

(Translation)

Message from Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan to His Excellency Dato'Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak Prime Minister of Malaysia (Outline)

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Look East Policy, I should like to express my gratitude for your warm message and offer my sincere congratulations on behalf of the Japanese Government and people of Japan.

Since the Look East Policy started in Malaysia in 1982, about 15,000 excellent young Malaysians have come to Japan to learn Japanese working ethics as well as management style and contributed to the development of Malaysia. I am very pleased to learn that Malaysian students and trainees whom Japan accepted have been of some help to develop Malaysia, and that many Japanophiles fostered in Malaysia are now playing an important role in bridging the two countries. It is no exaggeration to say that the good and close bilateral relationship is supported by “kizuna” - bond of friendship nurtured under the Look East Policy.

The disaster of an unprecedented scale hit Japan in March last year and brought many sufferings and challenges to the people of Japan, but it also became an opportunity to reaffirm such “kizuna” between Japan and other countries including Malaysia. Once again, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the integrated support by Malaysia. It adopted the resolution of the House of Representatives to call for the assistance to Japan and the establishment of donation funds.

With the centre of the world history dramatically shifting over the past 30 years, we are transitioning to the Asian century. Under your strong leadership, Malaysia continues its robust economic growth with a view to becoming a high-income nation by 2020. I am positive that Malaysia will continue to drive the global economic growth as a growth centre of the world. I should like to continue to work with Malaysia, recognizing that Japan's reconstruction definitely needs “kizuna” with a wealthy and stable Asia, and Japan's contribution is indispensable to ensure peace and prosperity of Asia.

In order to strengthen “kizuna” in Asia and prosper together, it is extremely significant that both Japan and Malaysia think hard and continue to make efforts under the Look East Policy in developing human resources responsible for the future of Asia. For instance, I believe that the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), culmination of the Look East Policy, can significantly contribute to the regional development as a centre for excellence in engineering education of ASEAN.