

Action Plan for Strengthening of the Strategic Partnership
(Annex of the Joint Declaration)

1 Joint Contribution to Secure Regional Peace and Stability

(1) Areas of Security Cooperation

Both governments will promote security cooperation including the following areas:

- information sharing on security environment and challenges in regional and global context, and enhancement of information security in relation to the information sharing;
- information exchange and policy coordination on respective security policies;
- humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR);
- maritime security including maritime domain awareness;
- defense equipment and technology cooperation;
- capacity building; and
- others listed in the Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the defense authorities in January 2015.

(2) Cooperation in Disaster Relief

Both governments, recalling the contribution of Japan Self-Defense Forces(JSDF) in HA/DR activities for Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, will undertake a study on possible ways to determine the legal status of JSDF in disaster relief operations in the Philippines.

(3) Security Dialogues

Both governments will enhance security dialogues through utilizing the following newly established or existing frameworks:

- between foreign authorities
 - Foreign ministers' meeting
 - Vice-ministerial strategic dialogue
 - Director-generals' consultations on bilateral relations and respective areas;
- between defense authorities
 - Defense ministers' meeting
 - Vice-ministerial consultation
 - High-level and official-level consultation between JSDF and AFP;
- between foreign and defense authorities
 - Vice-ministerial consultation (newly established)
 - Politico-military dialogue; and

- between Japan's National Security Secretariat and the Philippines' National Security Council

(4) Capacity Building Assistance, and Joint Exercise and Training

The Japanese government will enhance its capacity building assistance to the Philippines. Both governments will enhance mutual inter-operability through expansion of bilateral and multilateral joint exercises and trainings.

(5) Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation

The Japanese government will continue capacity-building of the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG) and to study on further capability enhancement of the PCG with a view to enhancing the latter's maritime domain awareness capability based on the previous and existing assistance including human resources development and provision of patrol vessels. The Philippine government will exert best efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the Japan-assisted PCG projects.

(6) Combat to Piracy and Armed Robbery

Both governments will enhance regional cooperation to combat the increasing number of piracy and armed robbery in the ASEAN region including information sharing through ReCAAP. In this context, the Philippine government will support the candidate nominated by Japan for the next Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

(7) Consultation on International law

Both governments, recognizing the need of further enhancing the rule of law in the international community, will hold consultations on international law.

2 Towards Enduring Peace in Mindanao

Affirming that peace and development in Mindanao is one of the priority areas for the assistance to the Philippines, the Japanese government will continue its support by providing assistance to conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. The Japanese government will focus on ensuring the strengthening of the Bangsamoro through the new phase of the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development program (J-BIRD2); and through peace process mechanisms, by continuing to dispatch experts to the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and participating in the International Contact Group (ICG), among others. Both countries welcome the recent Grant Agreement on the Project for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao and its implementation. As a basis of steady implementation of economic development projects based on the Bangsamoro

Development Plan, the Philippine government will make efforts to further improve security in Mindanao. In addition, both governments will continue discussions on means to promote the economic autonomy of the Bangsamoro Area, including necessary cooperation for the implementation of the proposed Program on Economic-Growth through Agri-Business Cooperation and Entrepreneurship (PEACE) among others.

3 Collaboration for Economic Growth of the Region

(1) Promotion of Trade and Investment

Building upon the Joint Statement on Industrial Cooperation between Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, both sides will further enhance industrial cooperation in such areas as automobiles, services, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and business environment.

The Philippine government undertakes to address concerns relating to the improvement of the business environment and take appropriate policy measures to promote the automotive industries in the Philippines. The Japanese government will further enhance human resources development and other cooperation programs to support Philippine's efforts to be a hub for human resource development.

(2) Infrastructure Development

Both governments will continue cooperation in the implementation of the "Cooperation Roadmap for Quality Infrastructure Development In the Transport Sector in Metropolitan Manila Area" as determined through existing approval processes, subject to the regular programming exercises of both governments, and depending on the financing requirements. Both leaders share the recognition that the North-South Commuter Railway Project, Phase 1, costing approximately Three Hundred Billion Yen, has symbolical significance for cooperation between both governments based on the "Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas". They express their intention to cooperate for the entire project by utilizing positively Japan's finance and technology, based on "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" propounded by Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan in May 2015. They also decide to accelerate their efforts to come up with details for the project.

Furthermore, both governments will, under close cooperation, continue to study and conduct infrastructure development in other sectors and regions to improve the investment and business environment in the Philippines. In this regard, the Japanese government has decided to extend assistance to the Project for Davao City Bypass Construction with total project cost of approximately Thirty Billion Yen. The Philippine government will exert best efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the Japan-assisted projects in the

Philippines.

(3) Economic Partnership

Both governments will continue to cooperate towards the conclusion of the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by the end of this year. Both governments will also further advance a study on measures for improving the process regarding the acceptance of nurse and certified careworker candidates, under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

(4) Healthcare

Both governments will advance cooperation in the field of healthcare aiming at the achievement of Universal Health Coverage and development of healthcare in the Philippines based on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by both health authorities.

(5) Disaster Risk Reduction

Both governments will launch a policy dialogue to discuss disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) cooperation based on Japan's DRRM infrastructure and facilities. In particular, both governments will discuss the promotion of measures to enhance the Philippines' disaster risk reduction and response in such cases as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, among others, based on Japan's knowledge and experience. In this regard, the Japanese government has decided to extend assistance to the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project with total project cost of approximately Eleven Billion Yen. The Philippine government will work on the project's smooth implementation.

