

## **VIETNAM – JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

Dear friends,

Vietnam – Japan friendship Association would like to extend the warmest greetings and sincere thanks for your cooperation and support over the past time, and to inform you about the current situation in the East Sea (South China Sea) as follows:

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation installed drilling rig Ocean- 981 for operation at a location 15<sup>o</sup>29'58" north latitude, 111<sup>o</sup>12'06" east longitude, which is about 120 nautical miles from the Vietnamese coast and 80 nautical miles deep in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam. More than 80 Chinese vessels, including military ships, and aircraft have been massed to escort the rig. Those ships have constantly threatened and attacked Vietnamese ships operating in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam, causing heavy material damage and wounding many people.

Such actions seriously violate Viet Nam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf; run counter to international law, especially the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); go against the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (South China Sea) signed by ASEAN member states and China; and violate the agreements on basic principles guiding the settlement of sea-related issues reached between senior leaders of Viet Nam and China.

They not only adversely affect Viet Nam-China relations, the solidarity and friendship between two peoples, peace movements in the region and the world but also threaten peace, security, stability and cooperation for mutual development in the region and the world.

The Vietnam - Japan friendship Association calls on you to pay due attention to the current complicated situation by having meaningful activities to support Vietnamese people, demanding China to withdraw promptly the drilling rig from the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam, not to worsen the situation and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.

Please accept our deep gratitude.

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