

## **Joint Communiqué on the New Partnership “AMIZADE”<sup>1</sup> between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique**

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid an official visit to the Republic of Mozambique from 11 to 13 January, 2014. H.E. Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, warmly welcomed Prime Minister Abe, and both leaders held talks in an amicable atmosphere.

For the purpose of revitalizing and accelerating the growth and development of both countries and further strengthening the WIN-WIN relationship under the new partnership between Japan and Mozambique, both leaders shared the views on how best to work together on the following issues.

### 1. TICAD and overall bilateral relations

Both leaders welcomed the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries that has been unprecedentedly strengthened, including through the recently frequent mutual visits by VIPs of both countries.

President Guebuza expressed his appreciation for Japan’s leading role in contributing for Africa’s development, specially through the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process and for the support that Japan has been giving for the development of Mozambique, and he stressed the positive progress that the country is experiencing and its efforts to combat poverty.

Prime Minister Abe highly commended Mozambique for steadily advancing the reconstruction process since the end of the war in the country in 1992 and for recently having achieved remarkable economic growth. Prime Minister Abe also expressed appreciation for the strong commitment of Mozambique to further promoting the TICAD process

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<sup>1</sup> “AMIZADE” is the name of a new partnership between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique that consists of “**J**Apan-**M**ozambique **I**nitiative for revitali**Z**ing and **A**ccelerating the **D**Evelopment”

which was launched in 1993, as shown by the participation of President Guebuza in both TICAD IV and TICAD V.

Both leaders shared the view on the importance of the peace and the stability for the national development, and confirmed that the two countries would advance and work together in overcoming challenges and materializing the goals that were set forth in TICAD V.

President Guebuza informed Prime Minister Abe of the current political situation in Mozambique, particularly on the recent municipal elections that took place in November last year, explaining that they were conducted in a peaceful and fair manner. He also informed on some localised security challenges the country has been facing and the efforts undertaken by the Government to restore order through dialogue.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his support for Mozambique's efforts to work towards the nation's stability through persistent dialogue. Prime Minister Abe also referred to the fact that Japan provided contributions in personnel to the UN Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ) from 1993 to 1995. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe explained Japan's security policy and its determination to act as "Proactive Contributor to Peace" to promote regional and global peace and stability. President Guebuza welcomed Japan's determination and its work to this end.

In this context, and in order to enter into a new stage of bilateral relationship, both leaders decided to hold a regular high-level policy dialogue designed to discuss the issues of mutual interests on bilateral, regional and global arena and to identify areas for further strengthening bilateral cooperation that both sides recognize as necessary.

## 2. Cooperation in the Economic Field

Both leaders welcomed the fact that the Japanese private sector's interests in Mozambique are steadily increasing in a wide range of areas including natural resources and energy development such as natural gas and coal, and

reaffirmed the vital role of the private sector in promoting growth and economic development of Mozambique.

President Guebuza welcomed the investment by Japanese companies in Mozambique and expressed his willingness to give full support to facilitate smooth progress of the existing investment projects and, for the sake of further investment promotion, to make further efforts to provide a safe, secure and stable investment environment including through developing and implementing appropriate and predictable legislations and policies, as well as facilitating smooth customs procedure related to imports and exports. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to support Mozambique in promoting investment by Japanese companies including through infrastructure development, formulation of a strategic master plan and human resource development.

Both leaders welcomed the holding of the Mozambique-Japan Investment Forum organized during the official visit of Prime Minister Abe to Mozambique, and reiterated the commitment to continue the cooperation in strengthening the Investment Promotion Center that will function as a contact point for Japanese companies. Following the forum, both leaders decided to hold a public-private joint dialogue designed to improve the business environment in Mozambique with the participation of representatives of the private sector from both Japan and Mozambique, in concurrence with the aforementioned regular high-level policy dialogue.

Both leaders shared the view that the success in the development of natural gas, LNG and coal in Mozambique would be important for the process of economic and social development of Mozambique and, at the same time, for securing stable energy procurement of Japan. President Guebuza highly commended the recent technical and human resources cooperation on natural resources and energy sector including natural gas and coal implemented by the Japanese authorities, such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), and the Overseas Human Resources and Industry Development Association (HIDA); and looked forward to further progress of the cooperation. Based on this understanding, President Guebuza

committed to accelerate the process for propelling the development that includes preparing supportive legal environment; and Prime Minister Abe, for these purposes, promised to implement “Japan-Mozambique Development Initiative based on Natural Gas and Coal” concerning development of the human resources and improvement of the business environment. President Guebuza expressed his expectation for Japan’s support for efficient coal power generation where Japan has a comparative advantage; and Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to consider possible cooperation.

