

High Praise for Japan's Olympians

Held over seventeen days from July 27 to August 12, the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London were hotly contested by some 11,000 athletes from 204 countries and regions. At the closing ceremony, IOC President Jacques Rogge praised the Games as having been “happy and glorious.”

On August 20, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda invited members of the Japanese National Team and others to the Prime Minister's Office for a ceremony and to present them with certificates of honor. The Japanese National Team won thirty-eight medals including seven gold medals, the highest total ever in Japan's Olympic history.

Athletes including medalists and top-eight finishers totaling 108 were invited to the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister Noda presented the certificate of honor to these representative athletes.

At the ceremony, the Prime Minister said the results of Japanese athletes were excellent and that he was especially moved by their fair play, team work and never-give-up spirit.



1. Prime Minister Noda presents a commemorative gift to boxing gold medalist (middleweight, 75 kg) Ryota Murata **2.** Prime Minister Noda with (left) Homare Sawa (silver medalist with Japan's women's soccer team) and Saori Yoshida (gold medalist in women's freestyle wrestling, 55 kg)

Strategy for Rebirth of Japan

On July 31, 2012, the Strategy for Rebirth of Japan was decided by the Cabinet. At the Council on National Strategy and Policy that was held one day before the Cabinet decision, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said:

“First, the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the revitalization of Fukushima must be continuously tackled with every effort as the top priority issue. At the same time, the four largest projects set forth as the prioritized issues in the Strategy for Rebirth of Japan, namely “Green,” “Life,” “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,” and “Mid- and Small-Sized Enterprises,” should be ad-

dressed securely.

“Second, in order to securely implement the Strategy for Rebirth of Japan, we would like to strongly push forward the implementation of the PDCA cycle, centering around this Council on National Strategy and Policy, such as by evaluating achievement of the goals of the policy based on the roadmap every fiscal year, and deciding the basic direction of the priority policies for promoting the strategy.

“I would like the government to draw on all of the measures in the future, by transforming the Strategy for Rebirth of Japan into concrete actions, so that Japan can achieve strong growth again.”