

Address by Mr. Hiroshi AZUMA,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Portugal,  
on the occasion of signing ceremony of MOU between  
Universidade de Lisboa and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Lisbon

Prof. Antonio Cruz Serra, Rector of the Universidade de Lisboa,  
Dr. Tadashi Matsunaga, President of the Tokyo University of Agriculture and  
Technology,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honor to be invited to the signing ceremony of MOU between the  
Universidade de Lisboa and the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

As you might know, three Portuguese arrived at Tanegashima, Japan in 1543 as the  
first European to Japan and they brought European technology and culture for the  
first time. Some Japanese words have originated from Portuguese words; Pan,  
button, and Carta are the example of these words. These historic events have been  
taught at schools in Japan and, therefore, almost all Japanese nationals have  
strong sense of affinity with Portugal.

Japan and Portugal have over 470 years relationship and this relationship is  
getting stronger and stronger. As you might hear the news 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 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. Japan and  
Portugal can cooperate at broader world as well, Japan was granted the observer  
status of CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) on July 2014, and I  
am expecting that Japan and Portugal can work together in the platform of CPLP.

In the context of these recent strong and good relationship, the promotion of academic and intellectual exchanges among related universities and institutions between our two countries was mentioned 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.

I sincerely hope that today's signing ceremony would be a good occasion to enhance the academic exchanges between the universities. I also strongly expect that the bilateral relationship including the agricultural field would be much stronger through the academic and intellectual exchanges between our countries.

Thank you again for a kind invitation.