



EMBASSY OF JAPAN
ATHENS - GREECE

Athens, 14 July 2021

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to share with you **“the Statement by Japanese Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu on the occasion of five years since the issuance of the Arbitral Tribunal’s award as to the disputes between the Republic of the Philippines and the People’s Republic of China regarding the South China Sea”**, issued on 12 July 2021.

In the Statement, Minister MOTEGI, referring to the fact that the Tribunal’s award is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), calls upon the parties to this case, the Philippines and China, to comply with the award. He insists that the claim by China that it will not accept the award is against the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, in particular UNCLOS, and undermines the rule of law as a fundamental value of the international community.

He also reiterates Japan’s objection to maritime claims in the South China Sea that are inconsistent with UNCLOS as well as unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, while expressing his serious concern about the current situation in the Sea.

Finally, the Minister shows his determination to continue working in coordination with ASEAN and other countries concerned to maintain and strengthen the maritime order based on the rule of law, and to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Sincerely,

NAKAYAMA Yasunori
Ambassador of Japan to Greece