

**Short Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada,  
Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, at the Send-off  
Ceremony for Youth Exchange Programs  
On Monday, November 19, 2012**

Thank you very much for coming to the Send-off ceremony for youth exchange programs between Timor-Leste and Japan.

The Japanese Government has decided to send approximately 160 Timorese youths to Japan under the youth exchange programs. Especially, by the end of next March, around 130 youths will have visited the Earthquake-and-Tsunami affected areas to directly witness its recovery process and deepen mutual understanding with the Japanese youths.

I strongly believe that the Timorese youths will foster and strengthen friendship between the two countries through people-to-people interactions.

I hope all of you here will tell the Japanese people you'll meet in Japan that your country is no longer a conflict-stricken country. Timor-Leste has already passed the fragile post-conflict era and is moving forward on national development.

I believe that you will broaden your perspectives and deepen your understanding of a different culture, its people and life as well as those of your own country.

I expect your visit to Japan will be your first such opportunity.

Last but not least, today, we have 3 professional musicians from Japan. They have introduced Japanese culture to the Timorese youths to enhance our bilateral relationship in hope of a long-lasting friendship. They will liven up this Send-off ceremony by their music performance.

Thank you very much.

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