

**Japan - The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**  
**Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement**  
**Toward a Higher Sphere of Enduring Partnership**

WE, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Yoriko Kawaguchi and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Nguyen Dy Nien, met on the visit of the former to Viet Nam on July 3-4, 2004. Cherishing the past three decades of bilateral diplomatic relations in retrospect, we offered our prospects about the bilateral relationship over the years to come. Both sides shared the view that the two countries would promote even closer bilateral cooperation, further strengthen our relations in the spirit of "act together, advance together" and long-term stability and mutual trust, elevate the already sound and solid relationship onto a higher sphere of enduring partnership, and thereby more actively contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Bearing in mind the recent vigorous and comprehensive development of the Japan - Viet Nam relations, we exchanged views as follows:

1. Recognizing the importance of enhancing bilateral policy dialogues in various fields, we shared the intention to meet more frequently reflecting the tightly-knit bilateral relations. Both sides held the view that bilateral dialogues such as the Vice Foreign Ministerial Political Consultation and the Politico-Military (PM)/Military-Military (MM) Dialogues, as well as other forms of talks including intellectual exchanges and government-business dialogues should be regularly held to help deepen the mutual understanding among policy-makers on both sides, and thus, promote bilateral cooperation in an even more coordinated and effective manner.
2. Recognizing briskly growing trade and investment activities by the business entities between the two countries, both sides affirmed our determination not only to advance structural reforms in our respective countries but also to unite our efforts to create more favorable environments to bolster business, investment, and trade activities between the two countries.

3. The Vietnamese side assured to double its efforts to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO) at an earliest possible timing, desirably in the year 2005. In response, the Japanese side reaffirmed its consistent policy of actively supporting Viet Nam's early accession to the WTO.
4. Both sides appreciated the direction toward strengthening economic relations between the two countries, as discussed at the recent visit of the Japanese working-level delegation on June 21, 2004. We shared the perspective that the two countries would promote our economic partnership, involving wider range and higher level of liberalization, in accordance with the Framework of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), signed on October 8, 2003 in Bali, Indonesia.
5. We envisaged that the Japan-Viet Nam Investment Agreement, which had been ratified by the two countries, would shortly come into effect and be steadily implemented thereafter so as to further reinvigorate the direct investment from Japan to Viet Nam. Both sides also shared the recognition that the Agreement of such high quality would also help accelerate the regional process to materialize the vision of the AJCEP toward a more liberalized and integrated market of the region. Both sides renewed our determination to take concrete and effective measures to implement the Action Plan of the Japan-Viet Nam Joint Initiative to Improve Business Environment with a View to Strengthening Viet Nam's Competitiveness. The said Action Plan was submitted to the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr. Junichiro Koizumi and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam H.E. Mr. Phan Van Khai on December 9, 2003 in Tokyo.
6. While acknowledging that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the business activities had immensely contributed to socio-economic development, poverty reduction and environment protection of Viet Nam, both sides highlighted the importance of the effective and efficient use of ODA and facilitation of business activities in the private sector. The Japanese side showed its readiness to continue its support in promotion of economic growth, improvement of social and human conditions and institution building. Based on the shared view that conserving natural resources and quality of life of the peoples are prerequisites for ensuring sustainable economic development, the Vietnamese side welcomed the

Japanese Mission for Policy Dialogue on Environment from July 5-9, 2004, aiming to find better solutions to environmental issues in Viet Nam.

7. Encouraged by multi-faceted cooperation currently conducted between the two countries, both sides noted that people-to-people exchanges on a broader basis would enrich and solidify the foundation of our bilateral partnership. In this line, the Japanese side welcomed Viet Nam's recent decisions to waive visas for the Japanese citizens, and given the Vietnamese side's proposal, would consider the possibilities of waiving visas for the Vietnamese citizens with diplomatic and official passports. Both sides concurred in accelerating tourism cooperation between the two nations.

8. We noted with satisfaction Japan's initiative in teaching the Japanese language in Viet Nam with a view to laying fertile soil for better understanding of both societies and cultures on a grass root level. Both sides held the view that the program of the Japan Fund for Public Policy Training established at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the idea introduced by Prime Minister Phan Van Khai for establishing the East Asia Talent Training Centre would contribute to promoting human resources development in Viet Nam and the region at large.

9. As the Vietnamese side expressed its readiness to collaborate in the Mekong Region Development as a development partner, the Japanese side embraced such a proactive attitude of the Vietnamese side. In this context, we shared the determination to explore appropriate areas and forms of cooperation such as projects in support of development of the neighboring countries, as both Prime Ministers had exchanged views on June 4, 2004 in Tokyo.

10. The Japanese side welcomed the significant role and constructive initiatives of Viet Nam in preparation to successfully host the Summit meetings of the ASEM 5 (2004) and the APEC (2006) and reaffirmed that Japan would continue to contribute in the process in close collaboration with Viet Nam. In this line, we exchanged views on the enlargement as well as other issues related to the ASEM to further enhance cooperation between Asia and Europe.

11. Pressed by growing concerns about proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) among the international community and the earnest call

by the Japanese side for the conclusion of the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Vietnamese side reiterated the resolve to contribute to ensuring international stability and security, and reassured to complete its internal process as soon as possible.

We reaffirmed our resolve to make ceaseless efforts to deepen our enduring partnership in the spirit of comprehensive cooperation and long-lasting friendship and to further contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia- Pacific region.

Ha Noi, July 3, 2004

**Yoriko Kawaguchi**

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