

# Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs

I took office as Minister for Foreign Affairs on March 9, 2011. Based on my experience as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs under Minister Seiji Maehara, I would like to place on track Japan's diplomacy, which Ministers Katsuya Okada and Maehara had promoted after the change of government and to pursue Japan's national interests. Japan is now in its greatest national crisis since the Second World War due to the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. I will make every effort in conducting diplomacy so that Japan will overcome and recover from the difficult times ahead.

The international community today is facing a significant change. It is needless to say that under such international conditions, each citizen is the source of driving force for Japan to continue playing a role for global peace and prosperity. This *Diplomatic Bluebook 2011* has been published to fulfill the government accountability to the sovereign of Japan and to provide necessary information to help them judge Japan's diplomacy. This *Bluebook* explains the international situation surrounding Japan and Japan's foreign policy during 2010 in a clear and straightforward manner for easy understanding.

Securing the safety and prosperity of Japan and the Japanese people is the government's greatest duty. The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly uncertain, and the international community continues to face a mountain of problems including environmental issues, terrorism, poverty and infectious diseases.

The Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy and security. Not only is it essential for the security and prosperity of Japan and the Japanese people, but it is a shared asset for the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Japan will further deepen and develop this alliance in a form that is suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At the same time, with the solid Japan-U.S. alliance as the main cornerstone, Japan is working to resolve various issues of concern by advancing cooperative relations with China, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and other neighboring countries. With regard to North Korea, Japan will seek to normalize the relations through a comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern such as abduction, nuclear and missiles issues and also the settlement of the unfortunate past, in accordance with the Japan - DPRK Pyongyang Declaration. Japan will also advance cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, Australia, India and other regional countries, while utilizing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other regional cooperation frameworks for the development of multi-layered and open networks. The rise of emerging countries in the Asia-Pacific region is creating economic opportunities, but disputes over maritime claims and interests have become more conspicuous in recent years, and there are other elements of regional instability as well. It is absolutely necessary for the long-term development of the Asia-Pacific region to construct a regional cooperation framework so that the diversity of this region will be a source of vitality, not confrontation. To those ends, Japan will work to form a new order for the region in cooperation with other Asia-Pacific countries.

Japan must achieve a "strong economy" by deepening economic relations with Asian and emerging countries, whose markets are expected to grow, Western countries, countries endowed with resources, and others, and by rebuilding its foundations for future growth and development, under the "Basic Policy on Comprehensive Economic Partnerships" approved by the Cabinet in November 2010. Japan is promoting the free trade system and working for high-level Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with relevant countries while advancing the domestic reforms necessary for such arrangements. As for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, Japan is making necessary efforts such as holding consultations with the countries concerned. In addition to these efforts, Japan continues to actively advance economic diplomacy to promote Japanese infrastructure

system overseas, secure resources, establish Japan as a tourism-based country, and publicize the Japan brand.

The peace and stability of the international community is essential for the prosperity of Japan into the future. Therefore, Japan is vigorously addressing global issues for the international community to pursue. Japan is actively engaged in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts toward realizing “a world without nuclear weapons” and will continue playing a leading role in the international debate. Japan will also continue positively contributing to the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) as one of the most effective means of upholding international peace and stability. In addition, Japan is providing support for the consolidation of peace in conflict regions and other areas. In climate change and other environmental issues as well, Japan will play a leading role in moving the international debate forward based on the results achieved during 2010. Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) continues to attach importance to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), investment in peace and assistance for sustainable economic development, as well as the active provision of support to Africa and Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It is needless to say that developing active diplomacy is based entirely on the security of Japanese citizens. The protection of Japanese citizens is one of the government’s most important duties, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to collect information on various international events and make every effort to protect Japanese citizens.

This *Diplomatic Bluebook 2011* presents a concise synopsis of the full text as a summary version. Chapter 1 “Overview: International Situation and Japanese Diplomacy in 2010” presents a broad review of the international situation and Japan’s diplomatic efforts in 2010. Chapter 2 “Japan’s Foreign Policy by Region” and Chapter 3 “Japan’s Foreign Policy in Major Global Issues” note the important developments during 2010 by region and issue. Chapter 4 “Japanese Diplomacy Open to the Public” explains the efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support Japanese citizens and companies abroad, as well as the efforts to enhance Japan’s comprehensive diplomatic capability, which include cooperation with local governments and communities in Japan and reinforcing Japan’s diplomacy implementation structure.

I sincerely hope this *Diplomatic Bluebook 2011* affords an opportunity to explain the international situation and Japanese diplomacy to the Japanese people in a manner easily understood, and to lead to a strong Japanese diplomacy based on the understanding and trust of the Japanese people.

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