

## **Japan-Viet Nam Joint Statement on the Occasion of the State Visit by the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Japan**

At the invitation of Japan, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Hien paid a State Visit to Japan. During the visit from 29 May to 2 June 2018, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan hosted a solemn welcoming ceremony and a State Banquet in honor of President Tran Dai Quang and Madam Nguyen Thi Hien. President Tran Dai Quang also held a summit meeting with Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and had meetings with other Japanese political and economic leaders. Furthermore, President Tran Dai Quang attended and spoke at the Viet Nam Investment Promotion Conference, and visited Gunma Prefecture.

On 31 May, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Tran Dai Quang held a summit meeting. Both leaders noted with satisfaction the advancement of the “Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia” between Japan and Viet Nam in a robust, comprehensive and substantive manner in all areas, and stated the following for its further promotion:

1. Both leaders recognized that the State visit by President Tran Dai Quang is a political event of great significance on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Japan-Viet Nam diplomatic relations. Both leaders also affirmed that high-level visits and dialogues by leaders of both countries on a regular basis had contributed to strengthening mutual political trust, promoting cooperation in defense and security field, strengthening the connectivity through the expansion of bilateral trade and investment, enhancing cooperation in the fields of agriculture, environment, disaster risk management, climate change response, education and training, science and technology, construction, information and communications technology, health and medicine, and promotion of cultural, sports and people-to-people exchanges. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction at the increasingly deepened mutual trust and understanding between the peoples of both countries, and recognized that this is an important basis for the further development of Japan-Viet Nam relations in the future.

2. On the basis of the continuing splendid achievements of Japan-Viet Nam cooperation over the past 45 years, both leaders confirmed the willingness to move to the next stage of development together for the Japan-Viet Nam Extensive Strategic Partnership, making it more concrete and substantive across all areas. To this end, both leaders shared the intention to further enhance political trust, widen and deepen bilateral cooperation, promote economic connectivity, foster people-to-people exchanges, and cooperate closely on regional and international issues. Both leaders also decided to maintain regular exchange of visits and contacts between high-level leaders, encourage exchanges of political parties and parliamentarians of the two countries, including at multilateral forums, and continue the effective utilization of existing consultation framework such as the Japan-Viet Nam Cooperation Committee.

3. Recognizing Japan and Viet Nam as being maritime countries enjoying

invaluable benefits from oceans, both leaders shared their determination to work together to ensure peace, stability and prosperity across the region through maintaining and reinforcing a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law.

4. Both leaders reiterated the importance of the rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent, and inclusive multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its center and stressed the significance of the bilateral trading system being consistent with the WTO Agreements.

### **Defense and Security**

5. Both leaders shared the intention to strengthen cooperation in the field of defense based on the “Memorandum between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Bilateral Defense Cooperation and Exchange” signed in October 2011 and the “Joint Vision Statement on Japan-Viet Nam Defense Cooperation towards the next decade between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam” signed in April 2018 by Defense Ministers of both countries. Both leaders shared the view to strengthen component-to-component exchanges, including visits to Viet Nam by the Japan Self-Defense Forces’ vessels and aircraft, and promote cooperation in such areas as human resources training, defense equipment and technology, aviation search and rescue, military medicine, United Nations peacekeeping operations, cybersecurity and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR).

6. Both leaders decided to continue promoting the cooperation in war legacy issues through removing landmines and unexploded ordinances, and assisting dioxin and mines victims in Viet Nam. Both leaders shared the intention to continue to consider the possibility of cooperation to remove dioxin.

7. Both leaders confirmed the intention to enhance cooperation in responding to non-traditional security issues, including cybersecurity, countering cybercrime, terrorism and transnational crimes, and in ensuring food and water security.

8. Both leaders confirmed that they will further strengthen maritime security cooperation, including through visits of vessels by the Japan Coast Guard. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated Japan’s intention to continue assisting Viet Nam in enhancing its maritime law enforcement capability. President Tran Dai Quang highly appreciated the provision by Japan of used ships and new patrol vessels. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed Japan’s readiness to share its knowledge and experiences in the area of comprehensive maritime policy, upon concrete request by the Vietnamese side.

### **Cooperation in the Economic Field**

9. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe highly praised Viet Nam's efforts towards industrialization and modernization under the reform (Doi Moi) policy. President Tran Dai Quang highly valued Japan's economic achievements through Abenomics. Both leaders also expressed their confidence that the growth strategy of each country, through linking with the promotion of the free trade system, will contribute to the economic development in the region and beyond.

10. Both leaders highly valued the active role and contribution by Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), public and private partnership projects and Japanese companies to the sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development and nation building in Viet Nam. Both leaders shared the intention to continue their development cooperation effectively and smoothly, on the basis of ensuring the interest and in accordance with the demands of the two sides. Both leaders decided to promote the implementation of the agreements and to work together to address the issues faced by Japan's several projects in Viet Nam.

