

## **Joint Statement between Japan and Hungary New Partnership in the 21st Century**

Upon the invitation of the Government of Japan, Mr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, paid an official working visit to Japan on 20-23 November 2013. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr. Viktor Orbán held a meeting on 21 November 2013 and issued the following statement.

### **1. Enhanced Bilateral Cooperation in Global Context**

Recalling that Hungary fought for freedom and democracy in its history and played a tremendous role at the end of the Cold War, the Japanese side expressed its respect for Hungary, which as a member-state of the European Union actively contributes to stability and prosperity of Europe and the whole international community.

The Hungarian side praised the fact that Japan, as one of the first democratic states in Asia, has adhered to peace in the past 60 years, achieved economic development, obtained the trust of the international community and became one of the leaders of the world economy. In this respect, Japan stressed its resolve to proactively contribute even more to peace and stability in the region and the world. Hungary welcomed the prospect of Japan contributing to regional and global peace and security.

In light of these backgrounds, both sides were confident that, as the common basis of prosperity of Japan and Hungary today, there exist universal values such as democracy, rule of law and market economy, which both sides obtained through the hardship of history. Both sides shared the view that they would cooperate as global partners united by bonds of universal values for the purpose of stability and prosperity of the international community.

On the basis of the common recognition above, both sides declared that, the Japan-Hungary Summit Meeting in Warsaw in June 2013, the visit of Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Hungary in August 2013, and the current visit of Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orbán signify that the partnership between Japan and Hungary has entered into a

new stage, that is suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Both sides also shared the view that they would strengthen their partnership further through the promotion of cooperation in the following areas.

## **2. Enhancement of Bilateral Relations**

### ***Regional commitments***

The Japanese side welcomed the Hungarian “Eastern Opening policy” which aims to promote its relations with Asian countries and expressed its wish that Hungary would play a role as a bridge between Asia and Europe.

In the context of the ongoing Hungarian Visegrad Four (V4) Group Presidency, both sides confirmed that the partnership between the V4 and Japan within the so-called V4 plus Japan format, along with Japan-Hungary bilateral relations, had steadily developed through high-level meetings, dialogues, seminars and similar activities for the past 10 years. The Japanese side expressed its wish that the cooperation within this framework would be further expanded and deepened under the leadership of the Hungarian V4 Presidency.

In the field of Official Development Assistance (ODA), both sides reaffirmed the importance of development cooperation, which would contribute to the promotion of democracy and market-based economy in Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries, and expressed their intention to continue to share knowledge and experiences in this field.

In this context, both sides welcomed that V4 and Japan had decided to launch joint projects in Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries, and the fact that it had significantly contributed to strengthening not only the V4 plus Japan framework, but bilateral relationship between both sides as well.

Furthermore, in the framework of V4 +Japan, both sides reaffirmed that further steps should be taken to explore the possibilities of cooperation between V4 and Japan in the field of science and technology as well.

The Prime Ministers welcomed the launch of the “2014 V4+Japan Exchange Year”, which could give a new impetus to the V4+Japan

cooperation.

Both sides reaffirmed that Japan and Hungary would further cooperate through the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), which had played a significant role in assisting the Central and Eastern European countries in their transition to democratic societies, in the field of environment, including more effective and efficient energy use.

### ***Further Promotion of Economic Exchange***

The Japanese side explained its economic policy mix of the “three arrows”, consisting of aggressive monetary policy, flexible fiscal policy and growth strategy to encourage private investment, and expressed its willingness to contribute to the world economy through the revival of Japanese economy. The two sides expressed that they attribute special importance to the economic and commercial cooperation and underlined that the investments of Japanese companies have a positive impact on the economic growth of both countries.

The Hungarian side explained that the measures taken for balancing the budget and reducing debt have achieved concrete results. The Japanese side welcomed such Hungarian efforts to stabilize the Hungarian economy and expressed its expectation that these measures would boost activities of the Japanese companies in Hungary as well.

In this context, both sides welcomed that the Agreement on Social Security between Japan and Hungary was signed by Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary in August 2013.

Both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum between the Japan External Trade Organization and the Hungarian Investment and Trade Agency.

Furthermore, recalling the result of excellent cooperation so far and the discussion at the Japan-Hungary Energy Seminar in October 2013 in Budapest, both sides expressed their willingness to enhance cooperation in the field of energy, paying special attention to the development of

innovative technologies in this field. In this regard, both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of National Development of Hungary.

### ***Mobilizing the Young Generation***

Noting that people of Japan and Hungary have cultivated the “kizuna”, or strong bond of friendship between them on the basis of culture and tradition, both sides acknowledged that it would be essential for young generation to develop this bond of friendship for the future of the Japan-Hungary relations.

In this context, both sides expressed the will to introduce a Working Holiday scheme as early as possible, which would provide an opportunity for young Japanese and Hungarian citizens travelling to each other’s countries to engage in employment as an incidental activity of their holidays in the respective countries, in order to encourage further people-to-people interactions and contacts between young people of Japan and Hungary.

The Japanese side welcomed Stipendium Hungaricum, the new scholarship programme of the Hungarian government offering 100 new scholarships for Japanese students. The details of the scholarship program were settled in the memorandum signed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary.

Furthermore, both sides welcomed that Tokyo was elected as the host city of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 and expressed their expectation that people-to-people exchange through sports would further deepen on this occasion.

### **3. Japan-EU Relations**

Both sides reaffirmed that a deep and comprehensive Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA) should substantially improve access to markets for both Japan and the EU member states including Hungary in a balanced manner and thus strengthen

economic relations. Both sides committed themselves to striving to the earliest possible conclusion of the Japan-EU EPA/FTA, acknowledging that it could contribute to generating economic growth and employment.

Both sides also confirmed the importance of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) as a forward-looking document on a comprehensive basis, and expressed their desire that the agreement should appropriately reflect the Japan-EU relations as like-minded global partners sharing fundamental values and principles.

#### **4. Global Cooperation**

The Japanese side highly appreciated that Hungary has been making great efforts on global affairs, such as hosting the Budapest Conference on Cyberspace in 2012 and the Budapest Water Summit in 2013. Both sides are determined to cooperate in tackling these new challenges taking advantage of their knowledge and experiences.

Both sides confirmed the close linkage of security in East Asia and Europe. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Both sides acknowledged the importance of ensuring effective export controls of arms and dual-use items and technologies in order to maintain peace and stability.

Both sides reiterated their grave concern over North Korea's continued development of its nuclear and missile programs, including its uranium enrichment activities. Both sides strongly urged North Korea to take concrete actions towards its denuclearization as well as to fully comply with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. Both sides also strongly urged North Korea to address, without delay the human rights concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of the UN reform in all aspects, with particular emphasis on the Security Council reform. Both sides reemphasized the necessity to improve its effectiveness, transparency and

representativeness in order to reflect the reality of today's international community in view of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN in 2015. In this respect, both sides reiterated their will to work together to achieve the UN Security Council reform, including enlargement in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Council. In this context, the Hungarian side reiterated its support for Japan to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. They also shared the recognition that an effective post-2015 development agenda needs to be set based on human security as a guiding principle and needs to include efforts such as the empowerment of women, universal health coverage and disaster risk reduction. They also shared the view on the importance of a water-related goal in the post-2015 development agenda.

Tokyo, 21 November, 2013

Shinzo Abe  
Prime Minister of Japan

Viktor Orbán  
Prime Minister of Hungary