

**Speech by Mr. Nobutaka Shionomiya,**

**Ambassador of Japan to Portugal,**

**On the occasion of the Portugal-Japan Cooperation Seminar on Smart Communities,**

**June 27th, 2012, Lisbon**

**Mr. Carlos Oliveira, Secretary of State for Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Innovation,**

**Mr. Hideo HATO, President of NEDO,**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Bom dia!**

**It is a pleasure for me to address you today at this seminar, held by the Ministry of Economy and Employment of Portugal, and NEDO of Japan.**

**This seminar is the first project since the letters of intent were exchanged between the Ministry and NEDO last March.**

**Our strong relationship between Japan and Portugal goes back to the 16th century. Yet it seems like our bilateral relationship today is not fully fulfilled to the level corresponding to our potential capabilities in many of the areas.**

**So, I truly hope that this seminar will contribute in expanding the future of the exchange of our two nations, especially in the field of economy.**

**Thus, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those involved in making this event happen.**

**Our nations face the same reality that we both lack in natural resources. We rely most of our fossil fuel on importation. Aside from the option of nuclear energy, we are looking for a further way to be more energy efficient, as well as to adopt and promote renewable energy.**

**In Japan, the importance of the renewable energy is increasing, due to the efforts of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> to address environmental issues, particularly after the great**

earthquake and nuclear accident occurred last year.

On the other hand, 50% of Portugal's total electricity is generated by renewable energy. Moreover, Portugal has adopted and promoted the Electric Mobility system within the society, energy saving system within buildings, for example.

Despite such efforts of Portugal, this is not so well known in Japan. I think that this seminar is therefore an excellent opportunity for further understanding each other's efforts and strengths of such a field.

Also, in this seminar, there will be a discussion of building the smart communities, bearing in mind for a future concrete bilateral cooperation. Building the smart communities is to, in the end, make a society comfortable for every one, including the aged and those who require extra assistance. This is a theme that perfectly matches with the human friendly characteristics of our cultures.

The need of such a field is not only for our two nations but also for the developing countries which are experiencing urbanization. Hence this can be a great business opportunity.

I heard that in Lisbon city, with the leadership of Mayor Dr. Costa, there are varieties of efforts made, such as regulations on gas emission, reducing traffic congestions, and energy saving measures in buildings. Taking the example of Portugal and Lisbon city, there are many things that Japan can learn from your experience. Simultaneously, I would like you to consider what Japan can do to help.

Finally, I hope that this seminar will be an epoch making event for creating a new era of cooperation for the prosperity of both countries, adding to our long friendship between Japan and Portugal.

Thank you very much for your attention.