

Chapter 1: Overview

International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2011

In 2011 the world underwent various convulsions such as political upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa along with the European sovereign debt crisis. The international community has been changing dynamically including the advancement of information and communication technologies, diversification of the actors taking part in international activities, and the rise of the emerging countries.

Japan experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. This massive disaster obviously imposed problems Japan is going to face in the future. On the other hand, the support and encouragement that Japan and its people received from all over the world showed their trust to Japan, as it has been making efforts in the field of international cooperation over more than 60 years since the end of World War II. This helped the Japanese people recognize anew the high esteem and expectations for Japan and its people. At the

same time, it also was a year in which Japan's accountability to the international community was called into question in 2011 relating to the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Reconstruction from the earthquake is the top priority for Japan. At the same time, it is essential for Japan's reconstruction and peaceful prosperity to secure peaceful and stable environment in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. It is essential for Japan to respond to the solidarity the world showed Japan in the aftermath of the disaster with pride and confidence, such as to address global issues using its distinctive conceptual power.

In order to pursue proactive diplomacy, it is necessary to accurately analyze the state of global affairs. Below, we will discuss an overview of the changes in the international environment in part one and the foreign policy that Japan is going to carry out in part two.



Victory lap by Nadeshiko Japan, the women's national soccer team, with a banner after the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 (Photo: ©J-LEAGUE PHOTO)

1. State of Affairs: Changes in the International Environment

(1) Increasing Globalization and Interdependence

Advance in the technologies supporting interaction, such as transportation technologies and information and communication technologies (ICT) represented by the Internet, and decrease in cost of their use are encouraging the exchanges of people, goods, capital, and information on a global scale (globalization). Globalization has open and positive nature: it accelerates economic growth and enables sharing of commercial practices across national borders, introduction of new ways of life, and exchange of culture and ideas. Exchange of information and economic interaction with counterparts with whom some years ago one could interact only in limited frequency and scale have become normality. Especially in economic aspects the degree of interdependence among a variety of actors is increasing.

Since relations of interdependence have grown more complex across national borders, the influence that one situation has on others, the speed of conveyance of such influence, and the degree of damage when technologies are put to malicious use have grown to unprecedented levels. That is, in today's international community, the technologies supporting interaction can bring benefits while they could cause transnational problems, and their management has become a major issue.

(A) Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Among the technologies supporting interaction, the advancement of information and communication technologies in recent years stands out in particular. As seen in the example of Social Networking Services (SNS), which makes it easy to interact through the Internet and have been identified as one important factor making possible the political changes in the Middle East and North Africa, they are having a major impact on politics and society in each country, and moreover on the international affairs. These technologies also support the free movement of capital.

Advances in information and communication technologies have made it possible for countries, companies, and individuals to process and exchange large volumes of information. As a result, even individuals and small groups can now cause considerable damage by using technology for acts of terrorism and other crimes or by carrying out cyber

attacks harmful to technology itself. Also, growing dependence on technology is leading the increase in the number of cyber attacks on countries and private enterprises. While information and communication technologies should be free to use in principle, it is also clear that the abuse of such technologies needs to be prevented. While some countries guard against the influence of the Internet and strengthen their controls over it, Western nations such as the U.S. campaign the 'Internet freedom'. As such, how to reconcile freedom of information infrastructure including the Internet has become a matter of discussion in the international community. As a result of the Wikileaks incidents in 2010, even countries with liberal Internet policies have faced the issue of how to reconcile values such as the public's right to know and democratic control of diplomacy on the one hand and the need to maintain confidentiality by administrative institutions on the other.

(B) Deepening Interdependency and Growing Cross-Border Issues

While globalization has a positive aspect of encouraging cross-border activities and growth especially on the economic front, it involves also a negative aspect of making the effects of a crisis in one country on other countries the broader-ranging and more direct, as seen in the European sovereign debt crisis. The effects of crisis not only spread broadly within Europe but also extended significant impact on the economies of countries outside the region, through trade, investment and the financial markets.

In today's world, where interdependence is deepening, it is almost impossible for an economy to be fully self-sufficient, completely separated from the world market. While worldwide distribution of mass-produced industrial products and falling local prices for domestically produced goods resulting from opening up of national markets are phenomena that already have been observed for several centuries, today it is not just the prices of goods but also those of services and labor that are adjusted by international market mechanisms. Capital, seeking production bases with more advantageous conditions, has both vitalized the regional economies in which it is invested and has accelerated the speed of changes in income levels. While the results have

included favorable changes such as expanded opportunities for growth, they also have included problems such as growing domestic income gaps in both developing countries and developed countries, resource shortages as a result of massive growth in the scale of economic activities by human being, and destruction of environment. The international community needs to cooperate to address such problems. Furthermore, traditional nation-centric approaches are insufficient for resolving cross-border problems, making it important to spotlight the roles played by various actors such as individuals and companies, and the impact on diplomatic policies from not just nations but such actors as well.

