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to the Council of Europe

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Mrs Ambassador, chairwoman of the Committee of Ministers delegates,  
Mr. Director of Information Society and Action against Crime,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address you here today. I am pleased to see you, experts from all around the world, from public and private sectors, gathered around here at the Council of Europe to discuss growing threat of cybercrime. This week, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Budapest Convention and its achievements. The Convention has served as the basis for the fight against cybercrime in many countries since it came into force, and we appreciate the efforts of the Council of Europe extending its hand of assistance to the countries who express interests in the Budapest Convention.

Cybercrime is a threat to every country and people, and Japan certainly is not an exception. As it is so in many other countries, the number of cases of cybercrime has been increasing despite our continuous efforts, and the type of the threat has been diversifying day by day. The target of the cybercrime is not only the private sectors or individuals but also the governmental institutions. Recently, several cyber-attacks to institutions of the Japanese Government are reported. Tackling cybercrime, needless to say, is one of our national priorities.

In this respect, this June in Japan, the bill amending the Penal Code and other related legislations finally passed the diet, and most of the national legislations to implement the Budapest Convention domestically entered into force in July. We signed the Convention in 2001, and it has been a while since then, but we are now moving a step closer to concluding it and I am proud to tell you that soon Japan will be a new member of the Convention.

In Japan, the National Police Agency has been tackling this issue over years. Taking recent development for example, we established a joint team led by the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry along with the related private sectors to pool the issues and ideas, and to enhance the capacities in order to develop efficient measures against un-authorised or illegal access. Although this approach, cooperation between public and private sectors, is showing progress, mere domestic efforts are not good enough to combat cybercrime especially in the field of investigation since the crimes go over the border quite easily. Therefore, international cooperation is a vital element and we all know the Budapest Convention can provide a solid ground.

We thank the Council of Europe's efforts in helping countries to improve their legislation and to train criminal justice authorities in line with the Budapest Convention. We see the diffusion of the Budapest Convention is one of the most important aspects of fighting against cybercrime. For now, there are only a few non-European parties to the Convention so far, and we hope our commitment to the Budapest Convention will interest many other countries to join the club. As the only observer country from Asia here in the Council of Europe, and as a state which has effective measures against cybercrime, we would like to make every effort to enhance international cooperation with the Council of Europe member

states and other partners. Japan is ready to play a part in this field using resources and knowledge we have.

This year, in order to show our strong commitment to the fight against cybercrime, I proudly announce that the Government of Japan has decided to make Voluntary Contribution to this Octopus Conference, the Global Project on Cybercrime. We strongly believe that establishing the Budapest Convention as the global standard is important, and international and public-private cooperation is essential when fighting against cybercrime.

The Convention is marking its 10th anniversary, and the situation around us has changed over time, and so as the nature of the threat. We are at the point where we need to look further and prepare ourselves to be able to meet the needs of the time. I am sure, with all of you here today, this conference will be fruitful and productive, and it will provide us an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss the future strategy against cybercrime.

Thank you for your attention.