

22 May 2007

Excellency,

I would like to express appreciation for His Excellency Prime Minister Abe's statement during the 9 December 2006 bilateral meeting between His Excellency and Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that Japan would not be exporting toxic wastes to the Philippines, as defined and prohibited under the laws of the Philippines and Japan, in accordance with the Basel Convention. This letter serves to confirm our understanding to this effect and that provisions related to this topic in the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement do not prevent the adoption or enforcement of such measures under existing and future national laws, rules and regulations of the Philippines and Japan. It would be opportune receiving confirmation from your side to put to rest the concerns raised on this subject in the JPEPA. The Philippine Government is committed to the early ratification of the JPEPA and to realize the benefits therein for the well-being of our peoples.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

ALBERTO G. ROMULO

HIS EXCELLENCY
TARO ASO
Foreign Minister
Japan

23 May 2007

Excellency,

I acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency Secretary Alberto G. Romulo's letter dated 22 May 2007.

I am pleased to confirm the statement and commitment of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan would not be exporting toxic wastes to the Philippines, as defined and prohibited under the laws of Japan and the Philippines, in accordance with the Basel Convention, and the understanding that provisions related to this topic in the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) do not prevent the adoption or enforcement of such measures under existing and future national laws, rules and regulations of the Philippines and Japan.

It is our hope that your Government complete the procedure necessary for entry into force of the JPEPA soon to attain our common objectives under the JPEPA and to further strengthening our relations.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Taro Aso
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

HIS EXCELLENCY
ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines