



YOSHIRO MORI

W E L C O M E

PRIME MINISTER YOSHIRO MORI

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

August 19, 2000

Profile of Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori A Life Full of Encounters with Remarkable People

YOJIRO Mori was born in the town of Neagari, Ishikawa Prefecture, on July 14, 1937. His father, Shigeaki, was in the Truk Islands (now Chuuk) in the Pacific Ocean when World War II ended and returned to Japan in January 1946. His mother, Kaoru, had died from illness about a year before, when Mori was seven. Kaoru's younger sister, Akiko, then became a surrogate mother and raised Mori. Both Mori's grandfather and father served for a long time as mayor of Neagari. For nearly 40 years his father made sincere efforts to build friendly relations between Neagari and the city of Shelekhov in Russia, as well as between the cities of Kanazawa and Irkutsk. After his death in 1989, in accordance with his will, his ashes were partially buried in a grave built by the citizens of Shelekhov.

In his school days Mori had the good fortune to come into contact with many wonderful teachers who exerted a great influence on the formation of his character. He learned not only about academic subjects but many other things that are truly important for personal growth, such as courtesy, independence, and a sense of responsibility. Mori was an enthusiastic baseball player in his childhood, but at the age of 11 he learned about the game of rugby through his father, who had belonged to the rugby club at Waseda University. For Mori, the attraction of rugby lies in its fighting and self-sacrificing spirit and teamwork. After entering high school, Mori devoted himself to rugby as his sport for life.

Upon gaining admission to Waseda University, Mori joined the rugby club there, but he later joined the university's oratorical society, which has been a training ground for many of Japan's political leaders. Here he met many people who aspired to become politicians, including Bonoru Takeshita and Keizo Obuchi who went on to become Prime Minister. Through his participation in the oratorical society, Mori gained a taste of the political world, and gradually the dream of becoming a politician began to take shape inside him.

After his graduation from Waseda, Mori joined the Sankei Shimbun, a major newspaper in Japan. He worked on the Japan Industrial Journal, a newspaper published by the daily. Through his journalistic career, Mori came into contact with many business leaders who represented Japan at that time, such as Soichiro Honda, the founder of Honda Motor Co., and was able to learn much from them. This was an invaluable experience for Mori. As his passion for politics continued to burn, Mori left the Sankei Shimbun in the summer of 1962 and became a secretary to a member of the House of Representatives from Ehime Prefecture. This was the first step in his political career.

In the House of Representatives election in December 1969 Mori stood as an independent candidate from Ishikawa Prefecture and finished first, winning a Diet

seat at the youthful age of 32. Since then he has been re-elected 10 consecutive times. After his first election, Mori joined the Liberal Democratic Party and came under the tutelage of the noble-minded former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, who preached simplicity and humbleness. Mori was also greatly influenced in the areas of domestic and foreign policy by former Minister for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Abe, who was like Mori's older brother in the political world. Since becoming a Diet member, Mori has been deeply involved in educational policy, making it the central theme of his career, out of his belief that education nurtures people and holds the key to the future of society, the state, and the world. In 1983 he assumed the office of the Minister of Education to spearhead a national project to implement educational reforms.

Mori has also served as Minister of International Trade and Industry and Minister of Construction and has been appointed to important posts in the LDP, twice serving as the party's Secretary General — responsible for party management as a whole — as well as Chairperson of the General Council (the party's decision-making body) and Chairperson of the Policy Research Council (which determines party policies).

Mori married Chieko Maki, a fellow student at Waseda University, in 1961; they have a son, Yuki, and a daughter, Yoko, Reiko is their beloved granddaughter. Mori enjoys playing sports, such as rugby and golf. He has never been a smoker due to the teachings of his grandfather and his involvement in rugby.

Mori was elected Japan's eighty-fifth Prime Minister — the twenty-sixth person to hold the post since World War II — in elections in both houses of the Diet on April 5, 2000. He then formed a three-party coalition government of the LDP, New Komeito — Reformer's Network,

and New Conservative Party.

