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**REMARKS BY H.E. SHIGERU NAKAMURA
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF JAPAN
AT DINNER TALK HOSTED BY JAPAN
25th ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE
SHANGRI-LA HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR
31 May 2011**

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan,
Chairman, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Mahani Zainal Abidin,
Chief Executive of ISIS Malaysia

Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening to all of you present here. I wish to extend my congratulations to the successful opening of the 25th Asia-Pacific Roundtable by Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Haji Mohamed Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia yesterday. It is my great pleasure to be here at this function for the Asia-Pacific Roundtable in its silver anniversary year, and please allow me to say a few words on this occasion.

Over a quarter of a century since its inception in 1987, the Asia-Pacific Roundtable as the region's major Track Two forum has been offering invaluable opportunity for the leading policy makers, advisors, opinion leaders, and researchers, to network together and engage in candid exchanges concerning various challenges we face in the region. The topics of the Roundtable have run the gamut from traditional and non-traditional security issues to regional economic subjects.

In this regard, I welcome all the participants in this Dinner Talk, and wish to pay my deep respect to Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Dato' Mahani of ISIS Malaysia and its staff as well as the people from ASEAN ISIS for their hard work for making this valuable forum possible again this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This evening, Professor Hiroshi Nakanishi of Kyoto University Graduate School of Law will make a presentation entitled "Japan and the United States: Where is the alliance headed?"

Professor Nakanishi has also been taking active part as one of the leading intellectuals assisting the current Japanese administration as a member of "the Council on Security and Defense Capabilities in the New Era". Professor Nakanishi is the most suitable person as the speaker on this topic, and I hope there will be brisk and fruitful discussions at this event.

Taking this opportunity, please allow me to say a few words on Japan - Malaysia joint efforts addressing security issues in this region.

One of the issues is through cooperation initiated by ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Early this month from May 8-11, "Symposium on the Dynamics of Youth and Terrorism" was held here in Kuala Lumpur as a part of projects conducted under the framework of Japan-ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Dialogue. The symposium was funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), and organized by Malaysia's Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT). Additionally, this week Japan and Malaysia are co-chairing the 9th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ARF ISM-CTTC) which started yesterday. The Meeting focuses on matters such as the assessment of the situation pertaining to terrorism and transnational crimes in the region.

Let me also touch upon the issue of maritime security. The Straits of Malacca is one of the most important shipping lanes, where 200 vessels pass through per day, carrying about one-third of the world's sea traded goods. The trend of maritime crimes in the straits in this region had been on decline, however last year saw the resurgence and the number was increased. The safety and security in the Straits is a high priority not only to Malaysia but also for international users including Japan. Given this importance, Japan has been cooperating with various Malaysian agencies, including Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). For instance, Japan has donated equipments such as Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats to the Marine Operation Force of the Royal Malaysia Police under the Japanese Grant Aid Project in March this year. The total value of all the equipments is about 17 million US dollars.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to conclude my remarks with expressing my sincere hope that the Asia Pacific Roundtable will continue its intellectual contribution for the whole region, through candid discussion among participants, to better address the various regional and global challenges.

Thank you.