

JAPANESE DELEGATION

ENGLISH only

30 May 2005

Response to the statement of Acting President and  
Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Kurmanbek Bakiev  
by the Japanese Ambassador Itaru Umezu  
( Permanent Council, 30 May 2005 )

Mr. Chairman, Minister Rupel,

The Japanese Delegation warmly welcomes His Excellency Acting President and Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Kurmanbek Bakiev to the Permanent Council and highly appreciates his comprehensive report on the policy taken by the Kyrgyz Government.

Japan expects that the situation in Kyrgyzstan will develop peacefully and that reform efforts to promote democratization and a market economy will continue. Japan supports such efforts and is ready to render assistance in this regard.

Japan strongly expects that the presidential elections on July 10 will be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. Our Government attaches great importance to these elections and sees them as a vital step towards the democratization of Kyrgyzstan. In this context, the Government of Japan, having consulted with the Kyrgyz Government and relevant international organizations, has decided to provide 3,800 boards to display voters' lists in 2,100 polling stations in Kyrgyzstan at a cost of approximately 350,000 USD. This contribution reflects our conviction that the public posting of voters' lists will increase the transparency of the elections.

In view of recent events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the Government of Japan attaches importance to the steady development of democratization and liberalization in the Central Asian region, to the maintenance of regional stability, and to the promotion of regional cooperation. Japan would like to contribute toward these objectives in various ways, including the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue which was established last summer.

Japan shares the assessment of the Participating States that the OSCE has been playing an important role in assisting the Kyrgyz Government to cope with the situation and prepare for the forthcoming presidential elections. Japan has been cooperating with the OSCE in various ways and would like to continue working in close consultation with the OSCE, both in Vienna and in Bishkek, with a view to exploring possibilities for further cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.