

**UPR of Viet Nam– Statement of Japan****Wednesday, 5 February 2014**

Mr/Madam President,

Japan commends Viet Nam's measures, such as preparation towards accession to the various human rights conventions, and invitation of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

We also appreciate Viet Nam's efforts to advance poverty reduction. We encourage Viet Nam to continue to take measures actively to promote and protect human rights of vulnerable people.

At the same time, we take note of reports of governmental influence on mass media and constraints on individuals who would criticize the government and the party. Japan **recommends** that Viet Nam actively promote steps to guarantee freedom of expression as well as the freedom and independence of the press, including online.

Japan has provided close to 20 years of legal technical assistance and contributed to improving the transparency and impartiality of the legal system. Japan **recommends** that Viet Nam continue to take measures to secure the rule of law, including establishing a criminal justice system which gives due consideration to human rights. For its part, Japan intends to continue to provide effective cooperation.

Thank you.