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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GREENPEACE ANTARCTIC CAMPAIGN A FAILURE**

January 16, 2002.

A senior Japanese government official today accused Greenpeace of misleading the public to cover up its failed anti-whaling campaign in the Antarctic. Mr. Masayuki Komatsu, Counsellor in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was responding to the Greenpeace press release issued on January 16, accusing Japan of spending its overseas development aid to buy votes in the International Whaling Commission.

“Greenpeace was reverted to their usual misleading propaganda and rhetoric to cover up the total failure of its campaign in the Antarctic” said Mr. Komatsu. “Japan is the world’s largest donor, providing aid to over 150 countries and this aid is not linked to the policies of recipient nations on specific issues” he said. “These accusations are inaccurate and insulting not only to Japan but to aid recipient nations. In fact, Japanese aid is provided to a large number of countries including India, Argentina, Brazil and Kenya that are opposed to Japan’s position on whaling” he added.

Mr. Komatsu said “Greenpeace has not told the public the truth on this issue. They should be telling the public that the International Whaling Commission’s Scientific Committee has noted that Japan’s whale research in the Antarctic is providing important scientific information.”

*(more)*

Mr. Komatsu explained that the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling requires that the IWC's regulations be based on scientific findings. "Rather than criticizing Japan's whale research program and wasting money touring around the Antarctic drinking beer and baking cookies as they have themselves reported, Greenpeace should be spending some of its money to conduct research."

Mr. Komatsu further criticized Greenpeace by saying "Greenpeace is not about saving whales it is about fundraising. Whales have already been saved and are increasing to the point where there is now worldwide concern about the impact of whales on fish stocks." "Even the IWC last year unanimously adopted a resolution jointly proposed by the United States and Japan to make the study of interactions between whales and fisheries a matter of priority."

**For more information contact:**

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***For further information see***

<http://www.icrwhalesci.org/Q&Ajapanswhalerresearchpro2.html>

<http://www.icrwhale.org/JwhaleresAntarctic.htm>