

Unofficial Transcript of Statement by Prosecutor General Kunihiro MATSUO of **JAPAN** for High Level Segment of the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Your Excellency the President of the Congress, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to speak at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on behalf of the Japanese People and Government.

First of all, I appreciate, Mr. President, that under your excellent leadership, active discussions have taken place, and I am confident that this will lead to the fruitful success of this Congress.

Further, I would like to deliver the highest tribute to the Government and People of Thailand for their devoted efforts in preparing for the Congress, and I would like to take this opportunity to also express my deepest condolences and sympathies for the casualties and terrible losses sustained by the victims and the families of the victims in the tsunami and series of earthquakes which have recently hit Asia since last December.

Mr. President and Distinguished Participants,

The world has undergone great change over the last five years since the last Congress. Transnational organized crimes are on the rise, and terrorism as symbolized by 9. 11 (Nine-Eleven) is threatening us on a daily basis. Moreover, the rapid development of information technology is enhancing our living standards, while at the same time generating new crimes.

Today, it is becoming of increasingly vital importance for countries to collaborate internationally in effectively addressing those issues.

I would like to invite you to take a look at our national statement distributed to the participants, which provides relevant information on the Japanese efforts made on the major agenda items. And on this occasion, I would like to focus on several issues in accordance with the agenda of the Congress.

One serious concern is organized crimes committed beyond national borders. Japan has already drawn up relevant legislation, and the law enforcement authorities have been carrying out measures against organized crimes such as drug trafficking and money laundering. In addition, especially with regard to trafficking in persons, the Japanese Government adopted an action plan in December 2004, and is presently undertaking protection of the victims, prosecution of the perpetrators and prevention of trafficking.

The Japanese Government received authorization from the Diet to conclude the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and submitted a bill for its implementation. As a signatory to the three Protocols of the Convention, Japan is making utmost efforts toward their conclusion too.

Since terrorism poses serious challenges to world peace and the rule of law, there is a need for the international community to take a united stand against terrorism. To this end, Japan welcomes the recent adoption of the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and strongly encourages reinforcing international cooperation in combating terrorism.

Japan has already concluded and implemented all twelve international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. Moreover, in consideration of the importance of preventing terrorist crimes, the Japanese Government adopted an action plan in December 2004, and is promoting measures such as the introduction of biometrically enabled passports with embedded IC chips.

In recent years, the number of attacks against computers via computer viruses and crimes abusing computer networks is on the rise. Since cyber crimes can be easily

committed beyond national borders, it is essential for countries to concertedly and appropriately deal with them.

Bearing such in mind, the Japanese Government submitted a bill to the Diet to amend substantive and procedural laws, in order to conclude the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, and the Diet authorized its conclusion in April 2004.

Mr. President,

The Japanese Government has been hosting international seminars and conferences, and dispatching officials to provide training for foreign counterparts, as well as providing wide-ranging assistance for more than 40 years through the activities of UNAFEI, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Japan will also continue providing capacity building support in the requesting countries in order to combat crimes and terrorism.

Mr. President, Distinguished Participants,

On April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, a workshop on economic crime including money-laundering was held, which was prepared and conducted jointly by the honorable Government of Sweden and UNAFEI.

It is of vital importance to crack down on economic and financial crimes, which are sources of funds for organized crime syndicates. I hope that based on the outcome of the workshop, the distinguished countries will be able to pursue future effective policies for this issue.

In concluding my statement, Mr. President,

I assure you of the intention of the Japanese Government to continue fully supporting the activities of the United Nations in the field of criminal justice.

I thank you, Mr. President, Distinguished Participants.