

**Opening Session of the Japan-Brazil University Rectors' Summit,  
January 31, 2025  
Greetings from Ambassador Teiji Hayashi**

Mr. Carlos Gilberto Carlotti, Rector of the University of Sao Paulo  
Mr. Kyosuke Nagata, Rector of the University of Tsukuba  
Distinguished representatives of the Universities from Japan and Brazil  
Dear colleagues from the Government of Brazil  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me today to this memorable first Japan-Brazil University Rectors' Summit.

Looking back to the past, it was in November 2023 that I mentioned the idea of this Rectors' Summit to Rector Nagata of the Tsukuba University during his visit to Brasilia. It is a great pleasure for me to hold the first meeting just over a year later.

This year, we celebrate the "Japan-Brazil Friendship Exchange Year," commemorating the 130th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil. I am very pleased that the University of São Paulo, the highest academic institution in Latin America, holds this conference today in this memorable year. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have worked hard to make this conference possible, especially to Rector Nagata of the Tsukuba University, and to Rector Carlotti of the University of Sao Paulo, who shared with me the importance of this conference and took the strong initiative to revitalize the academic exchange between two countries.

We are also preparing to welcome President Lula to Japan this year, and strengthening ties in the academic and educational areas is one of our priorities. Two weeks ago, I personally discussed the President's visit to Japan with Brazilian Education Minister, Camilo Santana, who also expressed great interest in deepening cooperation with Japan in these areas.

Today, the first session focuses on the discussion on possible research cooperation in the global issues like cybersecurity and AI, disaster management, climate change and clean energy. They are all important areas of cooperation between the governments of Japan and Brazil.

It is also important to promote collaboration with business enterprises. For example, the University of São Paulo is implementing a research project together with some business enterprises including TOYOTA, to produce hydrogen from ethanol, which is also supported by Governor Tarcísio de Freitas of São Paulo. In the area of AI technology, Japanese start-up companies are applying it to smart agriculture and security measures in cooperation with academia.

With such kind of collaboration between industry, government and academia in mind, I strongly hope that today's discussion will lead to a future joint research and exchange. This year, Japan will host the 6th Joint Committee on Science and Technology Japan-Brazil. The Government of Japan will make utmost efforts to ensure the synergy between academic exchange and science and technology cooperation.

The second session today will talk about student exchange. In recent years, Japan has accepted 60 to 80 Brazilian students each year under Japan's Government Scholarship. Furthermore, in 2023, about 760 Brazilian students, including these scholars, were studying at Japanese institutions of higher education, a number that ranks first among Latin American countries. They are forming an important network all over Brazil, and support academic exchange between our countries. We will continue to work closely with these networks to improve the study-abroad system and to find excellent students.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by wishing a success of today's conference, and by hoping that it builds a solid foundation for further collaboration in the academic area, including among young people who will play an important role in shaping the future of Japan-Brazil relations. Thank you very much.

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