11. Toward the further industrialization and modernization of Viet Nam as well as to the enhancement of connectivity within and beyond the region, both leaders highlighted the importance of quality infrastructure development in accordance with international standards such as openness, transparency, economic efficiency, financial soundness of recipient countries, and social and environmental consideration. Both leaders shared the intention to continue to cooperate in large-scale infrastructure projects such as the railway developments. Furthermore President Tran Dai Quang welcomed the participation of Japanese companies in the areas such as airports, roads and urban developments and pledged to make efforts towards a more favorable environment for businesses, which facilitates Japan's increased investment in Vietnam.

12. Both leaders affirmed that, through the "Japan-Viet Nam Joint Initiative" and the "Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Industrial, Trade and Energy Cooperation", Viet Nam will enhance the legal stability and transparency of the investment environment, including by appropriate implementation of investment incentives already committed, and develop and implement appropriate and effective industry-related policies which are consistent with international standards such as the WTO Agreements. Both leaders expressed their desire to promote cooperation between the two countries in strengthening the governance and restructuring of Vietnamese State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) through collaboration between Vietnamese SOEs and Japanese investors. Both leaders expressed their intentions to examine the possibility of starting negotiations of a bilateral agreement on social security to facilitate economic relations.

13. Both leaders shared their intention to promote their bilateral trade cooperation, striving to realize the goal of doubling two-way trade and investment from 2014 till 2020.

14. Both leaders confirmed that Japan and Viet Nam would accelerate procedures

to set the amended quarantine conditions of fresh Japanese apple and to allow exportations of fresh Japanese Satsuma orange into Viet Nam and to allow exportations of fresh Vietnamese lychee and longan into Japan through the phytosanitary consultation between Japan and Viet Nam.

15. President Tran Dai Quang appreciated Japan's cooperation on the implementation of Viet Nam's industrialization strategy and cooperation in the automotive field at the working group established by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam on the development of the automobile and auto parts industry. Both leaders reconfirmed the importance of sound development of an automobile market in Viet Nam and that Vietnamese side will take suitable measures consistent with the WTO Agreements in order to sustain and expand domestic production of Complete Build Units (CBUs) and the Japanese side will continue to support the Vietnamese actions. Furthermore, both leaders affirmed their recognition that enhancing productivity plays an important role for the long-term development of Viet Nam's economy and shared the view to work together in identifying the tasks towards realizing the goal.

16. Both leaders welcomed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy Fields signed in November 2017 between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and confirmed to strengthen cooperation in the energy fields written in the Memorandum, including liquefied natural gas. Both leaders highlighted the importance of early launching of commercial operation of three Build-Operation-Transfer projects of high-efficient and environmentally compliant coal-fired power plants and confirmed to continue their cooperation in promoting public-private partnership projects with investment from Japanese companies in the energy sector, including by incentives to be given from the Government of Viet Nam to private investors.

## **Human Resources Development and Governance**

17. Both leaders shared the intention to promote cooperation in high quality human resources training and industrial human resources development, including launching the Hanoi liaison office of National Institutes of Technology (KOSEN) and studying into the utilization of Japanese KOSEN Technical College education model. Both leaders recognized that the Vietnam Japan University is a symbolic project of the bilateral human resources development cooperation, and confirmed to cooperate for the early establishment of the undergraduate programs of the University based on sound financial plan.

18. Both leaders recognized that cooperation in Viet Nam's efforts for administrative reforms, including human resources development and the provision of training opportunities for political party senior officials and government officials, will contribute to the sustainable development of Viet Nam and the advancement of bilateral economic relations, and affirmed their efforts to develop and implement

effective cooperation programs.

19. Both leaders welcomed the progress of the preparations for starting a special program to nurture and train Japanese language teachers in Viet Nam and the “Japanese Language Education Center under the Vietnam Japan University”, and affirmed their intention to strengthen cooperation on further developing the environment for Japanese language education, including improvements of both quality and number of Japanese language teachers. Both leaders also welcomed the launching of KAKEHASHI project which will provide opportunities for Asian high school students studying Japanese to stay in Japan.

20. Both leaders confirmed the intention to cooperate closely based on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in June 2017 and address various issues related to the new Technical Intern Training Program based on the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Trainees that had commenced in November 2017, including the newly added job category of care worker. Both leaders expressed the intention to cooperate for the expansion of student exchange in an appropriate manner and confirmed the intention to continue cooperation on student exchanges, strengthen dissemination of accurate information on studying in Japan and appropriately administer Japanese language schools in Japan and Vietnamese consultancies for studying in Japan. Both leaders welcomed a steady progress of dispatching and accepting Vietnamese candidates for nurses and certified care workers to Japan based on the Agreement between Japan and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for an Economic Partnership, and affirmed their commitment to cooperating for its smooth and appropriate implementation.

