

Remarks by H. E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,  
Ambassador of Japan to the United Kingdom,  
for the 38th International Symposium on Economic Crime  
at Jesus College, University of Cambridge  
on September 9, 2021

Distinguished Guests,

In the globalized world today, not only economy and information but also crimes are globalized. Certainly, more and more crimes are crossing international borders particularly due to the recent rapid development of technology. Among others, cybercrimes are becoming more international, more complex and more vicious. The pandemic caused by COVID-19 seems to have accelerated the tendency of organized criminal groups to use emerging or cutting-edge technologies to commit international financial crimes. At the G7 summit under the UK Presidency held in Cornwall last June, the leaders agreed that ransomware and cyber-attacks have emerged as the biggest threats to their nations. During the G7 Interior and Security Ministerial Meeting held in London this week, ministers are discussing countermeasures against financial crimes and cybercrimes.

All of us understand how difficult it is to combat these crimes, so addressing the current and future situation is certainly challenging. Thus, in order to deal with such challenges, we definitely need to build further international cooperation and to step up our efforts in capacity building in developing countries.

For accelerating international cooperation, Japan hosted the Kyoto Congress, the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto, in March this year. Approximately 5,600 persons, including representatives from 152 countries and regions, registered as participants by using a hybrid format, combining in-person and online participation. I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all individuals and states who participated and extended support to this conference. From the United Kingdom, two outstanding video

messages were received, one from the Home Secretary and another from the Lord Chancellor.

During the Kyoto Congress, the Kyoto Declaration was adopted as its outcome, where importance of addressing the economic dimension of crimes was particularly emphasized. It also urged UN member states to tackle corruption, money laundering and deprivation of criminal proceeds. The strengthened international cooperation in line with the Kyoto Declaration will certainly be a strong tool to combat economic crimes.

It is important to note that economic crimes must be addressed with the cooperation of all countries, not just cooperation in the developed world. If there is a country which lacks the capacity to tackle, clever criminals will possibly take advantage of the consequent loopholes and commit crimes in or through that country. Thus, capacity building in developing countries is extremely important.

As a matter of fact, Japan has been supporting many countries through training and providing expertise through the technical cooperation support by JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Furthermore, Japan has been supporting the training programs by UNAFEI, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which aims to improve the capacity of developing countries in the region by making available a wide range of expertise. Over the past 50 years, more than 6,000 criminal justice practitioners from 139 countries and regions have participated in UNAFEI's training courses and seminars. Many UNAFEI alumni members are playing leading roles in the area of criminal justice in their respective countries and regions, bringing back their newly-gained knowledge and experience. Japan will surely continue to promote cooperation in this regard.

The opportunity afforded by this outstanding symposium for lawyers and practitioners of legal affairs serving on the front line and scholars and experts engaged in academic research to exchange views and learn from each other is immensely valuable. I trust that this wonderful gathering will not only enable people from different countries to share knowledge and the fruits of their experience but will lead to further international cooperation in many fields towards the crucial goal of eradicating economic crimes.

In closing my remarks, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Founder and Co-Chair, Professor Rider, and another Co-Chair, Professor Nakajima, as well as all other people whose efforts have made it possible to hold this prestigious and long-lasting, 38<sup>th</sup> as I must say, international symposium this year. Without their tireless endeavors we would not be gathered here this evening.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.