(C) Diversification of the Actors in the International Community

Advances in technologies and decreases in the cost of their use have given greater influence than before to a variety of actors other than states. For example, some multinational corporations surpass small and medium-sized states in their economic size, and their claims have considerable influence on the world's economy, for example by influencing state policies. In addition, the media, research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other organizations are also increasing their presence in the international community, using characteristics such as the high level of transmission capabilities. On the other hand, even national security is threatened by terrorism or crime committed by non-state organizations or individuals.

While various organizations and individuals have gained considerable capabilities and contribute to the development of society, terrorism and crime threaten at the same time the security of states. On the other hand, so-called fragile states, which lack even their fundamental governance capabilities such as maintaining internal security, can be sanctuaries for terrorists and organized crime and become causes of threats to international security as a whole.

Sovereign states remain major actors in the international community, and interstate confrontation and cooperation still affect most to the stability of international community. However, power is diffusing from states to non-state actors, and they are playing more and more important roles in decision-making in the international community. In addition, religion is also becoming a factor with considerable influence on the international affairs, as seen in recent fragment cases where incidents

occurring in one country trigger popular protest in other countries particularly in the Islamic world. Diplomacy is expected to understand precisely the movements of not only states but also these various actors, and to coordinate and utilize the diverse roles that they play.

(2) Changes in Power Relations among Nation States

(A) Seeking a New International Order

Having overwhelming power, the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War and the U.S after the Cold War maintained the international order to some degree. While the U.S. holds relative superiority in today's international community, the rising power of non-state actors and changes in international power relations such as the rise of emerging countries have led to a continuing loss of the efficacy of existing decision-making methods in the international community. For example, differences in the positions of developed countries and emerging countries such as China, India, and Brazil have become the primary cause impeding new agreements in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In light of such reality, in addition to traditional bilateral relations and frameworks for cooperation within the United Nations (UN) system, new multilateral cooperation, which selectively forms cooperative relations in accordance with specific purposes, tends to intensify. Attempts at integration and cooperation are being actively pursued in individual regions around the world not to mentioning the situation in Europe, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the East Asia Summit (EAS) in Asia. In the case of the so-called "Arab Spring" as well, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the African Union (AU) are making various efforts. In the future, the role played by such multilateral cooperation is likely to attract attention toward formation of a new international order.

(B) The Rise of the Emerging Countries

From the start of the Industrial Revolution until the latter half of the 20th century, a limited number of countries capable of obtaining efficient production technologies and investing in such technologies

succeeded in economic growth while occasionally using colonies and developing countries as supply sources of labor and resources and as markets for their products. However, since the latter half of the 20th century, and particularly since the end of the Cold War, it has empirically become clear that the most effective means of growth is to introduce technologies and capital whether domestic or foreign, and many less industrialized countries have started on the path of economic growth through accumulating capital and technologies as production bases for multinational corporations and utilizing their labor forces and, if available, resources. When this took place in populous countries, new economic powers emerged. These emerging countries have come to have greater influence in maintenance and formation of international order as their international political presence has increased, backed by their economic power.

On the other hand, as the political systems and economic structures of individual emerging countries vary, and individual positions towards each international issue and the interests they focus on differ, they cannot be considered as one group. While the Group of Seven (G7) and later the Group of Eight (G8) has played leading roles in discussion of various economic and other international issues since the 1970s, the G20, established in response to the financial and economic crisis and including emerging countries in its membership, has come to play a major role since 2008 in areas such as macroeconomic policy coordination, as “the premier forum for international economic cooperation”. This can be said to be an example in which the international community being reflected in its decision-making systems the reality of the rise of the emerging countries. Since it is expected that the share of the emerging countries in the world economy will increase further in the future, there is a need to think strategically about how to build a new world order with the participation of contribution by emerging countries while each pursues its own different interests.

(3) The Current Situation in the Asia-Pacific Region

(A) Increasing Importance of the Region

As the worldwide changes mentioned above, the

Asia-Pacific region is realizing remarkable economic growth, today serving as the center of world economic growth while the U.S. and Europe, who have played central roles in the world economy until now, are relatively decreasing their predominance. The middle class¹ in Asia is estimated to grow from its current size of approximately 950 million people to roughly 2 billion in 2020, and it is expected that the economic importance of this region will continue to increase in the future. Above all, China is recording remarkable growth, as it is expected to hold a middle class of 970 million people, which is roughly e.g. half of this Asian middle class. At the same time, the Asia-Pacific region also continues to contain traditional security threats and destabilizing factors rooted in relations among countries. First of all, there is military concentration in this region. The total troops in the countries and regions of the Asia-Pacific numbers approximately 6.7 million, equivalent to about three times the total forces of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states excluding the U.S.. In addition, more than one-half of the world's nuclear-armed countries and regions² are located in this region. Further problems in this region include North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles, build-up of China's military capability which lacks transparency, and its vigorous maritime activities, and the activities of the Russian military in the Far East. In addition, unresolved territorial issues remain in this region.

