

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Takashi Yanagawa, the President of the Japan Economic Policy Association.

Welcome to Naha, Okinawa, and Japan. It is my great pleasure to be here with all of you to have the 16th international conference of the JEPA, the Japan Economic Policy Association.

The main theme of this year's conference is "Deregulation and Stable Growth Policy to Overcome the Deceleration of the World Economy". We have 2 plenary sessions and 3 guest speakers from abroad, namely, Professor Guido PEPERMANS from KU Leuven, Belgium, Professor XiaoPing CHEN, from Nanyang Technology University, Singapore, and Professor Tien DAO Ngoc from Foreign Trade University, Vietnam. Thank you very much for coming to the JEPA conference.

In addition to the plenary sessions, we have regular sessions. This year we have about 80 presentations in total. The total participants of this conference are about 200. Here we have many experts from academics and non-academics. We anticipate exciting discussions related to the policy issues.

I would like to introduce the Japan Economic Policy Association very briefly. This association was established in 1940, 77 years ago. It is one of the oldest associations in the field of economics in Japan.

JEPA holds two academic conferences every year; one is the annual meeting held in Japanese in spring, and the other is the international conference held in English in autumn. This year, JEPA had the 74th annual meeting, and this is the 16th international conference. It is very exceptional that a Japanese association of economics has an English conference regularly.

JEPA also publishes two academic journals; one is the Journal of the Economic Policy Studies published mainly in Japanese, and the other is the International Journal of Economic Policy Studies in English. We call the English Journal IJEPS. IJEPS was first issued in 2006 and recently the Vol.11 of IJEPS was published.

JEPA is the only one academic association in Japan that specializes in the

broad study of economic policy, and such kind of association is very rare in the foreign countries, too. In that sense, JEPA hopes and needs to play an important role in the study of economic policy studies in the world, especially in Asia.

To make JEPA more attractive and more accessible from the world, we are thinking of publishing IJEPS from a world-famous publisher in the near future. So please submit your precious paper to IJEPS. "Call for Papers" is printed in the Proceeding. From the new volume, Special Feature will start. The theme of the 2 plenary sessions will be the special features in the coming first volume of the NEW IJEPS. So please submit a paper on the energy reform and free trade agreement.

Last but not the least; I would like to thank all the members of the program committee and the managing committee. Especially, special thanks should be given to

Professor Maeda, the Chair of the International Committee, Professor Hayashi, the Vice Chair of the International Committee, Professor Satake, the Chair of the Program Committee,

Professor Yaoita, the Vice Chair of the Program Committee, Professor Nakahira, the Secretary General of the Program Committee,

Professor Nagahara, the Vice Secretary General,

Professor Oshiro, the Chair of the Managing Committee, and Professor Ishida, the Vice Chair of the Managing Committee. Without their efforts, this conference was not realized.

Finally, I hope all of you enjoy not only earnest discussion, but also a nice art-attraction of Okinawa after the plenary session, banquet and wonderful surrounding sightseeing spots, so that your visit to this conference becomes an unforgettable experience.

Thank you.