



January 18, 2014

**Visit to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan by Mr. Takao Makino,  
Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs**

On January 18 (Sat), Mr. Takao Makino, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Afghanistan and paid a courtesy call on Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

1. Parliamentary Vice Minister Makino said the following:
  - This year is a crucial year for the stability and development of Afghanistan. Japan requests Afghanistan to continually exert every effort to hold the presidential election as scheduled in a fair and transparent manner.
  - Japan will continue to cooperate with Afghanistan towards its sustainable economic development. In this connection, Japan requests to ensure the security of Japanese aid workers is necessary.
  - Japan believes that the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and the United States is very important for the stability of Afghanistan after 2015 and that it is necessary for the Afghanistan to conclude BSA as soon as possible, in view of the recommendation made by Consultative Loya Jirga which requested the early signing of BSA.
2. In response, President Karzai said that Japan is a very generous and reliable friend. He expressed deep appreciation again for the assistance from Japan, saying that it has really contributed to people of Afghanistan. He also promised to continue making efforts so that the election will be held appropriately and that the security of Japanese aid workers will be assured. With respect to the signing of the BSA, President Karzai said that he will act in a manner which contributes to peace and stability of Afghanistan.
3. Parliamentary Vice Minister Makino and President Karzai strongly condemned the terrorist attack which took place in Kabul on 17 January,

which caused a number of deaths and injuries including the United Nations staff. They reiterated that no act of terrorism could be justified.

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