In contrast to the advancement of economic integration and cooperation in the diplomatic and security fields among European countries, some problems directly related to the peace and prosperity of the international community continue to exist in the Asian region. For this reason, the region has come to be recognized as the new focus of attention in international security. As exemplified in the discussions at the ARF and the EAS in 2011 for the solution of various problems among countries in the region, countries are striving to secure peace and stability in the region. The announcement by U.S. President Obama in November 2011 to review the U.S. diplomatic and security priorities and to make the U.S. presence and mission in the Asia-Pacific a top priority also symbolizes the increasing importance of the region.

¹ As used here, “middle class” refers to the class with annual household disposable income between USD 5,000 and USD 35,000.

² The U.S., Russia, China, North Korea, India, and Pakistan. Since it announced nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, North Korea here is considered a region having nuclear weapons.

(B) Maritime Issues

Against a backdrop of deepening interdependence in the international economy, intensifying competition to secure resources on a global scale caused by vigorous economic activities on a global scale along with advances in technologies for maritime resource development resulting from technological innovation, maritime-related issues are becoming increasingly conspicuous among other causes of tension in the region in recent years. For example, in the South China Sea, where issues concerning sovereignty have already existed there was a cable-cutting incident between vessels of Chinese authorities and a Vietnamese resource survey ship in May 2011. In response to such incidents, a variety of efforts are being made between China and ASEAN to avoid destabilization of the security environment in the region. In July 2011 China and ASEAN agreed on guidelines for the implementation of the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea” of 2002. Likewise, the EAS in November, the first summit in which the U.S. and Russia took part, adopted a declaration by leaders confirming that the international law of the sea contains crucial norms that contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. In addition to the declaration, the statement by the chair at the EAS included the importance of promoting maritime dialogue and cooperation.

(C) Situation in North Korea

North Korea’s development of nuclear and ballistic missile problems poses a threat not only to the region but also to the international community as a whole. Japan, in close cooperation with countries concerned including the U.S. and the Republic of Korea (ROK), has demanded North Korea to take specific actions toward denuclearization, including cessation of uranium enrichment activities, which are a violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks.

The abduction issue of Japanese citizens by North Korean is a matter of grave concern to the international community as it is not only an issue concerning Japanese sovereignty and the lives and safety of its citizens but also an issue relating to universal values as an infringement on fundamental human rights. The Government of Japan unites in its efforts for the return of all abductees to Japan as early as possible.

In December 2011, the death of Kim Jong-il, National Defense Committee Chairman was announced. In response to this new situation, the Government of Japan will continue to thoroughly prepare for contingencies while closely observing the situation in close cooperation with other countries concerned.

2. Japan’s Diplomacy Making Use of Its Strengths

In order to secure its national interests, it is important for Japan to minimize risks and maximize growth opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region in which it is located. Furthermore, as the world undergoes considerable transformations such as the emergence of various non-state actors and changes in the power relations among nations, it is essential to build a peaceful and stable world necessary to Japan’s prosperity, in light of the fact that Japan’s presence is supported by its ties with the rest of the world. In doing this, it is also necessary for Japan to overcome inward-looking tendency, to keep the Japan-U.S. alliance as the cornerstone of its democracy and to proactively challenge to address regional and global issues making use of its strength, instead of limiting itself to the Asia-Pacific region alone. Also, Japan can generate synergy effects and demonstrate greater power in its diplomacy through the participation of and cooperation with a variety of

Japanese actors including not only the national government but also local governments, businesses, NGOs, and individuals as well.

(1) Peace and Stability in the Asia-Pacific Region**(A) Ensuring Security**

To ensure Japan’s safety and prosperity in an increasingly severe security environment, there is a need to build a favorable security environment through a variety of diplomatic efforts in addition to Japan’s own security efforts.

First of all, as an effort of Japan itself, it is essential that it properly maintain its own defensive capability. In accordance with the new National Defense Program Guidelines approved by the Cabinet in December 2010, Japan will build a dynamic defense force³.

Next, Japan will not only defend itself but also contribute to further improvements in regional

security through further deepening and developing the Japan-U.S. alliance, which is a linchpin of Japan's foreign policy and security as well as a public good for the stability and prosperity of not only the Asia-Pacific region but also of the whole international community. Specifically, it will continue to develop security and defense cooperation with the U.S. in a broad range of fields including cooperation in planning for Japan's defense and situation in areas surrounding Japan, missile defense, and new fields such as space and cyber security. In addition, as the U.S. makes it even more clear that its policies will give a priority to the Asia-Pacific region, Japan will support the stable stationing of U.S. troops in Japan, which is a cornerstone of the U.S. commitment, secure regional deterrent force and actively work for the peace and security of the region in partnership with the U.S..