Both leaders looked forward to the early entry into force of the “Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique on the Reciprocal Liberalisation, Promotion and Protection of Investment” signed by both countries in June 1, 2013, at the occasion of TICAD V.

### 3. Cooperation in the field of Economic Cooperation

Prime Minister Abe expressed his willingness to expand cooperation on poverty reduction and sustainable development in Mozambique. President Guebuza highly appreciated Japan’s generous assistance that promotes technical transfer and enhances human resource development in Mozambique that are vital for its national development, and expressed his intention to further strengthen cooperation with Japan.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to strengthen cooperation in the field of infrastructure development such as roads, ports and electricity, and industrial development, in the Nacala Corridor Development, one of the five major growth corridors set forth in TICADV, based on the strategic master plan in this region, and to promote cooperation in various fields including medical care, education, disaster risk reduction and climate change from the view point of human security. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe announced the assistance package of providing approximately JPY 70 billion of ODA during the period of TICADV with a focus on the comprehensive development in the Nacala Corridor region.

Regarding the human resource development, Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to promote industrial human resource development by inviting young Mozambicans to Japan through “the African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (the ABE Initiative)”, mainly in the field of natural resources and environment, and also by utilizing a TICAD human resource development center for business and industry in the region. President Guebuza welcomed that these measures would foster competent Mozambican youth who would enhance business between Japan and Mozambique and contribute to promoting investment by Japanese companies into Mozambique. Prime Minister Abe also announced the commitment of capacity development of more than 300 people in five years, in the field of natural resources development and its related industry, and environmental protection, through the ABE initiative and other technical assistance.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue close dialogue with civil society and rural communities in the implementation of the project of ProSAVANA, the triangle cooperation project among Japan, Mozambique and Brazil, and to work together in improving the lives of local communities through the sustainable agriculture development and promoting poverty reduction for smallholders in the Nacala Corridor region that has a high agricultural potential.

Both leaders welcomed the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of dispatching the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Mozambique and Prime Minister Abe expressed his commitment to increase the number of JOCV in Mozambique.

Furthermore, both leaders welcomed the signing of the Exchanges of Notes on “the Project for Construction of Health Science Institute in Maputo” that aims for human resource development in the field of health to contribute to women’s empowerment, and on “the Maputo Gas Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Development Project” that aims at improving the living standards and promoting economic activities in the Southern region of Mozambique. Equally, both leaders welcomed the conclusion of the

memorandum of cooperation between Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM) for collaboration in agricultural research.

#### 4. Cooperation in the International Arena

Both leaders reaffirmed to continue to work together on demining in Mozambique in order to achieve the complete removal of landmines based on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In this regard, both leaders confirmed to cooperate for the success of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to be held in Maputo from June 23 to 27, 2014.

The two leaders shared the view that they should work together to achieve concrete progress in the reform of the United Nations Security Council, including increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent number of the Council, in view of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations in 2015. And both leaders emphasized the notion that African countries should be represented in both categories after enlargement of the Council. Both leaders expressed their commitment to cooperate in order to achieve these objectives. Prime Minister Abe extended his appreciation for Mozambique's cooperation in this matter.

#### 5. For further Strengthening Mutual Relationship

President Guebuza renewed his congratulations on Japan's success in the selection of the host country of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Prime Minister Abe proposed promoting the "Sport for Tomorrow Program" together with Mozambique towards the success of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Both leaders reaffirmed to promote bilateral exchanges in the fields of sports and culture.

During Prime Minister Abe's visit to Mozambique, both leaders welcomed the conclusion of the agreement on academic cooperation and the

memorandum of understanding on student exchange between Akita University and Eduardo Mondlane University as well as that of the memorandum for academic exchange among Lúrio University, Ehime University, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Mozambique and JICA, and expressed their expectations on the further activation of exchanges in the fields of education and academia between the two countries.

As the year 2015 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Mozambique and the year 2017 the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique, the two leaders reaffirmed that both countries will closely coordinate and cooperate with each other to promote a wide range of exchanges between the two countries, including more frequent high-level leaders' mutual visits.

Maputo  
January 12, 2014