21. Both leaders highlighted the importance of legal and judicial cooperation for the enhancement of mutual trust between the two countries, and announced that they will start negotiations for bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and on the transfer of sentenced persons.

### **Agriculture, Environment, Disaster Risk Management, Education, Science and Technology, Health and Medicine**

22. Both leaders reaffirmed their will to work closely together to implement “the Medium-to Long-Term Vision for Japan-Viet Nam Agricultural Cooperation” based on the achievements of the 4th Japan-Viet Nam Agricultural Cooperation Dialogue held in April 2018, and promote concrete cooperation for comprehensive development of the Vietnamese agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, including promoting Japan’s investment in these sectors.

23. Both leaders recognized the importance of and confirmed the intention to continue cooperation in environment protection, disaster risk management and climate change responses for a sustainable growth. Both leaders welcomed a steady progress of the Joint Crediting Mechanism on cooperation on Low Carbon Growth. Recognizing

the importance of waste management, both leaders shared the intention to facilitate the cooperation in waste-to-energy conversion in Viet Nam.

24. Both leaders reaffirmed the commitment to implementing global instruments on sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated that Japan stands ready to assist Viet Nam to effectively implement these commitments.

25. Both leaders shared the intention to enhance cooperation in the field of education, including expansion of the Japanese education model in Viet Nam by utilizing various schemes such as EDU-port Japan, inter-university exchanges and youth exchanges. Both leaders also shared the view to further enhance cooperation in the field of science and technology including various joint research programs and projects between Japan and Viet Nam. In this regard, both leaders decided to cooperate in social implementation of the research outputs such as Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) projects, in international industry-academia joint research collaboration and in fostering future Vietnamese science and technology human resource through Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (Sakura Science Plan). Both leaders shared the intention to jointly hold the 5th Meeting of the Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Science and Technology in 2019.

26. Appreciating Japan's assistance in enhancing Viet Nam's capability of firefighting such as provisions of used fire and rescue vehicles over the years, both leaders shared the intention to strengthen their cooperation in this field.

27. Both leaders shared the intention to promote cooperation in the field of information and communications technology (ICT), especially cooperation in telecommunication, cybersecurity, frequency and postal services by utilizing such schemes as Joint Working Groups, and in the development of smart cities in Viet Nam as well as the promotion of Japanese investment in ICT sector. Acknowledging the importance of the wireless system for aeronautical and maritime transport safety, both leaders will promote the study of possibility of cooperation in the High Frequency Radio Monitoring System.

28. Both leaders welcomed the upcoming launching of the Medical Checkup Center in the Cho Ray Hospital, and shared their intention to enhance cooperation in the field of health and medicine under the Asia Health and Well-Being Initiative, through efforts such as establishment of rehabilitation center, education of advanced medical personnel in Viet Duc Hospital, medical cooperation through concrete projects, elderly care for prevention, rehabilitation and functional recovery, improvement of healthy environment and healthy and energy-saving houses. Both leaders shared the recognition on importance of proper and smooth importation and distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in Viet Nam for the health of Vietnamese people. Both leaders affirmed the importance of strengthening assistance to persons with

disabilities, in collaboration with private organizations.

### **Culture, Sports and People-to-People Exchange**

29. Both leaders welcomed various events including cultural festivals in the two countries commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Japan-Viet Nam diplomatic relations so far had been successfully held, and shared the intention to continue their close cooperation for successfully holding upcoming significant events such as music and film festivals, “EKIDEN” championship and other events in the field of cultures and sports.

30. Towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, both leaders shared the intention to promote culture, sports and people-to-people exchanges, including broadcast content and para-sports, through programs such as “WA Project”, “JENESYS” , “Sport for Tomorrow” and Host Town Initiative.

31. Both leaders highly valued and shared intention to promote bilateral tourism cooperation using the Open Skies Scheme on the routes between Japanese cities with high demands for tourism and Vietnamese tourist cities.

32. Both leaders highly valued the new developments in cooperation between the two countries’ localities and reaffirmed that this is an effective channel to promote concrete and comprehensive cooperation to further deepen friendly and cooperative bilateral relations. Both leaders decided to work together in facilitating Japanese localities’ investment in and technology transfer to Viet Nam.

### **International and Regional Forums**

33. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment for stepping up their extensive collaboration and cooperation at regional and international forums such as the United Nations (UN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and other ASEAN-led regional mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN+3 (APT), JAPAN-ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), among others, in order to make active and constructive contribution to the maintenance of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe once again congratulated Viet Nam for its successful hosting of APEC 2017.

