

Statement of Mr. Nobuhide Minorikawa, Parliamentary Vice Minister for
Foreign Affairs, Japan
at Session 5 of the Ministerial Segment of
Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
2:15pm 4th September, 2008

Thank you, Ms. Aboulnaga, Minister for International Cooperation, Egypt, and
Mr. Joyandet, Minister of State for Cooperation and Francophony, France.

1. Introduction

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Government of Ghana for successfully hosting this High Level Forum.

For Japan, 2008 is the landmark year for our friendship with Africa. We hosted 4th Tokyo International Conference on Africa (TICAD IV) in May, and the first “Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize” was awarded, of which President Kufuor played a significant role in formulating the concept.

Yesterday, as Secretary General of the Japanese Parliamentarian League for UNICEF, I visited Atua Hospital in North Accra where UNICEF supports Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS. This hospital with only two doctors opens 24 hours–7 days a week to support mother and child through counseling to expected mothers and antiretroviral therapy. This project is highly successful and child infection is rapidly decreasing.

I am really impressed by the dedication of the hospital staff and reminded myself that our discussion here in this HLF is to provide enabling environment for these people.

2. The Paris Declaration

The Paris Declaration is an important milestone in our efforts for making our aid more effective.

Japan is firmly committed to the principles of the Paris Declaration. Japan has formulated its own “Action Plan for Implementing the Paris Declaration” and our progress is shown in the annual reports to follow up this “Action Plan”.

3. Accra HLF and New actors

Three years have passed since the adoption of the Paris Declaration. Now,

we gather here to review the progress and discuss our further actions to enhance aid effectiveness. At the same time, we are witnessing dramatic changes in the environment surrounding development cooperation.

Nowadays, it is not just OECD countries, nor international organizations that are playing roles in development. Assistance from emerging donors, cooperation among developing countries themselves, financial contributions from vertical funds and private foundations, activities of non-governmental organizations, as well as business activities of the private sector are making significant contribution to poverty reduction and socio-economic development in developing countries. Greater roles of these “new players” are most welcome.

At the same time, the emergence of new donors also makes it more important than ever for the donor community to coordinate various aid activities to maximize effectiveness and collective impact of aid for the benefit of developing countries. Such efforts should be strengthened through establishing broader partnership among various players. In doing so, it is crucial that all players pay respect for diversity and try to learn from experience of others.

From this viewpoint, Japan organized workshops in Asia to exchange experiences among developing countries and development assistance providers. I believe that the lessons learned from these workshops, which are now posted on the homepage of the Accra High Level Forum, are useful reference for our discussion on the aid effectiveness.

4. Self-reliance and role of aid

At last, I would like to briefly touch upon issues beyond aid effectiveness.

We believe that aid is a temporary solution for development.

We should move forward toward our ultimate goal that every country can develop by itself relying on its own capacity and resources.

As stated in Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which we are now finalizing, we want to see a future which overcomes poverty and no country depends on aid.

Let’ s work together to achieve this goal of self-reliance.

Thank you for your attention.