



June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I came to Greece at the end of March this year and commenced my assignment as Ambassador of Japan after the presentation of my credentials to the President of the Hellenic Republic on 5th April.

As a senior diplomat in the Japanese Foreign Service, my previous roles in the headquarters in Tokyo included Director of the Global Environment, Director of Asian Regional Policy, and overseas postings including Minister/DCM in the Japanese Embassy in Beijing and Ambassador to New Zealand.

Japan and Greece are maritime states and both countries share fundamental values such as democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. As such, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishida Fumio and the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, agreed last year in Tokyo to upgrade our bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership", stressing the two countries' unwavering commitment to the rule of law, including the UNCLOS and the UN Charter.

I very much look forward to working with you for strengthening our Strategic Partnership and I would like to share with you recent developments in Japanese diplomacy. To this effect, I have attached some notes on Japan's role at the G7 Puglia Summit in Italy and Summit on Peace in Ukraine. I hope this will further assist you to understanding our foreign policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Koichi Ito", written over a light grey rectangular background.

ITO Koichi
Ambassador of Japan to Greece

1. G7 Puglia Summit (June 13-15)

At the summit, the G7 leaders discussed Africa, Climate Change, and Development; the Middle East; Ukraine; Migration; the Indo-Pacific, Economic Security; AI, Energy/Africa, and the Mediterranean; and other topics.

The following is a summary of PM Kishida's remarks on the main agenda items.

(1) Middle East;

◆ Situation of Israel and Palestine

PM Kishida emphasized that a ceasefire and early calming down the situation are of the utmost importance and stated that, from this perspective, he strongly supports President Biden's initiative in relation to the hostage release and ceasefire. At the same time, PM Kishida stated that it is necessary for all parties concerned including Hamas to accept this, and realize an immediate ceasefire, release of the hostages, improvement of the humanitarian situation, and a sustainable ceasefire. PM Kishida further emphasized the importance of raising momentum across the international community as a whole amidst the tense situation, and expressed support for the efforts of relevant countries.

PM Kishida further stated that Japan is ready to actively engage in such efforts as the reform of the Palestinian Authority (PA), the reconstruction of Gaza, and promotion of a process toward a two-state solution, and that Japan will also continue its diplomatic efforts to prevent further destabilization in the Middle East and build the foundations for long-term stability.

◆ Situation in the Red Sea

PM Kishida pointed out that the sea areas connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean, and the South and East China Seas, are vital sea lanes. He explained that Japan is making efforts to prevent the further deterioration of the situation, together with the relevant countries, including at the UN Security Council.

(2) Ukraine

At the outset of the session, PM Kishida expressed his sincere respect for the courage and patience of the people in Ukraine, who have been uniting to fight against Russia's aggression amid the increasingly harsh war situation. He also stated that the G7 will continue to unite in support of Ukraine, and that Japan will continue to strongly

promote sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine, with the idea that “Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow.”

With regard to support for Ukraine, PM Kishida introduced that Japan has been providing financial support for Ukraine since the beginning of this year to meet its urgent financial needs, and that Japan has also provided an unmanned aircraft detection system. He also explained that Japan prioritizes support for demining, and is promoting the provision of large demining machines made in Japan, and will host an international conference on Ukraine Mine Action next year. PM Kishida also stated that Japan will support the reconstruction of Ukraine in the mid to long-term. He introduced that in addition to the 56 cooperation documents signed at the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction in February this year, 23 documents were newly signed between Japan and Ukraine on the occasion of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin this week.

(3) Indo-Pacific

PM Kishida stated that the Indo-Pacific and economic security are strategically important for the G7 in continuing to lead the international community.

PM Kishida explained Japan’s view on the situation in the Indo-Pacific. He stated that the security of the region and that of Europe are inseparable, and expressed his intention to continue deepening coordination between G7 members. G7 Leaders confirmed to continue working closely together in addressing issues related to China and in dealing with North Korea, including the nuclear and missile issues as well as the abductions issue.

(4) Economic Security

PM Kishida explained Japan’s view on how to coordinate on this issue. G7 Leaders affirmed that the G7 will continue to work in coordination on addressing issues related to overcapacity and non-market policies and practices, as well as such issues as responding to economic coercion, enhancing supply chain resilience, and protecting critical and emerging technologies.

2. Summit on Peace in Ukraine (June 15)

Summit on Peace in Ukraine was held by the Swiss government for the first time since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine to promote international discussions for realizing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, with

the attendance of many leader level, including President Zelenskyy of Ukraine, of more than 100 countries and international organizations from various parts of the world.

During the session, PM Kishida stated that he was pleased to see the Summit being taken place today on the basis of the discussion in G7 Hiroshima June last year while noting that the four principles, including upholding the principles of the UN Charter, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity, had been confirmed through the discussions with President Zelenskyy and leaders of the invited countries at the last year's Summit in Hiroshima.

Following this, PM Kishida emphasized that peace in Ukraine should be a "just and lasting peace" based on international law, including UN Charter and should not be the one that justifies unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion as well as achieving such a "just and lasting peace" in Ukraine is symbolically important in leading the entire international community towards a world of cooperation, not that of division and confrontation.

PM Kishida also stated that Japan would actively contribute to the discussions on nuclear safety as a co-chair, which is one of the main themes of this Summit. He also stated that Japan would step up its efforts in the areas of electricity and mine action touching upon the importance of humanitarian issues. PM Kishida then stated that Japan would host an international conference on Ukraine mine action next year, and that Japan will continue to contribute in this field in a uniquely Japanese way.