

## *Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs*

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The fundamental purpose of Japanese diplomacy is to secure Japan's own safety and prosperity. To that end, it is essential that Japan strives for the realization of peace, stability, and prosperity throughout the entire international community. Moreover, to realize this type of diplomacy, Japanese foreign policy must be understood and supported by Japanese citizens. Accordingly, I believe we must redouble our efforts to restore the faith of the Japanese citizens in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was lost due to the series of improprieties at the ministry that were revealed in early 2001, including the fraudulent use of public funds, the pooled fund incident, and the improper involvement of a certain Diet member in ministry activities. Severe self-criticism and deep repentance for those violations of the public's trust are the basis for our efforts to restore the faith of the Japanese people in the country's diplomacy.

From this perspective, immediately after I assumed office this February, I announced the Ten Reform Principles to Ensure an Open Ministry of Foreign Affairs and established the Reform Advisory Board, comprising eminent persons from every sector of society. While carefully listening to the opinions expressed by the board and all other concerned parties, I am resolutely determined that all members of the ministry's staff will also join together as one to vigorously advance ministry reforms in areas where such reforms can be implemented independently, without waiting for outside proposals.

Additionally, to resolve the vast number of foreign policy issues facing the country, I am striving to achieve a diplomacy that is "strong," "caring," and "straightforward." To secure Japan's safety and prosperity, we must advance a proactive and action-oriented foreign policy with the strength to say what must be said and to do what must be done within the international community. Our diplomatic efforts must also be caring and humane. We should not forget those who suffer from poverty and armed conflict, and we should deepen our understanding of different cultures and traditions. Finally, we must manifest a straightforward foreign policy that is easily understandable to all Japanese citizens, in order to maintain their understanding and support. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue striving, with even greater determination, to accomplish such foreign policy.

This *Diplomatic Bluebook*, which provides a comprehensive summary of the international situation and of Japan's diplomacy over the past year, represents part of the ministry's efforts to gain this crucial understanding and support of the Japanese people. In considering the ideal future for the international community and Japanese diplomacy, it is extremely important to review international conditions and the efforts being made by Japan and the rest of the international community each year.

This 2002 edition of the *Diplomatic Bluebook* begins with a general overview summarizing 2001—a year that demanded global efforts aimed at achieving worldwide stability and prosperity—and outlining the actions taken by Japan and the international community, beginning with the international coalition against terrorism. The September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States were the most influential events of 2001, and this *Diplomatic Bluebook* details the response taken by the international community, including Japan. It also provides information regarding areas of concern to the international community, such as developments in the Middle East peace process and the heightened tension between India and Pakistan, as well as information regarding Japan's bilateral relations and the main efforts taken by the international community to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to reinforce the multilateral trading system, and to address the issue of global warming. Furthermore, based on deep repentance over the scandals at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the positive efforts being made in the area of ministry reform are summarized in the overview and detailed in Chapter V.

I sincerely hope that this 2002 edition of the *Diplomatic Bluebook* will contribute toward advancing the Japanese people's understanding of international affairs and of Japan's diplomacy, and that it will deepen their understanding of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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