

WHAT'S NEW" from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg
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Every year, a return to work after the summer vacation begins with a UN General Assembly in NY. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon rang the Peace Bell (donated by Japanese people in 1954) on September 17 to mark a kickoff of a series of high-level events at the UN Headquarters.

This year Japan will be represented by a new line-up: Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Seiji Maehara.

Mr. Seiji Maehara is nominated as a new Minister of Foreign Affairs, replacing Mr. Katsuya Okada on September 17, 2010. This former Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, one of the young (48 years old) leaders of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), is well known for his realistic view. He studied the international relations under renowned defunct Professor Masataka Kosaka of Kyoto University.

In his inaugural interview as the Foreign Minister with the media on the same day, he mentioned the necessity of reinforcing the Japan-US alliance as a basis for assuring the security surrounding Japan, and for the recent Japan-China situation including questions concerning the Senkaku Islands, etc. Among other things, he stated that he would actively promote economy through diplomacy.

During his stay in NY from September 21 to 26, Mr. Maehara will be actively involved in the Summit on the UN Millennium Development Goals started from yesterday, during which Japan will fervently advocate increased support for the education and the health and medical care for Africa. He will also attend an informal high-level meeting on Innovative Financing for Development, for which Japan is acting as the current chair country, and a foreign ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, co-hosted by Japan and Australia, the campaign of which the German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has recently joined.

(<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703959704575453900642425906.html>)

After the UN meetings this autumn, the new Japanese leaders will surely meet the new Europeans leaders in Brussels on the sideline of the summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) from October 4 to 5. Last April, the then Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso agreed to conduct a joint examination for further strengthening the Japan-EU economic relationship. In this context, the Japanese Government is convinced that the future Japan-EU Economic

Partnership Agreement will bring mutual benefits. Especially Luxembourg, with its innovative technologies in such a field as automobile-related parts will surely gain from increased possibilities in the Japanese market.

(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/eu/summit/joint1004.html>)

As “La Voix”, a Luxembourgish news paper, reported repeatedly, Year 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. Japan will make its utmost efforts to obtain a concrete result at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP10, which will take place in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/environment/biodiversity/index.html>)

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