lin Shu-sen, Mayor of Guangzhou

Four years ago, in response to a proposal by Mayor Kuwahara of Fukuoka, the representatives of 21 cities in the Asian-Pacific region assembled in Fukuoka to hold the first summit. Now we have come to Fukuoka for the second time to hold the third summit. I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the 23 participating cities for the invitation.

Today, relations among nations are becoming closer day by day with the current of internationalization strengthening. The same is true with inter-regional and inter-city exchanges, which bear deep importance. The Asian-Pacific region is the stage of the world's most rapid and diverse development. The area has contributed greatly to human civilization in the past. Now it has become a focal point in the international community because of its ever-growing status in world politics and the economy.

At the past two summit meetings, a consensus was reached to intensify the exchanges and deepen relations among cities in the Asian-Pacific region as we move toward the 21st century. "Harmony between Urban Development and the Human Living Environment in the Asian-Pacific Era" and "Urban Development in the 21st Century" were the themes for mutual prosperity and advancement. The theme for the present summit is "Future Prospects of Networking between Cities". I am certain that we will reach a new and common awareness just as in the past two summits.

With the 21st century near at hand, the Asian-Pacific region hosts 40% of the world's population and accounts for nearly 50% of the gross world product. The economy of the region has met with an unforeseen setback after a relatively long spell of high growth. But even a mountain cannot stop the flow of a river. It is time for each of us to cooperate closely to solidify our starting points and to implement forward-looking strategies for development. This will put the economy of the Asian-Pacific region back on track, making sustainable growth and general social advancement possible. Mutual esteem and equal benefits are prerequisites for the development of inter-city cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region. Just as there is diversity in the nations of the Asian-Pacific region, each city shares commonality and boasts unique features. When it comes to social systems, religious beliefs, levels and models of development and the like, our differences are the features we share in common. Diversity is a condition for the implementation of exchanges that mutually complement and advance those involved. Diversity must be viewed as a benefit and by no means seen as a hindrance for mutual understanding and cooperation. Promotion of inter-city cooperation that respects the diverse features of various cities in the Asian-Pacific region and attaching importance to citizens' voluntary choice as well as accomplishing common goals while putting aside minor differences will continue to be a permanent theme for the Asian-Pacific City Summit.

Most of the cities in the Asian-Pacific region are developing nations. Cities are springing up with advancements in the Asian-Pacific economy. The theme of one of the subsessions, "Waterworks and Sewer

Systems in the Cities", will certainly provide occasions for cooperation through discussion.

Technical cooperation and exchanges are also important for economic cooperation in the region. Preparing for the 21st century, Asian-Pacific cities need to consider the present situation in seeking a way to harmonize their populations, economies, society, environment and resources. Cities must also secure space for the lives and prosperity of our posterities instead of being preoccupied merely with shorter-term needs. Discussion at "Establishment of Health and Medical Systems" should bring renewed awareness and fruitful results.

Human resources must be developed to strengthen the economy and promote technical cooperation. People are the very foundation of society and the economy. There must be healthy successors to follow the prior generation and sustain a city's prosperity. The stance we take in educating the next generation is of great significance. This task is indispensable for the future development of cities in the Asian-Pacific region. Tomorrow, I will have the opportunity to exchange opinions at "Future Directions of Education for the Next Generation" together with representatives of nine cities including Bangkok. I am looking forward to it. There has been no ebb in the modernization of the world's cities. In the process of urban modernization and development, it has been common for the dignified and excellent cultures of various races to be integrated to create a culture fit for a modern city.

The cities of the Asian-Pacific region have contributed to human civilization from time immemorial by nurturing their impressive culture originating in their ethnic heritage. A close examination of history reveals that the cultures of all races in the Asian-Pacific region have interacted to bring close cooperation and exchange. With the 21st century just around the corner, the realization of exchanges and collaboration in artistic and cultural activities is becoming all the more necessary. I sincerely hope that our spirits will bring added vigor to the cultures of the Asian-Pacific region to promote regional cultural exchanges that are both open and comprehensive.

The cities of Fukuoka and Guangzhou have demonstrated their wishes for inter-city exchanges and the strengthening of links among Asian-Pacific cities by sponsoring the first and second meetings of the Asian-Pacific City Summit. Thanks to the endeavors of the mayors, the participating cities have benefited from the deepening of understanding, fostering of friendships and attainment of common ground. The leaders of the cities of the Asian-Pacific region must closely interact and continue dialogues in order to further the friendly, cooperative relationships established so far. In this context as well, I suggest that all participants support the Asian-Pacific City Summit, which will propel the cities of the Asian-Pacific region into the 21st century with further development and prosperity.

