

Mr. Kotaro SUZUKI  
Minister

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UPR of the Lao People's Democratic Republic – Statement of Japan

20 January 2015

Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic.

We commend the proactive steps taken by the Lao PDR in the field of human rights, including engagement in the activities of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights and ratification of core human rights conventions. Japan encourages the Lao PDR to ensure domestic implementation of them and **recommends** that it submit national reports to the treaty bodies, including the ICESCR, and issue a standing invitation to Special Procedures.

Japan appreciates the preparation being made towards ratification of the CPED. In this connection, we expect the Lao Government's continued efforts to resolve the case of the missing human rights defender.

In addition, given reports of restrictions to the rights of freedoms of expression, the press, and assembly as well as freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, Japan encourages the Lao PDR to take further steps to guarantee these rights.

Japan notes with appreciation the steady implementation of measures focused on women and children and **recommend** that additional measures be taken for the protection of women and children.

Thank you.