

CO-CREATION OF THE FLOW OF CHANGE

2024 OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING KEYNOTE SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER KISHIDA FUMIO

AN EXCERPT

MAY 2, 2024

Full Text: https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202405/02mcm.html

On May 2, 2024, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio delivered a keynote speech as chair at the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He stated that Japan will serve as a bridge between the OECD and the Asian region and contribute to the OECD's future leadership of the global economy, as the international community faces multipolarity, division, and conflict 60 years after Japan joined it.

It is my great honor to serve as Chair of the Ministerial Council Meeting on this landmark 60th anniversary of Japan's accession to the OECD.

In addition to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, we have witnessed new horrors in the Middle East since last year, and many other conflicts are occurring around the globe.

We are also confronted with the aggravated crises of climate change and a series of natural disasters.

These shifts are having a profound impact on the global economy. We are facing inflation, disruptions in energy and food supplies, and risks of fragmentation in global supply chains. We are now at a crossroads in putting the world back on a stable growth path.

At the same time, at this turning point in history, the changes of era and hardships we are experiencing are also opportunities to realize a more prosperous life. Today, I would like to address the importance of uniting under the spirit of 'Co-creating the Flow of Change' and overcoming the crises facing the international community.

A fundamental strength of the OECD lies in its human resource of over 2,000 economists and its extensive data

and analytical capabilities which contribute to policy-making across nations.

In Japan, we are leveraging this expertise, including the "OECD Economic Survey of Japan" released this January, to transform initiatives to solve social challenges into new engines for growth.

Japan is advocating a New Form of Capitalism, transitioning from a cost-cutting to a growth-oriented economic model.

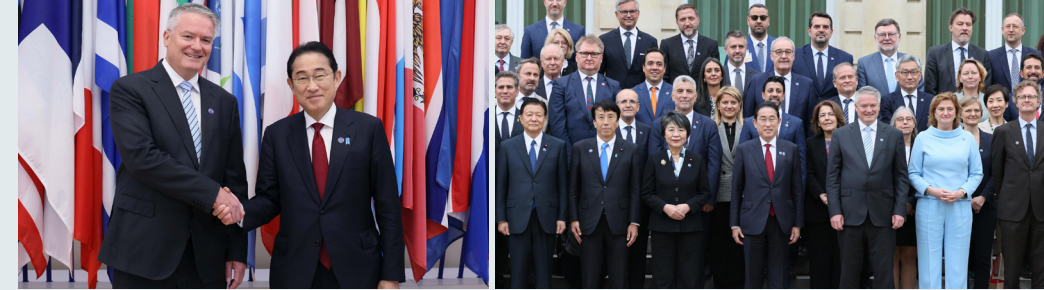
In alignment with OECD recommendations, Japan will advance its initiatives to increase productivity. Science and technology are the key to industrial structural transformation and the foundation to cultivate our future. We are bolstering support for new frontiers and innovation initiatives such as AI, autonomous driving, space, and overseas expansion of SMEs, as well as providing assistance to start-ups.

Japan attaches importance to promoting green transformation, aiming to simultaneously realize a stable energy supply, economic growth, and decarbonization. With this in mind, we will adopt the "Green Transformation National Strategy." Under the "Asia Zero Emission Community" platform, we will advocate an energy transition model to the international community that achieves the common goal of net-zero through innovation and various pathways.

Like other OECD members, Japan faces the challenge of a declining population. We are committed to reversing this trend as well as removing employment barriers for

Left: Prime Minister Kishida receiving greetings from Secretary-General Mathias Cormann of OECD.

Right: A commemorative photo by OECD officials.



women and the elderly in pursuit of sustainable growth.

Japan will continue to collaborate effectively with the OECD to shape better policies and create a significant flow of changes, together with member countries.

The Ministerial Council Meeting is a unique opportunity for countries with shared values to come together and discuss global and progressive issues.

We seek to deepen our discussions and reach a common understanding towards shaping a rules-based free and open international order. Japan will contribute to discussions drawing on its experiences and achievements as the holder of last year's G7 presidency.

Maintaining and expanding a rules-based, free and fair economic order, with the WTO at its core, remains on top of the international agenda. We need to discuss further the challenges facing free and open trade and investment, as well as sustainability and inclusivity in trade, both of which form the foundation of the international economic order.

In recent years, we also need to strengthen our cooperation to ensure economic resilience and economic security. The OECD can contribute to the members' efforts by forming global standards through objective analyses and assessments. At this Ministerial Council Meeting, we will have a separate dedicated session to discuss economic resilience and economic security.

The climate crisis is a challenge common to all humankind that cannot be postponed. We must address issues concerning climate change, biodiversity, and environmental pollution in an integrated manner. As we pursue the transformation towards net-zero, circular, and nature-positive economies, let us advance discussions to foster synergies among these efforts.

The OECD's data and analytical capabilities on Official Development Assistance (ODA), along with the promotion of OECD standards, are crucial to attract private investment and address the development financing needs of developing countries.

