

**Statement by KAWANO Yoshihiro,  
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Theme: Prioritization of country and regional needs

**(Introduction)**

1. Honorable Ministers,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates and participants,

It is my great honor to address the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on behalf of the Government of Japan.

**(Gratitude to the Director-General and the Government of Bhutan)**

2. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. <sup>チュウ ドン ユー</sup> Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, Dr. <sup>ジョン ジン キム</sup> Jong Jin Kim, Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and his staff for organizing this important event. I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Government of Bhutan for all its dedication to the conference.

**(Japan's priority in Asia-Pacific region)**

3. Today, I would like to share three topics with you: measures against COVID-19, food and nutrition issues, and important issues regarding globalization.
4. Firstly, I will start with the measures against COVID-19. The spread of COVID-19 has jeopardized the world food supply chain. In the Asia-Pacific region, it is important to ensure the continuity of the process of agricultural production, shipment and distribution as well as to secure agricultural inputs. This will also contribute to reducing the number of hungry people in the Asia-Pacific Region and ensuring world food security.
- Specifically, it is critical to ensure substitutional supply

destinations, transparency of international foods and input markets, and provide timely information, such as by utilizing the Agricultural Market Information System, or the “AMIS,” as well as by establishing a short supply chain through “local production for local consumption”.

5. The second issue concerns the Food System Summit and Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit. The impact of COVID-19 has strongly affected the lives of people going hungry. As with London and Rio, which hosted the last two Olympics and Paralympics games, Japan will host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in December 2021. The achievement of the Food System Summit will be passed on to the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, thereby enhancing the momentum to tackle a wide range of nutrition-related issues. Furthermore, it is also necessary to promote sustainable, well-balanced and healthy diets, considering changes caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

6. And thirdly, I would like to mention important issues regarding globalization. At the Food System Summit, dealing with the threat of transboundary animal diseases and plant pests and leveraging “Digital Agriculture” are also important during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, African swine fever (ASF) and Fall Army Worm are huge global risks. To tackle these, proactive measures and cooperation with OIE and IPPC are essential.

Regarding leveraging “Digital Agriculture”, Japan will contribute to disseminating technologies in the Asia-Pacific region. An executive of a national agricultural institution in Japan will introduce this issue in more detail in “Bytes to sustain Our Bites” tomorrow.

### **(Concluding remarks)**

7. Chairperson, Excellences, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan will continue to work with FAO, other relevant organizations and countries to address global challenges. Furthermore, we will contribute to achieving Agenda 2030. Thank you very much for your kind attention.