

Good evening, Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you all to our reception to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ukraine.

Japan established diplomatic relations on 26 January 1992. It is my pleasure to inform you that the congratulatory letters between our Prime Minister Noda and President Yanukovich, and also between Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gamba and Mr. Gryshchenko were exchanged on the very 26 January. You will find the messages of the Ministers in an envelope which will be handed over later on your way out.

The 20 years of our friendly relations have achieved considerable progress in various spheres. For example, more than 80 Japan's Grant Aid projects on medical treatment, culture or education have been well arranged through fruitful consultations with Ukrainian counterparts and successfully implemented. The first Yen Loan project, that is, the ongoing construction of the new Terminal D in the "Borispil" State International Airport is expected to be completed by this spring so that the Terminal D will support the transport of visitors during the "Euro 2012" and thereafter.

Under the Green Investment Scheme, several energy-saving projects using Japanese high-technologies are also about to start to bring about more comfortable life for people and environmentally friendly society in this country. We have provided technical and humanitarian assistance to secure safety of Chernobyl NPP and support sufferers from the accident of the Chernobyl. Total amount of all of those projects' cooperation reached about 63 billion Yen or 6.3 billion UAH. Last year the cities of Kyiv and Kyoto celebrated the 40th anniversary of their sisterhood relation. We are much satisfied with the progress and outcome of such bilateral cooperation.

Last January, our Prime Minister and the Ukraine President signed the "Joint Statement on Japan-Ukraine Global Partnership", having discussed

current situation and prospects of bilateral relations and global issues with special emphasis on the importance of fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, rule of law, and human rights. The Joint Statement serves as the base to intensify our future cooperation as well as to jointly make better contributions to the international arena. So we intend to further increase exchange of personnel in such fields as culture, science, technology, business and politics, to expand bilateral trade and to invite more investment each other from a medium and long-term point of view.

In addition, I need to refer to the important issue which ties up our two countries stronger than ever. That is the cooperation on accidents at nuclear power plants. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express again my heartfelt gratitude for all the help offered by Ukraine for the accidents at Fukushima Daiichi NPPs. Let me emphasize we are in top gear to restore and reconstruct the region affected by the disaster. The Governments of Ukraine and Japan are now working together to formulate the bilateral agreement for cooperation on the management of accidents at nuclear power plants, which I expect will be signed and put into force in the near future. We hope to learn Ukrainian experience on the Chernobyl accident.

We have started to make our steps for further developments of our friendly relations, looking forward the next 20 years. Ukraine will, I hope, be a major contributor in due time politically and economically to the world. I would like to do my best efforts for further promotion of our bilateral relations which will support Ukraine to achieve her own goals.

Thank you very much.