Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honor to address the Conference on behalf of Japanese workers.

First, I’d like to share the sympathy with you to the victims of the Japan’s recent natural disasters. On April the 14 and the 16, over a period of two days, violent earthquakes of magnitude 7 hit Kumamoto Prefecture after having been suffered from the Earthquake in March 2011. And after nearly 2 months, many residents are still forced to live in shelters. JTUC-RENGO is currently engaged in helping recovery and reconstruction of Kumamoto.

Now turning to the 105th ILC, it is extremely timely and significant to discuss on the topic of “Decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience”. The recent refugee crisis has been placed in the center of international society’s concern.

And responses to this crisis are being hotly debated.

In this regard, a revised ILO recommendation is expected to be
adopted next year.
I hope it will serve as important policy guidelines.

Next, I’d like to touch upon challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.
The ILO has called for the universal ratification of all eight core
conventions by 2015 and has taken many actions for the promotion
of the ratification with the constituents.
In 2006, the regional meeting adopted the “Asia-Pacific Decent
Work Decade”.
And member states engaged to make efforts for the ratification by
2015.
At the last APRM in 2011 in Kyoto, a follow-up discussion was
conducted.
As a result, member states affirmed, further efforts for the ratification.
Now, this period is over, but today, the result are not be seen in
these countries including Japan.
Lacking of the ratification in this region means that the 50% of the
workforce in the world is not covered by these conventions.
Facing such reality, the ILO should engage in further promotional
activities involving tripartite bodies towards the goal of its ratification
and the implementation.

The 16th APRM will be held in December and it will provide opportunity to challenge the realization of this goal.

The Director-General has also raised “The End to Poverty Initiative.” Poverty is still remaining and the trend of inequality is growing. So, we must once again heed the statement from the Philadelphia Declaration, “… poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere,” and take action.

I stand with the Director-General’s perception that we must all walk in same direction to address the issue through building global partnership to the common goals.

I think the biggest challenge is how to effectively ensure the coherency in policy implementation at all levels.

Recently, in Japan, the government established the “Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters” to carry out actions across agencies.

Especially the Goal 8 which is dealing with the promotion of decent work for all is our great concern.
We are approaching to the ILO's centenary.

The ILO must identify the priority activities and take effective actions in order to challenge its most important mandate of this organization, Decent Work and Social Justice.

We highly appreciate the various initiatives that Director-General Mr. Guy Ryder has proposed.

We are expecting the ILO to assume its given mandate under your initiative towards the ILO's next century.

We, JTUC-RENGO will contribute strongly to realize social justice.

And we will make utmost efforts for expanding our union movement for the better world of work.

Thank you for your attention.