

Statement by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

At the International Donors' Conference for the people in Türkiye and
Syria affected by the earthquakes of February 2023 –20 March 2023
(March 20, 2023)

Distinguished participants, I am HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Foreign Minister of Japan.

Let me begin by extending our deepest condolences to the victims of the massive earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria last month.

12 years ago, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake hit Japan, and about 20,000 people lost their lives or are left missing because of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

Devastation caused by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria reminded many Japanese, including myself, of the horrible event that happened in Japan 12 years ago.

So far, Japan has promptly provided maximum assistance to those affected in Türkiye and Syria.

That includes emergency humanitarian assistance worth about 27 million dollars for Türkiye and Syria, provision of necessary goods, as well as dispatch of Japan's Disaster Relief Teams to Türkiye.

I would like to mention in particular that as part of such assistance, Japan Air Self-Defense Force is now conducting transportation of disaster relief goods in cooperation with NATO for the first time.

The Japanese government is considering further financial assistance for Türkiye and Syria.

We need long-lasting assistance toward the reconstruction of the affected area. For example, making buildings and local communities earthquake-resilient is important as a preparation for future earthquakes.

The Japanese government is ready to provide necessary technical cooperation for Türkiye, including the dispatch of experts through Japan International Cooperation Agency, which aligns with the needs and plans of the Turkish government toward the reconstruction.

Japan has a wealth of advanced technologies and knowledge of disaster risk reduction and post-disaster reconstruction. We will continue to contribute by taking advantage of those assets.

Now is the time to realize the reconstruction of the affected areas at the earliest possible time, not just building things as they were, but “Build Back Better.”

Thank you for your attention.

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