

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Today I would like to draw your attention to a historic agreement reached between the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Dec 28, 2015.

After having accelerated consultations following the Japan-ROK summit meeting in November, Foreign Minister Kishida visited Seoul and met with Foreign Minister Yun and reached an agreement on the issue of comfort women on Dec 28. It was decided that the Government of ROK establish a foundation for the purpose of providing support for the former comfort women and that its funds be contributed by the Government of Japan as a one-time contribution through its budget, and that projects for recovering the honor and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of all former comfort women be carried out under the cooperation between the two Governments. The two Governments also confirmed that the issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with the announcement, on the premise that the Government of Japan will steadily implement the measures described above, and that the two Governments will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding the issue in the international community, including at the UN.

Following this announcement by the two Foreign Ministers, Prime Minister Abe and President Park had a telephone call on the same day. Prime Minister Abe expressed anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women. They welcomed the fact that final agreement had been achieved and confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement the agreement and shared the importance of moving forward in Japan-ROK relations by strengthening cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

I would like to emphasize the importance of this agreement based on very extensive efforts of our two Governments despite all the difficult challenges involved.

We are also grateful for the Australian Government's welcoming statement which was issued on Dec 29, 2015, by Foreign Minister Bishop. It was a very supportive message for us.

Please find attached some reference material on this matter ((1)outlines of Japan-ROK summit telephone call and (2)Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers meeting, (3)announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and ROK at the Joint Press Occasion which all took place on Dec 28, 2015, as well as (4)Foreign Minister Bishop's media release on Dec 29, 2015)

Yours sincerely,

/S/

Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Summit Telephone Call](#)

[Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)

[Joint Press Occasion](#)

[Media Release: Japan-Korea Announcement On Comfort Women](#)