

Joint Statement between Japan and Turkmenistan on the New Partnership

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan, paid an official visit to Japan at the invitation of the Government of Japan from September 11 to 13, 2013, and held a summit meeting with Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan on September 11.

Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov,

Noting with satisfaction that since the visit by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in December 2009, the first visit by the President of Turkmenistan to Japan, the two countries have witnessed efforts on both sides to develop their relationship;

Expressing their conviction that this visit by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov will provide great impetus for the further strengthening of partnership in various fields;

Highly evaluating the results of the summit meeting, conducted on the basis of mutual trust and friendship;

State as follows:

I. Strengthening of bilateral relations

1. Both sides appreciated the active interaction between the two countries in recent years in various fields including politics, economy, culture and science at all levels.
2. Both sides welcomed that the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Japan was established in May of 2013, and, taking this opportunity, expressed the intention to further expand the horizons of exchanges between the two countries. In this regard, both sides confirmed the importance of increasing visits between the two countries through expedited issuing of visas by the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Japan.
3. Both sides appreciated that the political dialogues between the two

governments had been actively conducted. Both sides confirmed the intention to further actively organize various meetings and consultations such as political consultations between Ministries of Foreign Affairs for frank discussion on not only bilateral issues but international affairs.

II. Further development of economic relations and economic cooperation

4. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the cooperation in the economic sphere between the two countries have grown in a variety of fields in recent years. In particular, both sides shared the recognition that Japan's high standard technology has contributed to the advancement and diversification of industry in Turkmenistan, which Turkmenistan had placed great significance. Both sides appreciated that the companies of the two countries had been actively cooperating in various fields including the construction of oil and gas chemical plants.
5. Both sides expressed their hope that the scope of cooperation would continue to be expanded in various fields, such as the participation of Japanese companies in resource development in Turkmenistan, the introduction of GTL (Gas to Liquid) technology, the improvement of ports, power plants and other infrastructure, the establishment of the auto import wholesale companies, and the installation of audio video broadcast equipment. Both sides also reached the common recognition that they would strengthen cooperation in the health and medical field, including the introduction of medical services and equipment.
6. Both sides appreciated the roles, played by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), Japan Association for Trade with Russia & NIS (ROTOBO) and bilateral Economic Committees of the two countries in the expansion of bilateral economic, trade and investment relations.

7. Both sides welcomed the establishment in March 2013 of the "Japan-Turkmenistan Network for Investment Environment Improvement" for the purpose of coordinating activity and strengthening exchanges among stakeholders, including ministries, agencies and organizations related to trade and investment as well as private firms of the two countries. Both sides expressed the intention to continuously strive to create an environment necessary to strengthen trade and economic ties.
8. Both sides recognized the importance of developing economic and social capital including infrastructure and human resources in order to achieve sustainable development of Turkmenistan. Both sides renewed their appreciation to the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the Government of Japan in these areas.
9. Both sides appreciated that the Agreement on technical cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of Turkmenistan was signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed the early implementation of the technical cooperation "Project for Improvement of the Earthquake Monitoring System in and around the Ashgabat City". In addition, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed the hope for further cooperation from Japan in human resource development through institutional development, training and education in various specialized fields.
10. Both sides welcomed that the UN General Assembly Resolution on the common understanding of human security was adopted by consensus by the initiative of Japan in the 66th United Nations General Assembly in September 2012. Both sides came to the view of considering concrete cooperation in the framework of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects.

III. Promotion of cultural and people-to-people exchanges

11. Both sides shared the recognition of the importance of exchange in such fields as culture, education, science and technology, tourism, and sports in order to promote mutual understanding between the two countries, toward strengthened mutual trust and friendship between the people of the two countries. Both sides welcomed that the horizon of cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries is expanding.
12. Noting that students and youth exchanges are important in strengthening the relationship between the two countries in the future, both sides welcomed the signing of the arrangement on academic exchange and cooperation between University of Tsukuba and Turkmen National Institute of World Languages Named after D. Azadi. Both sides welcomed that the acceptance of students by both universities and mutual exchange of lecturers would start in near future. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed his intention to provide necessary support to promote this exchange.
13. Both sides reaffirmed that Japanese-language education in Turkmenistan played a significant role in promoting mutual understanding between the two countries. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov appreciated the contribution by Japanese-language teachers from Japan and confirmed to continuously support the improvement of Japanese language education environment in the Turkmen National Institute of World Languages Named after D. Azadi. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov also expressed his intention to further consider the possibility to establish departments of Japanese language at other higher education institutions of Turkmenistan.
14. Both sides pointed out the importance of information distribution through medias for the promotion of affinity and mutual understanding between the two countries, and noted that the culture of the two countries had been introduced through media including newspapers and television. In particular, both sides welcomed that on August 17 this

year Turkmenistan National Broadcast started broadcasting the serial TV drama titled "Carnation", provided by Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), under the cooperation of the Japan Foundation.

