

Bonn, 3 July 2006

Dear Madam, Sir,

It is with deep sadness that I would like to offer on behalf of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and myself our sincere condolences to you for the death of Former Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Over the past ten years, Prime Minister Hashimoto worked tirelessly for the success of the UNCCD. He played an instrumental role in promoting the UNCCD in Japan. Former Prime Minister Hashimoto also contributed substantially in the development of the partnership between Japan and developing countries in the context of the implementation of the UNCCD.

Despite his fragile health conditions he accepted at the beginning of this year the title of UN honorary Spokesperson for the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this very sad moment. May Prime Minister Hashimoto, my dearest friend, rest in peace and time heal your sorrow.

Sincerely,

Hama Arba Diallo
Executive Secretary

Family members of
His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto
Former Prime Minister of Japan,