

**Closing Remarks by Mr. Hirotaka ISHIHARA,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**November 22nd, 2013**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to see you again to congratulate you on your full completion of all the assignments and to present you with certificates for the Third US-Japan Global Peace Operations Initiative Senior Mission Leaders Course in Tokyo. I have been informed that all of you, 18 selected participants consisting of civilians, police, and military personnel from the Asia-Pacific region, have devoted yourselves to making the most of this two-week intensive program and have debated with each other enthusiastically.

As we have one participant from the Philippines, let me take this opportunity to inform you that the Japanese Government

are now making every effort to support the government and people of the Philippines, which has recently suffered a devastating disaster.

During the past two weeks, the course mentors and advisors have dedicated their best efforts to help participants fully realize their potential to become competent leaders of PKO missions. Thanks to their rich experience and thoughtful advice, I am sure that participants have been equipped with the wisdom and courage to stand for the common good of the international community.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the team comprising PACOM, the Center for Civil-Military Relations and the US Embassy in Tokyo. Without your invaluable efforts, we could not have successfully conducted this third iteration of the course. Here, I can confirm not only the firmness and maturity of the Japan-U.S. relationship but also our renewed commitment to

strengthen Japan-U.S. cooperation on peacekeeping, which is referred to in the Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee 2013 (2+2).

At the course opening ceremony, Her Excellency Professor Ogwu, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations, made inspirational remarks on the rising demand for peacekeeping missions. Mr. Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations of the UN Secretariat, told us about the key strategic challenges now facing UN peacekeeping with its increasingly diverse models and mandates. I also agree with Brigadier General Compton, US Air Force, on the point that the importance of leadership in UN peacekeeping efforts cannot be overstated, especially in the context of protecting people under mandates.

I heard that all participants worked to overcome challenges as leaders of a model PKO mission in an imaginary

country named “Carana.” Through this intensive course, you no doubt learned the differences between the roles of civilians, police, and military officers, as well as important principles for overcoming challenges together. I firmly anticipate that graduates of this course in Tokyo will play critical roles in the near future within the real leadership of UN peacekeeping missions on the ground, or in decision-making roles in their home countries.

Japan, as a Proactive Contributor to Peace, will make further efforts to cultivate human resources appropriate to UN peacekeeping activities.

In closing I would like to wish you all safe trips back to your homes and all the best in your future careers.

Thank you very much.

(end)