**1. Message by the Prime Minister of Japan Naoto KAN regarding Assistance Received from Overseas (March 22, 2011)**

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation for the condolences and assistance Japan has received from approximately 130 countries, more than 30 international organizations, and people all around the world in response to the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake.

The rescue workers, search dogs, and nuclear power experts from various countries, as well as the human resources support from the U.S. Forces in Japan and others, assistance with food, medical supplies, blankets, and other supplies, and offers of assistance from over 670 NGOs and other organizations have all been profoundly uplifting to the Japanese people, who have come to realize acutely that "a friend in need is a friend indeed."

Japan faces an unprecedented crisis, in which an incident at a nuclear power plant has transpired in addition to the enormous earthquake and tsunamis. I firmly believe that, receiving such cooperation from the members of the international community, the Japanese people will mobilize their wisdom to recover from these challenging circumstances through their collective efforts and thereby successfully overcome this trying time.

On behalf of the Japanese people, I would like once again to express my deepest appreciation upon having received this truly tremendous outpouring of cordial assistance from around the world.

Naoto Kan

Prime Minister of Japan

**2. Message by the Prime Minister of Japan Naoto KAN (April 11, 2011)**

**Kizuna
- The Bonds of Friendship -**

One month has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, which caused over 13,000 people to lose their lives in the enormous earthquake and tsunamis that struck. Even now, over 14,000 people remain unaccounted for, and about 150,000 people remain forced to take shelter as evacuees. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to all the people who have suffered as a result of this disaster, both Japanese nationals and non-Japanese, and to their families.

We are currently mobilizing all resources to bring the situation at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station under stable control and working to stabilize the situation there at the earliest possible time.

This one month since the great earthquake has been an extremely arduous time for Japan. Yet at the same time, it has been a period during which Japan has once again realized, and once again given thanks, that we stand together with the world.

Thus far, over 130 nations and regions, nearly 40 international organizations, a number of nongovernmental organizations and people from all around the globe have extended their best wishes to us, and moreover they have expressed their support and solidarity through donations and other means. Various countries and regions rushed in rescue workers to swiftly conduct rescue operations in the affected areas swiftly and delivered supplies such as food, medical supplies, and blankets. This assistance also brought wholehearted encouragement to the disaster victims. In addition, we have received thousands of origami paper cranes intently folded by children in distant nations wishing for the reconstruction of the disaster-stricken areas. In Georgia, warm support was extended by the Georgian people in various forms, and the Government of Georgia provided to the Japanese Red Cross Society the donation in the amount of 1 million US dollars, as well as the kind offer of the humanitarian aid to the affected people.

On behalf of the people of Japan, I extend my heartfelt thanks for such assistance from all around the world.

There is no doubt that Japan will recover, become vibrant again, and become an even more marvelous country. In living up to the cordial encouragement and solidarity extended to us by the international community, I consider walking down the road to such a rebirth to be incumbent upon us, and the best way for Japan to reciprocate your kind concern. It is my firm conviction that through the fundamental strengths inherent to the Japanese people and the cordial cooperation of the international community, we can achieve this without fail.

I am also determined that Japan will certainly repay, through our contributions to the international community, the cordial assistance we have received from around the world.

To that end, I will work to the best of my ability to realize reconstruction of Japan.

Naoto Kan

Prime Minister of Japan

**- A friend in need is a friend indeed-**