In closing, I pray for the success of the third Asian-Pacific City Summit on behalf of the participating cities. I would like to thank Mayor Kuwahara and his staff for sponsoring this summit and for the effort they made in its preparation. Their work has assured our success.

Chairperson

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. Now I would like to ask our distinguished guests to step down from the front of the stage. Ladies and gentlemen, please give them another big round of applause.

(Applause)

—Part 2—

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Chairperson

Next, we have Mr. Yasushi Akashi, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations. He will give the keynote speech. It is titled "Sustainable Urban Growth in the Asian-Pacific Region". In 1957, the year following Japan's entry into the organization, the UN Secretariat scouted Mr. Akashi. Mr. Akashi became the first Japanese UN official. He was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in January 1992 and successfully guided the birth of the new Cambodia. Mr. Akashi represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations by assuming the positions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Former Yugoslavia, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs successively in this order. After his retirement from UN, in April 1998, he became president of the Hiroshima Peace Institute and is concurrently working as president of the Council on Population Education (CPE). Now, I present Mr. Akashi.

"The Cities' Sustainable Growth in the Asian Pacific Region"

Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

Thank you for the kind introduction. I am Yasushi Akashi.

I would like to express my deep respect to the city of Fukuoka and Mayor Kuwahara for their wisdom and determination in hosting the Asian-Pacific City Summit and for their constant support for it since its inception in 1994. I also wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Lin Shu-sen, Mayor of Guangzhou, for hosting the second meeting in 1996.

Please consider the area represented at the summit. It is truly vast. We have Urumqi to the North, Auckland to the South, Honolulu to the East and Ipoh to the West. The nations and cities represented here are quite diverse. Many East Asian nations are faced with economic and financial difficulties. But I believe that the current hardships will soon end. The medium-to long-range outlook for the region appears bright.

I tried to visualize just what the Asian-Pacific region encompasses, but I could find no formal explanation for the area it covers. The region, however, does have a vague definition, one which presents the danger of being too extensive geographically. As well, it is unacceptable to artificially confine the Asian-Pacific region to one corner of the world. These thoughts aside, the area basks in the world's spotlight and is home to over one half of our earth's population.

Considering the United Nations, where I worked for many years, I must regrettably admit that Asia trails other areas of the world in political unity. The Western Hemisphere maintains the Organization of American States, which has been active for over 50 years. Africa administers the Organization of African Unity, or OAU, which fights against the great strife that racks the continent. Europe has the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is functioning smoothly. Finally, the nations that arose from the fall of the

Soviet Union have created an organization called the CIS. Turning our eyes to Asia, there is ASEAN, working well in Southeast Asia. There is APEC, which was organized to promote economic cooperation throughout the Asian-Pacific region. Also, there is the ASEAN Regional Forum (or ARF), which is a fledgling offshoot of ASEAN working to bring reliability to Asia in general. But none of these excellent organizations has a political framework that covers Asia as a whole. The UN considers this a problem. Now well into the 1990s, the UN's workload has skyrocketed, but the organization has limitations. For instance, it has limited financial power and cannot always implement necessary actions alone. There are cases that are beyond the capacity of the UN by itself. The UN is therefore considering ways to cooperate with regional organizations based on Chapter 8 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Such cooperation has happened to some extent. The OAS worked with the UN to solve problems in Haiti. And collaboration between the OAU, an organization that I mentioned before, and the UN is generating solutions for problems in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia. Such instances stress the need for the UN, a worldwide organization, to move in step with regional organizations. Here, Asia falls a little short of expectations. So I truly hope that this Asian-Pacific City Summit in Fukuoka will become one of the supports in the foundation for mutual understanding and cooperation in the new Asia.

Worldwide, exchanges of not only people, commodities, information and ideas, but currency as well are frequent. I don't need to tell you that borders are losing significance daily and that the flow of short-term and speculative funds across these borders is not always welcome because of the destructive element involved. I think it is time to create an international mechanism that monitors such speculative monetary flow. The role of a nation or central government is indispensable to diplomacy and other sectors. However, in the far-reaching international exchanges of economy and culture, such central power trails the roles and responsibilities of local governments, which are clearly increasing.

Let's take the UN as an example. Its constituent 185 member nations work to conclude international treaties. But players other than the governments of these nations are becoming increasingly important. NGOs, local governments, tradesmen's associations, multinational corporations and institutions of expression have become increasingly vocal in international affairs. To mention some of the more recent examples, the activities of human-rights based NGOs of various countries significantly affected the conclusion of the International Treaty to Ban Landmines in Ottawa last year. As you may know, the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize went to these NGOs, which campaigned to abolish antipersonnel mines. You probably remember the prominence that Japanese NGOs demonstrated in and out of the UNFCCC-COP 3 in Kyoto, held in December, last year.

