

**Remarks by H.E. MURATA Takashi,
Ambassador of Japan to Finland,
“AI Online Seminar” on 3 March 2021**

My name is MURATA Takashi, Ambassador of Japan to Finland. To mark the opening of this seminar, allow me to say a few words.

First, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Aleksi Kopponen from Ministry of Finance for his great support to make this online seminar possible, Professor Petri Myllymäki from Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence for serving as a moderator and all the other people from Global Human-Centric AI-Transformation Research Network for co-organizing this event.

My deepest gratitude also goes to Dr. NAKAGAWA Hiroshi, Group Director of Artificial Intelligence in Society Research Group, RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project for lecturing at this seminar out of his busy schedule.

Dr. Nakagawa is a leading expert on Artificial Intelligence, who is active domestically and abroad. His major field of interest is AI ethics, in particular, how to deal with the protection of privacy. At today’s seminar, Dr. Nakagawa is about to enlighten us on digital heritage such as SNSs.

People are apt to pay attention to only merits or benefits gained from AI. But, we also need to notice accompanying emerging issues such as the privacy protection in dealing with numerous personal data to support AI as well as ethical ones that the development or utilization of AI should be consistent with human social and moral standards. Accordingly, like Finland, Japanese government adopts the concept of “Human-centric AI” in its national strategy.

Gaining more awareness of such accompanying challenges on AI and understanding of what is more appropriate way to deal with AI through this seminar would be also highly conducive to promoting cooperation between Japan and Finland.

Last November, under the bilateral agreement on cooperation in science and technology of 1997, both governments held the seventh Joint Committee

Meeting on Cooperation in Science and Technology online, where both sides exchanged views on each effort on AI. Bilateral cooperation has progressed in business sector as well. A Japanese company, SB Drive that develops the AI-related self-driving technology, entered into a partnership with a Finnish company, Sensible 4, that developed all-weather self-driving bus “GACHA”.

Furthermore, last month it was announced that a Japanese research institute, RIKEN, where Dr. Nakagawa works, joined forces with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) in an international research effort to support development of a precision prediction model to identify those most at risk from COVID-19 with AI technology.

In a world of uncertainty, we now witness the spread of COVID-19 posing a threat to lives, livelihood and dignity of people across the globe. The international community as a whole should address this challenge as a serious crisis that is directly linked to the human security.

In this situation, I sincerely hope in the wake of this seminar, our bilateral substantial cooperation on AI and human network will further extend across industry, government and academia for building our sustainable future.

Thank you.

(End)