

PRESIDENCY PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE FOLLOWING THE G20 OSAKA SUMMIT



The press conference by the President of the G20 Osaka Summit

ON June 29, 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a Presidency press conference at the G20 Osaka Summit. The Prime Minister stated:

It was a great pleasure to welcome leaders from around the world to Osaka and host the G20 Summit in Japan, which held the G20 presidency for the first time.

“The world can unite.”

I made my best efforts as President of the summit with such conviction. It is difficult to find instant solutions to various challenges. Nevertheless, at this year's Summit, we were able to demonstrate to the world the strong will of the G20 countries in many fields.

I was focused on one thing: to lay out a sustainable growth path towards future which is beneficial to all countries.

The world economy still faces downside risks due to trade tensions. The G20 shared the determination to take further actions and lead strong economic growth while paying attention to such circumstances.

Amid deepening globalization, concerns and dissatisfaction over the rapid changes are generating even interstate

conflicts. In response to concerns over the precarious postwar free trading system, we need to firmly set out principles that will guide the world economy going forward.

Free, fair, non-discriminatory. Open markets, level playing field. At this G20 Summit, we were able to explicitly confirm such fundamental principles of free trade.

Meanwhile, the reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is unavoidable. It is the reality that the WTO has not necessarily been able to adapt to recent developments, including globalization and digitalization.

In an era of rapid evolution of Big Data, artificial intelligence (AI), and the fourth industrial revolution, we need to create new rules on data—a source of added value. This was an important theme at this year's summit.

At this Summit, we declared the launch of the “Osaka Track,” a process that aims to promote rule-making under the “Data Free Flow with Trust” concept.

We will speedily advance international rule-making to ensure cross-border data free flow while protecting privacy and security. This will no doubt breathe new life into the WTO reform process.

Marine plastic litter is another issue which cannot be resolved by some countries alone. Under such circum-

stances, the fact that the G20 was able to unite and share the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision,” which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, represents a major step forward towards resolving this issue.

We also agreed on a concrete implementation framework for achieving this vision. Japan will fully leverage its technologies and experience to support waste management and human resources development in developing countries and contribute to the global efforts to address this issue making the most of its characteristics.

While globalization supports economic growth, it also in turn widens disparities. The G20 must address this squarely and ensure that the fruits of growth reach all corners of society.

Education enhancement is the greatest key to sustainable economic growth. I confirmed with the other G20 leaders our determination to aim for a world where all girls can have access to quality education for at least 12 years.

In this world where emphasis tends to be overly placed on confrontations, we look for common ground and points of agreement. Under an approach unique to Japan, at this Osaka Summit, the G20 unites and sends a strong message regarding global issues. This has provided a major impetus towards concrete actions.



The Prime Minister attending the group photo session