

Send-off Ceremony for PVF U16

Ms. Phan Thu Huong, CEO of the PVF Football Academy,

Mr. Philippe Troussier, Technical Director,

Athletes, Ladies and Gentlemen,

● On behalf of the Government of Japan and the Japan Football Association, I would like to share a few words of encouragement for the athletes of the PVF U16 team.

● The PVF U16 team is going to Nara to participate in the Japan-Vietnam U16 – Future Football Tournament to be held on August 29 and 30. In Nara, you will be playing friendly matches with three Japanese teams.

● Mr. Philippe Troussier, PVF's Technical Director, is also going to Japan with the team. Allow me to use this occasion to introduce Japan's relationship with Mr. Troussier.

●Twenty one years ago, Mr. Troussier was appointed as the Coach of the Japanese National Team, as well as the U20 National Team and the U23 Olympic Team. During the four years that he was the Coach, Mr. Troussier led the three national teams to great success. For example:

- the U20 Team won second place at the 1999 U20 FIFA World Cup,
- the U23 Olympic Team reached the quarterfinals at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games,
- the National Team won the 2000 Asia Cup. The team also won second place at the 2001 Confederation Cup. Furthermore, the team became part of the best sixteen at the 2002 World Cup held in Japan and South Korea.

●Mr. Troussier achieved remarkable success in Japanese Football history and gave Japanese players the confidence to compete on the global stage. In fact, he trained talented young players so well – mentally and physically – that they were able to join the European clubs. He is still highly respected by many Japanese football fans as

well as the Japan Football Association.

● The Vietjo, a Japanese daily newspaper in Vietnam, recently interviewed Mr. Troussier. Mr. Troussier emphasized that, “Vietnam is now on the threshold of a new era – brimming with energy for progress. In Vietnam, both its football players and their supporters dream of participating in the World Cup. In addition, the players are highly motivated to learn and absorb anything relating to football. I'm confident that they will realize their dream in the near future, and will fill the air with shouts of joy and red flags.”

● I believe that Vietnam is very lucky to have someone with such a perspective as Technical Director. I agree with Mr. Troussier that the day when Vietnam's footballers will be active on the world stage is coming soon. I believe Vietnam has a great chance of making it to the Tokyo Olympic Games next year as well as the FIFA World Cup in 2022 and 2026. I look forward to seeing you all make history by taking Vietnam onto the world stage.

●Japan would like to enhance our football exchanges with Vietnam. In November of last year, the football federations of both Japan and Vietnam signed an MOU on the occasion of the bilateral summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe Shinzo and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Tokyo. Several programs have already been implemented based on this MOU. For example, Mr. Akira Ijiri was appointed as Technical Advisor for the Vietnam Women's National Team and Coach for the U19 Women's National Team this April. Also, the Women's National Team participated in a training camp in Fukushima of Japan in early August ahead of the 2019 AFF Women's Championship in Thailand. At the end of this year, the U13 Japan-Vietnam Youth Cup organized by Kawasaki Frontale will be held in Binh Duong and will be attended by the PVF team. VTV has plans to air a live broadcast of the Japan–Vietnam friendly match.

●I believe that the fact that Mr. Troussier is serving as PVF's Technical Director presents a valuable opportunity for both Japan and

Vietnam to strengthen exchanges among the younger generation.

● In closing, I would like to wish everyone here good health, and I look forward to seeing the success of the football tournament in Nara.

Thank you very much. (End)