

"Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue: The Fifth Tokyo Dialogue

March 11, 2013

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue: The Fifth Tokyo Dialogue on March 15.
2. The Tokyo Dialogue has been held as part of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue, a framework for promoting cooperation between Japan and Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It takes the form of a symposium, involving experts and academics from the participating countries.
3. Building on the discussions at the Fourth Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Tokyo in November last year under the framework of "Central Asia plus Japan", the upcoming Fifth Tokyo Dialogue will discuss "The Role of Regional Cooperation in Trade and Investment Promotion in Central Asia: Lessons Learned from the ASEAN Experience". The dialogue will explore the possibility of drawing on the ASEAN experience in advancing regional cooperation in Central Asia with two major focuses: (i) the formation of ASEAN, which has made remarkable progress in regional cooperation to date; and (ii) the role that Japan has played in the process. The outcomes of the discussion will be reported to the next inter-governmental meeting in the form of a Chairperson's summary. It is hoped that they will be put to good use in encouraging intraregional cooperation.

Reference 1

"Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue

(1) The "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue was launched in August 2004 as a framework for promoting cooperation between Japan and Central Asian countries. The most recent and fourth Foreign Ministers' Meeting under this framework was held in Tokyo in November 2012, where the participants agreed to work together in five areas, including trade and investment, the environment, energy, and cooperation towards a more stable Afghanistan.

Reference 2

Previous Tokyo Dialogues

1st Dialogue in March 2006 on "Prospects for Regional Integration in Central Asia" and "Relations Between Central Asia and Countries Outside the Region"

2nd Dialogue in January 2007 on "Prospects for Regional Cooperation in Central Asia on Water Resources and Electric Power" and "Prospects for Diversification of Central Asia's Energy Supply Routes"

3rd Dialogue in February 2009 on "Environmental Cooperation for Soil Protection in Central Asia" and "The Effects of Climate Change on the Environment in Central Asia and Countermeasures"

4th Dialogue in February 2010 on "Future Improvements to Logistics Infrastructure in the Central Asia Region"