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Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mizuuchi on the Occasion of the opening of
"Joint Workshop on the Organic Chemistry of Sulfur" on
27th February

Rector Schütze,
Prof. Maulide, Prof. Yorimitsu,
Prof. Ritter, Dr. McConnell, Prof. Hirsch
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to speak in front of you today on the occasion of the opening of the "Joint Workshop on the Organic Chemistry of Sulfur". First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rector Prof. Dr. Schütze for inviting me to this event, prior to my courtesy call on him later today.

I understand that there has been a long history of academic exchanges between the University of Kyoto and the University of Vienna. I recall that when I was here in the 1990's, I attended an exchange between the law faculty of two universities. Being a Kyoto-graduate myself in international relations under Prof. KOHSAKA Masataka, and having a wife with a PhD in history under Prof. Erika WEINZIERL of University of Vienna, I am particularly pleased to note that this inter-university academic exchange has grown to such an extent that Kyoto and Vienna Universities reached the status of strategic partnership in 2019. Since the partnership between my wife and myself seem to have survived over 35 years so far, I am comfortably optimistic about the future of this strategic partnership between the two Universities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Apart from the exchanges between individual universities, our Embassy has also been contributing to promoting understanding between the people of Japan and Austria, with particular focus on younger generation. In 2008, the then Ambassador TANAKA Hayao held a special lecture on "Development of Democracy in Japan". In 2009, on the occasion of the symposium commemorating the 140 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Austria organized by the Institute of East Asian Studies, I held a lecture with a title "The Implication of "Anschluss" on Japan's Policy on the Jewish Problem". In this coming April, my deputy, Minister OTAKA Junichiro will talk about

climate change at the Faculty of Japan Studies. I have several ideas on the follow-up for the lecture on the Jewish problem that I held in 2009, including by myself or with an expert that I know. Therefore, I hope I will be able to realize some of these lectures in the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The COVID-Pandemic and the brutal aggression of Russia against Ukraine changed the nature of international exchanges dramatically. Today, cooperation between the countries with common universal values have become more important than ever. Also, Japanese academic institutions are exposed to severe international competitions. It is said that the number of academic thesis produced annually and the level of academic standard of Japanese Universities cannot match American, European or let alone Chinese competitors.

Therefore, I very much hope that the strategic partnership between Kyoto and Vienna Universities will serve to upgrade the supreme academic standards of both Universities. Kyoto, in particular, has been known to be the Japan's Center of Excellency in physics, chemistry or medicine, monopolizing the Japanese Laureates of Nobel Prize in the early days. May this strategic partnership will help Kyoto University re-establish its superb academic leadership it has cherished before.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's Workshop will focus on Organic Chemistry of Sulphur. Personally, I have no expertise on this subject, but I am confident that fruitful outcomes will be produced out of discussions by the experts in this area.

In concluding my remarks, I wish the Joint Workshop a great success and all those who have contributed to realizing it all the best. Finally, let me express my hope that the strategic partnership between Kyoto and Vienna will be further enhanced with the contributions by both sides in the future.

Thank you for your attention. (END)