

this year on Agricultural Development in the same area. In this way Japan is doing its part to work together with Asian nations for common stability and well being, regardless of past differences.

It is important to note the contribution which Japan can make from its experience to the efforts of less developed Asian nations. It provides a leading example of successful economic modernization. Japan has limited area and natural resources and a large population. In spite of these conditions Japan has, during the past hundred years, transformed itself from an isolated feudal state to one of the world's most advanced economic powers.

In the post war period, it has combined the consolidation of a democratic society with the highly successful pursuit of economic development which may already have brought it to the rank of the world's third largest industrial nation. Japanese have shown a remarkable capacity to master industrial and commercial techniques, to adapt them to their specific needs and, increasingly, to develop, improve and extend technology from which others can benefit. In a cultural and social sense too they wish a synthesis of modern and traditional, of Oriental and Western in order to develop the society best suited to their own circumstances.

With their creative vitality and working diligence, the Japanese have shown that rapid economic development, drawing electically on the experience of others, need not mean any weakening of their independent development of a unique way of life but rather a reinforcement of that independence. Surely in essence this is what we hope will happen in the whole process of economic development through international cooperation.