

January 12, 2006

**Message from the Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in the Opening Ceremony at the
Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security**
(Provisional)

Let me say a few words at the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security. I wish to sincerely welcome all of you, members of delegations from various nations.

Transport by land, sea and air has now become the basis of social and economic activities in international society. Transport security is an important issue to be addressed internationally, and international cooperation and collaboration remain indispensable for ensuring transport security.

At present, international society is constantly threatened by serious acts of terrorism. It still remains fresh in my memory that the horrible terrorist attack against the underground and bus network occurred in London, while the Gleneagles Summit that I attended was in session in last July. All acts of terrorism threaten the freedom, safety and democracy upon which international society is founded. In order to prevent and eradicate terrorism, which is a global threat, close cooperation in international society is needed, employing all available means. Also at the Summit, I renewed my determination, together with the leaders of other countries, to jointly work on countermeasures against terrorism, including transport security.

Under these circumstances, I think it very significant that representatives of leading countries, including the ministers in charge of transport security, gather together to engage in discussion to ensure transport security. I hope that this Ministerial Conference on International Transport Security will be highly productive, promoting further international partnerships for measures to counter terrorism against transport systems.