(6) Environment

Both governments will promote sharing of their knowledge and experiences in the field of environment such as waste management. In particular, the Japanese government will share its knowledge, experiences, and the information regarding Japanese legal systems and technology. Both governments will also facilitate their cooperation through enhancing understanding on the challenges in the Philippines. In the field of climate change, both governments will explore and conduct consultations for the Joint Crediting Mechanism in order to achieve low carbon growth.

(7) Agriculture

Both governments will launch a policy dialogue aimed at raising food self-reliance and development of food value chain to increase the value of agricultural products in the Philippines.

(8) Regulations on the Import of Food Products

In view of the request of the Government of Japan, the Philippines is committed to the review of the additional requirements for some food products originating from certain Japanese prefectures as soon as possible. The said requirements were set in place in 2011 after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident.

(9) Information and Communications

Both governments welcome the development in Philippine telecommunication in which the Philippines has adopted the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T) as its standard of digital terrestrial television broadcasting and that groundwork towards the commencement of broadcast service is steadily conducted based on Japan's support, and promote further bilateral cooperation for dissemination of terrestrial digital broadcasting. Both governments recognize the benefits of migration to digital broadcasting and maximizing the use of vacant frequencies for broadband wireless access such as TV White Space technologies for rural connectivity. Both governments also welcome the development in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippines and Japan on the cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) including disaster risk reduction and management, resilient, trusted and secure ICT systems and environment.

(10) Social Security Agreement

Both governments will accelerate negotiations with the objective of signing an Agreement between Japan and the Philippines on Social Security by the end of the year.

4 Close Coordination in the International Arena

(1) Regional Architecture

Both governments reaffirm the growing significance of the evolving regional architecture built upon ASEAN's centrality. With the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community and the 10th anniversary of the East Asia Summit, enhanced cooperation will be undertaken to even more closely strengthen the regional architecture. The Japanese government will fully support the Philippine government, as this year's APEC Chair, to make APEC 2015 a great success.

(2) Korean Peninsula

Both governments share their views that North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, including its uranium enrichment activities and the ballistic missile launches, poses a threat to the region and the international community. They

strongly urge North Korea to take concrete actions towards complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization and to fully comply with its obligations under all the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. Both governments also reaffirm their commitments to fully implement all obligations under the relevant UNSC resolutions and strongly urge North Korea to address, without delay, humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

(3) Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

Both governments will strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and extremism together with the international community. The Japanese government will advance the 3-Pillar Foreign Policy in response to the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese citizens, including assistance in creating societies resilient to radicalization. In this connection, the Philippine government welcomes the High-Level Seminar on Peacebuilding, National Reconciliation and Democratization in Asia proposed by Prime Minister Abe which will take place in Tokyo this month.

(4) Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

As NPDI members, both governments will further cooperate in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy in order to realize a world free of nuclear weapons including through follow-up of the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as well as cooperating in promoting effective export control in Asia.

(5) Climate Change

Both governments recognize the importance of cooperating towards an agreement on a new framework, applicable to all Parties at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) at the end of this year.

(6) Disaster Risk Reduction and Development

Both governments will link the outcomes of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 to the: (i) Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015; (ii) the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted in September 2015; and (iii) the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) at the end of 2015. Furthermore, the Philippine government supports the proposal by the Japanese government to designate November 5 as “World Tsunami Day” with the aim of deepening understanding and raising awareness of the importance of taking precautionary

measures against tsunami.

(7) Highly-efficient Coal-fired Power Generation

Both governments, recognizing that energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emission from the power sector remain crucial to achieving sustainable development goals, will work closely towards improved efficiency in the power generation, specifically through the introduction and the promotion of highly efficient coal-fired power generation technologies. They also recognized the importance of continued public financial supports by OECD countries for available highly efficient coal-fired power generation and the need to share that view in international fora including APEC.

5 Strengthening Dialogues and Exchanges

(1) 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

Both governments, recognizing the significance of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2016, will hold commemorative events such as the annual “Japan-Philippines Friendship Month” in July which will be a core project for commemoration.

(2) Promotion of Tourism

Both governments welcome the further activation of bilateral people-to-people exchanges through the relaxation of visas, and the inauguration of new services and the increase of flights. For the increase of tourists from the Philippines to Japan, the Japanese government has added the Philippines to a priority market for Japanese tourism promotion from 2015. The Philippine government will concentrate on various events that will further promote Philippine tourism during 2015 which the Philippine government has designated as “Visit the Philippines Year”. Both governments will consider further promoting tourism exchange.

(3) WA Project

The Japanese government will advance the “WA Project ~Toward Interactive Asia through ‘Fusion and Harmony’ ~” to promote two-way arts and cultural exchange and Japanese learning assistance.

(4) Youth and Educational Exchange

Both governments share recognition on the importance of cooperation in two-way student exchange, and will continue exchanges through projects such as the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2015, the Ship for South East Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP) and Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science.

Moreover, both governments also welcome the participation of Filipino youths in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET Program) and look forward to its success in Japan and continued Philippine participation in the program.

(5) Exchange through Sports

Both governments will promote exchange through sports between the two countries, through the initiatives such as the “Sport for Tomorrow” program taking into consideration Japan’s hosting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

(6) Japanese Language Education

The Japanese government will enhance its assistance for Japanese education through expansion of the dispatch of “NIHONGO Partners (Japanese language education assistants)” and Japanese-Language Proficiency Test.