

Joint Message
by Prime Ministers of Japan and Papua New Guinea
on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary
of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations

- 40 Years of Friendship, Trust, Mutual Efforts and Toward the Future –

1. We, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG), and reaffirm our determination to further develop the long-lasting friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries.
2. Looking back on the history, we recall the statement issued by Prime Minister Abe on the 70th anniversary of the end of war with deep repentance for the war during which countless lives were lost in PNG, and the appreciation expressed by PNG for the statement. We acknowledge Japan's reaffirmed determination to contribute even more actively to the peace and security of the region and the international community from the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, including Japan's new legislation for peace and security, as well as the PNG's appreciation and support for Japan's such efforts and contribution. We also affirm the significant contribution that Japan's long-lasting cooperation has made to the sustainable development and the enhancement of international status of PNG and the appreciation from PNG for Japan's such cooperation.
3. We confirm that the two countries are important and responsible partners in the international and regional arena. Recalling the contribution of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Pacific region, we underline the importance of working together to promote regional cooperation through the PALM process.
4. We also confirm the acceleration of the cooperation between the two countries in the economic field as seen in the LNG project in PNG with participation of Japanese companies and the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea for the Promotion and Protection of Investment. We express our willingness to further deepen economic ties through such means as smooth and efficient implementation of the Investment Agreement. We welcome the shareholders' agreement signed between Sojitz and PNG National Petroleum Company, and the successful convening of the first meeting of the Joint Committee of the Investment Agreement.

5. We also reiterate our intention to enhance cooperation in various areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, environment, people-to-people exchanges, sustainable development, oceans, maritime issues and fisheries, as well as trade, investment and tourism. In this regard, we acknowledge PNG's appreciation for Japan's contribution in the field of sport such as the dispatch of Judo coaches as a part of "Sport for Tomorrow" programme. We welcome the signing of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Exchange of Notes Verbales on the reciprocal visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders.

6. Based on our long history of cooperation and friendship which has forged the strong ties between Japan and PNG as described above, we are pleased to announce our determination to make utmost efforts to further deepen our relationship. We, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, strongly believe that our interactive and comprehensive partnership will also contribute to the peace and prosperity of the region and the world.