

**Speech by Mr. Nobutaka Shionomiya,
Ambassador of Japan to Portugal
On the occasion of the signing of the Convention
for the Avoidance of Double Taxation,
December 19th 2011, Lisbon**

His Excellency Mr. Paulo Portas, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
His Excellency Mr. Paulo Nuncio, Secretary of State for Fiscal
Affairs,

His Excellency Mr. Freitas Ferraz, Ambassador of Portugal to
Japan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to sign this important Convention today.
The Convention had long been our pending issue to be addressed.
Nevertheless, we have successfully reached this day of signing,
only six months after we began the official negotiation in June.
Such a rapid progress in negotiation shows the enthusiastic
efforts of both governments towards a tighter economic relation
between our two countries.

I thank His Excellency Mr. Paul Nuncio, Secretary of State for
Fiscal Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Freitas Ferraz, Ambassador of
Portugal to Japan, and to all the persons concerned in the
Portuguese government for their valuable efforts and contribution.

Currently, there are only about fifty Japanese companies investing
in Portugal, and only two Portuguese companies to Japan. Though
both of our economy is not in a best state, our economic relations
have much more potential. The Convention signed in such a
situation is quite significant, since it will contribute to form a
basis for the promotion of our mutual investment. To attain this
goal, we should continue in making concrete efforts together.

I hope the Convention will thus form an epoch in the economic
relation and finally in the long existing friendly relationship
between Japan and Portugal.

Thank you very much.