

Fact Sheet:

Comprehensive Partnership between Japan and the People's Republic of Bangladesh

May 29, 2019

1. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina affirmed their determination to further develop the bilateral relationship through initiatives at various levels including high level mutual visits toward the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022.
2. The two Prime Ministers shared the ideas of a free and open Indo-Pacific for the stability and prosperity of the international community by building the rules-based order, grounded in common values such as freedom, rule of law and market economy.
3. The two Prime Ministers shared the view to strengthen security cooperation, such as goodwill trainings during port visits to Bangladesh by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels as well as exchanges between the Japan Coast Guard and the Bangladesh Coast Guard.
4. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and underscored the necessity of launching text-based negotiations immediately towards an early realization of the reform. In this connection, Prime Minister Hasina expressed Bangladesh's support for Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member of the UNSC and for Japan's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent membership election in 2022. In response, Prime Minister Abe appreciated it as a symbol of trust between the two countries.
5. Prime Minister Abe expressed his deep respect to the Government of Bangladesh for generously accepting and protecting the displaced persons from Myanmar from a humanitarian perspective. The two Prime Ministers shared the importance of stability in Cox's Bazar from the perspective of enhancing connectivity and securing regional stability, and affirmed the need to support the displaced persons and the host community. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to continue extending necessary support to the Government of Bangladesh with a view to realizing the early repatriation of the displaced persons to Myanmar in a safe, voluntary and dignified manner under UN cooperation, and he also emphasized the importance of cooperation

between the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar in this regard. Prime Minister Hasina stressed on the need for measures to be taken by the Myanmar government to create an environment conducive for return of the displaced population, including through addressing the root causes behind displacement.

6. Prime Minister Hasina expressed her intention to advance economic and social development, and Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to continuously support Bangladesh's efforts for becoming a middle income country. Prime Minister Hasina extended her gratitude for Japan's decision to provide a loan of approximately 132.7 billion yen for the projects aimed to construct Matarbari Port, Araihasar Special Economic Zone and Dhaka MRT Line 1 as well as to promote energy efficiency and conservation financing. In this context, Prime Minister Hasina expressed her hope for the resumption of the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).
7. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative while affirming the importance of openness and transparency, and were convinced that the cooperation projects including the Matarbari Port Development Project under this initiative will make huge contributions to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh and the region, and enhance regional connectivity.
8. Recognizing that the South Chittagong Development is incorporated into the BIG-B initiative, the two Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of developing South Chittagong in a socio-economically, environmentally and commercially sustainable manner, and expressed their intention to advance the development of LNG and LPG terminals in the Matarbari Port where Japanese companies will play important roles.
9. The two Prime Ministers expressed their expectations for further economic activities between Japan and Bangladesh, including at the Japan-Bangladesh Public Private Joint Economic Dialogue (PPED) to improve business environment and address such issues as foreign remittance, tax and duties and energy, and welcomed the preparation to hold its 4th dialogue in Dhaka, Bangladesh in the near future. The two Prime Ministers confirmed cooperation on development of special economic zones for Japanese companies in Araihasar and Mirsarai.

10. The two Prime Ministers, amid growing number of Bangladeshi people studying in Japan, shared the view to further deepen people-to-people exchanges through cultural and educational programs such as the Japanese Government Scholarships, the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) and the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme. In addition, through programs such as Innovative Asia, the two Prime Ministers emphasized the potential of further cooperation for programs for developing competent human resources to promote innovation in Japanese industry in Japan and to contribute to the development of Bangladesh, and to help strengthen ties between Japan and other Asian countries.
11. The two Prime Ministers recognized that many outstanding talents in fields such as nursing care in Bangladesh are expressing keen interest in employment opportunities in Japan. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the discussion towards signing a memorandum of cooperation (MOC), on sending and accepting specified skilled workers, and expressed their expectation that mutually beneficial relations between Japan and Bangladesh will be further promoted by proper management of the system in compliance with domestic laws and regulations of each country.
12. The two Prime Ministers expressed their expectation for active people-to-people, cultural and economic exchanges between Japan and Bangladesh toward the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and beyond, including exchanges with host town Toshima Ward, Tokyo for Bangladesh.