

OPENING REMARKS ON JOINT CONFERENCE OF JAPANESE AND SPANISH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

(27th November 2018, University of Salamanca)

Mr. Ricardo Rivero, Rector Magnificus of the University of Salamanca,

Mr. Hirotaka Tateishi, President of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here for the opening ceremony of the Joint Conference of Japanese and Spanish University Presidents. I would like to thank the University of Salamanca and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies for hosting this important event for the academic relations between Japan and Spain, and the Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE), the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for your priceless support for this event.

As you may know, we are celebrating our 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain. The University of Salamanca also commemorates this year its 800th anniversary. I am very glad to see, in this memorable year, how the academic relations between our two countries are progressing through this type of initiatives.

Universities are the foundations for the future development of our societies. In this global society, the internationalization of universities is one of the priorities of higher educational policies for both countries. I hope, and I am totally convinced, that this Conference will be a great opportunity to share good practices and make useful contacts for future collaborations.

We are now in the final stage of the anniversary year, but I don't want it to stop here, and I would like the next years to be called "150 anniversary plus", to continue working with all of you and improve even more our friendly relationship.

Thank you very much for your attention.