

WHAT'S NEW" from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

After the World Cup, time is now for the Tour de France. Andy Schleck of Luxembourg is continuing to retain the yellow jersey from the 9th Stage.

People often say that "the young are spoiled", but in fact this is not often the case. Each pedaling of this young man from Mondorf, who is confronted by painful and endless slopes in the Alps, reminds us how important the guts and continued efforts are in the face of difficulties.

When you are tired and give up pedaling, then it's over. The same can be said about the challenges we face in our daily lives and also for the world economy. We just cannot stop pedaling.

Leaders focused on the balance between economic growth and fiscal consolidation at the G20 Summit in Toronto, Canada, which took place on June 26 and 27. Prime Minister Kan explained Japan's "New Growth Strategy and Fiscal Management Strategy", by which Japan aims at realizing "strong economy, robust public finances, and strong social security system" altogether. Also, the Prime Minister stressed that he would increase growth by expanding market size and employment in such sectors as nursing, medical care, and childcare.

(http://www.npu.go.jp/policy/policy04/pdf/20100618_shinseityou_gaiyou_eigo.pdf)

One of the key issues at the G8 Summit in Muskoka, Canada on June 25 was global poverty and development, in particular, maternal and child healthcare. Prime Minister Kan expressed that Japan should pay a significant attention to maternal and child healthcare, and he announced that Japan would provide additionally a maximum of approximately 500 million US dollars in five years from 2011.

(http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/g20_summit/2010-1/index.html)

Before the G8 Summit, on May 2 and 3, the Second Follow-Up meeting of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was held in Tanzania in order to review progress on the implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan (to double the amount of Japanese ODA to Africa and to support doubling Japanese private investment to Africa) adopted at TICAD IV in 2008.

(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/min1005/index.html>)

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