



Towards the G8 Summit in Hokkaido

Bishop Isao Kikuchi, Caritas Japan

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The forthcoming G8 summit will be held from July 7 to July 9 in Hokkaido. At this summit, various issues the world is currently facing will be discussed.

At the time of the last summit, Pope Benedict XVI called on the participants³ not to retreat from their promises to make a substantial increase in development aid in favour of the most needy populations, especially those of the African Continent...Let us hope that serious efforts be made to reach these objectives.⁴

Caritas Japan has been working with our partners all over the world to support the oppressed, abandoned people in order for them to restore their dignity and to live their own lives. We invite you to join us in a postcard campaign calling upon the summit participants to listen to the voices of people, to keep the pledges made by previous summits, to recognize their responsibility and to act in accord with this responsibility to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.



Should you agree with our intent of the postcard campaign, kindly sign the postcard below, detach it, put a stamp on it, and send it by July 7 to Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, our prime minister, who is chairing the summit.

For the realization of a world in which human dignity is respected:

We call on governments to recognize their responsibility to create a world in which all through their own efforts can achieve social and economic self-reliance, and to act in accord with this responsibility.

We therefore call on the G8 summit to follow through on all the commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005 to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

Date: ____/____/2008 Signature: _____



Issues to be discussed at the summit

- Climate Change
- Development and Africa
- Global Economics
- Political issues including nuclear nonproliferation

We human beings are confronted by so many problems and challenges. The issue of poverty especially, has been affecting the lives of the most vulnerable ones.

The Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 world leaders during the 2000 summit has been a beacon to show their commitments in solving the poverty issue. In agreeing on the Millennium Development Goals following the adoption of the declaration, the nations made a commitment to halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. Ever since then the world, including G8 countries, has been making efforts to achieve this end.

A pledge made at the summit in Gleneagles has been one of the most notable commitments made. It stated, ³ for rich countries to spend an additional \$50 billion a year on development assistance by 2010.⁴ !!However, the actual amount spent on assistance in 2007 decreased by 5% from the year before. In fact, the outlook so far of achieving MDGs is at stake.

Stamp
Here

Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan

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**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**