

Address

By H.E. Dr. Makio MIYAGAWA
Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia
on the occasion of Japan Self Defence Forces Day Reception
on 16 June, 2015

Today, we, the Embassy of Japan, hold a reception of the Japan Self Defence Forces Day in Kuala Lumpur with the presence of so many friends and colleagues in our residence. I have the pleasure of expressing my profound gratitude to all of you for sparing time to join us.

Our modern military forces were established in 1871, and were transformed in 1954 into the present form. Last year, 2014, marked the 60th anniversary of the inception of our post-war defence organisation, the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defence Forces, established on the 1st of July 1954.

In general, 60th anniversary is special in Japan, as in many Asian countries. We believe that Asian zodiac pattern makes a round in 60 years. Over these years, we pass through all the patterns of fates, benevolent or otherwise, and the 60th year brings us back to the starting line.

For the last 61 years, our Self Defence Forces and the personnel have navigated through ebbs and flows, ups and downs, and have tenaciously advanced even over stormy seas and mine fields, internally and externally. The end of its first 60 year round found domestic political climate far more ameliorated to support its role in the face of the current diplomatic and security environment. The mission of Self Defence Forces has become ever more crucial amid the increasingly critical security surroundings in this region. This has considerably raised their roles in our country as well as in this region.

I now recall with a number of bilateral collaborations between Malaysia and Japan for the last one and half years since I assumed this post in March last year: our Self Defence Forces' several aircraft joining in searching operation of MH 370 in South China Sea and in the Malacca Strait, our Forces' vessels and aircraft visiting, for the first time, Malaysian naval bases and airfields of the Malaysian Air force, our destroyers and Malaysian frigates conducting joint goodwill exercises in East China Sea, and Japanese defence industries participating in the exhibition of defence equipment and technology in LIMA again for the first time.

At the first year of its second 60 years round, our Self Defence Forces are now determined to make their second 60 years richer, more extensive, adaptive, collaborative, spearheaded, and are far readier to discharge their duties, inside and outside our country.

Before ending my address, let me introduce the musicians from klpac, kindly giving added grace and glamour to our reception. This evening, they will be playing our two national anthems, together with Japanese marches, and other amusing tunes, all composed by Japanese musicians.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that you will enjoy this evening at our reception and join us in celebrating the long-lasting history and in toasting for its fruitful future of our defence forces.