

Address by H..I..H.. The Crown Prince
at the Opening Ceremony of
GEA Conference for Sustainable Future

October 24, 2003
Capitol Tokyu Hotel

I am very pleased that the Global Environmental Action Conference is being held with the participation of so many distinguished participants from Japan and abroad..

It is our responsibility to protect our precious global environment and pass it on to future generations.

The 21st century in which we are now living has been called the " Century of the Environment " .. We need to seriously consider what concrete measures need to be taken under international cooperation to prevent deterioration of the global environment and to ensure a sustainable future..

To attain such a sustainable future, it is important to use wisely the natural resources which nature has created, and to promote environmental education such as will produce persons who possess the knowledge and technology that will make such wise use possible.. To this end, it is also desirable to make good use of the advanced information technology of today..

I find it of great significance that this conference will be holding discussions on how to build a sustainable tomorrow.. It is my fervent wish that the conclusions reached by this forum will be promulgated throughout the world and that further concrete measures will be taken in every country..