

Vice Chairman Phan Dinh Phung of the People's Committee of Phu Yen Province  
Director Nguyen Thi Mong Ngoc of the Health Department of Phu Yen Province and  
members of the People's Committee of Phu Yen Province,

Director Pham Hieu Vinh and distinguished guests from Phu Yen General Hospital,  
CAPT Randy Van Rossum, Mission Commander of PP19, the United States Navy  
and distinguished guests from the participant countries of the Pacific Partnership,

Mr. Ryoji Noritake, Board Member of the Health and Global Policy Institute, and  
distinguished guests from partner NGOs,

Commander Akinori Ichikawa and distinguished guests from the Ministry of Defense  
of Japan,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I begin, on behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to extend my  
gratitude to all of you for attending the AED presentation ceremony. Today, I would like  
to touch upon two points.

Firstly, I would like to highlight the defense cooperation between Japan and Vietnam.  
The Minister of Defense, Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, visited Vietnam from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
May. During this trip, Defense Minister Iwaya held a meeting with Defense Minister  
Ngo Xuan Lich, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and visited  
the headquarters of the Vietnam Navy in Hai Phong.

Personal exchanges and cooperation between the defense authorities of Japan and  
Vietnam have deepened and expanded in recent years. Last year, Defense Minister Gen.  
Ngo Xuan Lich visited Japan, while the Chief of Staff of the Ground Self-Defense Force,

Gen. Yamazaki, visited Vietnam. This year, H.E. Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya and the Chief of Staff of the Air Self-Defense Force, Gen. Marumo, visited Vietnam, and the Vietnam People's Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Phan Văn Giang, visited Japan. Colonel-level exchanges between Vietnamese and Japanese officers have been conducted twice a year since 2014.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Landing Ship "Osumi" and Submarine "Kuroshio" had port calls at the Cam Ranh International Port for the first time. The Vietnam People's Navy Vessel "Tran Hung Dao" had port calls at the port of Yokosuka and Sakai in Japan, also, for the first time.

Japan and Vietnam share "various strategic interests," and the enhancement of Vietnam's defense capability is vitally important for fostering peace and sustaining stability in the whole of the East Asian region. In addition, Japan will continue to strengthen our cooperation with Vietnam in order to promote our "free and open Indo-Pacific vision."

Secondly, I would like to highlight the cooperation fostered by the Pacific Partnership. The content of the Pacific Partnership is being enriched year by year, such as through cultural exchanges, facility repairs and medical cooperation, while the number of participant countries continues to grow.

In particular, Vietnam has been chosen as a site for the Pacific Partnership missions every year since 2014. Until recently, Da Nang City and Khanh Hoa province had been the sites for the Pacific Partnership in Vietnam. This year, Phu Yean province has been chosen as a site for the first time, broadening the Pacific Partnership's sphere of activity.

I sincerely believe that the AEDs presented today will contribute to the promotion of health through improving the medical environment and save as many human lives as possible in Phu Yen.

Japan began to participate in the Pacific Partnership in 2007. Strengthening our cooperation with Asia Pacific countries year by year, with the U.S. military as our ally, is deeply meaningful in fostering peace and sustaining stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the dedication of the participant countries of the Pacific Partnership, the Ministry of Defense of Japan, the director of the Health and Global Policy Institute, and members of partner NGOs. Thank you so much.

May 9, 2019

The minister of Embassy of Japan to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Shinichi ASAZUMA