

Address by Mr. Hiroshi AZUMA,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Portugal,  
at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nemoto Portugal Co., Ltd.  
Lisbon, Portugal, on May 4th , 2015

Chairman of Nemoto & Co. Ltd.,  
Mayor of Pombal City, Mr. Diogo Mateus,  
and all in attendance;

Today, I am greatly honored to be invited to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Nemoto Portugal, and I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Nemoto Portugal.

Nemoto Portugal's production plant was founded in Pombal City in May 1990, over a quarter of a century ago. Since then, Nemoto has produced and exported phosphorescent pigment to the whole world, helping to "Illuminate the world".

Over the period of this time, Nemoto created many employment opportunities in Pombal. The exporting of its products also contributed to the economic growth of Portugal.

I believe that those contribution have been welcomed not only by the city of Pombal but also by the government of Portugal which were pursuing fiscal structural reform to put their economy on growth track over the last few years.

As the Japanese ambassador to Portugal, I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to Mr. Nemoto, the founder of Nemoto Portugal, Mr. Yamaguchi, the President of Nemoto Portugal, and all of its employees for their marvelous efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Pombal City, AICEP and authorities of Portugal for their generous support to Japanese companies including Nemoto Portugal.

As you all may be aware, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made historic visit to Portugal last year and Prime Minister Passos Coelho visited Japan last March as well. In addition of these Prime Ministers mutual visit, Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, the Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party and President of the Japan – Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group, visited Portugal last week, from April 30 to May 2.

All of which have historical significance. Prime Minister Abe made the first official visit to Portugal as an incumbent Japanese Prime Minister. Prime Minister Passos Coelho made his visit to Japan for the first time in 25 years as a Portuguese Prime Minister. Mr. Tanigaki visited Portugal for the first time as President of the Japan – Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The mutual visits of two leaders and approval of Japan's Associated Observer status at the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) summit in July 2014 have brought the new stage of our relationships and I sincerely hope that ties between our countries would be strengthened dramatically in the future.

At the summit meeting, the most important issue was the promotion of trade and investment between our two nations.

Nemoto Portugal is a pioneer of investment from Japan to Portugal, serving as a best example and I do hope that Nemoto's further success and prosperity in the future.

In addition to the economic aspects, Nemoto & Co, Ltd., have been serving as the secretariat of the Japan Portugal Society since 2006. Japan Portugal Society has been playing an important role as a center of local Japan Portugal societies in Japan and contributing to promote two countries friendship through variety of economic and cultural activities.

As the Japanese ambassador, I would like to thank you again from my heart, and I conclude my congratulation speech.

Once again thank you for a kind invitation. I wish you all a very pleasant evening.