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FRONT COVER: A Suzume Odori dance performance at the WTTC Global Summit welcome dinner in Sendai, April 16

PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY

March 22–April 14

News of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's meetings with foreign dignitaries

March 22 H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait. At the meeting, Prime Minister Noda expressed his gratitude for the donation of 5 million barrels of crude oil as a personal initiative of H.H. Sheikh Sabah at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

March 25 Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada. At the meeting, both leaders shared the view that they would launch bilateral EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations. They also had an exchange of views on the current state of consultations with the countries concerned toward participating in the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) negotiations.

March 28 Sen. Prof. Mario Monti, President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Italy. At the meeting, Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan supported the series of efforts for reform undertaken by Prime Minister Monti for fiscal reconstruction and economic growth.

March 29 Dr. Sebastian Pinera Echenique, President of the Republic of Chile. After the meeting, both leaders released the Joint Press Statement. The Joint Press Statement states, "Both leaders reaffirmed their decision to strengthen the political dialogue between Chile and Japan and to improve bilateral economic relations, facilitating business and cooperation in various areas of mutual interest."

April 10 Mr. David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The leaders released the Joint Statement "A Leading Strategic Partnership for Global Prosperity and Security." The Joint Statement states, "As the Prime Ministers of Japan and the U.K., we are committed to promoting global prosperity and security, based on the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the market economy."

April 11 His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain. Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan would like to develop multi-layered relations with Bahrain in a wide range of fields, while taking advantage of this year's 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bahrain.

April 14 Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority. At the meeting, Prime Minister Noda welcomed President Abbas's first visit to Japan in two years and expressed his gratitude to the President for the Palestinian people's messages of support in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the President's visit to Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture on the occasion of this visit.

April 29–May 2 Prime Minister Noda's visit to the United States