Of the problems that the UN is faced with, those of Africa are the most grave. Last year, the UN Security Council called a hearing among the representative NGOs of the world concerning problems in central Africa. Being in charge of human rights for the UN, I was to select appropriate NGOs for the referendum. I chose representatives of Care International of the US, Oxfam of Great Britain and Medecins Sans Frontieres. The representatives' deep understanding of African problems and their presentation of valuable opinions awed government representatives and diplomats from many nations.

At present, Japan is faced with a dropping young population and, on the other hand, a growing elderly one. In 1950, those over 65 accounted for less than 5% of the total population. Three years ago in 1995, this hit

15%. The percentage of the population over 65 will reach 32.3% by 2025. It will have jumped six-fold from 1950. On the topic of population, the total world population in 1950 was 2.5 billion. It surpassed five billion in 1987. It is expected to exceed 10 billion by 2050. The rate of population increase, however, is showing a hint of slowing, thanks to efforts by the United Nations Population Fund and others. The world's population has the inertia of the Titanic. It takes a tremendous length of time to slow it. There will be 11 billion people on our planet by 2100, although the birth rate is slowing. I presume it will take time for the world's population to strike a balance with its foods, environment, energy and other resources.

Farmable land covers only 11% of the globe. And while advances in fertilizer manufacture and biotechnology will raise food production slightly, this will amount to a 1.5% increase over today's figure. Uncontrolled quantitative growth is therefore an inappropriate goal. We have to shift from a quantity oriented approach to a quality oriented one, paying due respect to the environment. It is time we stop looking at external factors and look inward to the spiritual side of life.

Urban problems come with issues regarding population, the environment, housing, food, energy, water, transportation, and education. All of these are interlinked and related. A solution to any one demands comprehensively deliberating the others. As well, one city or country cannot solve such problems alone in most cases. This fact certainly calls for an international framework. Taking in case the environment, Indonesia's 1997-forest fire significantly affected all the ASEAN countries. Acid rain from the Chinese mainland reaches Japan. These examples stress the need for international cooperation.

The Cold War fought between the two superpowers of the US and the former Soviet Union was an unfortunate historical reality. It was a conflict between a free market economy and communism. That ended around 1990 was good news. The ideological war is over, but I believe the pursuit of efficiency and profit in a market economy does not provide all answers. How do we deal with unemployment? How do we handle socially challenged and needy people? Society has yet to offer acceptable solutions. Immediately after the Cold War, in the early 1990s, the world was filled with rosy expectations. Prosperity with peace and stability seemed assured. This situation, however, failed to materialize. It is true that the number of international hostilities, such as wars, has dropped, but in the 1990s, many civil conflicts under the banner of race, ethnicity and religion have broken out in all corners of the world. Such civil wars are not as common in Asia as they are in Africa. But there are many armed clashes among various ethnic groups and religions in Afghanistan in Western Asia and also in Tajikistan slightly to the North. Many people face suffering from such unrest. At the UN, I headed humanitarian missions to rescue the victims of civil wars. The mercilessness of a civil war is distinguishable from an international one. The victims are more often women and children. I had to face gruesome scenes. Once a nation's citizens begin infighting, they start despising their neighbors and themselves in a way that is beyond description. This highlights the need to attain and preserve the means to keep harmony and stability within a nation at all times.

As was mentioned during my introduction a few minutes ago, I was given supreme command of two mammoth PKOs like none before seen in the history of the UN. One was a UN PKO in Cambodia, and the other was in the former Yugoslavia. Speaking of these nations, when I was in Bosnia, we never overlooked the tension between urban and rural districts. Being easily missed, it is one of the factors of the tense Cold

War. And in Cambodia, Pol Pot of the Khmer Rouge resisted the UN's peace process and hampered our efforts.

Rural districts were hotbeds for Pol Pot because residents were less privileged than those living in urban districts. They often considered themselves castaways. This was a cause of the uprising. Bosnia's struggle is considered to be a three-party fight among groups of Catholics, Serbians and Muslims. But in reality, in large cities such as Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, religious confrontations were almost nonexistent. Sixty percent of the weddings there joined people of different religious beliefs. The capital was also the site of casual, weekly meetings between past mayors and the incumbent mayor. I was once invited to such a meeting. I noticed that of the dozen or so attendees, three or four were Serbian, the same number were Muslim, and two or three were Christian of Croatia. It was quite impressive to witness them conversing in such a cordial atmosphere. However, in Bosnia, people living in rural areas in general attach more importance to the beliefs of their religions than do city dwellers. I think the Bosnian War can be better defined as an urban vs. rural conflict than a clash between religions.

