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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Iwao Kitahara, Ambassador of Japan
At the 2009 Timor-Leste and Development Partner's Meeting (TLDPM)**

3 April, 2009

H.E. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste,
H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste,
Dr. Atul Khare, Special Representative for the Secretary General, UNMIT,
Dr. Antonio Franco, Country Manager, the World Bank, Timor-Leste,
Distinguished Members of the Government of Timor-Leste, the Diplomatic Corps,
International Organisations, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. I am delighted to be here this morning to attend the Timor-Leste and Development Partner's Meeting. We welcome the leadership of the Government of Timor-Leste in organising TLDPM two consecutive years.
2. As the main theme of 2009 TLDPM, "Good bye Conflict, Welcome Development", indicates, Timor-Leste is now entering into the stage of Consolidation of Peace and Development, leaving from Post Conflict Rehabilitation. In February, the Security Council adopted the Resolution to extend the mandate of UNMIT for one year. The said resolution touches upon the gradual resumption of policing responsibilities by PNTL and local elections planned to be held this year. This also shows that Timor-Leste is entering into the stage of Consolidation of Peace and Development.
3. External assistance to support such transition needs to be coordinated based on the ownership of the Government and people of Timor-Leste. TLDPM is part of such efforts.
4. Japan has been extending assistance focusing on four main areas. First, "Human Resources Development and Institution Building", second, "Infrastructure Rebuilding and Development", third, "Agriculture and Rural Development" and fourth, "Consolidation of Peace". These four areas go along with this year's National Priorities.
5. When we look at the bilateral relations between Japan and Timor-Leste, just recently Prime Minister Gusmão visited Japan, and through the top-level meeting with Prime Minister Aso and other leading figures, already friendly bilateral relations between our two countries were further consolidated.

They had very meaningful exchanges of ideas on the assistance to Timor-Leste. Prime Minister Aso expressed his intention to continue the cooperation and support to Timor-Leste in their efforts to build the country. Also, Prime Minister Aso extended a formal invitation to H.E. Dr. Ramos-Horta, President of Timor-Leste, to visit Japan at an early date and both leaders agreed to prepare the visit at mutually convenient timing. The outcome of the visit was materialized in the form of joint press statement between Prime Ministers. Both countries confirmed, among others, concrete cooperation in (1) Personnel Contribution and Capacity-Building, (2) Assistance for

the Improvement of Infrastructure, (3) Basic Education, Health, Medicine, and so on. Japan will make its best efforts to steadily follow up this outcome.

6. Regarding (1) Personnel Contribution and Capacity-Building, Japan would continue to provide possible assistance in the area of Maritime Security. Japan is now preparing for the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and also, Japan is ready to receive students to study at the National Defence Academy of Japan from the fiscal year 2010. Furthermore, Japan would invite youths from Timor-Leste to participate in the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) Programme which will take place this month, together with youths from ASEAN countries.
7. Regarding (2) Assistance for the Improvement of Infrastructure, Prime Minister Gusmão expressed his interest in the Japanese ODA, Loan. Responding to such interest, Prime Minister Aso expressed his willingness to dispatch a mission to survey possible assistance for the improvement of infrastructure. At the moment, the first dispatch of the mission is conducting the survey to collect basic information in the area of Infrastructure. The second dispatch of the mission will conduct a survey on Timor-Leste's external debt management structure in April or May. Japan is willing to closely coordinate with other Development Partners in assisting the Infrastructure development.
8. Regarding (3) Basic Education, Health and Medicine, Prime Minister Gusmão referred to the importance of the expansion of basic education and the measures needed to be taken in the area of maternal and child health, including those against infectious diseases. Responding to the expectation of Prime Minister Gusmão, Prime Minister Aso said that Japan would consider possible assistance such as the provision of antiviral medicines against pandemic influenza for stockpile in Timor-Leste. To consider concrete options for the possible assistance, Japan would like to continue close consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste. Such assistance is expected to contribute to the National Priorities 4, Social Protection and Social Services.
9. Japan has been actively supporting Timor-Leste as a good friend in Asia since we hosted the first Donor's Meeting in Tokyo in 1999, 10 years ago. Japan will extend as much assistance as possible, including our support for Timor-Leste's smooth admission to ASEAN as expressed at the Summit Meeting during the Prime Minister's visit. Attaching importance to Timor-Leste's ownership, we hope such assistance will be not only for the further enhancement of bilateral relations of two countries sharing common values, but also for the stability and prosperity of the region as a whole.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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