

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs

- For Carrying out Proactive Diplomacy -



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Promoting disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly that of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is an important challenge that Japan and other members of the world must address in order to improve the security environment and create a peaceful world.

With a strong determination never to allow the devastation of nuclear weapons to be repeated, as the only state that has suffered atomic bombings, Japan has made various efforts, canvassing for the maintenance and enhancement of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, while setting the three non-nuclear principles as its national basic policy. In the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference held last year, Ambassador Yukiya Amano, Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, made intensive efforts presiding over the discussions as the chairman of the session and managed to successfully launch the preparatory process. In addition, Japan has been submitting a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UN General Assembly every year since 1994, and last year, its draft resolution was adopted with the support of a record high 170 states. In the area of conventional arms, Japan has been making active efforts to address not only the issue of anti-personnel landmines, but also the issue of small arms and light weapons that are allegedly killing and wounding over 500,000 people every year in armed conflicts.

Such efforts by Japan are highly appreciated in the world. Having worked toward early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), serving as the chairman at the first session of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in 1999, and also served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time of the conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction, I personally felt the strong expectations held by both the Japanese public and the world toward Japan's proactive diplomacy in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

At the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July 2008, Japan, as the presidency, intends to discuss non-proliferation as one of the priority issues. The non-proliferation issues including the nuclear issues of North Korea and Iran continue to represent critical challenges that need to be addressed by the international community in concert. Japan intends to make utmost efforts as the presidency to send out significant messages at the coming G8 Summit for appropriately dealing with such challenges and reinforcing the non-proliferation regime toward creating a world free of nuclear weapons.

Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy, which was launched with the aim to introduce to readers the background of various issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation and Japan's efforts to address such issues with straightforward explanations, now counts its fourth edition. I hope this booklet will help readers deepen their understanding of Japan's disarmament and non-proliferation policy and make their own contributions to more proactive diplomacy.

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