15. Both sides welcomed that the Memorandum of understanding between the Japanese-Turkmen Association for Science and Technology Cooperation and the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan was signed, and expressed that they looked forward to further progress of cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology
16. Both sides noted that the two countries had abundant tourism resources and that there is potential to expand cooperation in this field. Recognizing the significant role of tourist visits in promoting mutual understanding between the two countries, both sides welcomed that Turkmenistan had decided for the first time to participate in the exhibition "JATA Travel Showcase 2013" to be held in Tokyo from 12 to 15 September this year.
17. Noting that in horsemanship has been popular in both countries since ancient times and that Turkmenistan has been the country of origin of Akhal-Teke horse, one of the oldest species in the world, both sides welcomed that cooperation in the sphere of horse breeding and horseracing had commenced between the two countries.

IV. Cooperation within the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue

18. Both sides reaffirmed that the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue was a future oriented and useful framework for promoting regional cooperation and that the role of the two countries in this framework was significant. In this regard, Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe highly appreciated the result of the 4th Foreign Ministers’ meeting of the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue held in Tokyo in November 2012 and the active participation by Turkmenistan in the Ministers’ meeting.

19. Noting that the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue marks its 10th anniversary in 2014, both sides reached the common recognition that both sides would continue to cooperate closely towards the 5th Foreign Ministers’ meeting scheduled in Bishkek in 2014.

V. Cooperation in the region and the international arena

20. Sharing the recognition of the importance of the “Rule of law” in international relations, both sides opposed to unilaterally changing the status quo by coercion and also pointed out the importance of peaceful resolution of the disputes of the international society in accordance with international law.
21. Both sides noted that the UN reform is an urgent issue and necessary in order to effectively response to various threats faced by the international community in the 21st century. In particular, both sides stressed the necessity to cooperate for the reform of the Security Council, which plays a major role in maintaining peace and security. Both sides also reaffirmed the need to increase the number of permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, as the essence of the UN reform.
22. Both sides reiterated the intention that both sides would continue assistance to Afghanistan so that it becomes a peaceful, stable and economically prosperous state, free from the influence of terrorism and narcotics. Both sides welcomed the achievement of the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan held in July, 2012, and the contribution by Turkmenistan to support the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan through promoting region-wide projects in energy and transportation.
23. Both sides resolutely condemned terrorism and confirmed their commitment to continue to fight against terrorism through strengthening cooperation in the international community. Both sides shared the common recognition to further cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally within various international organizations in order to take

measures against organized crime such as illicit trafficking in firearms, drugs and money laundering. In this regard, both sides welcomed the establishment of the framework on exchange of information related to money laundering and terrorist financing.

24. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and welcomed the advancement of cooperation for strengthening of nuclear security in Central Asia. With regard to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, both sides also expressed their expectation that the consultations with countries concerned, including nuclear-weapon states, would be held as soon as possible in order to discuss the signing of the protocol on negative security assurances.
25. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of sincere implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding the security concerns, including the nuclear and missile developments violating international obligations. Both sides also emphasized the importance of addressing the issues of humanitarian concerns.
26. Both sides reached the common recognition to continue close cooperation for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Both sides shared the common recognition that the post-2015 Development Agenda should be an effective framework based upon human security as a guidance principle, to address issues such as the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and the promotion of universal health coverage. Both sides recognized the importance of building global partnership among all stakeholders involved in development issues, such as states, private sector, and civil society, each of which would share responsibility and make contribution in accordance with their capability.
27. Both sides reached the common recognition to deepen cooperation for resolving global environmental issues. Both sides also recognized and shared the importance of the transition to a green economy to achieve

sustainable development. Taking into account the initiative by Turkmenistan regarding the establishment of a Regional Centre on technologies related to climate change in Central Asia, Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe expressed readiness to utilize technology and expertise related to environmental protection in order to support the transition to a green economy of Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries. Reaffirming the importance of climate change issues, both sides shared the common recognition to further cooperate actively towards the establishment of a new fair and effective international framework applicable to all parties, based on the result of the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 18), held in Doha in December, 2012.

28. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan, expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and extended his invitation to Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan, to Turkmenistan at a convenient date. Prime Minister of Japan expressed gratitude for this invitation.

Tokyo, September 11, 2013

The Prime Minister of Japan

The President of Turkmenistan

Shinzo Abe

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov