

Government of Mexico in cooperation with the Government of Japan in February. Let me briefly introduce Japan's policies towards some of them.

First on migrant workers. Prior to and for a short period after World War II, many Japanese migrated overseas, particularly to Central and South America. Today, however, Japan, like many developed countries, has become a recipient of migrants. They arrive amidst the background of a declining birthrate and an aging society. In 2000 Japan's population was approximately 127 million, 17.4% of which were over age 65. By 2050, the

domestic initiatives to combat human trafficking. In 2004 it established an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee which adopted a comprehensive national action plan focusing on prevention, prosecution, and victim protection. Furthermore, last year the Diet approved the conclusion of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants Land, Sea and Air. At the same time, the penal code was revised to more effectively deal with human trafficking by expanding the scope of punishable acts and imposing severe penalties.

