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Industrial heritage of Japan is a direction for everyone

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Technology with tradition – Japanese Meiji Industrial Revolution Sites inscribed to the World Cultural Heritage List by UNESCO.

We try to expand the economic cooperation with Croatia. The successful visit by Prime Minister Milanović to Japan in June opened new pages of cooperation.

The modernization of Plomin will be a success story. Marubeni will introduce the most modern clean technology.

Technology is central to the Japanese culture. The Japanese have special pride of its advanced technology. Since the middle of 19th century, Japan rapidly transformed herself from an isolated feudal society into an industrial nation. The Meiji Restoration of 1868 was the start of new modern State of Japan. Before that, Samurai clans have already started to strive for realization of rapid industrialization. They sent their children to Europe to learn how to develop the industry and even how to modernize the society. This process was a phenomenon and unique experience in human history. Meiji Industrial Revolution laid the foundation of a Nation of Industry today. Of course, high standard of education, technology and work ethics in Japan even before this process should be duly recognized.

The World Heritage Committee on 5th July approved the inscription of cultural sites on the World Heritage List, including the sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining in Japan. It is recognized that these sites have Outstanding Universal Value.

The World Heritage is not only for beautiful towns, temples, churches, castles, but also for historical industrial achievements. I herewith wish to express my deepest gratitude to many Croatian friends who showed great understanding and support to inscribe the site on the List. It encompasses a series of 11 properties, 23 facilities in 8 prefectures mainly located in the southwest of Japan. It bears testimony to the rapid

industrialization of Japan from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century, through the development of the steel industry, shipbuilding and coal mining. Facilities are iron and steel works, shipyards, coal shafts, machine factories, ports and business and educational institutes. The site illustrates the process by which feudal Japan sought technology transfer from Europe and America and how this technology was adapted to the country's needs and social traditions. The site testifies to what is considered to be the first successful transfer of Western industrialization to a non-Western nation.

Ice broken by Marubeni

Japanese experiences could be referred and used by other countries for their development. Japan is happy to share her experiences, including her trials and errors, with friends in the world.

We are trying to expand the economic cooperation with Croatia. Prime Minister Milanović's successful visit to Japan – the very first encounter with the Japanese Prime Minister in our history - in June opened new pages for our future. The modernization project of a coal power plant at Plomin will be a new success story of our cooperation. Japanese company Marubeni will bring newest clean technology and huge investment, which will be the biggest in Croatian history as green-field investment. Local companies and workers will be invited to join this big project. This project will boost Croatian GDP for several percentages for coming years. Another Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi, which started shipbuilding in the 19th century, is now active in supplying their Electric Vehicles in Croatia and is hopeful that their new product, Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) will be used in the Croatian air in the near future. All these products are efficient, economic and ecology-friendly.

Rijeka's industrialization

Japan will take full responsibility to protect and preserve the World Heritage sites. We welcome friends of Croatia to visit Japan and appreciate our sites. I notice that Rijeka and other regions have also developed its industrialization since the middle the 19th century. Such industrial achievement of Croatia should also be memorized as our precious heritage. I sincerely hope that through World Heritage, we can deepen our mutual understanding and mutual respect to each other.

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