

State Recognition of the Cook Islands and Founding of Diplomatic Relations (28/9/2011)

1. At a cabinet meeting on 25 March 2011 it was decided to give state recognition to the Cook Islands, which is in free association with New Zealand. Diplomatic relations were founded on the occasion of the visit to Japan by Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. Both countries exchanged notes confirming the establishment of diplomatic relations during Mr Puna's meeting with then Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto on 16 June 2011.
2. Japan's decision to upgrade relations with the Cook Islands will certainly strengthen the bilateral ties, including cooperation in the international arena. With the recognition of the Cook Islands, Japan now recognises 193 countries.