

Statements and comments for the Commission on Investment, Enterprise  
and Development

26 April 2010

Geneva, Palais des Nations

by

Tomohiro Nakada

President, Salad Cosmo and Gialinks, Japan

Thank you very much for inviting me to this important meeting. I am a simple sprout grower in Japan and I am not sure how I ended up in this prestigious international meeting.

My name is Tomohiro Nakada, president of the food manufacturer, Salad Cosmo, as well as the trading company, Gialinks. I established this trading company in 2000 with two goals in mind: securing food supply networks for the Japanese market and supporting farmers in Latin America, in particular those of Japanese origin.

(Slide 2)

Let me first mention a few things about the food manufacturing company, Salad Cosmo. This slide shows some vegetables this company produces in Japan.

(Slide 3)

You may be surprised, but I produce vegetables in a factory. My factory yields annual production of 10,000 tons per hectare. This production method is not affected by unhelpful weather conditions such as typhoons, droughts or a low temperature. This factory does not use any chemical fertilizer and the produce is 100% organic. So this is a factory that can constantly supply a large volume of safe food, in whatever weather conditions, using a small piece of land, in an environmentally friendly way. Therefore I think this kind of vegetable factory can be part of the solution to the global food problem.

(Slide 4)

Now I would like to mention the activities of the trading company Gialinks. Gialinks owns two plantations in Argentina and works with farmers in Paraguay to ship soya, corn, garlic and macadamia nuts to Japan. This is a private company and does not receive any subsidies. However, the main objective of this company is to contribute to the food security of the home market as well as to the well-being of farmers in the host country.

Our 478 shareholders share this philosophy. Indeed, 30% of our shareholders are women, many of them housewives, who are daily made aware of the importance of the safety and availability of food.

I believe the profit motives of private companies, the interest of the consumers and the interest of the producers can be met at the same time. Without looking after the interest of producers in the host country, business

will not flourish in the long term. If all investors pursued narrow, short-term profits, all of us, investors, consumers and producers would be losers. Therefore, I firmly believe that an international framework is needed to ensure sustainable agriculture that benefits both investor and host countries.

From this point of view, all the seven principles are important. International investment is very risky. Therefore these principles should facilitate our business, and not discourage it. The implementation of these principles should be carefully monitored and managed in consultation with investors. I find that the proposed principles are very reasonable and I support this initiative.

Thank you very much for your attention.