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March 7, 2012

## <u>The Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake</u> <u>- Footsteps of Reconstruction</u>

By the Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shigeki Sumi

We are soon approaching the one year memorial of the devastating earthquake that hit northeast Japan on March 11th of last year. We would like to take this opportunity to remember the victims who have lost their lives and to express our sincere gratitude for the assistance we have received from the people of Bahrain during our time of need.

With the warm support from your country and from all around the world, Japan was able to begin a vigorous process of reconstruction and regeneration. As the infrastructure and economy of the affected areas continue to recover, other areas of Japan are starting to return to life before the earthquake. With a fully recovered supply chain, I would like to reiterate that there are no longer any major obstacles impeding business, study abroad programs, or tourism in Japan.

In addition, in order to show Japan's steady recovery from this disaster, we will be hosting an exhibition (Exhibition of the Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake - Footsteps of Reconstruction) at the Golden Tulip Hotel in the Gilgamesh Ballroom from 9am to 7pm on Monday, March 12th. This is a free event so please spread the word and we hope to see you there.

Our country has experienced many hardships due to this disaster, but at the same time, it has been an excellent opportunity to witness the resilience of the Japanese society and its people, and to recognize the importance of bonds with the international community.

In order to turn difficulties into opportunities, and also to give back to the international community who showed us such warm support, through the ODA we will continue to give extensive international contributions for the sake of inclusive growth and human security. Furthermore, as a front runner in problem solving, having dealt with many challenges in the reconstruction of our country, we would like to present to the world a model for transitioning to a greener economy, disaster prevention, and a high level of economic cooperation.

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For further information in regard to this press release, media inquiries can be directed to Mr. Hiroto Asaoka, Public Affairs Section of Japanese Embassy at 17716565 and <a href="mailto:hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp">hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp</a> or to Japanese Embassy's Web site at <a href="http://www.bh.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm">http://www.bh.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm</a>



Exhibition of Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake ~Footsteps of Reconstruction~

March 12th, 2012 9:00 - 19:00 Golden Tulip Hotel Gilgamesh Ballroom Free Admission

We would like to express our gratitude for your sincere suport to Japan. This exhibition would be a great opportunity for us to present the reconstruction process.

Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Bahrain

