

JOINT VISION STATEMENT ON JAPAN – VIET NAM RELATIONS

At the invitation of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam pays an Official Visit to Japan from September 15 to 18, 2015. During the visit, General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong is received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, held official talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and met eminent members of Japan’s political, economic and social circles. Building on the achievements and motivated by their shared strategic vision on cooperation potentials and the future relationship between Japan and Viet Nam, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong adopted this Joint Vision Statement on Japan – Viet Nam Relations with a view to comprehensively promoting and further deepening the Japan – Viet Nam Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia.

I. Development of Japan – Viet Nam relations

1 The two sides highly valued the robust, comprehensive and substantive development of the Japan – Viet Nam relationship over the past time, especially since its elevations to the Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia in 2009 and the Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia in 2014. Political trust has been consolidated and strengthened vigorously through frequent high-level exchanges and contacts as well as dialogue mechanisms between Japanese and Vietnamese ministries and industries. Japan has stayed firm as a leading economic partner of Viet Nam. Bilateral economic cooperation has become increasingly intensive as the two sides have designed 05 Plans of Action under Viet Nam’s industrialization strategy within the Japan – Viet Nam cooperation framework until 2020 and a vision to 2030, and accomplished the 5th phase of Viet Nam-Japan Joint Initiative to Improve Business Environment with a view to strengthening Viet Nam’s Competitiveness. Cooperation between the two countries in fields such as security and defense, agriculture, science-technology, education-training, culture, sports, tourism, environment, local-level exchanges, and people-to-people exchanges has developed in substance, intensity and scope alike.

2 Viet Nam highly recognized growth of the Japanese economy and believed that the latter's recovery would exert positive impact on the economy of the region and the world at large.

3 Japan highly appreciated Viet Nam's achievements under the Doimoi policy and believed that Vietnamese people would fulfill the cause of national industrialization and modernization and realize the goals of building a strong, democratic, equitable and civilized nation with a prosperous people.

4 The two sides held the view that the achievements in Japan-Viet Nam relations of cooperation over the past years were possible thanks to the "mutual trust and understanding, promotion of shared interests, enhancement of efficient cooperation, and forward-looking endeavors" that enjoyed broad-based support of both countries' peoples.

II. Guidelines for the development of Japan - Viet Nam relations

5 The two sides confirmed that Japan and Viet Nam shared many fundamental interests as mutually important partners, and that the development of one country would facilitate that of the other. Viet Nam confirmed that Japan would continue to be its long-term, leading important partner, whereas Japan affirmed its appreciation of Viet Nam's status in its foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

6 Guided by the Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia, the two sides affirmed their determination to develop comprehensive and deep Japan - Viet Nam relationship in all areas for the benefit of their peoples and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

On political, security and defense relations

7 The two leaders shared the willingness to maintain regular visits and contacts between the two sides at high levels, and to promote exchanges between Parliaments and political parties to consolidate and enhance political trust between the two countries. On this occasion, General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong solemnly extended his invitation to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, other members of the Japanese Imperial Family and Prime Minister Abe to visit Viet Nam at times of mutual convenience, which was received by Japan with sincere appreciation.

8 The two sides concurred to continue to work in close coordination to enhance and deepen existing dialogue mechanisms between the two countries such as the Japan-Viet Nam Cooperation Committee and the Japan-Viet Nam Strategic Partnership Dialogue and to promote cooperation between localities of the two countries.

9 The two leaders shared the intention to strengthen cooperation in security and defense by promoting visits and interactions at various levels, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of dialogue mechanisms, actively coordinating to implement bilateral security and defense agreements, and strengthening cooperation in the field of human resource training.

10 The two sides shared the intention to enhance cooperation in maritime safety and security, such as in search-and-rescue, and in dealing with non-traditional security issues, such as cyber security, cybercrime, terrorism, transnational organized crime, piracy, etc. The two sides signed a Memorandum on Cooperation between Coast Guard Agencies.

11 Japan affirmed its continued assistance to help Viet Nam enhance its capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies, address post war unexploded ordnance clearance and participate in UN peacekeeping operations. The defense authorities of both countries signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on UN Peacekeeping operation.

On connectivity between the two economies

12 As prompted by each side's needs and interests, the two sides shared the intention to connect their two economies sustainably in the long-run, which would focus on connecting their economic development strategies, production capacity and human resources on the principles of complementarity and mutual assistance and benefit.

13 As regards connecting economic development strategies, the two sides shared the intention to strengthen cooperation during the sustainable economic development strategy planning. Japan affirmed its assistance for Viet Nam to enhance competitiveness, transform the growth paradigm, implement Viet Nam's Industrialization Strategy within the Japan-Viet Nam cooperation framework until 2020 and vision to 2030, and launch at an early date the 6th phase of the Viet Nam-Japan Joint Initiative to Improve Business Environment with a view to strengthening Viet Nam's Competitiveness.

14 The two sides highly valued to establish a Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy. This Joint Committee is aimed at promoting and strengthening cooperation in the fields of industry, trade and energy between the public and private sectors of both countries more closely, comprehensively and effectively.

15 The two sides confirmed that as a result of intensive plant quarantine consultation, Viet Nam will open its markets for Japan's fresh apple as

requested by Japan and Japan will open its market for Vietnam's fresh mango as requested by Viet Nam soon.

16 On connecting production capacity, the two sides shared the intention to:

- enhance development cooperation in combination with transfer of advanced technology in high-tech areas;

- promote cooperation in the fields of energy development and electronics industry, information and communications technology, and postal services;

- boost investment flows into Viet Nam from Japanese firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);

- strengthen the cooperation between Japanese and Vietnamese companies in the fields of agriculture, a priority area for Viet Nam, and work together to foster Viet Nam's small-and medium-sized enterprises and to promote the development of support industries in order to facilitate local procurement by Japanese companies operating in the country;

- diversify forms of investment, with encouragement given to private-public partnership (PPP);

- promote the development of manufacturing engineering, build up and develop large-scale industrial parks for Viet Nam;

- promote an innovative business environment through cooperation in the area of intellectual property;

- promote comprehensive cooperation in agriculture, forestry and fishery in the spirit of "Japan-Viet Nam Medium-long Term Vision On Agricultural Cooperation";

- promote direct cooperation between localities of both countries.

17 With regard to connecting human resources, the two sides shared the intention to work closely with each other to effectively implement the Strategic

Program on Education Cooperation 2014. Building upon its experience of the comprehensive human resources development for various industries, Japan committed its assistance to upgrading high-quality universities and vocational training schools into internationally standardized ones, while actively helping Viet Nam establish a Viet Nam-Japan University. Japan confirmed its intention to assist the development of Viet Nam's vocational skill standards and national skill testing system, and the two sides shared the view to cooperate on the acceptance of Vietnamese candidates for nurses and care workers, and technical intern trainees. The two sides also shared the intention to cooperate for improving the Technical Intern Training Program, with a view to further promoting human resources development under this Program.

18 The two sides shared the intention to further cooperate for the goal of doubling their two-way trade and investment by 2020 as defined by the Joint Statement in 2014 through various measures including an effective implementation of the Japan - Viet Nam Economic Partnership Agreement.

19 Viet Nam was highly appreciative of and grateful to Japan for the latter's positive and effective support for Viet Nam's socio-economic development by way of providing ODA over the past 20 years. Japan affirmed its commitment to enhance cooperation with Viet Nam, including through utilizing ODA in the fields of infrastructure & energy developments, poverty eradication, climate change, and human resource development. Viet Nam welcomed Japan's Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, and the two sides resolved to work closely to improve the effective and efficient use of Japan's ODA to Vietnam and realize the development of sustainable, accessible, and resilient quality infrastructure in Viet Nam.

20 The two sides shared the view that promotion of high efficiency coal-fired power generation will contribute to energy security and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reaffirmed the importance of expressing the necessity

of continuing public financial supports by the OECD countries for high efficiency coal-fired power generation in international fora.

On cooperation in other areas

21 The two sides shared the intention to promote measures to facilitate entry into each country of the nationals of the other country. The two sides shared the view to promote cooperation in the justice sector and in the development of legal system, including mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition, and transfer of sentenced persons.

22 The two sides also decided to strengthen cooperation in the field of science and technology, culture, sports, tourism, social security and people-to-people exchange. In this context, Viet Nam highly appreciated Japan's cooperation in JENESYS 2015 (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) implemented under Prime Minister Abe's initiative. Also, the two sides welcomed the development of "WA Project" to promote two-way arts and cultural exchange and Japanese language learning assistance, and Viet Nam highly valued Japanese government's initiative such as "Sport for Tomorrow" which promotes international cooperation and exchange through sports. Recognizing its importance, the two sides reaffirmed to enhance further cooperation in the field of environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

III. Strengthening Cooperation on regional and global issues

23 Japan welcomed Viet Nam's foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development, multi-lateralization and diversification of relations, proactive and active international integration; highly valued Viet Nam's role in maintaining peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world. Viet Nam recognized and highly valued Japan's resolution to take the lessons of history deeply and its commitment to taking a path as a peaceful nation. Viet Nam welcomed Japan's proactive contribution to peace

and development through efforts including constructive legislation, policies and initiatives for peace, security, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

24 The two sides reaffirmed their intention to cooperate even more closely in the work of the international organizations and forums of which they both are members, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN+3, the ASEAN-Japan, the East Asia Summit (EAS), ADMM+, etc. The two sides expressed their support for ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture; concurred on the importance of the need of maintaining a self-reliant, united and strong ASEAN; are determined to strengthen cooperation on enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing development gaps within the region, especially after the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

25 Viet Nam highly valued the importance of Japan-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism including "Mekong-Japan Action Plan" pursuant to the four pillars of the "New Tokyo Strategy 2015" adopted at the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting and Japan's active role in the mechanism, particularly in promoting sustainable management and development of water resources of the Mekong River and to develop infrastructure in the East-West Economic Corridor. The two sides also highly valued the establishment of "Mekong Industrial Development Vision" at the 7th Mekong-Japan Economic Ministers Meeting and affirmed continuous cooperation of both sides toward realization of the vision. Japan confirmed that it will work closely and support Viet Nam to host the 2017 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting successfully.

26 The two sides expressed their determination to continue working closely together and with other participating parties for early conclusion of the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

27 The two sides expressed their serious concerns over recent and ongoing developments in the South China Sea, including large scale land reclamation and building of outposts, which have increased tensions, eroded trust and confidence, and threatened peace and stability in the region and the world. The two sides emphasized that coastal states are required under international law, including the law of the sea, to refrain from unilateral actions that will change the status quo. The two sides reiterated the importance of maintaining peace, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and over-flight, and urged parties concerned not to take any unilateral actions that will complicate and expand the disputes in the South China Sea, to settle all disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the principles of international law and, particularly, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to strictly implement the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and to conclude the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) expeditiously.

28 The two sides emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and stressed the necessity of refraining from any acts which may cause tensions, fully complying with the obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and taking concrete steps towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They reiterated their intention to strengthen efforts to resolve the abductions issue, which is a humanitarian concern of the international community.

29 The two sides emphasized the need for the United Nations, especially the Security Council, to strengthen its effectiveness, transparency, democracy and representativeness, in a way that reflects the realities of the international community in the 21st century. The two sides shared the view that the year of 70th anniversary of the UN foundation is the best favorable moment for promoting the UN reforms, including the UN Security Council; and concurred on the importance of working closely on this matter.

30 Viet Nam supported the proposal by Japan to designate 5th of November as “World Tsunami Day”, and the two sides shared the intention to cooperate with the aim of deepening understanding of tsunamis and raising awareness of the importance of taking precautionary measures against tsunamis.

31 The two sides affirmed the importance of sustainable use of aquatic fishery resources, including cetaceans, based on scientific evidence. Viet Nam expressed the intention to actively consider to participate in and become a member of the International Whaling Commission and Japan welcomed it. Japan affirmed intention to consider its support for Viet Nam to participate in and become an official member of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

During the visit, the two sides signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents between concerned ministries, agencies and enterprises of both countries.

Tokyo, Japan, on September 15, 2015.