Digital technology is one of the areas where the OECD can leverage its strengths the most, and we expect the OECD to continue playing a central role moving forward. The OECD has also been at the forefront of international

discussions on AI, including the development of AI principles. Building on the outcomes of the Hiroshima AI Process, we will advance discussions towards achieving safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.

I have just announced the establishment of the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group. Let us collaborate as nations united by a common purpose to address the universal opportunities and risks brought about by AI, and work towards achieving safe, secure, and trustworthy AI. We will also make steady progress on operationalizing Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), which forms the foundation of these efforts.

Sixty years ago, Japan became the first Asian country to join the OECD, marking a significant step in re-engaging with the international community.

Sixty years later, as the international community has undergone significant changes, facing multipolarity, division and conflict, and as uncertainty and opacity have increased, the OECD needs to change too. It has become increasingly important for the OECD, which shares common values, to extend its outreach to non-member countries around the world.

Rather than imposing values, it is essential for the OECD to act as a companion in growth and development. This should be done by embracing the concept of 'co-creation' and closely aligning with the needs of others.

From this perspective, we welcome countries from Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia that are joining hands with the OECD on the road to accession.

We are pleased with the positive developments in establishing a framework for cooperation between Africa and the OECD.

This year, we have seen historic developments, including the adoption of accession roadmaps for Argentina and Indonesia, and Thailand's application for membership. Strengthening ties with increasingly important regions represents the future direction for the OECD.

As one of the few Asian members, Japan will continue to act as a bridge between the OECD and the Asian region, contributing to the OECD's continued leadership in the global economy.



Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio delivered a speech at the Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches Ministerial Dialogue co-hosted by the OECD and Japan, which chaired the 2024 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting.

ANNOUNCED
ON
MAY 2, 2024

THE HIROSHIMA AI PROCESS FRIENDS GROUP KICKS OFF

The Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group, a voluntary framework of countries supporting the spirit of the Hiroshima AI Process, was kicked off with the participation of 49 countries and regions in May 2024 at a side event of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting “Towards Safe, Secure and Trustworthy AI: Promoting Inclusive Global AI Governance.” Prime Minister Kishida said at that event, “As AI is an innovative technology that affects

humanity at large, it is important that many countries share a common understanding on its use and development.” The Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group will work to implement the International Guiding Principles and the Code of Conduct and promote cooperation to ensure that people all over the world can benefit from the use of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.

*For more information on the Hiroshima AI process, see the article below.

Prime Minister Kishida giving a speech at the Side Event on Generative AI.



THE HIROSHIMA AI PROCESS: LEADING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE TO SHAPE INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE FOR GENERATIVE AI

AN EXCERPT

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Full Text: https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/2024/02/hiroshima_ai_process.html

Amid the growing global debate over advanced artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as generative AI, the Hiroshima AI Process was launched by the G7 under Japan's presidency in May 2023, with the aim of promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy AI. This article delves into the significance of its output, the Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework—the world's first international effort toward that end.

The rapid development and spread of advanced AI systems such as generative AI have become an important global issue in recent years. The Hiroshima AI Process was launched in May 2023 for

international discussion, following the Leaders' direction at the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan's presidency. Recognizing the need to build up and promote inclusive global governance on AI in order to maximize its innovative

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, leaders confirmed the need for generative AI governance and agreed to establish the Hiroshima AI Process as a forum for further discussion.



opportunities while mitigating the risks and challenges from advanced AI systems, work began on establishing international rules to serve as the foundation of such governance. And in December of last year, agreement was reached on the world's first international framework, known as the Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework.

The framework presents a set of elements, including both the “Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles for All AI Actors” and the “Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems.” The International Guiding Principles are the set of principles that should be applied to all actors across the AI lifecycle. In addition to principles mainly geared toward AI developers, such as publicly reporting advanced AI systems' capabilities and domains of inappropriate use, and protecting intellectual property, they also include those that call on users to improve digital literacy dealing with

such risks as disinformation.

The International Code of Conduct, on the other hand, lists in more detail the actions that AI developers must abide by. A certain level of abstraction is employed in the wording of both the International Guiding Principles and the International Code of Conduct so that stakeholders from various perspectives can agree on them. Yet at the same time, the International Code of Conduct also contains some references that are more detailed, ranging from examples of risks requiring the attention of developers to the development and deployment of technology enabling users to identify AI-generated content.

From now on, the G7 plans to expand outreach to partner governments to broaden support for the International Guiding Principles and the International Code of Conduct, and to further advance the Hiroshima AI Process by intensifying coordination and cooperation across multilateral forums including at the OECD and the United Nations

(UN). Japan is slated to inaugurate the AI Safety Institute, whose roles will include conducting research on AI safety evaluation methods. The country additionally plans to establish the Tokyo Center of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)—an international public-private partnership—to conduct research and analysis on generative AI.

With the goal of promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy AI, Japan will promote the outcomes of the Hiroshima AI Process while continuing to strengthen global dialogue and cooperation. ●

Prime Minister Kishida participated online in the inaugural AI Safety Summit hosted by the U.K. in November 2023. He stated that he would like to work closely with such efforts to drive the creation of rules that would benefit the international community as a whole.

