

Message from Mr. Okada, Foreign Minister of Japan
on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the ISTC establishment

Ladies and gentlemen

“I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on celebration of the 15th Anniversary of ISTC establishment.

ISTC has responded to threats of “brain proliferation” related to the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and has achieved remarkable success in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear terrorism. These achievements owe a lot on efforts by all the parties concerned such as Russia, other countries of the Former Soviet Union, the funding Parties and the ISTC Secretariat. Since the inception of the ISTC, Japan, as an original member, has also provided assistance worth more than 65 million US dollars, including private sector’s contribution to over 250 projects. I am proud of the contribution made together with all of you.

For 15 years since its establishment, the ISTC has been faced with a series of changing challenges such as situation of Russia and non-proliferation, progress of science and technology and so on. I know that the ISTC is in search for a new future course. Japan had a change of government last September. The new administration, led by Prime Minister Hatoyama, has been claiming “Change” and reviewing many issues from scratch. Disarmament and non-proliferation is one of the foreign policy priorities of the new administration. I would like to keep my eyes on ISTC’s efforts toward self-reform.

I would like to conclude my message, appreciating great efforts of all those concerned and wishing all of you prosperity and good health.”