

**Japan-Thailand Joint Press Statement
on the Occasion of the Visit
by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of the Kingdom of Thailand to Japan
February 9, 2015, Tokyo**

H.E. General. Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mrs. Naraporn Chan-o-cha, visited Japan from February 8 to 10, 2015. Prime Minister Prayut expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation by the Japanese Government during the visit, which reflected the deepened ties between the two countries. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Prime Minister Prayut held a Japan-Thailand Summit Meeting on February 9, and issued the following joint press statement.

Overview

1. Both sides reiterated their determination to maintain and further develop the Strategic Partnership between the two countries based on the long-standing amicable relationship.

Political and Security Areas

2. Both sides appreciated that, since the second half of the 20th century, the international community has focused its aims to achieve peace and development through existing mechanism of cooperation building on the United Nations and multilateral fora, which will result in greater freedom and prosperity. At the same time, both sides shared the view that the two countries will cooperate in order to realize regional sustainable peace and prosperity while respecting the shared values and norms such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law and human dignity.
3. Prime Minister Prayut highly appreciated Japan's enduring efforts as a peace-loving nation and its long-standing contribution to the economic growth not only in South East Asia but also beyond. On that basis, Prime Minister Prayut also expressed his support to Japan's more active role for regional and global peace and prosperity under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.
4. Prime Minister Prayut explained Thailand's efforts in maintaining stability of the country which was crucial in securing economic growth and reform of the

country towards a sustainable and inclusive democracy. Both sides shared the view on the importance of resilient and robust democracy in Thailand, and confirmed Thailand's commitment to early restoration of democracy in line with its Road Map.

5. Both sides highly appreciated long-standing active security and defense exchanges and cooperation including the participation in the series of Cobra Gold Exercise. Particularly, both sides welcomed Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF)'s participation in the Cobra Gold Exercise to be held in Thailand in 2015. Both sides shared the view to promoting further possible security and defense cooperation in various fields. To this end, both sides reaffirmed their readiness to hold the annual politico-military/military-military dialogue in March 2015.
6. In light of increased mobility of people and goods within the region, both sides recognized the importance of the on-going joint efforts to combat human trafficking under the Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter-Trafficking in Persons (JT-CTP) to address the increasing complexity of the issues. Such issues were discussed at the recent 5th JT-CTP hosted by Thailand in January 2015.

Economic Areas

7. Both sides reaffirmed mutual complementarity of the two countries in the economic sphere, and shared the view on the importance of deepening the bilateral economic relations including through smooth operation of the Japan - Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA).
8. Both sides affirmed the commitment of the two countries to actively engaging in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations and to cooperate further towards achieving the goal of concluding the RCEP negotiations by the end of 2015.
9. Both sides shared the recognition that the Thai economy was fundamentally strong with great potential, affirmed that Japan's investment was played an important role in further development of the Thai economy, and confirmed Thailand's commitment to maintaining and improving its business environment so that Japanese enterprises would be able to make long-term

investments with ease in Thailand.

10. Prime Minister Abe expressed his readiness to make further contribution to overall infrastructure development in Thailand by utilizing advanced technology, know-how, considerable experience of Japanese enterprises and high-quality infrastructure, and Prime Minister Prayut welcomed this proposal.
11. In this connection, both sides recognized that Japan's involvement in Thailand's overall infrastructure development scheme would contribute to the Thailand's role as a hub of ASEAN connectivity and boost development in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region which is now recognized as an emerging centre of regional economic growth.
12. Prime Minister Prayut expressed Thailand's initiative to establish the first six Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the borders with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Malaysia as part of a national strategy to stimulate economic growth, attract foreign investment, foster the development of border areas and support ASEAN integration, and Prime Minister Abe took note of this initiative. In order to support this initiative, Prime Minister Prayut welcomed that the Japanese side would contribute to the development of SEZs in Thai border areas through joint studies on development measures with Thailand, communicating with related countries in the context of the work of the Mekong Industrial Development Vision, and providing inputs from Japanese industry to facilitate future Japanese investment.
13. Both sides affirmed the importance of promoting Dawei SEZ project through the trilateral consultation among Japan, Thailand and Myanmar. Thailand highly appreciated Japan's intention to start procedures to meet the necessary conditions for equity investment in the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Thailand looks forward to Japan's constructive input to a Master Plan of the Project. Thailand also welcomed Japan's ODA such as the dispatch of Japanese specialist to the SPV and the launch of pre-F/S by Japan on the full-phased construction of new highway road. Both sides committed to collaborate with relevant organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the

Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to find the possible ways of cooperation for the success of the initial and full phase development of this project.

