

(Check against delivery)

Statement of Japan
Timor-Leste and Development Partners' Meeting
Dili, April 7, 2010

1) Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Xanana Gusmao paid a visit to Japan last year. Many of the seeds the Excellency sowed during his stay in Japan has sprouted, and some of them have been already bearing fruits. But still, there are many seeds to be grown with much attention. During the course of time, President H.E. Dr. Ramos-Horta visited Japan last month. Thanks to both Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Xanana Gusmao and President H.E. Dr. Ramos-Horta's visits to Japan, friendly relations between Timor-Leste and Japan have become such strong as have never been before.

2) Based on the needs of Timor-Leste, Japan has been extending cooperation to Timor-Leste focusing on the following four priority areas; namely "human resources development and institution building," "maintenance and improvement of infrastructure," "agriculture and rural development" and "consolidation of peace."

3) As far as "human resources development and institution building" are concerned, Japan puts emphasis as ever on, in particular, capacity building of this country. It has dispatched an ODA-loan advisor who is now working for starting up an ODA-loan unit at the Ministry of Finance. The National Defense Academy of Japan started to accept four Timorese students including two ladies from this April. The "project for the capacity development of teaching staff in the Faculty of Engineering of UNTL" has been carried out for the past four years and finished last month, and we have decided to start the phase two of the project. Two members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) start engaging in their activities at a youth educational institution in Dili this month. Moreover, Japan is going to dispatch a trade-commerce advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of Japan's support for Timor-Leste's smooth admission to ASEAN. Japan has been accepting trainees for the past two years in order to build capacities of Timor-Leste's maritime safety and community police respectively. It will accept the trainees for this year as well.

4) Regarding "maintenance and improvement of infrastructure," we continue our support so as to safeguard life of Timorese people. The "project for rehabilitation of Dili Port" will be completed by the end of this month. The "project for urgent improvement of water supply system in Bemos-Dili" has already started. We expect that, after the completion of the project, clean water will be supplied constantly to more households in Dili than before. The "project for improvement of Mola Bridge" will enter a full-scale construction phase after the rainy season. When the project is completed, the Mola Bridge will play an important role as a bridge connecting trunk roads in the south-western area of this country. We will continue

working on the development of other infrastructure in the country.

5) As far as “agriculture and rural development” are concerned, after taking into account the requests from the Government of Timor-Leste, we are going to dispatch “irrigation and rice cultivation advisors” again this year to start up the second phase of the project.

6) Regarding “consolidation of peace,” we are positively examining the dispatch of defense liaison officers to UNMIT. X

7) Regarding the climate change issue, Japan intends to work for it continuously in close cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste. In this regard, as part of the “Hatoyama Initiative,” the Government of Japan exchanged notes with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for two grant aid projects on a solar electricity generating project and a forest preservation project respectively, on March 15 during President H.E. Dr. Ramos-Horta’s visit to Japan.

8) Regarding the “Yen loan,” we understand Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Xanana Gusmao’s intentions thoroughly. We have just dispatched an ODA-loan advisor, and will continue making utmost efforts to develop an ODA-loan unit and enhance capacity building of the country.

(End)