Prime Minister Mori recognises that the systems that supported Japan's miraculous growth after World War II are no longer in tune with the times. In order to create a new Japan for the twenty-first century, he is determined to resolutely implement various reforms for the "Rebirth of Japan." Christening his administration the "Cabinet for the Rebirth of Japan," he will strive to turn Japan into "a nation of people who live in security, embracing our dreams for the future," "a nation of beauty rich in spirit," and "a nation that engenders the trust of the world." Educational policy is one of his priority areas. Mori intends to implement necessary reforms to foster creative young men and women capable of contributing — according to their abilities — to not only Japanese society but also the international community in the twenty-first century.

On July 4, 2000, Mori formed his second cabinet. He has been devoting his every effort to achieving success in the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit, the most immediate task facing him. He has also made the basis for his policy making the "Plan for the Rebirth of Japan" the blueprint for reforms aimed at bringing Japan into the next age. His cabinet will dedicate its utmost energies to the realisation of these goals. The main planks of Prime Minister Mori's policy platform will be bringing about the full-fledged recovery of the economy, which is now showing some bright signs; advancing measures to deal with the revolution in information technologies, as well as other economic structural reforms geared toward the future; implementing policies aimed at revitalising urban areas from the ground up; addressing the rapid aging of society; rebuilding the Japanese education system; and reforming the legal system.

Brief Personal History of Prime Minister Mori

July 14, 1937	Born in Ishikawa Prefecture.
March 1960	Graduates from the School of Commerce of Waseda University.
April 1960	Joins the Sankei Shimbun.
December 1969	Elected to the House of Representatives (now serving his eleventh term).
November 1977	Appointed Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary.
December 1983	Appointed Minister of Education.
January 1991	Appointed Chairperson, Committee on Rules and Administration, House of Representatives.
October 1991	Appointed Chairperson, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Research Council.
December 1992	Appointed Minister of International Trade and Industry.
August 1993	Appointed LDP Secretary General.
August 1995	Appointed Minister of Construction.
November 1996	Appointed Chairperson, LDP General Council.
July 1998	Appointed LDP Secretary General.
April 2000	Elected Prime Minister.
April 2000	Visits G8 countries.
June 2000	Visits the Republic of Korea.
July 2000	Reelected Prime Minister.

Views of Japan: Economy

Farming and Forestry

Japan is one of the largest importing countries of agricultural products in the world, as only 13.3 per cent of Japan's land is cultivated for farming. The average farm covers 1.48 hectares, or 18,400 square metres. Japanese farms are relatively small, but Japanese farmers work hard to get the most out of their limited space, and the land is therefore farmed very effectively.

Japanese farmers use tractors, pickup trucks, power cultivators, rice-planting machines and combines to help improve efficiency. Using intensive planting, fertilisers, sophisticated machinery and highly refined techniques, farmers are able to produce over half of the fruits and vegetables consumed in Japan, and to devote some farm space to raising livestock. Japan's agricultural resource thus contributes a great deal to people's diet.

Modern technology has made new kinds of agriculture possible, too, some of Japan's crops are now grown hydroponically — without soil, in water. Genetic engineering is also making Japan's crops larger, safer and healthier.

Japanese farmers raise a tremendous variety of crops and livestock. These include: grains like rice and wheat; vegetables such as potatoes, white radishes and cabbages; fruits like mandarin oranges, watermelons and pears; and livestock products such as beef, chicken, pork, milk and eggs.

Most of the rest of Japan's land is wooded — about 67 per cent. Forestry is thus a very important part of Japan's economy. Because Japan is an island country and must use its natural resources carefully, 40 per cent of its forests are replanted areas.

Japanese businesspeople appreciate the Bangladesh policy on foreign investment and they also appreciate the hard working people of this country. However, hartsals, violence and red-tape impede all economic activities including investment.

In sufficient information regarding business in Bangladesh inhibits Japanese investment. Japan will help Bangladesh to increase foreign investment, through providing more information to Japanese.

Bangladesh is a very important country in South Asia because of its commitment to democracy, peace and stability and its efforts to strengthen the regional cooperation. It is in Japan's interest to maintain good relations with Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that through this visit the existing friendly ties between the two nations will be further strengthened.

