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1. Japan Russia Summit

On April 29, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Russia. It was the first official visit by a Japanese prime minister to Russia in ten years. During the summit meeting and over a working lunch, the two leaders engaged in significant in-depth discussions on a broad spectrum of topics, including security, peace treaty negotiations, international affairs and economic issues, as well as cultural and human exchange.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Abe and President Putin released a joint statement on the development of a Japan-Russia partnership.

With respect to the peace treaty negotiations, which had stalled over the past several years, the leaders agreed to instruct their respective foreign affairs ministries to accelerate negotiations to draw up a solution to the peace treaty issue acceptable to both countries. Prime Minister Abe and President Putin were able to establish a personal trust through the extensive exchange of opinions.

The prime ministerial visit is thought to have given new momentum and a long-term orientation to the future relationship between Japan and Russia.

2. Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Middle East

From April 30 to May 3, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Turkey.

The aim of this visit was to construct the multi-layered relationship with the region beyond just the areas of natural resources and energy, which have been the main focus up to now, into cover up much more broaden cooperation such as economic cooperation, furthermore political and security issues, as well as cultural and people exchanges.

Based on those objectives, Prime Minister Abe delivered the statement on the Comprehensive Partnership towards Stability and Prosperity, in which Japan will fundamentally strengthen the relationship with the Middle East region during his stay in Saudi Arabia.

This statement consists of three elements, collaboration, coexistence and co-prosperity, and tolerance and harmony.

First: collaboration; both sides confirmed its cooperation in politics/security areas, and Prime Minister announced Japanese assistance amounting to \$ 2.2 billion to the Middle East and North Africa to support measures such as for their counter-terrorism, regional stability and democratization.

Second: coexistence and co-prosperity; toward the expanding and deepening of economic relations, such as by promoting the cooperation of Japanese agricultural products and medical equipments/technology fields. In addition, three agreements on nuclear energy cooperation were signed.²

Third: tolerance and harmony; Japan announced a plan for exchanges involving about 20,000 people by inviting trainees from and sending experts to various Middle Eastern countries over the next five years, and also more students would be accepted from those areas to study in Japan.

3. The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)

: Result Summary

From June 1 to 3, the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) was held in Yokohama, Japan, with participation of more than 4,500 delegates, among them heads of state and other the representatives of 51 African countries, and of 74 regional/international organizations, NGOs, and private sectors. The conference adopted the “YOKOHAMA Declaration 2013”.

As the host of TICAD, Japan has promoted it with particular emphasis on both the ownership on the part of African countries and the partnership with international community. In the TICAD V, the fundamental message was “Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa”.

Based on this message, Japan announced that we will provide development assistance to Africa up to 3.2 trillion yen (32 billion USD) including approximately 1.4 trillion yen (14 billion USD) in Official Development Assistance over the next five years, through “all-Japan” efforts by both the government and the private sectors. The guiding principles of this assistance to African countries are to help promote trade and investment by private sectors and to assist economic growth in Africa through efforts in such areas as infrastructure building and human resource development and to promote Human Security in such areas as agriculture, health, education, peace and stability with assistance built on unique strength of Japan.

Taking advantage of the occasion, Prime Minister Abe actively engaged in bilateral diplomacy by meeting with leaders, and Foreign Minister Kishida made a speech on “Toward post Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s)” in a thematic session. In addition, there were official side-events and various seminars, which helped promote cultural and interpersonal exchange between Africa and wide range of Japanese public.

The first TICAD was held in early 1990s, when the attention to Africa paid by international community had been decreased after the end of the Cold War. Since

then, this conference has been a place of dialogue between Japan and African countries and has developed into a preeminent forum for various players in the international community to discuss issues related Africa, with wide participation of international organizations, donor countries and other Asian countries.

4. G8 Summit 2013 in Lough Erne

June 17-18, the G8 leaders met at Lough Erne in Northern Ireland for the Summit hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron, the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe represented Japan at the Summit. The main theme of the Summit was 3T (Trade, Tax, Transparency), and the G8 leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues including the world economy and the foreign policy.

In the context of the world economy, Prime Minister Abe explained the Japanese economic policy, mainly so-called “Abenomics” (ongoing fiscal, monetary, and growth strategic policies adopted by Abe cabinet). In response, participating leaders expressed the strong hope that Japanese economic revitalization would contribute to the development of the global economy. They also discussed a host of issues such as the political situation in Syria and in North Korea, counter terrorism (to strengthen the capacity building for public peace and order of the terrorism-prone countries), fair tax and anti-money laundering. Based on the discussion of the Summit, the “Lough Erne Declaration” and the “Lough Erne Summit Communiqué” containing the terms of agreement among G8 leaders were released.

During the summit meeting, Prime Minister Abe actively held bilateral talks with the leaders of United Kingdom, Russia, Canada, Germany and the European Union. Furthermore, he paid a visit to Poland prior to the G8 Summit as well as to Ireland after the Summit.

For more information on Japan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan <http://www.mofa.go.jp>

Embassy of Japan in Rwanda <http://www.rw.emb-japan.go.jp>

Japan Echo Web <http://www.japanechoweb.jp/>

Web Japan <http://web-japan.org/>

Discuss Japan- Japan Foreign policy Forum <http://www.japanpolicyforum.jp>