

Statement by Parliamentary Vice-Minister Mr. Takao MAKINO,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
At the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria
Kuwait, 15 January 2014

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Amir of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti government for hosting this conference. Also, my tribute goes to Mr. Chairperson, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the UN agencies for their tenacious efforts to hold this Conference.

Last year, the international community faced the problem concerning the use of chemical weapons in Syria. Japan will provide the greatest possible cooperation in order to ensure steady destruction of those chemical weapons.

On the other hand, Japan continuously considers the cessation of violence, initiation of political dialogue and improvement of appalling humanitarian conditions as issues of urgency. Based on such a point of view, Japan has been committed to providing Syria and its neighboring countries with humanitarian assistance of approximately US\$280 million. It includes so-called cross-border assistance in the fields of health to areas where it is difficult for assistance from the international community to reach. In addition, Japan has extended assistance through international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, last month, Japan decided to provide relief goods, such as tents, blankets and sleeping mats, as contribution in kind, to Syrian refugees in Iraq and Turkey, and delivered them.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to announce that Japan now newly plans to extend additional humanitarian assistance of about 120 million US dollars mainly as humanitarian assistance to Syrian Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) and Refugees. It includes assistance for women and children, as well as assistance in some areas, such as health and sanitation, education and food.

We are determined in the future to conduct such assistance in parallel with the process of political dialogue, notably the Geneva II conference, and to move forward in cooperation with the international community.