

# Japan-Nigeria Joint Communiqué

We, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, held talks on 2 June, 2009 and exchanged views on wide-ranging issues including bilateral relations and global agenda. We confirmed the need to further enhance the special partnership existing between the two countries and confirmed the following:

## 1. Bilateral Relations

### (1) Political Relations

- (i) Japan and Nigeria play an important role in Asia and Africa respectively and the importance of the cooperation between the two countries is increasing more than ever from a global perspective. Based on such recognition, both sides will further strengthen cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas ranging from bilateral political and economic issues to global challenges.
- (ii) In order to underpin their strengthened partnership, both sides decided to engage more frequently in bilateral talks at the head-of-state/government level. Both sides also affirmed the need to meet more frequently at the ministerial level, making use of various opportunities. To this end, both governments will closely communicate with each other with a view to realising the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to Nigeria as well as the visit of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Japan, at the dates which would be convenient for both sides.
- (iii) Both sides underscored the importance of the Japan-Nigeria Special Partnership Forum.

### (2) Trade and Investment

- (i) In line with its aim to double Japanese private investment in Africa by 2012, the Japanese side intends to provide every possible support to promote its trade with and its private investment in Nigeria.
- (ii) In order to attract more investment from Japan, the Nigerian side will undertake every effort for improving the business climate in such areas as security and infrastructure. Both sides will cooperate to enhance a better understanding of the Japanese business community regarding Nigeria's investment environment through business-related events such as the Japan-Nigeria Business Forum.
- (iii) Both sides decided to commence discussing appropriate means to improve the investment environment in Nigeria, taking into consideration the needs of the business sector.
- (iv) Both sides will significantly enhance the cooperative relationship in the oil and natural gas sector.

### (3) Economic Cooperation

- (i) In line with the commitment made at TICAD IV in May 2008 for doubling the ODA by 2012, the Japanese side will significantly enhance its bilateral ODA to Nigeria.
- (ii) In response to Nigeria's request for the resumption of Japanese ODA loan, the Japanese side, taking into account Nigeria's determined and careful debt management after the recent experience of debt cancellation, decided to resume Japanese ODA loan to Nigeria and the examination of individual projects to be financed by Japanese ODA loan.

(iii) In order to contribute to Nigeria's achievement of the targets in the Seven Point Agenda and 'Vision 2020,' the Japanese side will provide assistance particularly in the areas such as "health," "education," "water supply," "rural electrification" and "agriculture" in Nigeria.

From this viewpoint,

(a) the Japanese side decided to provide assistance for the following projects:

- The Master Plan Study on Rural Electrification
- One Local Government One Product Plan for Revitalising Nigeria's Rural Economy
- Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASE) Project Phase 2
- Project for enhancing the function of rural water supply and sanitation centre for capacity development in National Water Resources Institute

(b) the Japanese side is preparing for the Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children in Nigeria, to be implemented in the current fiscal year 2009.

(c) the Japanese side plans to dispatch study teams for the following projects:

- The project for construction of additional classrooms for primary schools (Phase 2)
- The project for water supply in Bauchi and Katsina

(d) the Japanese side will consider providing assistance which utilises Japan's environmental technology such as the solar generation system, under the 'Cool Earth Partnership.'

## **2. Cooperation in the international arena**

### **(1) Consolidation of Peace**

The Japanese side confirms its support for Nigeria's efforts to ensure the stability of West Africa and the entire African continent through its assistance to Nigeria's African Centre for Strategic Research and Studies and other means. The Nigerian side continues its efforts to enhance the regional stability and strengthen measures against cross-border crimes such as drug and human trafficking, proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

### **(2) United Nations Security Council Reform**

Both sides confirmed the importance of the UN reforms. In particular, both sides will continue to work together actively for early realization of the UN Security Council reform, including the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. To this shared end, both sides will further strengthen coordination and cooperation between the two countries and actively participate in the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform.

### **(3) Climate Change**

With a view to realising the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and economic growth in a compatible manner as well as stabilizing climate, both sides will cooperate closely with each other in achieving an international agreement to establish a fair and effective framework beyond 2012 in which all major economies participate in a responsible manner.

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