

2015.7.10

*Ambassador's Speech for JSDF's Day*

- Lieutenant General Vo Van Tuan, Deputy Chief of the General Staff,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to all of you for coming tonight to the 61<sup>st</sup> Self Defense Forces Day reception.

For Vietnam, this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the country, as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification. Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations on the two memorable events.

This year also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. For the last seven decades, Japan has been taking a path as a peace-loving nation. Japan has proactively contributed to economic growth in developing countries all over the world, particularly in Asia, and to achieving peace in the international society by participating in PKO and others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are determined to further proactively contribute to World's peace and stability in the security field. "Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the principles of international cooperation." This is the banner that Japan has hoisted as its diplomatic and security policy. To implement this policy, Japan has been working on new legislation for peace and stability.

Under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," Japan will closely cooperate with Vietnam particularly in maritime security.

Japan has made continuous effort in provision of vessels to Vietnam Coast Guard and in capacity building support for Vietnam People's Army. We are determined to continue such effort and enhance

cooperation including friendly training on the occasions of Japan Self Defense Forces' vessels and airplanes' visits.

Tonight, we have officers of Vietnam People's Army as guests here, who graduated from National Defense Academy of Japan.

I hope that the Self Defense Forces' Day reception tonight will let us reaffirm the strategic bond between the two countries and deepen the bilateral relationship further.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now I would like to propose toast with a hope that the bilateral relationship between Japan and Vietnam will be further deepened and a wish for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Cheers.