

**Speech by H. E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, At
the Signing and Exchange of Notes Ceremony for the Port Vila
Lapetasi International Multi-Purpose Wharf Development
Project phase(II)**

at 11. a.m., 29 July 2015, at the Port Vila.

The Honourable Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu,
(メルテク・サトー・キルマン・リブトゥンバヌ),
Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu,

Honourable Willie Jimmy Tapangararua,
(ウィリー・ジミー・タパンガララア),
Minister for Finance and Economic Management,

Honourable Tony Nari (トニー・ナリ),
Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities,

Honourable Paul Telukluk, Ministry for Land

Honourable Sephen Kalsakau, Paliamentary Secretary to the
Prime Minister

Teriki Paunimanu Mantoï Kalsakau Three (III),
(テリキ・パウニマヌ・マントイ・カルサカウ・スリー)
Paramount Chief of Ifira,

Officials of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu,
Distinguished Guests,

Good Morning, 'Gud Moning Lo Yufala' (gud afar-noon low
you-fala), Bounjour and Ohayogozaimasu.

Optional

'Tankiu tumas from bikfala hospitality ol pipol blo Vanuatu oli givem (Thank you for the warm Vanuatu hospitality).

This is my third visit to your beautiful country. It has been four months since my last visit, in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. I must congratulate the Government and people of Vanuatu for making strong recovery in such a short amount of time. What meets the eye now is vastly different from my last visit.

Today, I am honoured to participate in this occasion and formalize Japan's Yen Loan Assistance to Vanuatu. Through the Yen Loan, Japan will be providing assistance worth approximately 4.6 Billion Yen or 4 Billion Vatu to Vanuatu for the Port Vila Lapetasi International Multi-Purpose Wharf Development Project Phase (II). This is part of Japan's commitment of implementing climate change measures. Upon implementation of this project, Vanuatu will benefit from the construction of a new wharf, container yard, administration building and other important facilities.

Vanuatu has been a true friend of Japan over the years. This is not only confined to a donor-recipient relationship, but

more broadly, as equal partners in addressing issues of common importance regionally and internationally.

For this project, which is one of the biggest in the Pacific Island Countries, I believe there couldn't be a better timing for its formalization, not only because it is taking place on the eve of the 35th Independence Anniversary of Vanuatu but because it will help accelerate the recovery from Cyclone Pam. In the long term this project will help bring a more prosperous and brighter future to Vanuatu.

Optional:

I am very pleased to say that Japan has been able to contribute to Vanuatu's development in a very meaningful and concrete way through its support for projects at all levels. Some major projects in the last few years include, Sarakata River Hydroelectric Power Project, Port Vila Main Wharf Project, Vila Central Hospital Project, and the Port Vila Lapetasi International Multi-Purpose Wharf Development Project Phase (I) .

I understand that the current port facilities in Vanuatu have limited capacity for handling the demands of the country's broader shipping sector, which includes tourist cruise liners, cargo and merchant ships, fuel tankers, etc. The cargo ships have to give way to cruise liners, if they are calling at the port simultaneously. This is great for tourism but not very

desirable for trade, commerce and the import/export mechanism of Vanuatu.

Certainly, this project is of national importance. I wish to praise the Government of Vanuatu for having the vision and the commitment towards making progress on the pathway to sustainable development, for the benefit of the people of Vanuatu.

I am making these points because ports are the international gateway for any country. The bulk of international trade, import and export always has been, and always will continue to be channeled through the ports. Establishing or reinvigorating the port system, with the standards mirrored by this project, is just like opening up the economy to the rest of the world. This will be, of course, in a new, investor and trade friendly, technologically advanced, and efficient manner that delivers only excellence.

The practical delivery of policy for this project is based on being directly aligned with the Vanuatu Government's National Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) 2006-2015, which essentially provides direction to the National Development Strategies of Vanuatu. This has been one of the key factors for Japan's commitment to this project. We are happy to support Vanuatu in realizing its national development aspirations.

At this juncture, I wish to urge all stakeholders in this project, the government authorities, the contractors, and the consultants for your valuable cooperation towards the timely and successful completion of this project.

In concluding, I convey my best wishes to the Honorable Prime Minister, the Government and people of Vanuatu for the 35th Independence Anniversary and for the successful implementation of this project.

I am confident that this project will serve to further strengthen the friendship between the people and Governments of Japan and Vanuatu.

Thank You, Tankiu Tumas (トウマス), Merci Beaucoup, and Arigato Gozaimasu.

THE END.