



*Representative Office of Japan
to the Palestinian National Authority*

Representative's Newsletter #4, July 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you the 4th Representative's Newsletter.

Below are the topics of the newsletter.

1. "Open Reconstruction" in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Working with Heart-Warming Support Towards a Safe and Secure Japan that Coexists in Harmony with the World
2. Visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority by H.E. Mr. Yutaka Banno, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
3. G8 Deauville Summit: Leaders Confirm Solidarity with Japan, and Discuss Pressing International Issues Including Nuclear Safety and Situations in the Middle East and North Africa

For those who are interested in getting to know more about Japan, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the following websites:

Web Japan: <http://web-japan.org/>

Japan Echo Web: <http://www.japanechowebsite.jp/>

For inquiries, comments, and suggestions about this newsletter, please kindly refer to:

Tel: 02-2414120/1/2

Fax: 02-2413123

e-mail: culture3@repjapan.ps

Sincerely yours,

Naofumi HASHIMOTO
Representative of Japan

1. “Open Reconstruction” in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Working with Heart-Warming Support Towards a Safe and Secure Japan that Coexists in Harmony with the World

“Thank You Again”

Please accept once again our heartfelt gratitude for the swift and generous support from the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian citizens after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Government of Japan continues to work with the residents of the affected region and the people of Japan, expending all efforts to overcome the present difficulties and secure safety for the disaster victims, including foreigners, and an early recovery for the region.



Prime Minister Kan visiting a disaster-stricken area.

© Cabinet Public Relations Office

Re-establishing a Safe and Secure Japan

Japan is already on a steady, step-by-step path towards recovering safety in relation to the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Except in areas surrounding the power station, radiation levels are now at normal levels in Tokyo and elsewhere, posing no health hazards. This concurs with the Preliminary Summary of the report issued on June 1 by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) which states: “To date, no health effects have been reported in any person as a result of radiation exposure from the nuclear accident.” Mobilizing knowledge and technology from around the world, we are gradually regaining a safe and secure Japan.

Pursuing “Open Reconstruction” through Three Aspects of Symbiosis

We will pursue a future-oriented and “open reconstruction” program, hand in hand with the international community, so that we will be able to reciprocate the goodwill that has been extended to us. Pictures of Japanese people helping each other and trying hard to recover their lives have drawn the attention of the world. This can be interpreted as an expression of the underlying spirit of symbiosis, or interaction based on mutual dependence and mutual benefit, which the Japanese have long embraced. Such symbiosis as “coexistence among people,” “coexistence among nations,” and “symbiosis between people and nature” may be the most crucial principle for the coming generation.

Last but not least, I would like to emphasize that Japan remains “open for business and travel.” I would like to have your kind understanding and cooperation that promoting business with Japan and visiting Japan for pleasure or study is the most helpful support for us.

2. Visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority by H.E. Mr. Yutaka Banno, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Yutaka Banno, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, visited Israel and the Palestinian Authority on June 12th, 2011. Mr. Banno had meetings with H.E. Dr. Riad Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, and H.E. Mr. Daniel Ayalon, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel. Mr. Banno began the meetings by conveying his sincere appreciation for solidarity and support extended from Israelis and Palestinians. As for the peace process, Mr. Banno expressed his strong hope for the early resumption of the direct talk, and emphasized the importance of confidence building between the two sides. Mr. Banno also confirmed that Japan will continue its support for Palestinian nation building efforts

3. G8 Deauville Summit: Leaders Confirm Solidarity with Japan, and Discuss Pressing International Issues Including Nuclear Safety and Situations in the Middle East and North Africa

The 2011 G8 Summit was held on May 26th and 27th in Deauville, France. The Summit touched upon issues such as solidarity with Japan, nuclear safety, climate change, the Internet, development, and peace and security; it issued three declarations: the G8 Declaration, the Declaration of the G8 on the Arab Spring, and the G8/Africa Joint Declaration, which was the first of its kind.



Prime Minister Kan attended the G8 Summit.
© Cabinet Public Relations Office

Solidarity with Japan

Prime Minister Kan expressed his deep gratitude for the assistance and friendship extended by the international community, and explained Japan's determination to bring the accident under control and to achieve reconstruction. He also expressed that Japan would take up four challenges to forge a future path for energy, adding "renewable energy" and "energy-efficiency" as two new pillars to the pillars to date of "nuclear power" and "fossil fuels". Other G8 leaders renewed their heartfelt sympathy to and solidarity with Japan, paying tribute to the courage and dignity shown by Japanese people amid the difficult situation.

Japan's Contribution to Primary Discussions

(1) Nuclear Safety

Prime Minister Kan made a five-point proposal to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety worldwide: (a) strengthening of the Safety Standards of the IAEA and promotion of their utilization, (b) expansion of the IAEA's Operational Safety Review Mission, (c) enhancement of an international support system in times of accidents, (d) strengthening of cooperation among national safety authorities, and (e) ratification of nuclear safety-related conventions. He also announced an initiative to host an international meeting in Japan in the latter half of 2012 in cooperation with the IAEA, taking into account the results of a review of the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Leaders expressed support for the initiative, and acknowledged that, although each country may have its own approach to the use of nuclear energy, joint efforts are necessary to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety.

(2) Middle East and North Africa

The G8 leaders welcomed the historic changes taking place in the Middle East and North Africa, affirming the G8's collective support for the efforts. Prime Minister Kan, referring to Japan's contribution to democratization, stability and growth in Southeast Asia, expressed Japan's intention to contribute to assistance for the region, focusing on (a) fair political process and government, (b) human resource development, and (c) job creation and fostering of industries.

(END)