

**Statement by Mr. Katsuro Nagai Minister, Embassy of Japan to Vietnam at  
the LLDC High-Level Meeting  
Thursday, 9 March 2017  
(Check against delivery)**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To begin, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the chair of this session. Under your able leadership, we are confident that this meeting will be successful. I would also like to thank the Government of Vietnam for organizing this meeting.

More than two years have already passed since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). In the development of LLDCs, including in the Euro-Asia region, Japan places great significance on sustainability and taking a people-centered approach. Sustainable and people-centered development needs to be supported by quality financing, quality investment and quality institutions, so that resources are directed to where they are needed most and can be utilized most effectively. At the same time, it is also necessary to make use of all potential sources of funding, both domestic and international.

In the international arena, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a significant new state of affairs since the adoption of the VPoA and its follow-up meeting in Zambia. It is important, therefore, to ensure consistency between the 2030 Agenda and the VPoA.

As a country which continually stresses the need to uphold human security, Japan places great importance on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both domestically and internationally, and is making great efforts to support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the VPoA for Landlocked Developing Countries.

In this connection, Japan set up the SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Moreover, last December, we formulated the guidelines for Japan's implementation of the SDGs, based on Japan's already excellent track record in sustainable economic and social development, to serve as a model for the international community.

Japan aims to become a role model for the world in the implementation of measures to achieve the SDGs, and will make efforts both in Japan and in cooperation with other countries to achieve sustainable societies worldwide such that no one is left behind.

In the development of Landlocked Developing Countries, it is essential to build unrestricted access to global markets. This is an obvious lesson to be drawn from the experiences of the Euro-Asian region, which has managed to achieve economic growth through trade for decades.

Japan has been working closely with LLDCs in the areas of our greatest expertise, such as infrastructure development and trade facilitation, which were specified in the Almaty agenda and prioritized in the Vienna agenda.

With regard to trade facilitation, Japan sets a high priority on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in developing countries, and has been providing support for international harmonization and simplification of customs procedures in cooperation with the relevant organizations such as the WCO. For example, Japan has been actively supporting projects on such measures as electronic customs procedures in ASEAN, implementation of Single Window, and the establishment and operation of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) in Africa.

Japan has been utilizing ODA and other initiatives as catalysts to attract additional private investment, including investment from Japan, while respecting the ownership of LLDCs. A recent example of our efforts on

infrastructural development in the Euro-Asia region is the installation of airport control and protection systems in eight major airports, including Tribhuvan International Airport, in Nepal. The objective of this project is to provide aviation safety facilities and other equipment to these airports, thereby improving guidance and landing safety for aircraft at their destination airports.

Japan will continue to engage in the improvement of the overall economic environment for development, in both its tangible and intangible dimensions, by supporting the formation of regional economic areas in cooperation with LLDCs, transit countries and development partners. Moreover, we will continue to support the progress of the LLDCs toward achieving greater independence and prosperity, while at the same time respecting their ownership and autonomy.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere wish that this meeting will be highly productive and successful for all of us. Thank you very much.