

Speech by H.E. Mr. Nobutaka Shinomiya,
Ambassador of Japan to Portugal,
On the occasion of Reporting Session of
Basic Research on Lisbon Smart City Project
September 18th, 2013, Lisbon

Mr. Pedro Pereira Gonçalves, Secretary of State for Innovation, Investment,
and Competitiveness, Ministry of Economy,
Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Executive Director, NEDO,
Mr. Fernando Nunes da Silva, Counselor, City Council of Lisbon
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Boa tarde!

First of all, thank you for letting me speak at the final reporting session of
the NEDO's "Lisbon Smart City Project". This is one of the projects I kept
close attention to, during my mission as ambassador in Portugal.

Today I am glad to witness a remarkable progress in the project, just only
nine months after NEDO and Japanese companies commenced research
with their Portuguese counterparts in December 2012. We now have a clear
common vision for our joint project of introducing a smart community in
Portugal. This includes "smart mobility" and "smart energy systems" to be
established here through our cooperation.

In this session, we are going to talk about the next steps of the project, which include “Policy proposal for Traffic Control and Promoting Transportation” for the Smart Mobility system, and “Quest for more Efficient Energy Use”. The objective of this collaboration is to use cutting-edge technology in order to create a better society. The continuous enthusiastic efforts and passion from both sides took us where we are now. For this, I would like to thank the Portuguese Ministry of Economy, City of Lisbon, NEDO and all others for their valuable contribution.

This year, Japan and Portugal are celebrating the 470th anniversary of friendship, since our first encounter in the 16th century. The Embassy of Japan has been organizing a series of events all year long for this commemoration, which I believe further promoted our mutual understanding in various levels and allowed our friendship to get even stronger.

At the same time, it has also reminded us that our potential capabilities are not yet fulfilled, especially in the field of economic exchange. For this reason, I welcome the progress of the Joint Smart Community Project.

Needless to say, it is also important to keep in mind that the completion of this project must lead to a substantial future business activity.

In the following session, NEDO will present plan of possible next steps and what it takes to realize it. I believe that strong commitment by the responsible authorities and participants on both sides will determine the project's success. I hope this will lay down a solid foundation for building a more active business relationship between our two nations and take it to the next level.

I am also proud to say that such a kind of project involving the most advanced technology in the world is led by Japan and Portugal together. I am sure that this project will contribute to the development of the two countries and present a model for other societies.

Once again, let me express my sincere gratitude to all of you who took part in this project.

Lastly, allow me to make a personal announcement. My tenure as ambassador here will end shortly. I will be leaving Portugal early next month. I sincerely thank you for your kind support and cooperation during my three years here, and I truly hope that you will be as kind to my successor as you were to me. I wish your continued happiness and success in the future.

Muito obrigado!