



February 12, 2013

Statement by the Press Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the
Commencement of the holding of the National Dialogue in Bahrain

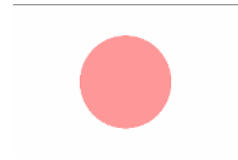
1. Japan welcomes the holding of the National Dialogue in Bahrain on February 10, and is closely observing the future progress of the Dialogue.
2. Japan strongly hopes that the Dialogue will be participated by a broad range of Bahraini people, having transparency and freedom of speech secured, and that the reform of the country will progress substantially.

(END)

*This is a provisional translation. The above date denotes the date of the issue of the original press release in Japanese.

*For inquiries, please contact the Second Middle East Division, MOFA (Tel. 5501-8000 (ext. 5664))

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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 hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp or to Japanese Embassy's Web site at <http://www.bh.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm>