

January, 2016

Dear Sir / Madam,

It gives me great pleasure to send you the first issue of my personal newsletter "*Japan Now*". In this issue, I wish to inform you on the following topics:

- 1. *Self-introduction***
  - 2. *Election of Japan as a Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council***
  - 3. *Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security***
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### **1. *Self-introduction***

I arrived in Port of Spain in August 2015. Apart from Trinidad and Tobago, our Embassy's jurisdiction extends to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Republic of Suriname, as well as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.

My academic background is urban planning and civil engineering. Making the best use of it, therefore, I worked for the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) for a few decades, mainly in the field of development and management of transport infrastructure. I served as Director General, Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, MLIT, until 2009, and then assumed the position of President, the Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan (OCDI) from 2011 to 2015. During my tenure, I extended technical assistance to various countries in Asia and Africa. I also worked for the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Panama in the 1980's, preparing the start of the Panama Canal Alternatives Study.

My arrival here comes at a critical time for relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago. Last year, we celebrated Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2014 and saw a series of related events here in Trinidad and Tobago. In particular, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a historic visit to Trinidad and Tobago, as the first Prime Minister of Japan to visit the Caribbean region, and launched a new policy towards CARICOM, which has paved the way for opportunities to dramatically advance bilateral relations with CARICOM member states including Trinidad and Tobago.

I am determined to further enhance the cordial relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago, capitalizing on this strong foundation. Toward this goal, I look forward to working with you.

## ***2. Election of Japan as a Non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council***

On October 15, Japan was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the elections held during the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. As a result, Japan will serve a two-year term in the UNSC starting from January 1 of next year.

Japan presented its candidature for this election with a view to making further contribution to international peace and security. The result of the election shows that the international community highly values Japan's long-standing commitment and enthusiasm regarding the goals of the UN, and that it expects Japan can make further contributions to this end. With this successful election, Japan will assume non-permanent membership in the Security Council for the 11th time, which is more than any other UN Member State.

Japan will contribute to addressing a wide range of issues concerning international peace and security while on the Security Council. In particular, Japan will make proactive contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and the UN's efforts for peace-building in the Middle East and Africa which contribute to the peace and safety of these regions, as well as helping to deal with the situations concerning North Korea which directly impacts the peace and security of Japan.

With regard to Security Council reform, it is an urgent task to expand and reform the UNSC in a way which reflects the current international situation where the number of UN Member States has significantly increased. Japan's 11th election as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, and its contributions to international peace and security afford an opportunity to show other countries that Japan is suitable as a candidate to be a new permanent member of the UNSC. Japan will strengthen its cooperation with reform-oriented countries to further enhance its efforts towards realizing reform.

## ***3. Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security***

On July 1st, 2014, the Government of Japan made a cabinet decision on the basic policies on development of seamless security legislation. Based on the cabinet decision, further deliberation was made within the government and between the ruling parties. Subsequently, the Government of Japan submitted the Bill for the Development of Legislation for Peace and Security to the Diet (Japanese parliament) on May 15th. After thorough deliberation, the Diet approved the legislation on September 19th, 2015.

The legislation enables seamless responses to any situations to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of the Japanese people. It also allows Japan to contribute to the peace and stability of the international community in a more proactive manner. It should also be noted that there are no changes in Japan's basic posture and orientation for the past 70 years, including a peace-loving nation.

For more information, visit: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/security/index.html>

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