Japan is the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh, the volume of which is almost double that of the second donor country in 1996. Japan provided \$130 million whereas the 2nd, UK, \$70 million, and in 97, Japan provided \$174 million and the 2nd, Germany, was \$84 million. The assistance Japan has extended to Bangladesh up to 1999 amounts to approxi-

nearly 378,431 registered fishing boats in Japan. Besides their annual catch of about 6.07 million tons, another 1.35 million tons of fish and shellfish are harvested each year from special fish farms where about 100 species of fish are raised. Despite its thriving seafood industry, Japan must import 42.0 per cent of the fish it needs, harvested from waters all over the world. All of this fish allows the average Japanese person to consume 37.9 kilograms of fish each year.

Energy

Japan generates its electricity by using thermal power, nuclear power and power generated from water, geothermal and solar sources. Although Japan has a surprising variety of natural resources, its industries need large quantities of natural resources and energy, so most materials have to be imported. In fact, Japan's self-sufficiency ratio for energy is only 18.95 per cent. In particular, Japan imports almost all of its oil — about 99.7 per cent of all the oil it consumes.

Japanese farmers use tractors, pickup trucks, power cultivators, rice-planting machines and combines to help improve efficiency. Using intensive planting, fertilisers, sophisticated machinery and highly refined techniques, farmers are able to produce over half of the fruits and vegetables consumed in Japan, and to devote some farm space to raising livestock. Japan's agricultural resource thus contributes a great deal to people's diet.

Modern technology has made new kinds of agriculture possible, too, some of Japan's crops are now grown hydroponically — without soil, in water. Genetic engineering is also making Japan's crops larger, safer and healthier.

Japanese farmers raise a tremendous variety of crops and livestock. These include: grains like rice and wheat; vegetables such as potatoes, white radishes and cabbages; fruits like mandarin oranges, watermelons and pears; and livestock products such as beef, chicken, pork, milk and eggs.

Most of the rest of Japan's land is wooded — about 67 per cent. Forestry is thus a very important part of Japan's economy. Because Japan is an island country and must use its natural resources carefully, 40 per cent of its forests are replanted areas.

Japanese businesspeople appreciate the Bangladesh policy on foreign investment and they also appreciate the hard working people of this country. However, hartsals, violence and red-tape impede all economic activities including investment.

In sufficient information regarding business in Bangladesh inhibits Japanese investment. Japan will help Bangladesh to increase foreign investment, through providing more information to Japanese.

Bangladesh is a very important country in South Asia because of its commitment to democracy, peace and stability and its efforts to strengthen the regional cooperation. It is in Japan's interest to maintain good relations with Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that through this visit the existing friendly ties between the two nations will be further strengthened.

Japan is the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh, the volume of which is almost double that of the second donor country in 1996. Japan provided \$130 million whereas the 2nd, UK, \$70 million, and in 97, Japan provided \$174 million and the 2nd, Germany, was \$84 million. The assistance Japan has extended to Bangladesh up to 1999 amounts to approxi-



Robots assemble cars at an automobile plant.

their overseas branches. Foreign companies also invest a great deal of money in Japan. In 1998, such companies were investing almost 13.40 billion yen a year in Japan, especially in fields like machinery, chemicals, metals, services, trade and commerce.

Transportation

Every type of transportation you can think of is used in Japan, from bicycles to the Shinkansen (Bullet Train), one of the fastest trains on earth.

Highways are one of the most important links in the transportation system. Japan has almost 1.15 million kilometres of roads, and has almost three kilometres of road for every square kilometre of land, roughly twice as much as France or the United Kingdom and four and a half times as much as the United States.

Railways in Japan are a very efficient means of transportation. Trains operate according to a tight schedule, and arrive exactly on time. The Shinkansen links some of Japan's major cities, from Hakata in Kyushu to Morioka in the northern part of Honshu. At top speed, this train can travel 300 kilometres per hour. It takes only two hours and thirty minutes to cover the 515.4 kilometres between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka Stations.

On the Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen lines, there are 545 intercity train trips each day. The Tohoku and Yamagata lines conduct 182 intercity trips per day, the Joetsu line carries 97 intercity trips per day, the Hokuriku line carries 56 trips per day and the Akita line runs 30 trips per day.

