

**Brief Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka HANADA,  
Ambassador of Japan, at Meligo Village, Bobonaro District**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good afternoon,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to visit Meligo village, Cailaro Sub-district, Bobonaro District. I am delighted to have an opportunity to meet you and I am deeply touched by your heart warming welcome ceremony. Thank you very much.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Restoration of Independence and since its independence, Timor-Leste has been making progress from reconstruction of conflict to nation-building. The Government of Japan, throughout this decade, has been working together with the Government of Timor-Leste to further consolidate peace and security in the country. Today, Timor-Leste is advancing towards full-fledged nation-building from post-conflict reconstruction.

The Government of Japan, from the perspective of stability and prosperity in Timor-Leste, sets “Establishing Foundation for Promoting Economic Activities”, “Agriculture and Rural Development” and “Capacity Development of Government and Public Sector” as priority areas of our cooperation. With the view of long-term assistance to Timor-Leste, Japan has decided to extend the Japanese Yen Loan to Timor-Leste, the first-ever foreign loan in Timor-Leste, for the purpose of upgrading the National Road No.1 (Dili-Baucau Road), which the Government of Timor-Leste puts high priority on.

The Government of Japan pays close attention to the difficulties of the people who live in rural areas for their access to basic infrastructure, especially access to safe and clean water. We will continue to implement our projects both in urban and rural areas for the benefit of all the people in Timor-Leste so that we can together

engage in self-reliant and sustainable development.

As in the case of Bobonaro District, we are currently considering Meligo Village as one of possible project site to construct small-scale irrigation to enhance the livelihood of the people in Meligo Village. However, at this point, we cannot promise you to implement this irrigation project since we consider it very important to actually listen to the villagers' voice and to know the real needs of the people in Meligo Village.

The Government of Japan will continue to have open dialogues with the Government of Timor-Leste and local NGOs so that we can put our efforts together to continue to brighter future for the people in Timor-Leste.

Thank you very much.

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