

**Statement by Ambassador Ichiro FUJISAKI
Permanent Representative of Japan in Geneva
on the 92nd Session of IOM Council
(30th November, 2006)**

It is a great honor for me to attend the IOM Council.

Quickly, three points.

1. IOM has been, is and will continue to play significant role in international arena.

First reason.

As we all know, the movement of people in the international arena has been on the rise and will continue to be so. This includes regular labor movement, refugees and displaced persons. The IOM has taken a significant role in tackling these issues through capacity building, humanitarian assistance, raising awareness, and through dialogue and cooperation with other related organizations such as the GMG (Global Migration Group). Today, we cannot manage situations in many countries without an organization specializing in migration.

Second reason.

The IOM's response is rapid and effective. This is due to its flexibility and service-oriented nature. I understand that appreciation for this flexibility has been shared among many during the on-going discussion on IOM strategy.

Third reason.

We appreciate the IOM's efforts toward cost effectiveness through streamlining and restructuring. Delocalization to the Manila administrative center is a good

example. We hope the new Panama administrative center will be as successful. We understand that some UN organizations are looking to the IOM's cost-effectiveness measures as a model.

2. Having said that, we are concerned that the excellent effort is not shared fully amongst high-levels of member countries. To remedy the situation, it may be an idea for the Director-General himself to hold an annual or bi-annual high-level session with heads of delegation to brief and discuss with us the issues and challenges IOM is facing. ICRC president's session could be taken as a model.

3. It is with this understanding that Japan has been working with the IOM. With "Human security", a concept Japan is promoting, the IOM has been a significant partner. For example, we have been operating a program in Aceh together with IOM for the reintegration of former combatants and amnestied prisoners, and we have also started a project with IOM to assist the return and reintegration of trafficking victims in Japan.

Thank you.