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**Statement by Senior Vice Minister Motoo Hayashi
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan**

The twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

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In March of last year, Japan hosted the 3rd World Water Forum. It drew 24,000 people from around the world and became the largest international event of its kind in Japan's history. This would not have been possible without your cooperation and support, and I take this opportunity to thank all the parties involved once again.

Last month Secretary-General Annan established the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation under the chairmanship of ex-Prime Minister Hashimoto. Also, in January 2005, Japan will host the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Thus we are profoundly aware of the great responsibility Japan has within international society regarding these issues. At the 3rd World Water Forum, the Ministerial Conference produced a Ministerial Declaration consisting of 29 sections and created the Portfolio of Water Actions compiling approximately 500 voluntary programmes from around the world as specific outputs of the conference. During the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development we hosted side events on the Portfolio of Water Actions. In cooperation with other countries and international organizations, we hope to make significant progress in this vitally important area. We also welcome further involvement by the UN in the Portfolio of Water Actions and other initiatives for the effective solution of water and sanitation issues.

On a related subject, Japan will continue efforts to promote integrated water resources management on a global scale. In addition to helping to develop water supply and sanitation facilities, we regard initiatives for flood and debris flow disaster measures as of great importance as we see more and more suffering and

damage being caused by such disasters in Asia and other regions around the world. For this reason, since the 3rd World Water Forum, Japan has been actively engaged in creating the “International Flood Network” for the reduction of the damage caused by flooding, the “International Sabo Network” for the reduction of damage caused by debris flows, and, in cooperation with other countries and international organizations involved in this area, the “Network of Asian River Basin Organizations” for the purpose of enabling river basin management organizations in Asia to share information.

We welcome the active contributions of other countries and international organizations in this and other related efforts.