

Statement by Minister Mari Miyoshi
On the 30th Committee on Information
29 April 2008

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Committee on Information, and I am confident that the 30th Session of the Committee will be successfully conducted under your able leadership. Japan will extend its full support to you and the bureau of the Committee and actively participate in the discussion. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Kiyo Akasaka for his comprehensive briefing on the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) as well as yesterday's interactive dialogue. I hope that DPI will continue to work to enhance its effectiveness, fulfill accountability, and actively engage in public relations activities.

As the Secretary-General's Report touched upon, DPI set the four priority themes in January 2008 to be development, peace and security, human rights, and climate change. We highly commend DPI's efforts to prioritize themes, as it is inevitable for DPI to identify priorities and strategically tell the world, promptly and accurately, about the roles and missions of the United Nations. In 2007, with particular thanks to the leadership and commitment of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the high level event on Climate Change in September and the Conference of the Parties of Climate Change in Bali in December brought about world-wide media coverage and fostered greater awareness by the global community. Japan hopes that DPI will continue to enhance its efficiency by coordinating within its organization, networking with other UN organizations, and creating partnerships with civil societies among others within its existing resources in light of the importance of financial discipline.

Japan supported the DPI's Strategic Communications Workshop for Asia and the Pacific which was held in Bangkok in January 2008, and attended by officials of DPI as well as Directors of the United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) in the Asia and Pacific region. We sincerely hope that the workshop helped DPI to strengthen its efforts in capacity building and networking for the UNICs in the region.

