

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

decade, which may belong to a new era, and our Conference on Disarmament may establish its position as a forum which, after a long period of inability to carry out its tasks, is now being activated to serve the requirements of the new times.

Allow me to make a few more observations on this very important negotiation we are engaged in as a matter of highest priority at this moment. Japan believes that it is time for us now to pay more attention to tackling the key issues of a political nature, renewing our political commitment to the elimination of chemical weapons. Then, for the remaining technical questions, active participation by experts from industrial and academic circles will serve as a lever for acceleration of the negotiation.

As one of the major chemical industry nations, Japan wishes to reiterate the importance of the verification régime with respect to non-production of chemical weapons. The verification of destruction may be over in 10 years after the entry into force of the convention, but the verification of non-production will last indefinitely and affect a far greater number of States. In this field, we are trying to create a truly epoch-making mechanism which may serve as a model for future disarmament conventions. In working out a verification régime for non-production, we will have to respond to the need to ensure the fulfilment of the purposes of this convention, and at the same time the requirement of keeping the cost of verification down to a reasonably low level. In order to work out such a régime of verification that would be reasonably effective and reliable, it is extremely important to try to have a fairly accurate picture of the chemical industry situation prior to the conclusion of this convention. From this point of view, Japan hopes that under the recently proposed system of "technical support" for the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, a data base on the chemical industry will be worked out as one of its activities. About one week ago, Japan presented the Ad hoc Committee with data on its chemical industry, and hopes that this will contribute to the deliberations by the Committee on such problems as the cost of verification, annexes to article VI, production thresholds and so forth.

Furthermore, my delegation wishes to reaffirm Japan's hope that its technologies might make some contributions to the resolution of difficult problems related to the CW convention, such as that of effective verification. As an example of such efforts, my delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Conference to the United States-Japanese agreement reached in Washington on 7 March under which the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute will work together in an experiment to test the reliability of remotely monitored sensors which operate unattended for long periods of time.

Now I should like to address myself to another important subject of my intervention today. Many questions are asked as to the adequacy of the Conference on Disarmament in adapting itself to the requirements of the new times. As I suggested at the beginning of my speech, it may well be that the recent encouraging developments in the East-West relationship have made it