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ADDRESS OF WELCOME

MAYOR OF KYOTO

YORIKANE MASUMOTO

**The 3rd Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change**

Kyoto, December 1st, 1997

Mayor's Speech for the Opening Ceremony

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Kyoto.

As the Mayor of Kyoto City, and with 1.46 million Kyoto citizens, I would like to give a hearty welcome to you all who are visiting our city from all over the world to participate in the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. On behalf of the host city, I am very honored to give an address at this occasion.

4.6 billion years have passed since the birth of the earth, and this earth is now suffering from damage caused by none other than us, the humankind. Taking an immensely long time, the global environment became a place in which all kinds of creatures can live. However, this environment has been rapidly impaired due to our insatiable desire for progress and unsustainable use of limited resources.

Under these circumstances, it is our responsibility to save the suffering earth, restore the global environment, and hand it over to the future generations.

As the host city of this Conference, Kyoto City has been doing its utmost in the following three areas:

Firstly, we have been seizing every possible opportunity to raise awareness of Kyoto citizens as well as citizens of other cities in Japan regarding the urgency of combatting global warming and the significance of this Conference. On July 19 of last year, it was decided that the Conference would be held in Kyoto. Since then, we have been conveying these points to citizens as well as people in the business sector and governments by holding more than 120 events and projects. I feel that these events and projects have been very effective.

Secondly, as a local government, Kyoto City has been taking the initiative in deciding and promoting measures to combat global warming. We have drawn up the "Kyoto City Regional Promotional Plan to Help Stop Global Warming"

with the aim of reducing CO2 emissions by 10% from the 1990 level by 2010.

In addition, in cooperation with citizens and people in the business sector, we have created "Miyako Agenda 21" as an action plan to implement the Program.

Based on these two plans, we are about to start specific measures, and I am convinced that these are the best feasible measures at the level of local governments.

Thirdly, with the spirit of hospitality, Kyoto citizens and I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all the participants from all over the world.

Kyoto has history and tradition of more than 1200 years, and within the city, there are many historic and cultural stocks including 14 world heritage sites which have been registered at UNESCO. These heritages, combined with beautiful nature, create a city which is called "a place dear to the heart of every Japanese." I will be very much delighted if all the participants take this opportunity to experience the beautiful nature and culture of Kyoto which is a world-famous ancient city.

The 21st century is coming soon, and we have to concentrate the wisdom from all over the world to save the future of the global environment, which is a foundation for the existence of all creatures. Therefore, I earnestly hope, along with 1.46 million Kyoto citizens and all people of this earth, that an effective 'Kyoto Protocol' will be adopted and this Conference will reach a successful conclusion.