

Joint Statement on Cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Kosovo

On the occasion of the visit to Japan by Mr. Hashim Thaci, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, on April 14, 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci of the Republic of Kosovo, reconfirmed friendship between the two countries that has continued to exist since the independence of the Republic of Kosovo and, in light of promotion of cooperation between the two countries, issued the following statement.

1. Bilateral Relationship since the Independence of the Republic of Kosovo

The two Prime Ministers reconfirmed that, since the independence of the Republic of Kosovo, the two countries have been deepening cooperation extensively through, i.e., political dialogue, economic, cultural, people-to-people exchanges, consultation on global issues. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that the cooperation between two countries have been based on the unwavering adherence to fundamental values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law by the two countries. In this regard, Prime Minister Thaci, in recognition of Japan's widely acknowledged peaceful orientation, expressed his strong support for Japan's efforts to further contribution to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace."

2. Economic Cooperation

Prime Minister Thaci expressed his highest appreciation to Prime Minister Abe for the Official Development Assistance provided by Japan to the Republic of Kosovo, which totals more than 1.4 billion Japanese yen. Prime Minister Abe expressed that, based on the needs of the Republic of Kosovo, the Government of Japan will continue to provide further economic assistance to the Republic of Kosovo for the sake of the stabilization of economic and social infrastructure, including development of human resources and improvement of environment.

Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Thaci shared the view in principle that the issues of inheritance of treaties and international agreements of the Republic of Kosovo from its predecessor states should be solved before the Japanese side starts consideration on provision of a new Yen Loan. Furthermore, Prime Minister Thaci stated that there have been cases when the issues of inheritance of treaties and international agreements were solved in a mutually satisfactory manner between the Republic of Kosovo and third parties.

3. Cultural and People-to-People Exchange

The two prime ministers welcomed that, on the occasion of Prime Minister Thaci's visit to

Japan this time, the Parliamentary Friendship League of Japan-Kosovo was established.

The two prime ministers welcomed that Mr. Toshio Yanagisawa has served as a chief conductor of the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra. Prime Minister Thaci expressed high appreciation for the Cultural Grant Assistance Project for the Improvement of Musical Instruments of the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra.

4. Business Promotion

Prime Minister Thaci touched upon investment potential of the Republic of Kosovo for Japanese business. In this regard, two prime ministers welcomed that, on November 22, 2013, an investment forum hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization and the Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo was held in Vienna and Mr. Bernard Nikaj, the then Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry in the Republic of Kosovo, presented the investment environment of the Republic of Kosovo to the Japanese business representatives.

5. Process towards accession to the European Union by the Republic of Kosovo

In the view of promotion of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, Prime Minister Abe expressed his support for reform efforts and the future accession to the European Union by the Republic of Kosovo. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe welcomed that the European Union and the Republic of Kosovo have started the talks for the Stabilisation and Association Process Dialogue.

Prime Minister Abe also expressed his support for Prime Minister Thaci's initiative for the normalization of the relationship between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia.

Tokyo, 14 April 2014

Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan

Hashim Thaci
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo