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Message from Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
on the occasion of the 15th International Energy Forum Ministerial

Your Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al-Saud,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, particularly those of His Excellency Mr. Nouredine Bouterfa, Minister of Energy. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new Secretary General, Dr. Sun, and express my appreciation for the IEF Secretariat, for the co-hosting countries, namely the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan, and for all those who have dedicated themselves to bringing about this Ministerial.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first IEF Ministerial- a place for global energy dialogue. The global energy landscape has changed greatly during the past 25 years. From the point of view of securing a stable supply of energy as well as transparency in the energy market, the importance of dialogue between energy producing and energy consuming countries is now greater than ever. As such, our expectations for this important forum for global energy dialogue will continue to increase.

(Global Energy Governance/Architecture)

Currently, energy-related international organizations, agencies, and fora are discussing world energy governance and architecture in various ways. Emerging countries are increasing their energy demands and we face serious climate change issues worldwide. We are also witnessing wide-ranging energy cooperation, including cross-border gas pipelines and electricity grids, as well as globalization of energy markets, including the “shale revolution” and LNG markets. With all these changes, no country is an energy island, so to keep pace with these changes international cooperation is essential.

However, there is no single international energy cooperation framework to cover all the issues. Instead, we have various fora, institutions and organizations that exist in parallel. Under these circumstances, IEF is the world's largest framework for energy dialogue with participation by high-ranking officials. The Forum plays an important role in strengthening global energy architecture, for example, through enhancing cooperation with IEA and OPEC, and there is room for IEF to play a more significant role in future.

The sharing of information and opinions from various viewpoints is now more important than ever in order to secure a stable energy supply that can support the world's economic growth while addressing climate change.

(Japan's Contribution)

As one of the world's largest energy consuming countries, Japan is a board member of IEF and IEA and also served as the Chair of IRENA last year. In its capacity as holder of the G7 Presidency, Japan also led the discussion at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit on various contributions to global issues, including in the energy field. In addition, the "Kitakyushu Initiative on Energy Security for Global Growth Joint Statement", adopted at the G7 Kitakyushu Energy Ministerial Meeting, refers to global energy architecture for engaging emerging countries and strengthening global energy security. Furthermore, Japan has also been playing an active role in international cooperation in the energy field as Chair of the Energy Charter Conference to be held this November.

It is important to deepen the discussion on global energy architecture for the future of sustainable energy in the world. On the occasion of the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference and Energy Charter Conference to be held in Tokyo in late November, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will organize a seminar, titled "Global Energy Architecture and its Implications in Asia" as a side-event with the participation of the heads of IEF, IEA and ECT. This seminar aims to review this year's discussion on global energy architecture, including the talks at this IEF Ministerial, and to further contribute to vigorous dialogue on energy issues.

(Closing)

For all countries, the role of IEF is critically important to the implementation of energy policy and in tackling climate change. Japan will make every effort to further enhance cooperation with IEF.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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