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Received Sylff Fellowship in 2004

Thank you and good afternoon. My name is Andrew Prosser. It's a privilege to be here with all of you today. And it's also not easy to follow all of the eloquent speeches that were already made by the other Sylff fellows.

To provide you with some background on myself: I am from the United States, and also from Switzerland more recently. I was a Sylff fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva from 2004-2005. Currently I work with the United Nations in Geneva on global crime and security issues.

We were told that we could incorporate some of our home country's culture into our presentations today. In this regard I thought of perhaps doing a baseball demonstration, but that could be risky – and you already know about baseball here in Japan. Then, because of my connection to Switzerland, I thought of performing a traditional Swiss form of singing called “yodeling.” But trust me, you really don't want to hear me yodel...

So instead I would simply like to emphasize a few key points in relation to my Sylff experience. First, the various Sylff programs have played a crucial role in supporting my academic and professional development over the years. I would like to express how truly grateful I am to the Sylff association for this support, including the fellowship during my PhD studies as well as a Sylff mobility grant to conduct research in India in 2006 with regard to nuclear policy issues. Additionally, this week's Sylff Leaders Workshop has been an incredible experience in my life. It allowed me to discover Japan for the first time. I gained new insights in the area of food security and responsible food consumption – an increasingly important topic in our world today and looking forward to 2030 and beyond. I refined my skills in terms of planning and intercultural diplomacy, which will be highly useful to my future professional and leadership endeavors. And I even improved my karaoke skills, and survived five courses of poisonous puffer-fish...

But on the whole, the most impactful facet of my Leaders Workshop experience as regards my

professional and personal growth has been the way that interacting with these 19 other fellows – and their selfless dedication to humanity – has inspired me to achieve new heights and meaningful change. This is especially significant in view of the current complex challenges we face in global affairs such as the rise of populism and the persistence of multiple conflicts.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made my unique Sylff journey possible – in particular, to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa and the Nippon Foundation, the Sylff association and its secretariat staff who have worked so hard to make this Leaders Workshop an unforgettable gathering, and the 19 other Sylff Leader fellows whose friendship, charisma, and abilities I have come to value and respect so much over these past few months. Thank you very much.