

## ODF '12 サンクトペテルブルグ大会 区長演説草稿

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Good afternoon Mister Chairman, ODF delegates and guests.

I'm honored to be invited here, to represent 500,000 people of Itabashi, and to give a speech to this esteemed group.

Itabashi is a municipality within Tokyo, with an area of 32 square kilometers. There are many companies, some with world famous brands, as well as small companies with unique technology which supports Japan's manufacturing sector.

I was born and raised in Itabashi. In the 1960's, the optics industry was growing by leaps and bounds. 70% of the optical products exported by Japan were Made In Itabashi. As a child, I didn't know how advanced the optics industry was. Much later I realized how many benefits we enjoyed because of the optics industry.

After school, I went straight to a vacant lot in the neighborhood. There, in front of a local factory, I found a special thing which had been thrown out. It was as large as an adult's thumb. It was glass, and when I looked through it, the scenery dancing in my eyes satisfied my curiosity.

You've surely guessed that it was a prism for binoculars. We competed to find the best shapes and the most beautiful pieces. Sometimes we took them to school, bragging to our friends about our treasures.

In 1952, a few years before I was born, the first Japanese 35 millimeter SFR camera was produced. It was made by Asahi Optical, one ancestor of Pentax Ricoh. Asahi made about 100 of these cameras, and helped to spread the technology to many other companies. A company that competed with Asahi for the world's first TTL measurement technology was TOPCON, which now is a world leader in surveying and ophthalmic instruments. Both of these companies still have their headquarters in Itabashi.

In Itabashi, many small factories and suppliers gather around these large companies. Many of these smaller companies are family businesses which specialize in one part of the manufacturing process, such as calibrating lenses or making focus rings.

Growing up in this environment, I naturally became interested in cameras. In middle

school, I begged my father to buy me the latest model. Later, I became an architect, and I think that camera, a small package of high technology, sparked my interest in design work.

I have a video about the city of Itabashi. The second half shows the history of the optical industry in Itabashi. It is too long to show you now, so I'll just play the introduction here.

(DVD上映)

I have a copy of the full DVD for each of you. Please watch it when you have time.

( $\cdot\cdot$ 現物を手に $\cdot\cdot$ ) I have here small (astronomical) telescope. It looks like a normal telescope, but the Japanese astronaut Takao Doi carried the same model in the Space Shuttle on two missions to the International Space Station. It was made by Takahashi, which also has headquarters in Itabashi.

You know that Tokyo is one of the world's great mega-cities. As Japan's economy has grown, Tokyo's population has exploded. It is not an easy place for small factories to operate, as it was 50 years ago.

Many companies have left Itabashi and the crowded cities, in search of more space. But there are still many remaining, making products and doing R&D in optical technology. Using the technology born from binoculars and cameras, Itabashi's companies are still creating new innovations in the fields of measurement tools and medical devices.

Itabashi does not have Dostoyevsky\*<sup>1</sup>, Belinsky\*<sup>2</sup>, or the Hermitage. But the determination to meet a challenge, proven by development of SLR cameras and other technology, is still alive in so many of our smaller companies.

Please come and experience the vitality of our optic and precision instrument industry, the pride of Itabashi. With our 500,000 residents, as Mayor I welcome you.

I promise our best efforts for a successful ODF conference in 2014.

Thank you for your attention.

\*1 フョードル・ミハイロヴィチ・ドストエフスキー(1821年-1881年)

19世紀を代表するロシアの作家。代表作に『罪と罰』『白痴』『悪霊』『カラマーゾフの兄弟』などがある。

\*2 ヴィッサリオン・グリゴリエヴィッチ・ベリンスキー(1811年-1848年)

ロシアの著名な文芸批評家。ドストエフスキーの処女作「貧しき人々」を見出し、激賞したことで知られる。今回乗船する客船の名(ベリンスキー号)にもなっている。