

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada on the
Occasion of the Reception Celebrating H.M. the Emperor
of Japan's Birthday
December 2, 2013
Hotel Timor, Dili**

H.E. Mr. Vincente da Silva Guterres,
Membrus Parlamentu Nasional,
Korpus Diplomatikus,
Distintus Konvidadus,
Senhoras no Senhores,

[Kalan diak]

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a National Day Reception on the occasion of 80th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito. It is a great honor for me to report to all of the distinguish guests that Emperor Akihito is good in health and works actively day after day in his imperial office.

Thanks to the close cooperation of those working in the government of Timor-Leste and of Japan, the bilateral relationship between two countries has been

firmly consolidated and strengthened.

Many official visits from both sides have been taken place this year including from Timorese side, the President of the Parliament Mr. Guterres visited Japan in September.

From Japanese side, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kiuchi visited Timor-Leste in April and three parliament members visited in September. It is a pleasure for us that all of these visits have ended in great success.

The bilateral talk between both Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kishida and Mr. Guterres in Brunai, June, between the special envoy of Prime Minister, Mr. Komura and the Prime Minister, Mr. Gusmao in Bali, November as well as the visit of delegation from Japan for Policy Talks on Economic Cooperation between two countries in October, were also the most important moments of this year.

The youth exchange program should also be referred to, in which more than 300 Timorese young people are invited to Japan in 2013 and 2014. The participants are expected to experience Japanese life as well as

to report their observations in Japan to their friends in Timor-Leste.

The inauguration ceremony of the Oecusse Port in September was a remarkable milestone of our friendship with Mola Bridge Restoration Project whose E/N was signed in August. The project for capacity development of F-FDTL is being successfully implemented in Metinaro.

For further development of bilateral relationship I would like to emphasize the importance of information to be provided for the people in both countries.

The new Timor-Leste fully stabilized and in dynamism of development should be well known among Japanese while Japanese society and its traditional culture should more to be informed to Timorese people.

I am firmly convinced that Timor-Leste and Japan will cooperate hand in hand for further prosperity and tighten our friendship for our future generations.

[END]