

COMMEMORATION OF THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1955 ASIAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE (BANDUNG CONFERENCE)



From April 21 to 23, Prime Minister Abe visited Indonesia to attend the summit commemorating the sixtieth Anniversary of the 1955 Asian African Conference (Bandung Conference). On April 22 (local time), the first day of the conference, Prime Minister Abe gave an address, saying: “Ladies and gentlemen, the variety among our countries is manifold. Our political systems differ. Our levels of economic development are not the same. Our cultures are distinct from one another. No one society looks the same as any other. Still, sixty years ago, President Soekarno called on the delegates that had gathered to think about the following. ‘What harm is in diversity, when there is unity in desire?’” He added, “Let us all cherish our rich diversity. And let us together build peace and prosperity, shall we not, for our children, and for our children’s children.”

UNITED STATES VISIT

From April 26 to May 2, Prime Minister Abe visited the United States. On April 29 (local time), during a visit to the nation’s capital of Washington D.C., he visited Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial and the United States Holocaust Museum. Then, after offering his condolences, the prime minister delivered an address to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, the first Japanese prime minister to ever do so.



As his fundamental message, he reviewed that Japan and the United States, countries which had previously waged war against each other, reconciled after the war and became robust allies, making contributions to peace and prosperity in the region and the world, and emphasized the bond that has been forged between Japan and the United States for seventy years since the end of the war.

SEVENTH PACIFIC ISLANDS LEADERS MEETING



On May 22 and 23, Prime Minister Abe attended the seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, which was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture. At the summit, recognizing that consistent effort is necessary to address priorities, the leaders from seventeen countries decided to enhance cooperation over the next three years with a central focus on the following seven areas: (1) disaster risk reduction; (2) climate change; (3) environment; (4) people-to-people exchanges; (5) sustainable development (including human resource development); (6) oceans, maritime issues and fisheries; and (7) trade, investment and tourism.