

**Short Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan
to Timor-Leste on the Occasion of the Dinner for the Launch of the
Media Tour on Japan's Official Development Assistance in
Timor-Leste
on August 12, 2013**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the guests for coming to this dinner for the launch of the media tour on Japan's official development assistance in Timor-Leste, which is starting tomorrow. It is my pleasure to have you here tonight.

Timor-Leste, a highly acclaimed exemplar of peace building after prolonged armed conflict, has already moved onto a full-fledged

development phase for nation building and poverty reduction as was reaffirmed by the international community at the Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting in June.

Japan enjoys the strong and friendly relationship with Timor-Leste before and after the restoration of independence in 2002. Since Japan hosted the first international conference in support of Timor-Leste in 1999, Japan has long been a substantial partner of Timor-Leste in a wide range of sectors in nation building and peace building. In parallel, Timor-Leste is one of Japan's most cordial partners for prosperity and stability in the Asia Pacific region. Japan places great importance on Timor-Leste not only as a peace-loving country in this region, but also as a major partner in promoting common values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In a situation where Timor-Leste has moved into the new nation building phase, Japan's cooperation also needs to align with Timor-Leste's visions and strategies in conducting our projects from

central Dili to remote Oecusse enclave in an all-inclusive way. At this historic juncture in Timor-Leste's development process, this media tour is expected to serve as a vantage point to recapitulate our previous and ongoing assistance in Timor-Leste and renew Japan's commitment to assisting Timor-Leste's new journey of nation building in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture, rural development and human resource development. Today, our local staff is going to brief you on the media tour schedule and the basic information of each project that media crew are going to visit.

Thank you for your attention and please enjoy the evening.

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