

ENGLISH only

Remarks by Mr. Takeshi KAMIYAMA, Deputy Head of Mission, Minister, Embassy of Japan, on the occasion of the Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi at the 856th Permanent Council

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Japan understands that peace and stability in Central Asia is an indispensable factor for the stability of entire Eurasia.

It is against this background that Japan has continued to assist the Central Asian states in their nation building endeavour which aims at democratization and market-economy.

Japan intends to go on with its cooperation, which contributes to the improvement of the security situation surrounding the region.

Specifying our assistance to Tajikistan, Japan has prioritized such areas as

- (i) transport,
- (ii) border control,
- (iii) rural development and industry promotion, and last but not least
- (iv) development of basic social services.

We count the OSCE as one of our partners for cooperation with the region.

Japan is pleased to note that last year Japanese funding totalling 2.72 million euros was effected through the OSCE for the reinforcement projects of border management benefiting Tajikistan as well.

The delegation of Japan would like to help to create some assistance programs to Central Asia. In this regard, cooperation and coordination with the OSCE is a valuable method. Such programs may be small in size and amount but effective, I hope.

As a typical example, there is what we call Grant Assistance of Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). GGP is designed to meet various socio-economic needs of local communities in each eligible country through financial assistance to development projects.

And in fact, two weeks ago I travelled to Tajikistan to identify viable recipients of this program. It is premature to draw any conclusion out of my latest visit but I felt quite happy with my contact with the OSCE head office in Dushanbe and its field offices as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also some NGOs in Tajikistan. I hope I come back to the OSCE organs concerned in a due course along with a tangible project to be funded.