



## Italy-Japan Business Group

21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, 16-17 September 2009

“Toward Future strengthening of the bilateral relationship”

### Joint Communiqué

Tokyo, 16-17 September 2009

#### 1. Introduction

The Italy-Japan Business Group (hereafter referred to as “IJBG”) aims to finding ways for strengthening relationship between Italy and Japan through industrial cooperations between Italian and Japanese communities.

The identification of areas of collaboration (products and services), the promotion of innovation and high tech and the business expansion in third countries are among IJBG’s first priorities in creating business opportunities in response to the new demand generated by global challenges including climate changes.

Such international coordination through industrial cooperation is a key factor to overcome the world’s financial crisis arisen in the second half of 2008 and still affecting the world’s economy.

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September in Tokyo, business leaders from Italy and Japan met during their General Assembly of IJBG. The General Assembly was co-chaired by Mr. Giorgio ZAPPA, Chief Operating Officer of Finmeccanica, and Mr. Yoshiharu FUKUHARA, Honorary Chairman of SHISEIDO.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the IJBG General Assembly has been honored by a welcome speech given by the President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano who was in Japan for an Official visit.

In order to achieve the above objectives, IJBG established four working-groups, “Interchange among Small and Medium-sized Enterprise”, “Rules and Regulations”, “Energy”, “Natural Disaster Management”, in this year’s general assembly.

The four working-groups have prepared specific proposals and recommendations on how to further develop Italy-Japan relations by also identifying possible solutions to overcome obstacles and bureaucratic difficulties.

Further efforts should be envisaged to encourage an industrial collaboration including transfer of know how and technology between Japanese and Italian companies in high technology sectors such as: nano technologies, technologies for the production of renewable energy, ICT systems for satellite control, aerospace and management of natural calamities, all sectors in which the two countries possess points of excellence at international level.

IJBG members shared a view on the importance of EU-Japan economic relationship to facilitate bilateral business activities and believe that strengthening Italy-Japan economic relationship would lead to enhance EU-Japan economic relationship. Therefore, IJBG supports business dialogues between EU and Japan including the activity of the EU-Japan Business Round Table to attain further EU-Japan economic integration. In this regard, IJBG members welcomed deepening discussion on Economic Integration Agreement (EIA) between two economies.

This year's General Assembly was the last one under the Japanese co-chairmanship of Mr.FUKUHARA. IJBG members thanked him for his strong commitment to IJBG and all the work he has done over the ten years to strengthen Italy-Japan relations. They warmly and unanimously welcomed Mr.Kazuo TSUKUDA, Chairman of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, LTD as his successor.

## 2. Recommendations and Proposals

### 2 - 1 Small and Medium-sized Enterprise cooperation

The proportion of SME in both countries is more than 99%. SME activity is an essential factor for economic conditions of both countries. This year IJBG focuses on the bilateral cooperation in the area of Nano Technology through exchanging experiences and pursuing collaboration between industrial clusters in Miyagi & Piemonte, as well as Nagano & Veneto. Through the IJBG, both industrial clusters recognized their potential for possible future cooperation and the importance of further exchange in mutual interest.

IJBG believes that these discussions need to be developed to enhance advanced technology and innovation in both countries.

## 2 - 2 Rules and Regulations

The members discussed issues relating to improving business environment in both countries.

They also welcomed the initiatives for deepening economic relations between Japan and EU and committed to work together for its realization.

### a) Industrial Standard and safety basis for Television

Necessity for the introduction of Italian industrial standard and safety basis for television was discussed. Both sides agreed to further follow up the issue.

### b) Working Permit and Visa

Both sides discussed speeding up issuance of working permit and Visa in Italy. Japanese side appreciated recently introduced measures by Italy to simplify and speed up the issuance of working permits for highly qualified personnel. Italian side also explained that specific attention is being given inside the Italian Ministry of Interior to Japanese applications in full coordination with Japanese Embassy. Japanese side expressed improvement of visa systems in EU as well as Italy is necessary. Both sides agreed to pursue further improvement and to follow up the issue.

### c) Fight against counterfeit goods

The problem of counterfeit goods is both growing and becoming more dangerous. Counterfeit goods present a danger to consumer health, consumer safety, and economic health (including job market, competitiveness, trade, and investment in R&D). Both Italy and Japan have highly innovative technologies. It is in our common interest to protect these technologies within and beyond our borders. IJBG urges both governments to conclude ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) as quickly as possible.

Japanese side also explained the ongoing efforts for creating Patent Prosecution Highway and both sides agreed to follow up the issue.

## 2 - 3 Energy

Italian and Japanese business leaders have discussed potential cooperation in

the area of “Smart Grid”, “Renewable Energy” and “Nuclear Energy” recognizing that developing global warming countermeasure technology is among the first priority for human being. IJBG believes that such cooperation will contribute to the construction of the “low carbon society”.

#### 2 - 4 Natural disaster management

The members extended their deep condolences to the families of the victims of L'Aquila earthquake.

Italy and Japan have similar geological risks such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunami , etc. The members discussed possible future cooperation to minimize the risk using high technologies solutions under development in both countries.