This situation suggests that cities experiencing conflict should independently seek roads to prosperity and stability. However, true solutions do not come unless and until a wide-area administration encompassing suburban and rural areas surrounding such cities is established. The abrupt inflow of people into cities from rural areas is a grave problem in developing countries as you already know. Water and energy shortages cannot be solved if the outlook for the surrounding areas is ignored.

The year 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Celebrations are planned the world over. Indeed the international community has made great strides on human rights in this half century. At the same time debates have raised the question whether human rights and democracy are universal or if there are differences by area, culture and race. There is another pressing question: Should democracy along with civic and political freedom and rights come first, or should economic and social development and equality take priority? I am asking if the "well fed, well bred" adage bears truth. In my personal opinion, it is best to establish human rights and democracy in parallel and synchronously with economic growth and the enhancement of the living standard. This brings up the chicken and the egg debate, but I think as far as the situation allows, these two should be implemented together. In US President Clinton's recent visit to China, there was a discussion to this effect, as you may recall.

Five years ago, UN hosted a large convention on world human rights in Vienna. Asian nations were active participants. I remember the conclusion sounded something like this: The basic principles of human rights and democracy are both universal and global. However, in their implementation, the indigenous features of regions, countries and cultures must be taken into consideration.

The majority of the cities in the Asian-Pacific region have modernized through rapid growth and development. Such growth has made light of the values associated with past cultures and traditions, local community pride and solidarity. Conflicts, contradictions and confrontations are the inevitable consequences. I think we are still suffering from these consequences by ignoring such important elements of cities.

For a long time, I lived away from Japan. My homeland's rapid modernization and economic growth after the Second World War delighted me indeed, but it also made me melancholic to see that many of the cities in

Japan had exchanged their luster and uniqueness for square concrete and glass buildings. In this arena the cities of Europe seem to have struck a good balance between progress and modernization on the one hand and conservativeness and tradition on the other, thanks to protective measures rendered by national governments. This is something to be envied. Modern cities must attractively provide convenience, efficiency and cleanliness for the lives of their citizens and guarantee a happy lifestyle to their young. At the same time, cities must preserve the merits and traditions so dear to citizens' hearts. We are all destined to age. I believe cities that properly preserve tradition and the beauty of the past for our growing elderly population in particular will be places to look to in the future. Attaining a balance in this area will be difficult, but not impossible. Both countries and individuals live between the past and the future. Discarding the past truly is lamentable. But with some conflicts in which I headed the UN mission, people criticized me for not eliminating the past. In Japan, there appear to be many who consider doing away with the past to be a virtue. My feeling is that the Japanese are not generally used to pondering their own past. Things of the past are sometimes beautiful and of course sometimes disgusting. I believe it is of paramount importance to frankly and objectively reflect on our history. Along these lines, the course of urban development should be controlled modestly and governed by common sense. Long-term perspectives must take precedence.

We hear much about internationalization, and in Japan, maybe a little too much. New universities are dubbed "international universities" and new departments have "international" in their names. To be international means digging deeper to learn from other cities and countries. There is an almost infinite need for assistance which such cities and countries can provide. Internationalization by no means implies losing identity. I expect that this city summit will serve as a stepping stone for you to learn from other cities and to widen your range of options by fully capitalizing on our pool of knowledge. I hope to see cities maintain or gain uniqueness.

Viewing Japan from the outside, I sometimes criticized its insularity. And I feel certain that no country can be well-off ignoring the outside. We need to think of benefiting other countries and realize that we exist within a global framework. I think a "go it alone" attitude is no longer viable. As human beings, we are all equal as individuals. For each one of us "each nation and race" has different customs, ideas and characteristics. It is important that we think broadly to recognize such characteristics and join in appreciating them. We must espouse cultural relativism. International cooperation and the building of cities must be implemented based on this frame of mind.

Fukuoka is said to be a city of strong vitality and open mindedness. Cities in the Asian-Pacific region, as well as other cities in Japan, may find much to learn here. You have come to benefit from this opportunity. I hope and trust that the Asian-Pacific City Summit will bring success and expand its efforts in the future. I believe that the interpretation of inter-city friendship and understanding will strike chords and bring peace throughout the Asian-Pacific region and the world.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Chairperson

Thank you. Please give a big applause for Mr. Yasushi Akashi.

—Part 3—

NOH PLAY

Chairperson

Now, We would like to show the Noh Play “Shakkyo” presented by Mr. Nobuo Sakaguchi and Mr. Takanobu Sakaguchi. Please enjoy yourself.

♪ **Shakkyo** ♪

Chairperson

Thank you very much for a wonderful performance. That was the Noh Play “Shakkyo” presented by Mr. Nobuo Sakaguchi and Mr. Takanobu Sakaguchi. Please give a big applause. This concludes the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit Opening Ceremony. Thank you.