

2023 International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) Annual Conference

Opening remarks by Mr. SUZUKI Shunichi,

Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Financial Services

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Hello, everyone. I'm SUZUKI Shunichi, Minister of State for Financial Services. We are very pleased to welcome all of you to the IAIS Annual Conference, which is being held today for the first time in Japan, the host country.

As you might know, the Japanese insurance market is one of the largest in the world. Both life and non-life insurance are essential infrastructure that supports the lives of people and business activities. Furthermore, Japanese insurance companies, which hold more than 400 trillion yen in assets, are extremely important players in the capital markets. In recent years, Japanese insurance companies have expanded their overseas business, which has made the links between them and foreign insurance/financial markets even stronger.

As Prime Minister KISHIDA may have mentioned, the Japanese financial sector, including the insurance sector, is facing structural shifts in the business environment, such as climate change, digitalization, a declining population, a lower birthrate and aging population, and increasing geopolitical risks. Under such circumstances, the FSA has embarked on various initiatives to build a financial system that is capable of simultaneously solving social challenges and promoting economic growth, while ensuring its stability and trust.

In terms of the insurance sector, FSA requires insurance companies to ensure compliance and policyholder protection in a rigorous manner, and it is monitoring the sector from multiple angles, in light of the various changes in the business environment that I have just mentioned.

I understand that the IAIS Annual Conference is a platform for lively discussions among the participants, including private stakeholders, on a wide range of regulatory and

supervisory topics related to insurance that are being discussed at the IAIS.

I believe that it is a timely occurrence that the conference is held here in Japan for the first time today. It is because many of the challenges and changes surrounding the financial and insurance sector in Japan, which I have just mentioned, are precisely the ones that all of you are facing today, and also strongly resonate with the agenda of the conference.

Thankfully, this conference brings together many participants, including regulatory and supervisory authorities, insurance companies, and all other stakeholders that are involved in insurance. I hope that all of you can share knowledge and views from different regions and respective roles, and deepen discussions to confront challenges that are common to all of us. The FSA, as the host institution, looks forward to actively contributing to the discussion and learning as much as possible from you.

Thank you for your attention.