

## **Congratulation Message from Prime Minister of Japan for the 31<sup>st</sup> Joint Conference of JAMECA-MAJECA (Provisional Translation)**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2012

At Hotel Istana

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Mustapa bin Mohamed, Minister of International Trade & Industry,

Distinguished guest from both Japan and Malaysia,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 31<sup>st</sup> Joint Conference of JAMECA/MAJECA and the Conference on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Look East Policy – A New Dimension convened together with the attendance of Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The relationship between Japan and Malaysia has been underpinned by the strong bond formed by layers of activities including the human exchange based on the Look East Policy which marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the robust investment by Japanese enterprises in Malaysia, and thriving trade and investment under the Malaysia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. Our countries also enjoy close interaction at high levels. I had a fruitful bilateral meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister Najib which took place at the APEC summit held in Vladivostok last month, and we welcomed His Majesty Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, The Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV, and Her Majesty Tuanku Hajah Haminah Binti Haji Hamidun, The Raja Permaisuri Agong XIV as guests of the state last week. On the economic front, approximately 1,400 Japanese companies are undertaking their business in Malaysia, and we intend to enhance cooperation utilizing Japan's state-of-art technologies in specific cases in the area of infrastructure development, focusing on the high speed railway, water business and smart community. In addition, from this September, Japan started issuing Multiple Entry Visa for short-term stay for Malaysian nationals valid for three years, and we expect further active exchange of people between our two countries.

The idea of the Look East Policy was proposed by former Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir, at the fifth Joint Conference of JAMECA/MAJECA which was held in 1982. Therefore, it is very fitting to have the Look East Policy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference coincide with the 31st Joint Conference of JAMECA-MAJECA. Malaysia places great importance on “High quality human capacity building” and “investment in the new economic area such as green technology and high technology” in its aim to become a high-income nation by 2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Najib. I am pleased to say that Japan is willing to enhance concrete cooperation with Malaysia to support such policies. Let me take the example of the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT), which can be dubbed the culmination of the Look East Policy. MJIIT aims at nurturing generations of young people upon whose shoulders the future of this region will rest. I am certain that this endeavor will lead to the development not only of Malaysia, but also of the entire region. I expect a lively discussion towards further development of our bilateral relationship including new dimensions of the Look East Policy to take place at today’s conference.

The world has entered “the century of Asia-Pacific”, and Asia has transformed itself into the world’s growth center leading the global economy. Increasing prosperity in Asia has resulted in an expansion of the middle class in this region, and the virtuous cycle brought by robust purchasing power will become the engine for the further growth of the world economy. In the meantime, there are many regional challenges to be addressed in Asia in order to secure its prosperity such as disaster prevention, environment and climate change issues, decreasing birth rates and an aging population. I believe that, in addressing these difficult issues, Japan has experiences and knowledge to share with the region which Japan has accumulated so far.

Japan wishes to grow and develop together with Asia. To make it possible, Japan will continue to play an active role in Asia in close cooperation with Malaysia.

Last but not least, I wish all the success for today’s conference, and strongly hope that you will have candid discussions that will trigger further development of our bilateral economic relationship as well as resolution of issues surrounding the present global and regional economy.

Thank you.

Yoshihiko Noda

Prime Minister of Japan