

Rector's Statement to the Meeting
of the Japan Foundation for the UNU at Akasaka Prince Hotel, Tokyo
on 5 September 1984

Dr. Nagai, Mr. Kobayashi, distinguished members of the Board of Directors and honoured participants:

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the initiative that has been taken by Dr. Nagai with the support of all of you to establish the Japan Foundation for the United Nations University, and congratulations to the officers elected. The establishment of this Foundation is of great importance to the United Nations University for a variety of reasons. Contrary to the prevailing mood, the action that you have taken today to establish the Foundation signifies the consistency of the commitment of Japan to international co-operation and support for international organizations. More importantly, it also signifies Japan's continuing interest in and support for the work of the United Nations University which was established in this country about 8 years ago, thanks largely to the generosity of the Government and people of Japan. I am particularly gratified that as a manifestation of this continuing interest and support, the Foundation is being established specifically, and I quote, "with the principal purpose of supporting the proposed research and training centre in Japan."

The documents that have been given to all of you explaining the purpose and establishment of the Foundation provided a brief description of research and training centres in the context of the University. Allow me to add a few words of explanation to this. The research and

training centres that the University is now in the process of establishing comprise an important component of the United Nations University system as envisaged by the Charter. The proposed centre in Japan for which the Government of Japan has also indicated its willingness to consider providing capital and operational costs, is of course, one of these. The University has succeeded in establishing its first research and training centre, known as WIDER, in Helsinki, Finland, thanks to the generous support of the Government of Finland. The other centres which are now being considered in various countries will each have a mandate, agreed to by the Council of the University, to do research and training in specific areas.

In determining programmatic activities for the proposed centre in Japan, the University will, of course, take into consideration the interests and wishes of Japanese scholars and organizations, such as the Foundation. The University may determine that it could request the Foundation to assist in the implementation of some of these activities on its behalf. It might be relevant to indicate here the decision by the Council at its 23rd session that the establishment of the centre in Japan would be preceded by an appropriate programme of activities to be set up by the University.

Eventually, the research and training centre in Tokyo, as a centre for advanced study, would become the intellectual hub of the United Nations University system. Focussing possibly on the area of science, technology and development, the centre would lay the foundation for

close and creative interaction between scholars and scientists from Japan and those from other parts of the world.

Together with the assistance of all of you drawn from different professions and walks of life, we hope to enhance the building of a truly international dimension to the work of the United Nations University, drawing substantially from the intellectual, scientific and resource strength of Japan.