

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY H.E. MR YUTAKA BANNO  
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AT THE MDGS FOLLOW-UP MEETING

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For two days, we have gathered knowledge and good practice from around the world here in Tokyo. We have had enthusiastic discussions during which this expertise has distilled into profound wisdom.

In the field of health, important proposals on prescriptions for maternal and child health were made. We also intensified our deliberations on the significance of health systems, extending our focus beyond 2015.

As for education, we actively exchanged views on how to improve quality and ensure equity in providing education assistance. We also shared specific examples of measures that have proved effective in this regard.

Furthermore, it became clear that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for progress in various sectors of social development.

In all of the sessions, the importance of addressing inequality by placing each and every human being at the center was shared. In other words, all the participants recognized the necessity of human security and equity. The wisdom which all of you have brought to this meeting has crystallized as the Chair's Statement. As a beacon to light the path ahead of us, I wish to share this outcome at the United Nations General Assembly in September. Moreover, let me underline the importance of reflecting our discussions in many other fora such as the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4), G20, and Rio+20.

In holding this international conference, as we display our unwavering commitment to the MDGs and move beyond the Great East Japan Earthquake, I have a message I wish to convey to all of you today.

Japan, through steady implementation of the “Kan Commitment,” is determined to continue contributing to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

Making the most of the wisdom and creativity which have made our progress to date possible, we will continue to make unceasing efforts to bring about a better world.

Moreover, on the basis of the present MDGs, we will take a leading role in addressing the important challenge of how to fashion our post-2015 world.

Poverty reduction will remain an important challenge that must be pursued even after 2015. At the same time, all the stakeholders need to address a host of emerging issues such as the environment and climate change, resource security including food security, and disaster risk management.

In these endeavors, the concepts of human security, equity, mutual support and sustainability will show us the way forward and guide us as a lighthouse.

We cannot solve global issues without the notion of “wealth creation.” We need to remember that economic growth, woven from the three perspectives of green, inclusive and shared growth, is the cornerstone of our prosperity.

With these points very much in mind, I hereby express my resolve to deepen our discussions with willing partners so that we will be able to construct a “compass” that will guide international efforts on development even beyond 2015.

When concluding an international conference like this, we feel a sense of fulfillment and relief. At the same time, the challenges ahead as we focus on the future have become clearer. Buoyed by fresh determination and lofty ambitions forged through our shared experience at this conference, let us work

together for the future hand in hand.

In Japan, following the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami, we were comforted by the warm consideration of our fellow human beings from around the world, including developed, emerging, and developing countries and their governments, private sectors and civil societies. Human solidarity is indeed the beacon of hope guiding us in our efforts to solve the global challenges we face. As someone who has felt the power of such solidarity more than most, I would like to emphasize its limitless potential as we come to the end of this meeting.

To conclude, I promise that Japan will always stand together with the international community in striving to achieve the MDGs and in addressing the global challenges beyond 2015.

Thank you for your kind attention.