

Japan-PNG Joint Statement
A New Age as Comprehensive Partnership dedicated to
the Stability and Prosperity in the Region

1. H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan paid an official visit to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea on 10-12 July 2014, upon invitation of Hon. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Prime Minister O'Neill warmly welcomed the first visit to Papua New Guinea by the Prime Minister of Japan in approximately three decades since 1985.
2. On 10 July, the two leaders held a summit meeting. Noting that next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Papua New Guinea, the two leaders reaffirmed the traditionally friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries. The two leaders shared the intention to develop such long standing friendly and cooperative relationship into "the Comprehensive Partnership for Regional Stability and Prosperity", and expressed their determination to play a leading role in ensuring stability and prosperity in the Pacific region.

Cooperation in Economic Fields

3. The two leaders stressed the importance of securing stable and competitive energy supply. The two leaders welcomed the fact that exports of LNG from Papua New Guinea to Japan started this June, referring to it as a positive contribution to Papua New Guinea's economic growth and to Japan's energy security as it helps diversify supply sources.
4. Fully recognising the great potential in Papua New Guinea as an investment destination for Japan, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of enhancing more investment by Japanese companies in Papua New Guinea, and shared the view that the investment environment in Papua New Guinea should be further improved. The two leaders welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea for the Promotion and Protection of Investment in January, and underlined the importance of utilising the Joint Committee established pursuant to Article 21 of the Agreement to this end. In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the holding of

the inauguration meeting of the Joint Committee on 11 July with the participation of eminent Japanese companies.

5. The two leaders recognised the significance of a bilateral agreement for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, which is conducive to greater flow of trade and investment between two countries, and decided to intensify the two countries' cooperation towards such an agreement as soon as practicable for the two countries.

Cooperation for Sustainable Development

6. Noting that Japan and Papua New Guinea are prone to natural disasters such as earthquake and tsunami, the two leaders underscored the importance of creating disaster resilient societies, and shared the intention to strengthen cooperation on disaster risk reduction through the exchange of lessons learned from disasters. The two leaders confirmed their intent to closely cooperate for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai-City in March 2015.
7. Prime Minister O'Neill appreciated Japan's long-standing development assistance to Papua New Guinea through official development assistance in areas such as socio-economic infrastructure, human resources development and education. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to strengthen cooperation in the fields of infrastructure development and human resources development, including the project for the comprehensive development in the Lae-Nazab area, and to promote cooperation in other major fields, including education, disaster risk reduction and climate change from the view point of human security. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe announced the assistance package of providing approximately JPY 20 billion in ODA over the subsequent three years.
8. The two leaders recognised the need for facilitation in the process of providing technical cooperation to strengthen human resources development, and shared the intention to accelerate the consultation on the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea towards its early conclusion.
9. The two leaders highly valued the indispensable role of women in development,

and shared the intention to cooperate in achieving gender equality in education and employment and women empowerment.

10. Prime Minister Abe commended the Autonomous Region of Bougainville for steadily advancing the reconstruction process since the end of the Bougainville conflict in 1998, and noted with satisfaction that the Japan's ODA project for constructing bridges on Bougainville Coastal Trunk Road was appreciated by the people of Bougainville. The two leaders underlined the importance of ensuring peace and stability in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville for steady development and prosperity in the Pacific region. Prime Minister Abe expressed his willingness to support the peace-building process and development in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville with other supporting countries in the region.

People-to-People Exchanges

11. The two leaders welcomed the recent high-level mutual visits between the two countries, and shared the intention to maintain the high-level mutual visits and dialogues as well as to promote exchanges between the two countries' Parliamentarians including friendly parliamentary leagues.
12. The two leaders reaffirmed that people-to-people exchanges should be facilitated in various fields to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries, and reconfirmed the importance of relaxation of visa requirements on a reciprocal basis to this end. In this regard, Prime Minister O'Neill appreciated "JENESYS 2.0" that had invited 69 Papua New Guinea young people to Japan last year and expressed the importance of continued youth exchanges.
13. In light of the high potential for tourism exchanges between the two countries, the two leaders affirmed the importance of enhancing tourism cooperation, and expressed their expectation that the Pacific Islands Tourism Ministers Meeting scheduled to be held in Japan in 2015 would provide useful advice for strengthening efforts towards tourism promotion between Japan and the Pacific region including Papua New Guinea.
14. Prime Minister O'Neill congratulated on Tokyo's designation as the host city for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, expressing his best wishes for their success.

