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JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT INSTITUTE (JITI)
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(Opening)

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to have been invited to present our ideas on transport security technology and international co-operation at this important conference.

Before I begin, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest appreciation for the great achievements that Mr. Kip Hawley, Assistant Secretary of Transport Security Administration, have delivered in enhancing security at the global level through the initiatives of the DHS and the TSA.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Japan International Transport Institute for taking the initiative in hosting this conference.

(Present Condition and Major Issues on Ensuring Transport Security)

Since the hateful terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in U.S.A., transport systems have been a major target for terrorism as seen in the bombings in Madrid in March, 2004 and in London in July on the day of the Gleneagles Summit.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) is in charge of protecting all modes of transportation from terrorist attacks in Japan. Since transport systems are very important infrastructures that support our everyday life and economic activities, our ministry has tackled the issue to

ensure transport security in the field of maritime, air and land transport, in cooperation with the efforts of international organizations including IMO and ICAO.

When we discuss security measures against terrorism, there are several aspects such as the prevention of terrorist attacks, emergency preparedness after the attacks, damage control, and post-attack restoration.

It is characteristic of transport systems that the general public and goods easily gather in vehicles with limited area/space such as train, aircraft, and ship and also that vehicles themselves can be used as actual means of terrorism. Therefore once a terrorist attack occurs against transport systems, it would have human, economic, and social impact. From these points of view, we believe that the prevention of terrorist attacks is important and great emphasis should be put on developing measures to prevent terrorist attacks. We should also keep in mind that the legitimate and smooth flow of passengers and goods is the basis of our economic activities. We should balance between transport security measures and the smoothness of transport as much as possible.

As I mentioned, there are two important aspects of transport security, such as prevention of terrorist acts and balancing between security and traffic smoothness, and when we develop technology in the field of transport security, it is necessary to take these aspects into account.

Our ministry has started to develop "technology concerning prevention and detection" to prevent terrorist acts and "technology that ensures traffic smoothness" to balance transport security and smooth flow of traffic.

Furthermore, when we develop such technology, practicability with a high degree of accuracy and reduced false alarm is necessary. It is also essential to ensure the ease of usage and a reasonable cost.

Therefore, if government and the private sector can cooperate by bringing their respective strong points together, the development and the wide usage

of new technology can be realized more effectively and efficiently.

In order to develop and make wide use of the technology of transport security which meets these aspects, it is important to cooperate internationally in terms of (1) avoidance of redundant investments and improvement of technology by information sharing and (2) reducing costs by applying technology of other transport modes/ and by sharing and standardizing technology.

(Technology to Enhance Transport Security)

Let me briefly raise several examples of emerging technology in a private company and also a public organization in Japan. First we have example of a face recognition system, as explained by Mr. Ishiyama of NTT Communications. This technology is very effective both in the prevention of terrorist acts and in the criminal arrest after any attack. This new technology can be one of the most important new counter-terrorism measures for railway transport usage.

This face recognition system technology will be technically verified by the study group which JITI, the sponsor of this conference, set up this October in Tokyo.

We want to reflect on potential applications of such technological development in discussions in the "Railway Counter-terrorism Meeting" set up by MLIT in August this year after the terrorist attacks in London.

Moreover,

Second, the container tracking system that uses electronic tag technology on containers explained by NTT Communications, is important, not only because the container can be watched securely after the container has been sealed, but also because container loading information can be exchanged in real time. We are paying attention to this technology, which contributes to smooth logistics.

The government and the private company are cooperating this year to carry out experiments of such electronic tag technologies, and seeking specific solutions to various issues.

Moreover, as Hitachi Defense System Company has explained, its explosive detection machine is the first product certified by TSA among manufactures other than those in United States. Narita international airport is to carry out experiments to verify its usability.

Besides the undertakings of such private companies, MLIT has recently contracted with a government-founded research institute for research on next-generation screening technology by utilizing electromagnetic waves in order to improve screening capability for prevention of terrorists' acts.

Explosive detection technology utilizing radio waves is based on similar technology applied to MRI technology in medical diagnostics. By developing high-precision identification technology for explosives or flammable liquids, this detection technology is expected to reduce false alarms which occur under existent technology.

Passenger screening technology utilizing millimeter-waves makes it possible to recognize the position and outline of the weapon concealed under clothes. MLIT is aiming to develop screening technology for detecting concealed weapons by identifying weak signals of millimeter-waves radiated from human body, which has no harmful effects to human body and causes no regulatory problems. We can expect to apply this technology not only in airports but also in other transport modes such as railroads. This technology has the advantage of screening passengers without their being cognizant while also being able to screen a large number of passengers simultaneously.

In addition, technological development for measures against biological weapons and explosives is being undertaken by National Police Agency in Japan.

(International Cooperation on Transport Security Technology)

Let me introduce to you an international cooperation program on transport security technology being carried out by US and Japan.

U.S.-Japan Workshop on Science and Technology for a Secure and Safe Society has been held since 2004. Both the U.S. and Japanese governments have reaffirmed that this workshop has been an innovative approach to coordinate activities of a number of ministries and agencies of both countries in promoting scientific and technological cooperation in a mutually beneficial way.

In this workshop, scientists and policy decision makers are exchanging information on issues related to science and technology for counter-terrorism. Some of the technologies I have explained today were actually discussed in this workshop. And I believe it is important to make the most of this workshop and promote international information sharing.

We can expedite the process from R&D stage to practical use stage by sharing technological information among countries concerned and by using technologies mutually.

(Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security)

Finally I would like to speak on our current efforts toward international transport security. As MLIT has been keen on ensuring transport security, our ministry will host the Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security in January, 2006 in Tokyo, Japan.

As I mentioned, since the terrorists' attack in September, 2001 in the U.S., we have had a number of discussions on how transport security can be ensured and various measures have been taken to enhance transport

security in international frameworks such as G8, IMO and ICAO.

While these measures have been effective for preventing terrorists' attacks, serious threats still remain covertly, as can be seen in the case of the terrorist attacks in London. To overcome vulnerability is still an issue to be addressed. It is necessary to enhance capacity building for ensuring security in some developing countries.

On the other hand, in the field of transport which plays an important role in international economic activities, it is also necessary to balance between security measures and smooth transport services.

In order to address these issues, the Ministers responsible for transport security should lead future international actions to be implemented. However, there has been no appropriate framework where the Ministers address these issues comprehensively. This is the reason why our ministry plans to host the Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security from January 11th (Wed) to 13th (Fri), 2006 in Tokyo.

We have invited Ministers of G8 countries and other major countries in Asia Pacific region such as China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Australia and so on, and representatives of international organizations concerned such as IMO and ICAO. We hope that this Ministerial Conference heralds future directions in the field of international transport security.

The outcomes of the Ministerial Conference will be reflected on future discussions at international fora such as G8, APEC, ICAO, IMO, and WCO, as well as at bilateral and regional basis. I hope that this Ministerial Conference will be the first step to enhance international cooperation in transport security in various fields and to realize a safer society.