

Remarks by Mr. Kentaro SONOURA

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On the Opening Ceremony of the UN Project for Rapid
Deployment of Enabling Capabilities: Asia and the
surrounding regions

Hanoi, November 5, 2018

Sen. Lt. Gen. Pham Ngoc Minh,

Mr. Harinder Sood, UN Project Manager,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to be at this significant occasion today, which marks the very first day of the Triangular Partnership Project (TPP) in Asia. I would like to welcome the 16 personnel from various countries in Asia and the Pacific islands to this trial training as trainees. In addition, on behalf of the Government of

Japan, it is my privilege to introduce our engineering experts from the Ground Self-Defense Force and our Liaison Officer from the Cabinet Office as trainers. They will play an important role in providing effective trial training, cooperating with the UN and Viet Nam. I expect them to achieve tangible outcomes for the capacity building of engineering personnel.

Japan has contributed actively to UN Peacekeeping Operations, deploying more than 12,500 personnel to 27 missions including engineering contingents to Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Timor-Leste, Haiti and South Sudan since 1992. Infrastructure construction by engineering units is crucial to ensure a mission's mobility, the safety and security of its peacekeepers, and the protection of

civilians. Japan chaired the drafting of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Military Unit Manual (UNMUM) on Engineers in 2014 and is chairing the revision of Engineers UNMUM.

In 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed a commitment to contribute to the rapid deployment of engineering capabilities at the 1st Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping. Utilizing our capabilities, the UN launched this project in Africa for the first time in 2015 and Japan has conducted training seven times in the last four years. Now more than 200 trainees from eight different African countries have received our training, and many of them have deployed to peacekeeping missions.

TPP has been welcomed by the UN Security Council and is highly appreciated by the Member States. TPP is an innovative approach which enables role-sharing among Member States to achieve sustainable support for training, as mentioned in the “Declaration of Shared Commitments” endorsed by the Member States at the occasion of the high-level event on Action for Peacekeeping held last September. When UN General-Secretary António Guterres visited Japan in August and met our Prime Minister, he mentioned that this training is very important and effective for capacity building of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs).

Ladies and gentlemen,

TPP is expanding: expanding geographically from Africa to Asia; and expanding from engineering to medical as well. Together with the UN, Japan will support the launch of the project to provide medical training to African peacekeepers soon. And TPP is expanding to new Members. In addition to African countries and Asian and oceanic countries this time, Switzerland, Brazil and Israel are participating as partner countries. We will encourage other Member States to join our partnership.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Sen. Lt. Gen. Pham Ngoc Minh, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, for not only convening this ceremony but also providing training fields,

heavy engineering equipment for training, and accommodation for trainers and trainees. I would also like to pay my respect to the UN TPP Team and other UN agencies who have dedicated their time and expertise to make this training a great success. Japan will contribute to regional and international peace and stability, cooperating with UN and Asian partners, under the banner of Proactive Contribution to Peace.

Xin Cảm ơn , and thank you very much.