

## Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Motome Takisawa has attended opening ceremony of “East-West Highway Improvement Project” (3<sup>rd</sup> section: Zestaphoni-Kutaisi)

On 27 June, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Motome Takisawa has attended opening ceremony of “East-West Highway Improvement Project” (Zestaphoni-Kutaisi section) along with the Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Giorgi Kvirikashvili. Japan provided Yen Loan for this project.

The opening ceremony was attended also by the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure H.E. Mr. Zurab Alavidze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia H.E. Mr. Toshio Kaitani, head of JICA office in Georgia, Mr. Yukihiro Ejiri, representatives of contractor companies and other official guests. Mr. Takisawa has underlined the following points in his speech: (1) Georgia is important and friendly country, which shares basic values with Japan. Japan has supported Georgia 's nation - building in such priority areas as development of economic infrastructure and stabilization of the people's livelihood. (2) This year we celebrate 25th anniversary of our diplomatic relations and it is very pleasant that the opening of Zestaphoni-Kutaisi section means all three sections are opened by the Yen Loan; his gratitude to the government of Georgia, Japanese companies and all people who were involved in this project. (3) Since Georgia's importance as a transit country is increasing, this highway would contribute to the development of Georgia and the entire Caucasus region.

Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Giorgi Kvirikashvili expressed his deep gratitude to Japan for this support and stressed the importance of the project for development of Georgia and the whole region.



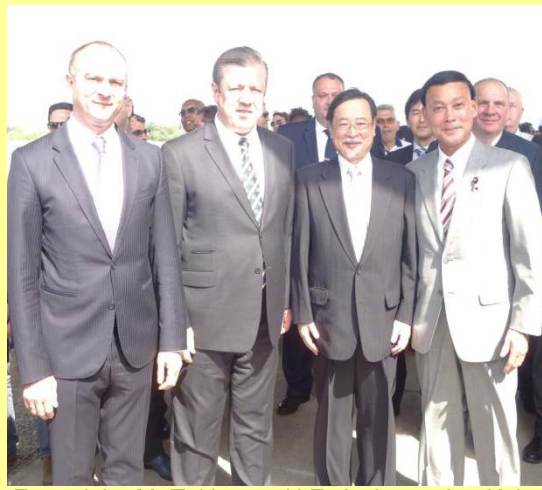
Speech by the Prime Minister of Georgia,  
H.E. Mr. Giorgi Kvirikashvili



Speech by the Parliamentary Vice Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Motome Takisawa



Mr. Takisawa and H.E. Mr. Kvirikashvili exchange  
their opinions



From right: Mr. Takisawa, H.E. Ambassador Kaitani,  
H.E. Mr. Kvirikashvili H.E. Mr. Alavidze