At the same time, based on a strong Japan-U.S. alliance, Japan will strive to enhance cooperation with neighboring countries including China, the ROK, Russia, the ASEAN states, Australia, and India as well as resolve various issues of concern. In addition to advancing bilateral relations with states such as the ROK and Australia, it will also advance cooperation under such trilateral frameworks as between Japan, the U.S., and the ROK, Japan, the U.S., and Australia, as well as Japan, the U.S., and India, and will utilize multilateral regional frameworks such as the EAS, the ARF, and the expanded ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), and strengthen multi-layered cooperative relations between individual frameworks.

(B) Construction of Order in the Asia-Pacific Region: Open and Multilayered Networks

For Japan to promote its diplomacy to build a prosperous, stable order supported by democratic values in the Asia-Pacific region, it is important to build open, multilayered networks in the region.

These "networks" are defined as accumulation of various multilateral cooperation. These are various problems in this region such as political and security tense relations, insufficient legal foundations to support economic activities, and the vulnerable

infrastructure to support physical activities. These problems cause the negative effects of increasing risks to activities in the region and atrophying a variety of activities including those of states. Construction of networks aims to stimulate flows of people, goods, capital, and information by resolving these problems through multilateral cooperation and coordination, increasing predictability, and creating an environment that makes stable activities possible to. For example, promotion of maritime cooperation leads to improvements in the security environment, promotion of economic partnership or protection of intellectual property rights leads to enliven regional economic activities, and infrastructure development and promotion of disaster prevention can allow the countries in the region to overcome physical vulnerability. Active of distribution of goods supports a prosperous and stable order, and this order is expected to further enliven distribution.

The "multilayered" concept refers to building up regional cooperation in various fields while dynamically linking multilateral frameworks of dialogue such as ASEAN, ASEAN+3, ASEAN+6, EAS, ARF, and APEC, in addition to bilateral and trilateral frameworks of dialogue such as that between Japan, the U.S., and the ROK, Japan, the U.S., and Australia, and Japan, China, and the ROK, and between Japan, the U.S., and India that began in 2011.

"Open" means that the networks are broadly opened to the countries of the region as a whole. A broad range of citizens including private firms, NGOs, and experts, are also included as part of actors of networks other than states. Therefore, the networks must be open to all and be attractive enough to encourage voluntary participation.

In addition, rulemaking that constitutes the foundation of such networks and supports the new order must be consistent with international law. It is important to share common ideas and rules in accordance with international law in addition to building up regional cooperation in a various fields.

The participation of China is essential for building up such networks. Only when Japan cooperate with China to create an order, while deepening the Japan-U.S. alliance that is the linchpin of its foreign

³ Dynamic defense refers to mobility that enables more effective deterrence and action and makes it possible to improve the security environment actively. It also refers to defense with the mobility to act dynamically to stabilize further the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and improve the global security environment, supported by advanced technological and information capabilities based on trends in the level of military technology, with readiness, mobility, flexibility, sustainability, and multipurpose capabilities.

policy and security, will it be possible to create networks in which the countries of the region, including both the U.S. and China, will spontaneously take part. For this purpose too, realizing dialogue among Japan, the U.S., and China, as leading nations of the region, is important.

(2) Japan's Contribution in Order to Address Various Global Issues

As the international community faces the various issues caused by changes in the international environment in addition to traditional issues arising from relations among states, it is important for Japan to proactively address regional and world issues by employing various political measures, instead of limiting itself to the Asia-Pacific region alone in order to make further international contributions.

This section describes Japan's approach on addressing global issues by introducing number of policy topics as examples. Specific content of individual policies will be explained in the pages following this to chapter 2 and later.

(A) Political and Security Issues

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are efforts that will help prevent reoccurrence of disputes between nations and increase the capacities of nations with fragile governance structures. Japan has been playing proactive roles through measures including dispatching from January 2012 a Self-Defense Forces (SDF) engineering contingent to UN peacekeeping operations in the Republic of South Sudan, which achieved independence in July in addition to its efforts in the Golan Heights, Haiti, Timor-Leste, and other places. In December, Japan formulated the "Guidelines for Overseas Transfer of Defense Equipment etc.". It comprehensively enables to transfer of defense equipment and other materials overseas under certain conditions for purposes of contributing to peace and international cooperation and opens up the possibility of more proactive and effective efforts in cooperation on international peace and combating international terrorism, piracy, and other issues, by. Also, Japan's continued support for the stable and sustainable growth of Afghanistan contributes to the stability of not only Afghanistan but also the international community as a whole. Furthermore, since Japan is providing proactive support to the Arab world that it is important to guide the historic upheaval there to a moderate and stable path based on the conviction that for the

stability of the world.

