

## Summary of Press Conference (April 19th, 2023)

(Comments by INABA Nobuo, President)

On March 30th, NHK's budget and business plan for fiscal 2023 were approved by the Diet. It was the first time for me to attend a Diet session, so I was a little bit nervous. But the questions I received during the deliberations were beyond my expectations in terms of the variety of perspectives from which they were asked, and this made me realize once again how broad NHK's scope of business is and how large the role is that it needs to fulfill.

For example, the questions touched on the downsizing of NHK's operations and asked whether this would negatively affect coverage of breaking news and whether staffing in different regions would be sufficient. NHK has been considering such issues, but I believe that it is necessary for us to continue to study them and improve the way we handle them, as one of NHK's important missions is to maintain a nationwide network.

On April 3rd, NHK's group companies had a joint welcome ceremony for our new employees. I had the opportunity to convey my thoughts to the new employees, so I emphasized two points. One is that as employees of the NHK group, we must dedicate ourselves to doing our best to protect people's lives and livelihoods in times of emergency. Second, while having this strong sense of mission, I would like them to value their own lives and the way they live. I stressed these two points.

Actually, it is important not only for new employees, but also for reporters, directors, and the many other creators who already work here to note that while helping NHK to fulfill its mission as a public broadcaster and a public service media organization, they must also take proper care of their health and enjoy their lives, although this may appear contradictory. This is an extremely important issue that NHK faces.

As I said in my last press conference in March, there is a need to accurately understand the working conditions of such creators and to improve the management of their work in the best way possible without compromising their health. I once again felt this strongly as I spoke face-to-face with the new employees, who appeared full of hope.

This is an extremely difficult challenge for which solutions have remained elusive, and I don't have any specific ideas on how to overcome this. But at NHK, we will deeply think through this together and try to come up with an effective measure.

I think this is an important issue facing not only NHK, but also the newspaper, TV and other media companies that those of you here today work for. Looking at the bigger picture, as Japan's economy shifts from a manufacturing economy to an advanced information service economy, this is a critical matter for which we must obviously strive to find a solution.