

Address by Ambassador of Japan

Launching Workshop of the ILO-IPEC Project on Prevention of Trafficking in  
Children and Women at a Community Level in Vietnam

26 April 2005

Ms. Truong Thi Khue, Deputy Chairwoman, Vietnam Women's Union  
Ms. Rose Marie Greve, ILO Representative  
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be here to attend today's launching the workshop for "the Project of Prevention of Trafficking in Children and Women".

Among many challenges on the way to social and economic development, Vietnam faces trafficking in children and women as one of the most serious problems in this country. Human trafficking is committed both within and across the borders. Traffickers' network transfer children and women from rural and remote areas to cities or other countries. Trafficking has severe impacts on the social, economic and political development and stability of Vietnam. Therefore it requires the Vietnamese government and international community to address this problem in an urgent manner.

Having experienced the war-torn and human rights neglectful of 20<sup>th</sup> century, Japanese people and Government have conceived the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a "human-centered" century, and set the notion of human security at the center of Japan's ODA and international cooperation. At the conference titled "Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia's Tomorrow" held in December 1998 in Hanoi, then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Keizo Obuchi expressed Japanese Government's views on human security and announced that Japan take lead to establish the Trust Fund for Human Security at the United Nations.

By fiscal year 2004, Japan's total contribution to this Fund has amounted to about 280 million US dollars and I am happy to note that today's workshop is funded by this UN Fund.

In concluding, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I express my hope that the workshop would contribute to meeting the targets set by the Vietnamese Government as well as by the international community.

Endorsing human security as the concept of international cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Japan has been striving to make this century a “human-centered” century. In the “Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia’s Tomorrow”, held in December 1998 in Hanoi, Late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi expressed his views on human security and announced that the Trust Fund for Human Security would be established at the United Nations Secretariat. By FY 2004, Japan’s total contributions had amounted to about 23 billion yen.

Considering the current trafficking status in south-east Asia and appreciating ILO’s great efforts, the Government of Japan decided to support this project through the Trust Fund for Human Security. We hope that the capacity of the community, especially women and children to protect themselves from trafficking in a participatory manner will swiftly be built up in the target provinces in Southern Vietnam.

In concluding, I do hope that this project will bring tangible results and contribute more effectively to the prevention of the trafficking in children and women. I extend my very best wishes for the success of this project.

Thank you very much for your attention.