As you may remember, those who attended the very successful plenary a year ago in Seoul, there was the menace of SARS and the number of attendees was reduced. As you may also remember a year ago, the Iraqi situation looked, not over, but like the peak had passed and that the going would not be easy but maybe fairly systematic. We were more concerned by the imminence of North Korean dangers. Of course, we Japanese were very concerned about what was going to happen to the families of those abducted. There was also discussion about the attitude of South Korean youth who did not believe the presence of North Korea was as great a threat as many of us did, particularly the Japanese.

A year later, the Iraqi situation continues to be very complicated, if not more difficult. The Korean situation continues to be very challenging, but thanks partly to the effort by the members of the Six Nation committee framework things there seem to be moving slowly, but sort of forward.

On the positive side, today was very symbolic, as it is “Europe Day,” and we are having this meeting in Warsaw, Poland, one of the new ten members of the EU. This is a very, very positive sign. In addition, the Chinese economy continues to prosper, despite some ballooning concerns. We haven’t talked much about the U.S. economy, but hopefully it will also continue to be strong. And finally the Japanese economy has come back. These are certainly the bright signs we are seeing today.