

Japan's Unfinished Homework in AI Diplomacy

— The “Security Clearance” Question Raised by Takuya Hirai —

Cross-checked against an FCCJ press conference, field notes, and official records — based on the July 2, 2026 “Japan's AI Future” press conference

- On July 2, 2026, **Rep. Takuya Hirai, Chairman of the LDP's Headquarters for the Promotion of a Digital Society**, held a press conference titled “Japan's AI Future” at the FCCJ.
 - Hirai presented “**Human in the Lead**” as the guiding principle of Japan's AI policy, stating that **final judgment and responsibility must always rest with humans**.
 - Physical-AI foundation models are being developed through an international team, and plans call for using **undisclosed data long held by Japan's manufacturing sector**.
 - With the US and China ahead in the LLM race, Japan will invest **roughly ¥3 trillion** in a domestic foundation model; SoftBank's “Sarashina” and Sakana AI's model-integration technology will also be used.
 - Hirai acknowledged Japan had been “**unprepared**” on “**security clearance**” frameworks and data access rights for AI intersecting with national security.
 - That same afternoon, **PM Takaichi and PM Modi** met in New Delhi and issued a Japan-India joint statement on AI cooperation, elevating the two to “**strategic R&D partners**.”
 - Hirai cited Singapore, Switzerland, and Bhutan as cooperation partners but **made no mention of India**; the relationship between the two events is treated as a notable, non-definitive parallel.
 - Facing a pointed question on immigration policy, Hirai responded **calmly**, citing concrete measures.
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Full analysis: <https://inst-ds.org/?p=1820>

Sources: Transcript from FCCJ's official YouTube channel, the author's on-site notes, and official statements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FCCJ, the Digital Agency, and others. See the full report's References section for a complete list.