



পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh and Japan, I convey my heartiest congratulations and warmest felicitations to Foreign Minister Hayashi, the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the people of Japan on this momentous occasion in our bilateral history. I also express my deep admiration and respect to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan on this occasion.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to her deep-rooted and multifaceted relations with Japan. We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable support and contributions of the people and the government of Japan during and after our Independence in 1971. Japan formally recognized Bangladesh on 10 February 1972, one of the first few countries to do so. In the same year of 1972, Japanese Parliamentarian delegation headed by Late Takashi Hayakawa visited Bangladesh. Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh was opened with Ambassador Late Takashi Oyamadain March, 1972 and Bangladesh sent a CDA a.i to open its Embassy in Tokyo in July, 1972. Thus began a journey of friendship which has crossed its glorious 50 years milestone today.

I fondly recall the visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan from 18 to 24 October, 1973. The heartwarming welcome and cordial interaction that he received during his visit to this “land of the rising sun” laid the foundation of our excellent bilateral relations. The daughter of the Father of the Nation, Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has elevated the relationship to a “Comprehensive partnership”. She herself visited Japan in 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019. Japan and its people hold a very dear place in her heart.

Bangladesh considers Japan as a true friend and a trusted development partner. A large number of significant infrastructure development projects in Bangladesh are underway with Japanese financial and technical support, namely Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Project, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib (Jamuna) Railway Bridge Construction Project and Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Project. All these projects are at various stages of fruition and are expected to be completed by 2026, the year Bangladesh is set to formally graduate into a developing economy. An exclusive Economic Zone for Japanese investors is being prepared by JICA funding in Narayanganj. We are also working towards reinstating Dhaka-Tokyo direct air services which will further augment our engagements.

It is my firm conviction that there remains enormous scope to further deepening and widening of our bilateral relations, including greater trade and investment cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, ICT, high-tech products, electronics, deep sea fishing and mining, high-end consumer and bio-tech products, renewable energy, skilled and professional human resource engagement, tourism, promotion of cultural exchanges, etc. for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. We are committed to working in concert with the new government in Japan to elevate Bangladesh-Japan relations from “Comprehensive partnership” to “Strategic partnership” level in the coming days.

Japan has stood by Bangladesh during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In two phases, Japan provided COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan. It also provided 4.5 million of vaccines through COVAX process, which has augmented Bangladesh government's response against the pandemic. I once again convey my thanks to the Foreign Minister of Japan, the government and the friendly people of Japan for this support.

I also acknowledge the continued support and cooperation from Japan towards the humanitarian crisis concerning the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. We seek Japan's continued support and understanding for an early, safe, sustainable and dignified return of more than a million of these forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, known as Rohingya, who are temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, to their homeland in the Rakhine State. Since prolongation of this crisis will adversely impact the safety and security of not only Bangladesh and Myanmar but also the entire region and that may affect our development aspirations of the region.

As we cross the milestone of fifty years of friendship, I am confident that together we can build a peaceful and prosperous future for all.

I wish all the celebratory events being held in our two countries in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh and Japan a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu!

May Bangladesh live forever!

May Bangladesh-Japan friendship live forever!



Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP