



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo

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National Diet of Japan, Tokyo (Japan)



Closing Speech by Mr. Masaaki YAMAZAKI, President of the House of Councillors, National Diet of Japan

Chairperson Gapšys,
Fellow Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Guests,

I am Masaaki Yamazaki, President of the House of Councillors of Japan.

I would like to say a few words to mark the closing of the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo that has been held over the last two days.

Japan has actively participated in IPU activities since it first became an IPU member in 1908. Last year, after the Japanese Diet agreed to host the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, I asked the leaders of parliaments in countries around the world to participate in the conference. Therefore, I am pleased that the conference was held with the participation of 189 young parliamentarians.

This was the first Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be hosted by an IPU member country. The current world situation includes a number of social and economic crises or other significant disputes that pose a serious threat to the development of international society. Young people, who make up one-fifth of the world's population, are being significantly affected, and this conference was held to discuss the subject of "Democracy, Peace, and Prosperity."

Discussions of this subject unfolded in light of the circumstances experienced by each of you in your own countries and regions, with questions that addressed the essence of the tasks faced by international society in general and young people in particular. Discussion of how to create resolutions for these problems produced the remarkable

outcome document that was just adopted. I believe this to be the result of a truly outstanding effort by all of you young parliamentarians.

I am certain that the outcome document will serve as a guideline when the parliaments and governments of our countries form policies in the future. I would like to express my respect to the chairpersons of the sessions and working groups, who conducted outstanding meetings, and to the co-rapporteurs, who drafted the outcome document.

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo was a continuation of the conference that was held in Geneva in October last year. The outcome document asks the IPU to continue to hold Global Conferences of Young Parliamentarians as a forum for the discussion of international social tasks that will have a significant impact on young people and their participation in the political process for many years to come and as an important opportunity for young parliamentarians who will lead future generations to come together.

On the stage are Mr. Chowdhury, President of the IPU, and Mr. Chungong, Secretary General, and I would like to emphasize to them the necessity of continuing to hold this conference.

Tomorrow we are planning to conduct a Kyoto excursion for you who have finished this two-day highly concentrated conference. I hope that you will ride the Shinkansen, which is a symbol of Japan's advanced technology, and enjoy a day in the ancient capital of Kyoto, which is a World Heritage site and has beautiful spring greenery.

In conclusion, I would like a big round of applause for what was a fulfilling and outstanding conference. Thank you.