

Greetings

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I am Hiroyuki Kurata, a parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Hajime Tamura, the Minister of this ministry, was to be here in person to address you, but his attendance at Diet sessions prevents him from doing so. In his place, I shall deliver his greetings.

I would like to extend my greetings to the participants in the International Conference on Fifth Generation Computer Systems 1988.

I would also like to welcome all of you who have travelled great distances from so many different countries all over the world in order to attend this conference.

I also extend my deep feelings of appreciation and respect to the members of ICOT and others who have worked so diligently to make this conference a reality.

Looking at the current world economic situation, while there is an overall upward trend, there is a great imbalance between the major economic powers and the rest of the world. The developing countries have tremendous accumulated debts which show no sign of alleviation and which are causing great problems. There are signs of apprehension as the world struggles to maintain the stability of the free-trade system which

has been the backbone of world economic development up until now.

At present we can see the degree to which interdependence in world economics has spread. Japan's GNP is now more than one-tenth of that of the entire world. It is vital that we come to look upon our country as 'Japan: A Global Partner,' and that we seriously undertake to solve some of the problems which face other countries, using our economic and technological wealth to the purpose of creating harmony in world economics.

It is at times like these that the countries who are at the front line of scientific achievement must join hands and renew the determination to preserve the principals of techno-globalism.

In 1982, Japan was the first country to make plans for fifth generation computers. This project was begun as a service to the international field of computer science. It is according to this, of course, that this particular symposium is offered. It is our greatest desire to ensure that, for the promotion of research, the world's research institutes should come together for an exchange of knowledge.

Thanks to all of you, our plans for fifth generation computers are proceeding on schedule, and we are exceedingly pleased to

be able to present here the results of the primary and intermediate stages; a total of seven years of research.

It is my fervent hope that, at this meeting of the world experts in computer science, that, along with reports on our Fifth Generation Computer Systems project, there can be exchanges of information on similar projects which are currently being pursued in countries all over the world.

I would like to conclude my greetings by expressing my desire for the original goals of this symposium to be met, for the progress of information science across the globe, and, as a result, for the development of the world economic situation to the advantage of all of its citizens.

Thank you very much.