

Embassy of Japan in Israel Ambassador's Newsletter #6, February 2013

February 27, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you my sixth Ambassador's Newsletter. It is also the first edition since Mr. Shinzo Abe, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP), took office as Japan's new Prime Minister in last December.

Assuming his position amid numerous challenges both domestically and internationally, PM Abe has yet placed considerable emphasis on Japan's long-wished economic turnaround as his top political agenda. Japan's economy has been challenged with formidable difficulties of continued deflation, falling birthrate, and aging population. Uniquely referred to as "Abenomics," PM Abe's new economic policies are aimed at helping the country tackle those issues through bold monetary policy, flexible fiscal management, and investment-encouraging growth strategy, so as to achieve higher employment rate, better incomes, and sustained economic growth. The clear commitment to pro-growth policies has already been appreciated in the financial markets, where share prices have begun to recover.

In this edition of my newsletter, you will find enclosed a statement by Akira Amari, Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization / Minister in charge of Total Reform of Social Security and Tax / Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy. The statement was given at the occasion of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2013 in Davos, and illustrates the subject in further depth. I hope it will give you a succinct and useful gist of the new, ambitious policies of our country.

Sincerely yours,

Hideo Sato Ambassador of Japan