As the importance of global economic activities increase, freedom of navigation, particularly the safety of marine transportation, is a common interest to the entire world. International coordination and cooperation are essential to secure the safety of marine navigation particularly as the activities of non-state actors such as terrorists and pirates swell. To counter the threat of piracy, Japan dispatches Maritime Self-Defense Force (SDF) escort vessels and patrol planes to act against piracy off the coast of Somalia, as well as provides aid for improving the stability and maritime control capabilities of Somalia and other neighboring states. Also, considering that it is important to promote regional cooperation on the subject of the sea, as a public good of the Asia-Pacific region, Japan played a leading role in confirming the importance of international law of the sea in the EAS in November.

Arms races and arms proliferation can harm the peace and security of the international community. In particular, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction increases not only tensions between nations but also the risk of terrorism by non-state actors. Japan plays an active role in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation through efforts including promoting the "Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative" (NPDI) and addressing nuclear issues concerning North Korea and Iran, as well as in the area of nuclear security, which is growing in importance for reasons including nuclear terrorism.

Important issues for Japan's foreign policy and security are arising in such new areas of outer space and cyberspace, where Japan will advance its individual efforts as well as international cooperation. While the pace of changes in the international affairs on these issues is fast, Japan will put to use its technological and conceptual powers to proactively respond through measures including creation of international norms.

(B) Economic and Social Issues

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is an effective means to solve the various issues that the international community faces today. It is important to use ODA effectively in cooperation with various actors including local governments, NGOs, the private sector including SMEs, and individuals. Cooperation through ODA in various fields in which Japan has accumulated achievements, such as health,

education, agriculture, human-resources development, industrial promotion, disaster prevention, and infrastructure development, is a measure that support nation-building in developing countries and makes possible long-term stability in such nations. Japan has made significant contributions in aid for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) or in the development of Africa with the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process as an important foundation. Japan is also playing a leading role in discussions on the new international development goals beyond 2015, which is the deadline for achievement of the MDGs.

Japan is also proactively addressing cross-border issues, such as environmental problems and climate change. Japan is contributing to discussions on realizing sustainable development and low-carbon growth as well as a global shift to a green economy, through means including its proposals that put to use its own technological and conceptual powers toward Rio+20 (the UN Conference on Sustainable Development) and COP18 (the 18th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Furthermore, ODA can also be used to address security issues, for example by using it to improve the capability to maintain security of recipient countries. Despite the damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the decline of global economy, the initial ODA budget proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for fiscal year 2012 has increased due to factors including an increase in the budget for grant aid creating a momentum to toward reversing the decline in the ODA budget, which had decreased by one-half over the past 14 years.

Underlying all of these endeavors is the philosophy of "human security." Basic idea of human security is to focus on the individual human beings who face various problems, to strengthen their abilities so that they can solve their problems on their own, and to advance the social development in which they can realize their own high potential. It is based on the idea that all actors should take part in nation building and development and enjoy the fruits of such efforts. This concept of "all on board" is an idea shared by the concept of open and multilayered networks introduced under part 2 (I) (B) above, and it can be said to be a fundamental concept in Japan's foreign policy.

As economic interdependence deepens, Japan has a significant role to play as the world's third largest economy. First of all, Japan's economic recovery and fiscal sanity will tow sustainable growth and stability of the world economy. The breakdown of supply-chain caused by the earthquake demonstrated that Japanese manufacture is indispensable to the world economy. In order to link growth of the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region to its own growth, Japan will strengthen the aid for overseas business development by Japanese firms including SMEs, and promote high-level economic partnership with leading world trading partners, and overseas infrastructure deployment. Promotion of trade and investment is also an effective means for the growth of developing countries. For example, Japan considers that the private capital can play an important role in the case of development in Africa, which had been discussed in the context of aid through ODA alone. In the case of the European sovereign debt crisis, while maintaining the fundamental position that it should first be addressed by Europe itself, Japan is also cooperating through purchase of European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) bonds and international frameworks such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition, Japan is also cooperating to prevent the spread of credit instability to Asia through means including concluding bilateral dollar swap arrangements with the ROK and India.

In addition, as resource demand and supply conditions are being tight worldwide, Japan can secure a stable supply of resources to Japan and address climate change by contributing the formation of positive, transparent market conditions through dialogues between resource producer and consumer states and by internationally promoting policies of advancing the efficient use of fossil fuels, the spread of use of renewable energy contribute to not only.

(C) Cultural Issues

In order to respond to new developing situations in the world, it is necessary for Japan to effectively utilize not only economic and military influence (so-called hard power) but also the influence of cultural attractiveness and high levels of technologies (so-called soft power) as well.

Since ancient times, Japan has had flexibility to assimilate and integrate cultural influences from the East and the West. Precisely because Japan has

been incorporating Western values while rooted in Asian values, and is among the first countries in Asia to adopt democracy, Japan has an important role to play in the international community. Japan has received high levels of trust from the world. For example, Japan has been ranked at the highest level in an international opinion survey of the favorability of nations conducted by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), the British broadcaster, for many years.

