

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

2627 Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City 1300
Philippines
P.O. Box 414
Pasay Central Post Office

12 July 2021

HON. RISA N. HONTIVEROS

Senator
Senate of the Republic of the Philippines

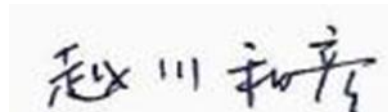
Dear Senator Hontiveros,

I am honored to transmit to you the statement of the Hon. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister of Japan, on the occasion of the fifth year marking the UN Arbitral Tribunal's award regarding the dispute between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea.

The statement affirms our continuing support for the peaceful settlement of and a rules-based approach to the dispute. It underscores our strong objection to maritime claims in the South China Sea that are inconsistent with the UNCLOS and to unilateral attempts to use force and coercion to reinforce such claims. Finally, it expresses Japan's firm commitment to work closely with ASEAN and other countries toward ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading '越川和彦' (Koshikawa Kazuhiko).

KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko
Ambassador of Japan