

**Address by H.E. Ambassador MURATA Takashi  
at HANAKO Network 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Seminar**

Ms. Sirje Hassinen, Project Manager of OMNIA,

Ms. Tuula Antola, General Director, OMNIA,

Ms. Hanna Autere, Councillor of Education, Finnish National Agency for  
Education,

Good morning.

Ms. Kayoko Fujimoto, Director of the Ryusei Fukushikai Group  
and all the other Japanese partners who are joining online,

Good afternoon.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations on the opening of HANAKO network 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary seminar, which was postponed for a year due to the COVID-19 situation.

I would also like to extend my profound respect and appreciation for the endeavors of all of those concerned in making this seminar possible today.

HANAKO network was established as a vocational education program in 2010. At its initiation, the interaction was seen mainly at childcare or senior care facilities. Now, the area of interaction has expanded to such fields as cooking, tourism, hotel industry, game development and motor sports. Furthermore, in spite of the COVID-19 situation, HANAKO network continues to be so active as to organize online exercises or seminars.

This remarkable development of HANAKO network as we witness now would not have been possible if it had not been for the enormous efforts and enthusiasm of those concerned including everyone present here today, who have never ceased to support HANAKO network since its inception.

HANAKO network has been providing the opportunities for the students, teachers, and professionals of both countries not only to gain their vocational experience through the on-site training, but also to contribute to the activities of the vocational education of their home country by bringing and sharing their own experience and technique back home.

I learn that Toyota's "Lean Manufacturing System" aimed at eliminating waste in manufacturing processes has been disseminated through HANAKO

network and the Lean System has been practiced at many occasions such as the operational management or the education course planning of Finnish vocational education facilities.

HANAKO network has been expanding the network of the interaction between Finland and Japan through the vocational experience as well as contributing to the development of each society.

The year 2019 marked the centenary of the diplomatic relations between Finland and Japan. The human network and the solid relationship of trust represented by HANAKO network lay foundation for such a long-standing bilateral amicable friendly relationship.

I sincerely hope HANAKO network will further develop the interaction between the people of both countries who are expected to lead the bilateral relations in the next generation, thereby our bonds will become much tighter.

(End)