Besides the Shinkansen, a busy network of commuter trains and subway lines weaves in and out of the larger cities. As of 1998, there were 37 subway lines operating in ten cities in Japan. More than 7.29 million people use Tokyo's subway system every day. Station platforms have painted lines to show where the doors will open when the train stops. At peak hours the trains are very crowded.

Japan has many international airports, with an average of 1,960 international flights between Japan and other countries each week. The many domestic airports are busy, too, with an average of 2,198 planes coming in for a landing daily.

Since Japan is an island country, these airports play an especially important role in linking it to the rest of the world.

Japan's four main islands are now linked by sea, air and land. In 1988, Honshu was joined to Hokkaido by the world's longest tunnel, and to Shikoku by a bridge across the Seto Inland Sea.



A Japanese farmer reaps his autumn harvest.

Manufacturing

Much of Japan's economic strength is based on its manufacturing. Cars are one of Japan's best-known products. In 1998, Japan produced about 10.05 million cars, buses and trucks, the second-highest vehicle production worldwide.

Many cars are built by robots. These robots are complex machines designed to do specific tasks. They can handle repetitive jobs, leaving people free for more interesting and complicated work.

Almost half of the cars produced in Japan are exported. Automobiles made by Japanese companies are built and driven all over the world. Many are now produced in overseas

plants. Furthermore, cars are only one kind of transportation equipment exported by Japan. Japan also makes buses, trucks, ships and other transport vehicles.

Japan's manufacturing products are a major part of Japan's economic strength.

Learning from the past, Japan is now developing new ways to keep industrial pollution down. Advanced technology for environmental protection is now being developed by all sorts of industries.

Trade and Investment

In 1998, Japan spent 366.54 billion yen on imports from other countries. Its exports of goods and services earned 506.45 billion yen. Japan trades with most of the countries in the world. However, about 30.5 per cent of all Japan's exports go to the United States, while 23.9 per cent of its imports come from that country. Other important trading partners include Australia, China, Hong Kong, SAR, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, as well as Canada and European countries like Germany and the United Kingdom.

Many Japanese companies are opening factories in other countries. In 1998, they spent about 52.16 billion yen to build new factories and offices around the world. While almost half of Japan's direct overseas investment goes to countries in North America, Japanese companies also invest heavily in countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.

Many of these Japanese companies abroad have become part of their local communities, hiring employees from the town where they are located and getting involved in community affairs, environmental and cultural projects, and cooperation with local businesses.

As of 1997, Japanese companies had some 2.83 million employees in

MESSAGE

It is a great honour for me to receive Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in Bangladesh, especially when our two countries move towards the celebration of 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2002, only a year and half ahead. His visit will not only consolidate the current excellent relationship between the two countries, but will also give a huge impetus to transform it into a more comprehensive and multifaceted one. His visit will kick off the mutual effort for expansion of "people-to-people" contact and the revitalization of our economic relation. This will be the message of his visit to the people in both countries.

I would like to underline that Prime Minister Mori will visit Bangladesh, having chaired the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit only a few weeks ago. The honourable Foreign Minister Mr. Azad was also present at the NAM Troika/G8 Ministerial Meeting in July as a member of NAM Troika. The leaders there exchanged views on what need to be done so the goals of the 21st century, increased prosperity, peace of mind, and stability throughout the world can be realized. He will convey the achievements of the G8 Summit to honourable Prime Minister Hasina, the Prime Minister of one of the most important developing countries. I believe his visit clearly shows how much Japan considers the significance of strengthening ties further with Bangladesh. Bangladesh has become an increasingly important partner to Japan over the last decade due to the great strides it has made towards peace and stability in South Asia through its commitment to democracy and its diplomatic efforts. Japan and Bangladesh are also partners in various international arenas such as the United Nations, where a new momentum is now gathering speed for its reform.

Expansion of Bilateral Relations and People-to-People Contact towards 30th Anniversary

The bilateral relationship between Japan and Bangladesh

Kazuyoshi Urabe
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh