

Speech by H.E. Mr. Kentaro SONOURA, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Egypt Economic Development Conference

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Her Excellency, Dr. El-Ahwany, International  
Cooperation Minister, Ladies and gentlemen , Good  
Evening.

To begin, I would like to express my appreciation for the  
fine efforts by the Government of Egypt towards hosting  
this conference today and I am confident of its success.

I wish to take this opportunity to say Japan renews its  
sincere condolences to the Egyptian Copts victims in  
Libya and their families, and for the recent terrorist  
incidents in Egypt. Japan resolutely condemns all forms

of terrorism and will continue to engage in combating terrorism in cooperation with the international community.

This year, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Egypt, and that marked a new chapter in the history of the Japan-Egypt relationship.

In the face of the recent terrorist incident regarding the murder of the Japanese hostages, the people of Egypt extended strong solidarity to us. Once again, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude. Some might worry that Japan, because of the shock of this incident, would be hesitant to be involved in the Middle East. However, I

promise that Japan will continue its cooperation toward the stability and prosperity of Egypt and the Middle East, as a longstanding friend to the people of Egypt, and as a responsible member of the international community.

In this context, Japan has announced its intention, within the beginning six months of His Excellency President El-Sisi's term, to provide new yen loans of about 414 million US\$ towards the fields of water, transportation, and electricity for further development of Egypt.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we have signed the exchange of notes for a Japanese ODA loan of about 49

million US\$ for the Project for Construction of the New Dirout Group of Regulators. With Japanese technology, this project leads to effective use of some 17% of annually available water in the Nile for irrigation, improving agricultural productivity in Egypt.

In the medical field, in order to construct an additional outpatient's ward for an outpatient facility at the Cairo University Specialized Pediatric Hospital, constructed by Japanese assistance, the Japanese government's Cabinet recently decided to newly provide grant aid of around 13 million US\$.

I am also pleased to report in the field of power and

energy -- the foundation of industry -- both of Japan's public and private sectors will make a positive contribution to Egypt with the most advanced and eco-friendly technology in renewable energy, such as the construction of Hurghada Photovoltaic Power Plant as well as to the electricity sector including coal-fired power generation.

Such government's initiatives would never be realized without business involvement. Japan's direct investment to Egypt reached 66 million USD in a year, which marks the highest among Asian countries, and about 50 Japanese companies are actively operating in Egypt. The government of Japan intends to further support

Japanese companies in Egypt through various plans such as financing by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and export credit by Nippon Export and Investment Insurance.

Furthermore, Japan is now studying the possibility of contributing to large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Suez Canal Areas Development project.

We applaud the government of Egypt for the advances in economic and fiscal reform, as well as for its efforts for comprehensive economic development.

I would like to express our commitment that Japan will continue to support Egypt, at both public and private

levels, toward the stability and prosperity of Egypt.

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