14. Both sides confirmed that the development of railway transport in Thailand has an immense significance for further development of the Thai economy and the enhancement of connectivity within the region. In this context, both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Intent on Cooperation of the Railway Sector between Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) and Ministry of Transport of the Kingdom of Thailand (MOT) and affirmed that the two countries will promote concrete cooperation in the future.
15. Both sides affirmed the importance of cooperation in the field of ICT including cybersecurity and disaster risk management, and shared the intention to promote cooperative activities.
16. Both sides shared the intention to cooperate in installing in Thailand the GNSS Continuously Operating Reference Stations utilizing satellite positioning technology which would contribute to developing maps with great accuracy and their wide applications including ones for flood disaster management by realizing accurate positioning. Furthermore, both sides recognized that it will promote the development of advanced information society utilizing geospatial information.
17. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Thailand's efforts to ease the restrictions on food imports from Japan which were imposed after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and both sides affirmed that the two countries will cooperate with each other for lifting the restrictions promptly and completely, in line with their respective food safety laws and regulations.
18. Both sides affirmed the importance of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy such as oil, gas, coal, renewable energy, energy conservation and overarching energy strategy. To this end, both sides affirmed their cooperation toward the inauguration of the Japan-Thailand Energy Policy Dialogue. Both sides shared the view that promotion of highly efficient

coal-fired power generation will contribute to energy security and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and also stressed the importance of sharing this idea in international fora.

19. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between JETRO and Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking, Thailand (JSCCIB), and expressed their hope that investment between Japan and Thailand will be further promoted.

People-to-People Exchange

20. Both sides shared the view on the importance of promoting people-to-people exchange in the areas of culture, education and sports towards the 130th anniversary of Japan – Thailand diplomatic relations in 2017 and 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, based upon the lively exchange between the people of the two countries. In this regard, both sides reaffirmed the importance of further promoting tourism between the two countries.
21. Prime Minister Prayut highly appreciated Japan's cooperation in people-to-people exchange, such as Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2.0 implemented under Prime Minister Abe's initiative. Prime Minister Prayut also expressed his expectation on "WA Project ~Toward Interactive Asia through 'Fusion and Harmony'~" to promote two-way arts and cultural exchange and Japanese language learning assistance.
22. Both sides welcomed acceleration of collaboration between universities through student exchange and academic exchange including the establishment of new offices by Japanese universities in Thailand. Both sides shared the intention to further expand student exchange between Japan and Thailand and to strengthen interuniversity exchange between the two countries by "Re-Inventing Japan Project" in cooperation with ASEAN countries through mutual recognition of credit and educational programs with quality assurance between the universities. Moreover, both sides welcomed successful start of "Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science" and concurred in further promoting exchange programs in the field of science and technology.

23. Both sides shared the intention to foster friendly relations, to be achieved through cooperation and coordination between broadcasting operators of the two countries in the fields such as broadcasting program, with the objective of enhancing mutual understanding rooted in culture, tradition and history of the two countries.

Cooperation on Regional and International Issues

24. Both sides expressed, together with the international community, resolute condemnation over the outrageous and impermissible murders of the two Japanese nationals by the ISIL. Both sides shared the recognition that the international community must stand united in not giving in to terrorism and work to maintain international peace and security. In this regard, the Thai side very much appreciated the role played by Japan in working towards peace and stability of the Middle East, including its humanitarian assistance to the region.
25. Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed Japan's support to ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture including through the ASEAN-led frameworks particularly the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Plus (ADMM-Plus) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF). In this regard, as strategic partners, both sides reaffirmed their determination to contribute to greater development of the region and support the realization of the ASEAN Community by the end of 2015 and beyond.
26. Both sides underscored the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, as well as resolving disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Both sides welcomed the progress on full and effective implementation of the declaration on the conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and consultation on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

27. Both sides urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to take concrete actions towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization and to fully comply with its obligations under all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. With regard to the international community's concerns on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, both sides strongly urged the DPRK to strengthen engagement and collaboration with the international community and to promptly address such concerns including the abductions issue.

28. Both sides reaffirmed their willingness to support each other in the international arena. Prime Minister Abe appreciated Thailand's strong support for the permanent membership of Japan in a reformed UN Security Council. Both sides shared the view to enhance cooperation for achieving concrete outcomes in the 70th anniversary of the UN in 2015.

29. Prime Minister Abe welcomed that Prime Minister Prayut will participate in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March and the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit in July of this year. Through these occasions, both sides affirmed to enhance the bilateral cooperation in addressing regional and global issues.