When Japan advances its foreign policies, it is important to deepen further mutual understanding between Japan and overseas by putting to use such trust toward Japan and 'Japanese values', as well as by increasing a broad range of exchanges through public-private partnership, including athletic and youth exchange.

(D) Sharing Japan's Experiences of the Earthquake

It is Japan's responsibility to share with the world its experiences in the earthquake and the lessons it has learned from them. Japan should especially demonstrate conceptual power in the areas of nuclear safety and disaster prevention.

In the field of nuclear safety, in response to the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear

Power Station, Japan will cooperate to the utmost in international efforts toward enhancement of nuclear safety, centered in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Also, Japan will advance the mainstreaming of disaster prevention in the field of international cooperation. As seen in the flooding in Thailand, disasters tend to become serious recently than before worldwide, and improving disaster-prevention capabilities has become an important issue throughout the international community. Japan will contribute to the creation of a sturdy society against disaster through sharing with the international community the lessons learned from its experiences of major disasters including the Great East Japan Earthquake and supporting the efforts of individual countries.

More than a year has passed since the unprecedented massive disaster. It is important that Japan overcome from inward-looking tendency with Japan's potentiality and Japanese people's resilience which are exercised during crisis and play an even greater leadership role in the international community toward its own revitalization and resolution of various global issues.

Special Feature

Great East Japan Earthquake

1. Bonds of Friendship (*Kizuna*) between the International Community and Japan, and "Open Reconstruction" (1) Japan's and the International Community's Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 was a historical disaster for Japan. It left more than 15,000 people dead, 3,000 missing, and 6,000 injured. The disaster, including the subsequent accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, brought the total number of evacuees to 470,000 within three days.

This disaster not only inflicted unbearable pain on those affected but also posed challenges on Japan that could have weakened its influence in the international community. However, this disaster also brought an opportunity for the people of Japan to recognize anew high esteem the world holds in Japan and strong bonds of friendship between Japan and the world are. The nobility, resilience, and discipline demonstrated by the Japanese people despite the massive damage and chaos as well as the admiration by the world for such behaviour brought confidence and pride to the Japanese people. We must never forget that many of the foreign nationals who lived in the disaster-struck area also made great contribution to rescue operations, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.

Countries, regions, and organizations all over the world offered assistance and expressed their solidarity with Japan, which faced a national crisis. The governments and authorities of 163 countries and regions, and 43 international organizations offered to provide rescue teams, relief supplies, and donations. Eventually, Japan received rescue and expert teams from 24 countries/regions and five international organizations, as well as relief supplies and donations from 126 countries/regions and international organizations.¹ The total scale of assistance in terms of the number of countries and people involved was much larger since private and/or non-governmental organizations and individuals contributed as well. The governments of many least developed countries (LDCs)² also offered assistance. There were numerous cases in which elementary school pupils in low-income communities spontaneously sent their pocket money to Japanese diplomatic missions. Literally, Japan received supports from all over the world.

Such generous assistance could be attributed to relationships of mutual trust that Japan has built with countries through its efforts towards peace and stability in the world, persistent efforts in international cooperation through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the respect for Japanese culture and technology.

The Japanese people's response to the disaster and the steady progress towards reconstruction have raised the international community's expectations for and appreciation of Japan. Japan should have more confidence and pride in itself. Furthermore, Japan should not only overcome the disaster, but also make greater efforts to address global issues such as development cooperation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, climate change, and disarmament and non-proliferation more than ever. Such efforts are not only requital for what the international community has done for Japan but also a means to build a peaceful and stable international community, which is essential for the prosperity of Japan itself.



Messages from students at the Department of Japanese Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University-Hanoi, Viet Nam.

¹ See the appendix at the end for the outlines of the assistance.

² LDC refers to a country whose three-year average estimate of gross national income per capita is less than 750 USD. A total of 25 LDCs extended assistance to Japan.

Map of sites where rescue teams from foreign countries, regions, and international organizations operating (as of 15th September)



Message cards from students at Escuela Puerta Abierta (elementary and junior high schools in Argentina) sent to the Japanese Embassy.



