



August 5, 2017  
No. 12

**Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan**  
**Mr. Kentaro Sonoura's Visit to Iraq**

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> August, Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, visited Baghdad, the Republic of Iraq.
2. During his stay in Baghdad, Special Advisor Sonoura had meetings with Dr. Haider Al-Abadi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, and Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq, respectively.
3. In the meetings, Special Advisor Sonoura exchanged views with the Iraqi side on concrete measures to further enhance bilateral relations as well as on regional affairs. Special Advisor Sonoura expressed his congratulations on the liberation of Mosul that the Iraqi people accomplished with their own hands, by uniting over the differences in religion and ethnicity, and stated his hope that the Iraqi people would maintain their solidarity shown in the fight against ISIL which in turn would lead to national reconciliation. Special Advisor Sonoura also conveyed that Japan was ready to continue to assist the efforts by Iraq towards reconstruction.
4. The Iraqi side expressed deep appreciation for the assistance Japan has provided to Iraq to contribute to improvement of humanitarian situation and reconstruction of the country, and stated its commitment to continue its efforts to fight against terrorism and achieve peace and stability in Iraq in cooperation with the international community.
5. In the meeting with Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, both sides shared the recognition of the importance of addressing the issue of weapons prevalent in Iraq among those to be tackled after the liberation of Mosul. In addition, Special Advisor Sonoura proposed to establish an international framework to address the issue of collection of arms and establish a peaceful society through vocational training, and the Iraqi side welcomed this proposal.
6. Special Advisor Sonoura sought cooperation from Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi for a Japanese company to acquire oil field interests in Iraq, and the Prime Minister positively responded.



7. In addition, in the meetings, both sides agreed to enhance bilateral exchanges in a broad range of fields, including education, academic research and sports, in addition to the political and economic fields, towards the eightieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2019.
8. After the meeting between Special Advisor Sonoura and Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, with their presence, a signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes on “Hartha Thermal Power Station Rehabilitation Project (Phase 2),” a new yen-loan project, was held between H.E. Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, Mr. Fumio Iwai and Acting Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr. Maher Hammad Johan.

Attachment: Yen-Loan Project “Hartha Thermal Power Station Rehabilitation Project (Phase 2)”

(End)