

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for having been accorded the honor of joining this historic forum. Japan warmly welcomes Korea's leadership to host this High Level Forum for the first time as an Asian country.

Before talking about South-South cooperation, let me begin with reiterating our deep appreciation for the heartfelt assistance that has been extended by people all over the world, following the unprecedented earthquake on March 11.

We promise the world to achieve reconstruction that is open to the world, and actively contribute to building a better future for our world. Having emerged from the earthquake disaster, Japan remains to be a main actor in tackling global development issues.

Also, as a politician with an experience of working as NGO office representative in Cambodia, I would like to highlight the importance of the new partnership among governments including emerging countries, the private sectors, and civil society organizations (CSOs).

In this regard, while we are about to endorse the final outcome document, I strongly encourage emerging countries to join this partnership, recognizing the significance of the partnership and their essential roles in it. Japan will exert all our efforts to promote constructive engagement from all countries to this partnership.

East Asia has made substantial progress towards the MDGs through its economic growth and has succeeded in reducing the number of people living in poverty. Asia's growth has been achieved by utilizing the power of the private sector, catalyzed by international cooperation.

I sincerely hope that Asia's experience in this regard will be utilized in other areas. Making the most use of its experience, Japan has consistently been implementing its assistance in accordance with international rules and norms.

Through this new inclusive partnership, Japan will make every effort to share East Asia's experience with the rest of the world.

Regarding the South-South cooperation, Japan has a long and profound record. We have signed agreements on partnership programs with 12 countries, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Food Security is one of the most pressing global issues facing us. Let me introduce Japan-Brazil-Mozambique trilateral cooperation. Expanding our long-term bilateral cooperation, Japan and Brazil are now working together to provide agricultural assistance to Mozambique.

Another example is Japan-Kenya cooperation on teacher training on mathematics and science education. Based on our bilateral cooperation, Kenya is now providing teacher training courses and technical assistance to other African countries with us.

Statement at Plenary 2, November 30, 2011.

Japan's long history of foreign assistance has started in 1954, when it was still an aid recipient. That is why the South-South cooperation has profound significance for Japan. Japan continues to be one of the biggest contributors to triangular cooperation.

We bear a common responsibility to build a better future. It is my sincere hope that all of us gathered here today will renew our commitments to strengthening international cooperation.

I believe that our own experiences in Asian region can be applied to other regional context, which will lead to scaling up for the South-South Cooperation through win-win-win partnership by sharing respective development experiences.

Thank you for your attention.

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