"Go for It! Japan" Campaign in Kiev, Ukraine

Selected political leaders who visited the region damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake

Visitor	Destination of visit	Date of the visit
Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard	Minami-Sanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture	April 23
Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and ROK President Lee Myung Bak	Affected areas and evacuation centers in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture and Fukushima Cities, Fukushima Prefecture	May 21
The U.S. President pro tempore of the United States of Senate Daniel Inoye	Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture	June 3
Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Mrs. Yudhoyono	Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture	June 18
The International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano	TEPCO's Fukushima Daiich Nuclear Power Plant	July 25
Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith	Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture	August 1
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon	Fukushima and Soma cities, Fukushima Prefecture	August 7-8
The U.S. Vice President Joe Biden	Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture	August 23
French National Assembly President Bernard Accoyer	Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture	September 14
Philippine President Benigno Aquino	Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture	September 26
French Prime Minister François Fillon	Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture	October 22
German President Christian Wulff	Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture	October 25
Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck	Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture	November 18
Timor Leste President José Ramos-Horta	Sendai and Natori Cities, Miyagi Prefecture	January 20, 2012

(2) Open Reconstruction

Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and reconstruction of disaster-hit areas remain the top priority for the Government of Japan. Warm support and solidarity offered by the international community, on the one hand, and the significant disruption of international supply chain caused by the disaster on the other, reminded us once again how closely Japan and the world are linked together. In line with one of the basic schemes stated in the “Basic Policy for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake”, (Decision of the Reconstruction Headquarter on July 2011), as we face reconstruction, it is important, for the purpose of reconstruction process being open to the world, by reinforcing *kizuna*, the bonds of friendship with the international community so as to incorporate its dynamisms that is not inward-looking. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan continues its efforts to contribute to this open reconstruction in day-to-day diplomatic activities.

In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is addressing the follows; (1) continuing its utmost efforts to address measures against harmful rumors overseas, (2) promoting foreign direct investment in the disaster-hit areas and other parts of Japan utilizing schemes such as the system of Special Zone for Reconstruction, (3) promoting the acceptance of foreign nationals who may help revitalize Japan considering the fact that foreign researchers and technical experts are leaving Japan in the wake of the March 11 disaster, (4) expanding the overseas market for products from the disaster-struck areas using ODA, (5) ensuring opportunities for equal competition for Japanese businesses and products through the promotion of free trade, lastly (6) sharing the knowledge and lessons learned from the disaster and the reconstruction process with international community as international public goods. To this extent, the Government of Japan plans to host an international conference in summer 2012 regarding disaster reduction in the disaster-stricken Tohoku region to advance international cooperation in the field of disaster management which Japan regards as its vital task to carry out in the sake of having experienced one of the world's worst disasters.

The Great East Japan Earthquake struck when Japan was already facing a “looming crisis” as was

highlighted by severe financial difficulties and the decline of economic growth associated with the decreased and aging population. Japan is, as it were, in “crisis within a crisis”.

Along with these activities, Japan will pursue development of disaster-hit areas to be sustainable through managing post-disaster reconstruction. This will surely be a pioneering example of Japan’s revitalisation. Once its revitalisation being successful, Japan will be able to share this model with the international community as a lead runner in problem-solving.

2. Japan’s International Response after the Accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

(1) Sharing Information with the International Community

The accident at TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is an unprecedented event that no other country has ever experienced. It is unprecedented in that it was a combination of natural disasters and a nuclear accident, that the situation developed simultaneously at multiple plants, and that it lasted for a long time. Therefore, it was extremely important for Japan to provide information on the accident to the international community. Likewise, it became an important responsibility for Japan to share with the international community the knowledge and lessons learned from a thorough investigation of the accident and to contribute to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide.

From this point of view, Japan has been actively engaged in sharing information. In particular, at the summit level, Prime Minister Naoto Kan gave explanations directly to the world leaders on such occasions as the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting on May 22 and the G8 Summit 2011 in Deauville on May 26-27. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda also did so at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security on September 22. Such explanations were also given by the Japanese side at other occasions including bilateral summit meetings and foreign ministerial meetings.

In June, Japan submitted a detailed accident report with hundreds of pages to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety for the benefit of the international community.³ Also at the IAEA General Conference in September, Japan released a follow-up report that contained the actions taken on the lessons that had been reported in June, additional information on the accident and the progress in working to bring the accident under control.

In addition, Japan sought to deliver accurate information through its Embassies and Consulates to overseas high-ranking government officials and experts as well as through TV appearance and local media interviews with Japan’s ambassadors, press releases, microblogging and other media.⁴

From March 13 onward, the Government of Japan briefed the diplomatic missions in Tokyo on a daily basis with the attendance of the relevant ministries and agencies. The foreign press in Japan received daily briefings from the Prime Minister’s Office with the relevant ministries and agencies in attendance and high-ranking government officials took every opportunity including interviews to disseminate information to the foreign media. The Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and its diplomatic missions, and relevant ministries and agencies continued to release the latest information on their websites.⁵



Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda delivers a speech at the UN High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security in New York on September 22 (photo by the Cabinet Public Relations Office)

³ IAEA runs the Response Assistance Network (RANET) whereby competent authorities and organizations that offer assistance to the Member States register for the sharing of information and providing assistance in the case of a nuclear accident. Japan called for making the registration entries more specific and increasing the number of Member States among other proposals.

