

## Greeting at the New Year's Reception

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Chairman, Japan Information Technology Services  
Association



Please accept my best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Today, we are honored by the presence of Mr. Takahashi, a Parliamentary Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, as well as many distinguished guests from related organizations. Thank you very much for coming.

Conditions have been harsh in our industry for the past two years, so this year I hope to see a recovery of some kind.

When I read the newspapers, I often see interviews with business executives who say that if we are slow to invest in information technology, that delay will cause us to fall behind our competitors. I completely agree. In today's world, airplanes won't fly, and the Shinkansen and automobiles won't run, without IT. That's why I want to see IT as an important part of our national strategy.

There were international conferences at the end of last year in the U.S., Europe, and Australia. In addition to the Western countries, China and South Korea are also promoting IT strategies as important national strategies for the 21st century. Japan will now be formulating specific growth strategies, and I ask you to make IT a part of it.

There are many areas we must reform, including training personnel, globalization, and improving productivity. In Japan, IT, and software development in particular, has not been so popular with young people. I've asked people in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere whether the situation is the same in their country, and whether the problems of long working hours and salaries, which is the cause of the lack of interest by Japanese young people, are problems for them, too. They've told me that basically, it is not. This year, I am going to think about how Japan differs from the U.S. and Europe in terms of work contracts, a sense of responsibility for the completed product, the core aspects of the project, and the response to the specifications required.

I hope that our industry will receive inspiration from all of you, and surmount any difficulties in the year ahead.

Please lend us your support.

(January 6, 2010, Hotel Okura, Tokyo / Text: JISA Secretariat)