

Speech by H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan

When the Pacific Ocean Becomes an “Inland Sea”: Five Pledges to a Future Asia that “Acts Together”

SUMMARY

New Japan-China, Japan-ROK Relations

- Condolences to the people affected by the cyclone in Myanmar and by the catastrophic earthquake in western China.
- Visits to Japan by President Hu Jintao of China and President Lee Myung Bak of the Republic of Korea.
- “The Future of Asia” from a longer-term viewpoint: a vision of Asia 30 years into the future using the Pacific Ocean as a prism.

Asia in the past 30 years — Hope and Opportunities

- “Fukuda Doctrine” of 1977: the ideal relationship between Japan and Southeast Asian nations was spelled out as being somewhat like that of colleagues.
- Asia and the Pacific as a region of hope and opportunity: At the forthcoming TICAD IV, Japan would call for utilizing experiences and strengths of Asia in promoting African development.

In the next 30 years — The Pacific Ocean turns into an “Inland Sea”

- In the coming 30 years, the Pacific Ocean will become an “inland sea” like the Mediterranean Sea, with frequent exchanges of people and goods. Asia as a central player in world history will expand and develop as it forms a network among countries surrounding this “inland sea,” including North and South America, Russia and India.
- “Openness” as the key word: Japan will open itself to the diversity of Asia, the Pacific and the world and will pursue the limitless potential of the region together. Japan intends to work together with the countries of Asia and the U.S. to consider possible ways to promote economic partnership and strengthen manufacturing and distribution networks within the region.

Five Pledges

In order for a network of never-ending expansion and development to form in the region, 1) Asian countries should broaden their outlook towards the Pacific and develop their capacity to participate in this network, and 2) the necessary environment should be improved. Japan promises five actions.

PLEDGE NO. 1 Steadfast Support for the Realization of the ASEAN Community

The stability and prosperity of ASEAN is in the interests of Japan. Japan will intensify support for the efforts of ASEAN to establish the ASEAN Community by 2015.

- Japan will appoint an Ambassador in charge of ASEAN as the ASEAN Charter enters into force, and establish the Permanent Representative of Japan to ASEAN in the near future.
 - Japan will work for creation of a single market within the ASEAN region through the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP).
 - “Thirty years of bridging Asian Development gaps”: Japan helps the Mekong Region bridge regional gaps and provides assistance to facilitate the “East-West Corridor.”
 - Japan would like to address many issues with ASEAN, including the simultaneous pursuit of environmental protection and economic growth, energy efficiency and conservation, ensuring food security and containment of avian influenza.
- Japan and ASEAN are “partners thinking together, acting together, sharing a future vision.”

PLEDGE NO. 2 Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance

The U.S. is one of the most important members of the Asia-Pacific region. Elements of instability and uncertainty remain in Asia, including the Korean

Peninsula issues which must be resolved to realize the stable development of Northeast Asia. Japan will reinforce its alliance with the U.S. as a form of public goods, which serves as an instrument for the stability of Asia and the Pacific as a whole, and as the cornerstone for its prosperity.

PLEDGE NO. 3 **Contributing as a
“Peace Fostering Nation”**

Japan will forge itself into a “Peace Fostering Nation,” sparing no efforts to work for the realization of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

- Japan will promote further cooperation to ensure the safety of sea lanes centered on the Straits of Malacca.
- Japan will continue its efforts in the fight against terrorism, including refueling operations in the Indian Ocean.
- Efforts through a human resource development program: peacebuilding specialists from Japan and other Asian countries trained in Japan will work shoulder-to-shoulder in areas even outside the Asian region.
- “Diplomacy for disaster management cooperation”: Japan will work with the countries of Asia and the Pacific, especially ASEAN, to promote disaster management cooperation, and will take immediate steps to create a network among disaster relief organizations in Asian countries and establish a structure for coordinated disaster relief operations to respond to large-scale disasters.

Together with the preparations against avian influenza, we must create the “Disaster Management and Infectious Disease Control Network in Asia.”

PLEDGE NO. 4 **Fostering and Strengthening
Infrastructure for Intellectual
and Generational Exchanges in
Asia and the Pacific**

- Japan promotes a “Plan for 300,000 Exchange Students.”
- Under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme, Japan invites 6,000 youths per year from across Asia to Japan.
- Japan aims to bring about an Asian version of the “ERASMUS Programme” with a view to dramati-

cally expanding exchanges among universities within Asia-Pacific region.

- Japan will nurture the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) into an organization with a similar role to the OECD.

PLEDGE NO. 5 **Tackling Climate Change,
Realization of a Low-Carbon Society**

- The Asian region will almost certainly be the world’s largest center for greenhouse gas emissions. Japan will cooperate with the countries of Asia and the Pacific to agree on a post-2012 framework at an early stage and establish a low-carbon society. Japan hopes to cooperate further with the countries of Asia, as it can assist in a number of ways.

Forging Bonds to “Act Together”

- The Asia-Pacific region faces issues of climate change, water, energy, food security and the concentration of the population explosion in urban areas. We need frameworks for better governance to overcome social turmoil and to nip these problems in the bud.
- Japan is a problem-solving nation as it has managed to solve a number of difficult problems in the past including environmental pollution, the bursting of the bubble economy and a serious deflationary recession. Japan’s philosophy of *mottainai* (the concept of not being wasteful) can serve as a basis for establishing a low-carbon society.

Japan hopes to be viewed as a peer to exchange experiences with.

- There is much for Japan to learn from the countries of Asia and the Pacific in such areas as further participation of women in society, attracting foreign direct investment, and utilizing the highly-capable human resources of Asia. Japan, too, must become more open.

Japan aims for a relationship in which we each learn from and encourage the other.

- Japan will expand the fields of its activities and serve as a central core of stability and development of Asia and the Pacific.
- Japan and the Japanese desire to forge bonds “acting together” with the people living in this region as we strengthen “heart to heart” trust.