

**Statement by Mr. Hiroshi Ohki  
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**President of the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties  
to the United Nations Framework Convention (COP3)  
at the High-Level Segment of COP3**

**8 December 1997  
Kyoto International Conference Hall**

Honorable Ministers, Honored guests, Distinguished delegates, and  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great honor for me to serve this Conference as President. I wish to take this occasion to express my sincere thanks to all participants of the Conference for their support and cooperation shown during the last week. It is my sincere hope that the same spirit of cooperation will also prevail for our crucial work in the next few days in order to lead the Conference to a successful conclusion.

The Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - the COP3 - is a very important Conference to make real progress on the global climate change problem as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I assure you that I will continue to exert my utmost efforts to discharge my duty as President, and I sincerely hope that I can rely on your support and assistance for achieving successful outcomes here in Kyoto.

I am pleased to report that the Conference has made substantial progress through intensive discussions over the last week, without a break for the weekend. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Members of the Bureau of the Conference, and Ambassador Estrada, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, for their outstanding work. At the same time, I would like to thank Mr. Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the FCCC and his staff members for their tireless efforts.

There still remain a number of important issues to be negotiated by those of us who attend the High-Level Segment of Ministers and other Heads of Delegation in the coming days. I have confidence that we will be able to make a breakthrough in the negotiation in order to achieve the final agreement by the end of December 10<sup>th</sup>. In order to do so, I would like you to consider the following approaches:

First, it is the developed countries that must take the lead in committing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. I trust that Ministers have come to Kyoto with the strong political will needed to achieve this goal.

I fully recognize that developing countries have already started to make great efforts to mitigate climate change. In order to ensure current commitments and facilitate further actions by all Parties, I welcome the voluntary initiatives taken by a number of developing countries to combat climate change.

I appeal to my colleagues to exert all efforts in order to meet this critical global challenge. The challenge is demanding us to change our course, which we have taken for granted for a long time. The change may not always be comfortable, and may bring some pain. However, united, we will be able to do more than would be possible individually. Let us then unite in our common endeavor to move forward toward a solution.

A lot of work has been done in order to get us here in Kyoto, which makes this Kyoto Conference uniquely ripe for our critical decision. To avoid irreversible planetary damages, I am confident that the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation, gathered here, representing the citizens of the earth, will take concerted and decisive action to seek a lasting solution to this global challenge.

Let us not let this invaluable opportunity slip through our fingers.

Thank you very much.