Prime Minister Abe explained about Japan's "Sport for Tomorrow" program. Prime Minister O'Neill welcomed Japan's efforts to spread the value of sport and the Olympic Movement around the world.

The Recovery of the Remains of the War Dead

15. The two leaders confirmed the significance of Prime Minister Abe's visit to the New Guinea Monument to the War Dead in Wewak City, East Sepik Province on 11 July to commemorate the Japanese war dead. Taking this opportunity, the two leaders renewed their determination for peace. Prime Minister Abe expressed his deep appreciation for Papua New Guinea's generous support for recovery of the remains of the war dead, and maintenance and management of monuments to the war dead. Prime Minister O'Neill expressed his willingness to continue to cooperate with Japan especially for accelerating the recovery of the remains of the war dead.

Regional and Global Cooperation

16. Prime Minister O'Neill expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's continued commitment and support to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) through the process of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). Noting with satisfaction that the PALM process had made a great contribution to the development of mutual trust and cooperation between Japan and the PIF Members, the two leaders expressed their determination to further strengthen the PALM process in order to create a more vigorous and prosperous Pacific region. Furthermore, the two leaders stressed the importance of close coordination between the PALM process and the PIF, reiterating the need for Japan's further engagement with the PIF. In this connection, Prime Minister O'Neill expressed his firm intention to fully support Japan's efforts towards strengthening its engagement with the PIF as an island country sharing the Pacific Ocean.
17. The two leaders welcomed the continued democratic transformation in Fiji and expressed their intention to support Fiji to ensure that the elections in September 2014 would be conducted in a free, fair and credible manner. In this context, Prime Minister Abe commended PNG's leading role for the deployment of election observers in Fiji.

18. Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude for Papua New Guinea's continued support for Japan's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. The two leaders shared the intention to work together to achieve an early reform of the United Nations Security Council, including the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent categories, in view of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015.
19. The two leaders share the view that climate change is a common challenge for the international community, and in particular, it poses a major threat to the Pacific Island countries. Prime Minister O'Neill welcomed Japan's participation in the "Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership" adopted at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum in 2013. The two leaders confirmed their commitment to working closely towards the adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in 2015.
20. The two leaders expressed their expectation that fruitful discussion would be engaged in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be held in Samoa in September to promote the sustainable development of SIDS.
21. Prime Minister Abe commended Papua New Guinea on its leadership for hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2018, and expressed his expectation for Papua New Guinea's contribution towards economic growth and prosperity in Asia-Pacific region.
22. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's determination to even more actively contribute to ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the international community including the Pacific regions as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation and explained its recent efforts including its development of security legislation. Prime Minister O'Neill welcomed and supported Japan's effort to play a more active role to achieve more stable and prosperous Pacific region.

23. Noting that Japan and Papua New Guinea heavily rely on the Pacific Ocean in every aspect of their livelihood, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of utilising the potential of oceans in a free, fair and sustainable manner. The two leaders reaffirmed the universally recognized principles of international law, including the freedom of navigation and overflight of the high seas, and underscored the importance of upholding rule of law at sea. The two leaders opposed any attempt to change the status quo through the use of force, intimidation or coercion in the region and beyond, and stressed the importance of resolving international disputes and issues peacefully in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

24. The two leaders expressed their grave concern over North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. The two leaders strongly urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards its denuclearization and to fully comply with its international obligations under all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. The two leaders also strongly urged North Korea to address, without delay, the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.