

## Phone Conversation between Foreign Minister Matsumoto and Foreign Minister McCully (13 March 2011)

1. On 13 March 2011, following a request from New Zealand, Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, had a telephone conversation with Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.
2. At the outset, following the words of felicitations for Mr. Matsumoto's appointment as Foreign Minister of Japan, Foreign Minister McCully made the following remarks.

The Great East Japan Earthquake is huge even compared to the earthquake in Christchurch. I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the victims. The Government of New Zealand is ready to provide any further assistance, if necessary, in addition to dispatching a rescue team.
3. In response to this, Foreign Minister Matsumoto made the following remarks. I am profoundly grateful for the Foreign Minister's kind words and the support from New Zealand. When I visited New Zealand, I saw the quality of New Zealand's rescue team with my own eyes. I hope that as many lives as possible will be saved by the rescue team.
4. Foreign Minister Matsumoto explained the measures taken by the Japanese Government after the earthquake and stated that he would like to make best efforts to confirm and secure the safety of New Zealanders who were staying in the affected areas.