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Embassy of Japan in Rwanda

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1. TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida attended the TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on March 16 and 17, 2013. A total of 52 countries, with 46 chief delegates of cabinet minister level, attended the meeting from Africa, while more than 1,000 people altogether from 84 regions, representing international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, participated in the event. As well as co-chairing the meeting with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom, Foreign Minister Kishida delivered the keynote address and conducted bilateral talks with the African countries.

The meeting produced three concrete outcomes which should help to ensure the success of TICAD V, which will be held in Yokohama in June. Primarily, we deliberated on “the Yokohama Declaration 2013” and “the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017” which will be adopted at TICAD V, and obtained each country's consent in terms of proposing a strong message to the effect that we should pursue the further growth of Africa. Secondly, we displayed a firm posture as regards the fight against terrorism and announced a package of support from Japan worth a total of US\$550 million in order to help bring about peace and stability in Africa. Thirdly, in line with a speech by the Japan Business Federation at the meeting, we expressed the readiness of all stakeholders in Japan to contribute to African growth.

2. G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On 10 and 11 April, the G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting was held in London, UK, with Foreign Minister Kishida attending from Japan.

As for regional issues, North Korea, China, Iran, Syria and Africa were the main topics discussed. Japan emphasized the need for the G8 to issue a strong message aimed at having North Korea refrain from further provocative acts. Minister Kishida also called for international cooperation with UN Security Council Resolutions and collaboration in resolving the issue of abductions. Japan's stance gained the support of the other member states and was reflected in the Statement following the meeting.

As regards ties with China, Minister Kishida explained the Japanese Government's basic policy of promoting mutually beneficial strategic relations from a broad perspective and

of acting calmly even in difficult situations. On the issue of Africa, he emphasized the importance of cooperation between TICAD V and the G8 process.

A separate "Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict" was adopted at the meeting. The Declaration confirmed that the G8 were committed to prosecuting criminals and to taking action in support of the victims, and would make efforts to obtain further funding to this end. Minister Kishida declared Japan's active engagement in this regard and announced a new contribution of approximately US\$4.5 million.

Minister Kishida also outlined Japan's stance in the field of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation as well as its decision to contribute US\$550 million for peace and stability in Africa as a counterterrorism measure.

3. Visit to Japan of The Hon. Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The Hon. Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy, Member of the Pyithu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, visited Japan from April 13 to 19 at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

During her visit, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi exchanged views on various issues with Foreign Minister Kishida. As well as paying courtesy calls on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the House of Councillors, she had a meeting with members of the Myanmar community in Japan and gave lectures at universities.

Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida welcomed the progress of democratization in Myanmar and the country's re-emergence in international society, and declared that, as the process of reform was still unfolding, Japan was ready to help Myanmar accelerate that process so that its people could savor the fruits of democratization and national reconciliation.

In addition, Minister Kishida outlined to The Hon. Ms Suu Kyi how Japan would assist Myanmar, declaring that Japan would implement measures aimed at (1) improved living standards and the reduction of poverty for all citizens including ethnic minorities; (2) the establishment of a framework for developing human resources; and (3) the provision of infrastructure for sustainable development. He added that Japan would pay particular attention to supporting ethnic minorities as a means of assisting national reconciliation. Furthermore, he emphasized that Japan intended to support a model of development for Myanmar that was appropriate for the country.

In response, The Hon. Ms Suu Kyi stated that a stable political system including the rule of law and the nurturing of an appropriate social system were important for Myanmar's development. She added that she would like to acquire experience and support from Japan in the area of agriculture, in which 60 to 70 per cent of Myanmar's workforce were engaged.

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