

Opening Remarks

Mr. Koichi Takemasa (State Secretary for Foreign Affairs) opened the first day of the meeting. He first expressed his condolences for the people of Chile, who had recently been affected by a violent earthquake. He noted that he was honored to give the opening remarks for the workshop, given his previous work experience with Saburo Okita, former Minister for Foreign Affairs for Japan and former Chairman of PECC.

2010 is a very important year for Japan, as it will be hosting the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama. Twenty years have passed since the formation of APEC, and in that time, advances in information technology, the progression of globalization and climate change, and the birth of new regional frameworks such as ASEAN+3 have changed the world. The theme chosen by Japan for APEC 2010 is "Change and Action". Japan chose the theme in order to position APEC as the most effective framework for the issues of the 21st century. Japan's proposal for the 2010 APEC agenda consists of three pillars: 1) regional economic integration; 2) human security in order to ensure safer business environment; and 3) the chartering of a new regional growth strategy to overcome the economic and financial crisis.