

May 20, 2023
Japan Foreign Trade Council

Today, Fumiya Kokubu, Chairman of the Japan Foreign Trade Council, attended the G7 Hiroshima Summit side-event on Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) and made the following speech.

Good evening everyone, I am honored to be at this side event today.

The Japan Foreign Trade Council is an industry organization representing various types of trade related entities, one of which are so called “Sogo Shosha” or diversified trading conglomerates. We are a group of unique firms involved in a broad range of businesses worldwide, from upstream to downstream in the supply chains of many different industries.

In infrastructure development, the Sogo Shosha organize projects in their entirety. Not only do we act as investors, we are also involved in initial project planning, structuring the overall financing, overseeing the construction as well as operations and maintenance management.

We have a long and proven track record not only in renewable energy, but also in public transportation which helps lower carbon emissions, desalination projects to tackle water shortages and many others.

We believe the key to the success of infrastructure projects is the good coordination and collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders, from MDBs, private investors, government regulators to local communities. The way the Sogo Shosha work through communication to benefit all stakeholders fits well with PGII’s philosophy of promoting “quality infrastructure investment” through public-private partnership.

We are now at a critical juncture in human history highlighted by the importance of upholding the principle of a free and open international order based on the rule of law. So, we welcome PGII as an initiative that can help to protect and enhance this principle. And we expect that the governments and other stakeholders around the table will work

together hand in hand to further improve the investment environment and promote public-private partnerships.

Thank you for your kind attention.



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