34. Both leaders welcomed the positive developments of Japan-ASEAN relations, commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation. Accordingly, they reiterated the importance of ASEAN unity and centrality. Both leaders reaffirmed their close cooperation in firmly and effectively implementing the Vision Statement on Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation and its Revised Implementation Plan. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed Japan’s

intention to strengthen cooperation with Viet Nam, the country-coordinator for Japan-ASEAN relations in the 2018-2021 period. Both leaders also stressed the importance of enhancing connectivity based on Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 within and beyond the region with other partners in the region with full respect for ASEAN unity and centrality.

35. Both leaders noted with satisfaction a steady progress of the Japan-Mekong cooperation, including Japan's support to strengthen hard and soft connectivity under the New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Japan-Mekong Cooperation adopted on the occasion of the 7th Japan-Mekong Summit Meeting held in Tokyo in 2015. President Tran Dai Quang expressed his gratitude for Japan's longstanding contribution to the development of the Mekong Region. Both leaders decided to cooperate to identify the direction to enhance the effectiveness and role of Japan-Mekong cooperation in the future on the occasion of the 10th Japan-Mekong Summit Meeting which will be held this year. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of the sustainable management and development of the Mekong river, and stressed the necessity of close collaboration between the Japan-Mekong mechanism and other Mekong subregional organizations, in particular the Mekong River Commission.

36. Both leaders welcomed the signing of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP/TPP-11) in March 2018, and once again expressed their determination to further promote free trade. Both leaders highly valued the role of the two countries in promoting CPTPP, and reconfirmed that CPTPP will bring about important benefits not only to the two countries but also to the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Both leaders are willing to play a key role in bringing CPTPP into force as soon as possible. Both leaders shared the views that the two countries will work together in implementing each country's obligations, in particular the high-standard obligations of CPTPP. In the implementation process, Japan will explore providing technical assistance to help Viet Nam effectively fulfill its obligations so as to fully realize the benefits brought about by CPTPP. Both leaders also shared the views that it is beneficial for both countries to expand in the future CPTPP as a key platform for developing high-standard and rules-based trading system in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Both leaders reiterated the commitment towards swift conclusion of the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to ensure that RCEP will be a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and beneficial agreement to all members.

37. Both leaders remained concerned about the situation in the South China Sea (SCS). Both leaders reiterated the importance of the maintenance of peace, security, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight, self-restraint and peaceful settlement of disputes at sea through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, observance of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the SCS in its entirety. Both leaders also emphasized the importance of non-militarization and urged parties concerned not to take unilateral

actions that could change the status quo and complicate the situation in the SCS. Both leaders also acknowledged progress on negotiations for the Code of Conduct for the SCS (COC) and stressed the importance of a comprehensive and effective COC. Both leaders shared the recognition that, in order to secure peace and stability in the region, such diplomatic effort should lead to the full observance of international law including UNCLOS and a peaceful and stable SCS.

38. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe explained Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy." Both leaders emphasized the importance of a free and open order on the basis of the observance of the UN Charter and international law and respect for nations' independence and sovereignty, to ensure the rule of law, peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and the world. Both leaders welcomed the contributions and initiatives to this end. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reaffirmed that Japan considers Viet Nam and ASEAN as important partners in Japan's foreign policy and renewed Japan's intention to support them and to work together with them.

39. Both leaders welcomed the recent positive developments, including the Inter-Korean Summit held in April 2018, towards the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern regarding the Korean Peninsula. Both leaders stressed the importance of international cooperation and full compliance with the obligations under relevant UN Security Council (SC) resolutions and confirmed the urgency for relevant parties to continue efforts to seek a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues including the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, for peace, security, stability, cooperation and development of the region and the world. Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in order to immediately resolve the abductions issue.

40. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of UNSC reform, in order to make it more legitimate, effective and representative, reflecting the realities of the international community in the 21st century. Both leaders also expressed their determination to continue to engage constructively in the work of the intergovernmental negotiations towards an early realization of the reform including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership. Both leaders emphasized the necessity to launch text-based negotiations during the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his appreciation for Viet Nam's continued support for the permanent membership of Japan in the UNSC when this organization is reformed. Both leaders reaffirmed support for each other's candidacy for non-permanent members of the UNSC, as Viet Nam stands for election for the 2020-2021 term and Japan for the 2023-2024 term.

41. Both leaders underlined the importance of the sustainable use of marine living resources including cetaceans. President Tran Dai Quang informed that Viet Nam was actively promoting necessary internal procedures towards early joining the International Whaling Commission.

42. President Tran Dai Quang expressed his sincere gratitude to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Government and the people of Japan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the Vietnamese delegation.