Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:

○ Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Yuji Kuroiwa, and I am Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, the second largest prefecture in Japan, with a population of over nine million.

○ In these difficult times, I would first like to express my deepest respect and gratitude to all those fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Vibrant Inochi)
○ For the past 10 years since I have taken office, Kanagawa has been working to make sure that all our citizens lead happy, vibrant lives or “Vibrant Inochi”.

○ Inochi is a Japanese word usually translated as “life” in English, but it has a broader meaning, that includes purpose in life, healthy longevity, full of laughter, good environment, community, all grounded in its essential part — diversity.

○ And you could say that “Vibrant Inochi” embodies the SDGs themselves.
It is impossible for no one to die or no one to get sick. But, we can create a society where everyone can have “Vibrant Inochi”.

(Toward this ultimate goal, we have developed a smartphone app as a personal health check to manage and visualize our own daily health status. We also have a special app that can analyze our state of mind just by the sound of our voice.)

This kind of daily health management is vital to respond to COVID-19.

(We can also make use of “Digital Transformation” including big data, AI, and ICT.)

Another smartphone app uses AI to give advice on COVID-19 based on health status, and informs the user if they have come into close contact with a COVID-19-positive patient.)
To protect ourselves from infection, we have pushed forward with telecommuting, remote diagnosis, virtual conferencing, and so on.

"Digital Transformation" is exactly what we need to control outbreaks like COVID-19.

The world faces a huge challenge but I believe this is a great chance to accelerate the SDGs, for “Building back better”.

So in spring next year, Kanagawa will join with UNDP to hold the SDGs Action Festival.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude my speech, by saying that we must work together to achieve the SDGs and “Vibrant Inochi” with “Mission, Passion and Action”! Thank you very much.