

**Greetings Consul General Ryuta Mizuuchi**

**Thursday, 10th of March 2016 at 05 o'clock p.m.**

**20 years Kawasaki Robotics Europe in Neuss**

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Mr. Hida, President of Precision Machinery Company from Kawasaki Heavy Industry,  
Mr. Hashimoto, General Manager of Robot Division, Kawasaki Heavy Industry,  
Mr. Takagi, President of Kawasaki Robotics GmbH,  
Mr. Stumpf of Kawasaki Robotics GmbH,  
Mr. Jansen of NRW. Invest GmbH,  
Dear customers, partners and staff members from Kawasaki Robotics,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my great pleasure to speak in front of you today on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Kawasaki Robotics Europe GmbH with its Head Office here in Neuss.

Kawasaki Robotics is a company with a long standing experience in industrial robot automation and offers a wide range of applications. Since its foundation of the Kawasaki Robotics GmbH in Neuss 20 years ago, the German Office has been serving as the European Headquarters of its mother company. It is my understanding that the 20 years of presence is an expression of success of the German and European businesses of the company. For me as Consul General responsible for North-Rhine Westphalia, I am sure that the location in the heart of the Federal State and in the vicinity to Düsseldorf is part of the factors contributing to the successful operation of the company.

However, the future lying ahead in the years to come should be much more forthcoming and lucrative, in view of several given circumstances at the present stage.

First, Japan, together with other 11 countries around the Pacific Rim, including USA and Australia, has signed the TPP Agreement just last year, which means Kawasaki's network will offer business opportunities for German customers and partners to Japan and beyond – toward the Pacific, which, after the inevitable slowdown of the Chinese economy, will open windows to access new market hardly known to the Germans before.

Second, Japan and the EU are now in the final stage of negotiations over the bilateral Economic Integration Agreement which will facilitate trade of goods and services in both directions, as well as investment. Once the Agreement is reached, Kawasaki Robotics GmbH will be able to take advantage, and make use of the infrastructure and accumulated know-how of the Neuss Headquarters to expand business activities in Germany and Europe. I hope that the company Headquarters in Japan and Germany will take this opportunity of 20 year celebration to look for future business perspectives in a proactive manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, the key to a sustainable, successful operation of a machine tool company lies undoubtedly in the availability and provision of good skilled working forces. In this regard I had the pleasure of visiting the robotic competition for school students of Rhein-Kreis Neuss last Saturday. I was very much impressed by many young people in 15

teams tasked with a number of hard technical issues and trying to overcome the challenges by means of engineering skills, inspiration as well as tactical considerations on site, using basic robotics module, motors and Lego blocks. I wish to commend the decision of Kawasaki Robotics GmbH to hold such an event, since I found the contest to be a unique opportunity for younger generation to better understand Robotics at an early age. It was indeed suited to train young students.

In concluding, I hope very much that the hard work and harmony being performed by the Japanese and German managers and fellow engineers in Neuss will continue to bring to the company lot of success and prosperity for another 20 years to come. I take this opportunity to extend to the management and staff, its partners and customers all the best wishes to this end!

Thank you for your attention.