

## 36C General Policy Remarks of JAPAN

Madame President,  
Madame Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my sincere congratulations on your election, Madame President.

Madame President,

Japan places a high priority on UNESCO's efforts in a wide range of issues that the international community is facing in the ever-more globalized era. We are committed to providing as much support and collaboration as possible, to those efforts as well as supporting Director-General Madam Bokova's efforts in UNESCO reforms.

Madame President,

On March 11, Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake of 9.0 magnitude in the Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku area, followed by a massive tsunami. The disaster caused a tremendous damage with about 20,000 losses of lives including some people missing.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend once again our deepest gratitude for the great support and solidarity expressed by Madame Director-General Bokova, UNESCO and its Member States in the wake of the earthquake.

Our efforts on recovery and reconstruction after the earthquake are making a great progress. At schools, along with the resumption of classes, we are implementing all the necessary measures including the restoration of facilities, assistance to continue education and post-disaster mental care. In addition, steps are taken to reduce the radiation dose. Also, the lectures in all universities and colleges have been resumed, and almost all the students, including those from overseas have now returned to classes, and they are studying as hard as before the earthquake.

With regard to the situation of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station, we are making a steady progress towards convergence. Through measures such as the continuous cooling of the circulating water at the reactor as well as the cooling of the expended fuel pool, the radiation exposure dose at the site boundaries of the Power Station was recently assessed at maximum 0.2 milli-Sievert per year. Resolving this situation is our top priority and we are making every effort towards convergence as soon as possible.

This great disaster reminded of the importance of sustainable societies. We believe Japan's continuous contribution to the sustainable development will be the way by which we repay our debts of gratitude to the international community for their

'strong bonds' and 'warm friendship' that they demonstrated through the difficult times recently.

Madame President,

We anticipate UNESCO's further initiatives towards 'the End-of-Decade World Conference on ESD' in 2014 as a leading agency within the UN system in order to raise awareness on the importance of ESD in the international community.

As the first proposer of the DESD, we plan to hold the Conferences in Nagoya and Okayama. In Japan, after the unprecedented disaster, we recognized again the importance of promoting 'Education for Disaster Risk Reduction.' For that purpose, we must collaborate not just in the area of education, but also in the elements of scientific research based on natural science, humanities and social sciences.

Japan believes that it is important to promote ESD in conjunction with EFA, to ensure quality education for all people, while supporting all disadvantaged children including one who are subject to child labour. It is also essential that we provide educational support to those countries affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

Madame President,

Japan has played a significant role in UNESCO's science activities, particularly the IHP, the IOC, and other areas of disaster prevention aiming to constructing sustainable societies.

We believe that in order to solve global-scale issues such as climate change and widespread major disasters, it is indispensable that we take a broad cross-sectoral approach from the perspective of sustainability in various science programmes and the existing initiatives of UNESCO.

Madame President,

We highly appreciate UNESCO's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage as well as Intangible Cultural Heritage, which have led to promoting the cultural diversity and also to increasing UNESCO's visibility among the international organizations.

Japan is committed to continue to make our international contributions in the field of the protection of Cultural Heritage, through various forms such as our funds-in-trust and dispatch of Japanese experts to relevant conferences. In 2012, Japan will be hosting a final event to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Heritage Convention and that we are determined to make further efforts in this important field.

Madame President,

Finally, I hope for UNESCO's further development under the strong leadership of Madame Director-General Bokova so that it can sufficiently fulfill its roles and responsibility for the future.

Thank you very much for your attention.