

**Short Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan  
to Timor-Leste on the Occasion of Launching the Preparatory  
Committee for the Japan Alumni Association on August 16, 2013**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the guests for coming to the launching reception for the Preparatory Committee for the Japan Alumni today.

Since the restoration of independence, the Government of Japan has implemented various programs through the Embassy and JICA for the development of Timor-Leste. In the course of our assistance, especially in capacity building, a significant number of Timorese students and trainees visited Japan on either the Embassy or JICA

programs and came back with strong will to contribute to their home country.

At this juncture, we consider the time is ripe for us to establish the Japan Alumni Association to promote our friendly relationship as well as to bring it to an even stronger solidarity.

Today we have the representatives as the committee members based on recommendations by the Embassy and JICA. I would like to extend my special thanks to the committee members for your generous acceptance to join hands with us. Through the Preparatory Committee, the Embassy and JICA would like to seek your active participation in discussions on the way how we can organize the alumni association in the near future.

Now that Timor-Leste has already moved well into a new phase of nation building and development with peace and stability prevailing throughout the country, our relationship should also turn to shift into

a new page of friendly through people-to-people interaction. We are convinced that the committee members here will steadily, if not quickly lead it together with the Embassy and JICA.

Thank you for your attention and enjoy this evening.

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