

Address by Mr. Hiroshi AZUMA,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Portugal,  
on the occasion of signing ceremony of MOU between  
The National Laboratory for Energy and Geology and New Energy and  
Industrial Technology Development Organization  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, Lisbon

Mr. Artul Trindade, Secretary of State for Energy,  
Dra. Teresa Ponce de Leão, President of the National Laboratory for Energy and  
Geology (LNEG),  
Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Executive Director of the New Energy and Industrial  
Technology Development Organization (NEDO),  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly pleased to be invited to the signing ceremony of MOU for an  
Automated Demand Response Demonstration Project between LNEG and NEDO.

Our relationship between Japan and Portugal goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Japan  
and Portugal have over 470 years friendly relation, which is getting stronger and  
stronger. As you are aware that Portuguese Prime Minister Mr. Passos-Coelho  
visited Japan last March as well as Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo ABE  
visited Portugal in May 2014.

Both visits have historic significance. Prime Minister Abe made the very first  
official visit to Portugal as a Japanese Prime Minister and Prime Minister  
Passos-Coelho made his visit to Japan for the first time in 25 years as a Portuguese  
Prime Minister.

Our bilateral relationship is dramatically increasing its closeness, extending their  
cooperation at global issues. Since Japan was granted the observer status of CPLP  
(Community of Portuguese Language Countries) in July 2014, I am expecting that  
Japan and Portugal can work together in the platform of CPLP.

In the context of enhancement of the bilateral relations, the cooperation on the  
Automated Demand Response Demonstration Project was stressed in the Joint

Communiqué, which was released after the summit meeting in May 2014 and reaffirmed by the Fact Sheet in March 2015. The Fact Sheet was released in order to follow-up the progress of implementation of the Joint Communiqué on the occasion of Prime Minister Passos-Coelho's visit to Japan.

In recent years, the importance of the renewable energy has been increasing, due to the efforts of reducing CO2 to address environmental issues. Building the smart communities is to make a society comfortable for everyone, including the aged and socially vulnerables. The needs for the smart communities are not only for the developed countries like Japan and Portugal but also for the emerging and developing countries, including CPLP, which are increasing urbanization. Hence this project also can be leading to a great business opportunity throughout the world.

I sincerely hope that this project would be a good occasion to promote the connections between NEDO, LNEG and private enterprises. I also strongly expect that the bilateral relationship would be much stronger through the interactions in the energy sector.

Thank you.