

Welcome speech to the 2008 Kyoto Annual Conference
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

As all of us here have found, the 6th ICN annual conference has been very productive and well organised. We have been able to enjoy discussing various issues, candidly exchanging our opinions with our colleagues, and I am sure that the 6th annual conference has further strengthened the cooperation among competition authorities in the world.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Artemyev and all the staff of the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation (FAS), for their great hospitality extended to all of us and significant efforts for the success of this annual conference.

Having just concluded a successful annual conference in Moscow, let me turn to the next year.

The next annual conference will be held in Kyoto, Japan, from Monday April 14, 2008, to Thursday 16, starting with a welcome reception on Sunday April 13. It is quite honour and pleasure for us to host the ICN annual conference. I hope that the next Kyoto conference will be able to provide another opportunity to strengthen our partnership.

Since I joined the JFTC as Chairman in 2002, I have always been saying “no economic growth without sound competition”. And I have done my best to strengthen the Japanese competition enforcement through various measures including a substantial amendment of the Japanese Antimonopoly Act in 2005. In addition, in view of increasing importance of international cooperation among competition authorities while the economy is getting globalised, the JFTC has been working on strengthening the relationship with other competition authorities and also actively engaging in the works in multilateral frameworks in general and the ICN in particular.

To deepen the relationship among authorities, I believe that the better understanding of the cultural background of the other country would be of great help. That is why I have chosen Kyoto, an ancient capital as well as a

representative of the Japanese culture and tradition, as the venue. I strongly hope that everyone here and your colleagues in your agency will come to Kyoto to establish more robust and active cooperation with each other and enjoy the Japanese traditional culture as well. We also would like all of you to enjoy the spring season of Kyoto, which is popular for the beautiful cherry blossom. Moreover, there are many Japanese traditional gardens, shrines, temples, historically loved scenery, and so on, all of which would make your visit a greater one.

Anyway, seeing is believing. Please see the short video of Kyoto and the conference venue.

< VIDEO > (around 6 minutes)

I think the video has provided you with some impression on the venue of the next conference. Needless to say, however, this video has shown just a part of Kyoto. We hope all of you will experience the beautiful spring of Kyoto and the Japanese culture, and, of course, another round of fruitful discussion on competition law and policy at the annual conference.

Now I would like to sincerely invite all of you and your colleagues to the Kyoto annual conference. We are waiting for everyone to come.

Thank you and see you in Kyoto next year.