

Greetings Consul General Ryuta Mizuuchi

Monday, 20th of March 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

Takasago Europe GmbH

**25th anniversary and opening of the factory extension
and the office- and conference building, Zülpich**

Dear Mayor Hürtgen, (Mr. Ulf Hürtgen, Mayor of Zülpich),

Dear Mr. Bütof, (Director General, Economic Policy, Industry, Service Sector, Lead
Markets; Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy and Industry of the State of NRW)

Dear Mr. Hornig, (NRW Invest GmbH, Executive Director)

Dear Mr. Masumura, (Takasago International Corporation, President)

Dear Mr. Kawano, (Takasago Europe GmbH, General Manager & President)

? Dear Mr. Rosenke, (District Administrator Euskirchen/Zülpich)

? Dear Mr. Kleinecke, (Takasago Europe GmbH, Vice President
Operations)

Dear customers, partners and staff members from Takasago,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today for the first time in
Zülpich on the occasion of the 25th anniversary and the opening
ceremony of the factory extension and the office - and conference
building of the Takasago Europe GmbH. First of all, I wish to extend my
heartfelt congratulations to all those who have contributed to today's
event to be materialized, particularly to the executives who have come a
long way to Germany from Japan.

As a resident in Ota-ku, Tokyo, living only three train stations away from the birthplace and the current Headquarters of Takasago International Corporation, I am very proud that Takasago Europe GmbH was established here in NRW and that the success of its business model in Germany made it possible for the company to expand yet further the scope of business activities.

Since its foundation in 1920 as Japan's first manufacturer of aroma ingredients, Takasago International Corporation has been developing flavors and fragrances for more than 95 years, and applying them for use in food, beverage, fine fragrance, household and personal care products. Today, Takasago supplies various flavors and extracts for well-known food brands in Japan and around the world.

One of the board members of Takasago is Professor Ryōji Noyori, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001. As I understand, the asymmetric hydrogenation technology that has been developed by Prof. Noyori was the key to Takasago's industrial production of Menthol, using BINAP as catalyzer. Recognizing that Menthol is used in candies, tobacco, oral care items, pharmaceuticals and various other products, all of us that are present here may be consumers of Takasago products, without knowing where they come from.

Moreover, we encounter a number of products in our daily lives which are using Takasago products, such as yoghurts, drinks, sweets and chips. Tons of liquid and powder aromas are being transferred from Zülrich every year throughout Europe. Well known supermarket chains such as Aldi, Lidl, Edeka and Rewe are also among Takasago's

customers. Almost 2000 different aromas are combined in Zülrich until the desired effect is achieved, which, I believe, is very impressive.

In North Rhine-Westphalia Takasago Europe GmbH (TEG) has been active since 1992. Starting with twelve employees at the Troisdorf site, the company moved to Zülrich in 1999 and employs today almost 300 workers responsible for the European market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope very much that the opening of the factory and the extension will bring Takasago a great benefit in many years to come. The 25th anniversary and the constant growth in Zülrich show the vitality and innovative strength of Takasago. Therefore I wish to convey my best wishes to Takasago, both to its management and to employees. Good luck and continued success for future business, also to its partners and customers!

Thank you for your attention.