⁴ For a period of one month until April 11, Japan alone took a total of about 1,500 actions regarding overseas public relations in connection with the March 11 disaster. These included TV appearances, interviews, press releases, and messages from ambassadors.

⁵ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted disaster-related information on its website in four languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. Disaster-related information is being made available in a total of 39 languages in addition to English on the websites of its diplomatic missions around the world.

(2) Proposals to the International Community Based on the Experience and Lessons Learned from the Accident

While working to settle the accident, Japan has sought to share with the international community the knowledge and lessons learned from the process.

In this context, Prime Minister Naoto Kan announced at the G8 Summit in Deauville in May that Japan would host an international conference on nuclear safety in Japan in co-sponsorship with the IAEA in the second half of 2012. In the discussions at the G8 process, IAEA and other fora, Japan made five major proposals to enhance international nuclear safety: (i) strengthening IAEA safety standards and facilitating their application; (ii) expanding the IAEA Safety Assessment Missions; (iii) expanding the IAEA registration scheme for assistance during nuclear accidents⁶; (iv) encouraging stronger partnership among nuclear safety regulatory authorities, and (v) strengthening the nuclear safety-related conventions. These proposals were reflected in the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety endorsed at the IAEA General Conference on September 22.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda addressed the leaders' session at the outset of the UN High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security in New York on September 22, and Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba co-chaired a concurrent session of the Meeting. They presented the knowledge and lessons learned from the nuclear accident in Fukushima.

(3) Assistance from the International Community

As has been mentioned in 1. (1), substantial assistance was offered from abroad in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Many countries and international organizations provided assistance to help Japan respond to the nuclear accident in Fukushima as well. This assistance included dispatching of nuclear experts and the supply of nuclear-related equipment such as large water spray pump units, remote-controlled robots, protective body armors and protective masks, radiation measuring instruments, and personal radiation dosimeters.

(4) Addressing Harmful Rumors

Following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, quite a few countries and regions tightened their regulations on products imported from Japan as well as their citizens travelling to Japan. These regulations varied by countries and regions, including certificates of origin to be attached as a prerequisite, radiation testing at the customs clearance, bans on imports, and travel advisories not to visit Japan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, through its diplomatic missions, has examined the state of these restrictions and shared information with relevant ministries, agencies, and organizations in Japan. In the mean time, the Ministry explained the latest situation regarding Japan's measures to regulatory authorities overseas and urged them to ease excessive regulations.

As part of efforts to revive and strengthen the Japan Brand, the Ministry has proactively disseminated information overseas on the progress of reconstruction, the allure of the Tohoku Region and other parts of Japan, and Japanese technologies and products. This was delivered through means such as overseas public relations projects, media relations, participation in tourism exhibitions with Japan booths, and publicity using photographs and videos. In Japan, the Ministry has regularly held briefing sessions for diplomatic missions and the foreign media in Tokyo, with the attendance of the relevant ministries and agencies. The Ministry, together with other ministries and agencies, organized information sessions for foreign business persons residing in Japan and organizations in Japan in cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO).

Long-term efforts are necessary to cast away the excessive import restrictions and travel restriction and to dispel harmful rumors in major countries. To this end, the Ministry will continue to provide accurate information in a timely manner regarding the nuclear power plant and food safety to foreign governments, foreign media, and other organizations to have better understanding.

⁶ Japan announced a total of 28 lessons learned from the accident under five categories: (i) "strengthen preventive measures against a severe accident" ; (ii) "enhancement of response measures against severe accidents" ; (iii) "enhancement of nuclear emergency responses" ; (iv) "reinforcement of the safety infrastructure" ; and (v) "thoroughly instill a safety culture." For the full text, see http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/kan/topics/201106/pdf/chapter_xii.pdf.

"Koalas Came to Town!"

Australian Prime Minister Gillard visits Minami-Sanriku Town

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in March, Japan received warm supports from people all over the world. Among many foreign dignitaries who visited the afflicted areas, Prime Minister Julia Gillard of Australia was the first to do so. She visited Minami-Sanriku Town, where the Australian search and rescue team carried out their operations. Her visit was made possible with the warm support of the town.

On April 23, thick fog over Sendai Airport made us worried whether the visit could be realized. However, the plane with Prime Minister Gillard on board successfully landed at the airport at the third attempt. She left for Minami-Sanriku Town by land thanks to the cooperation of the Miyagi Prefectural Police. Upon her arrival, Prime Minister Gillard visited the remains of the town's disaster management center, accompanied by Foreign Minister Matsumoto and Mr. Rob McNeil, the leader of the Australian rescue team. Mr. Jin Sato, Mayor of the town, explained how the tsunami devastated the town on March 11.

Prime Minister Gillard then visited an evacuation center (Bay Side Arena). She was greeted by the warm welcome of the town's people there. Prime Minister Gillard handed stuffed dolls of koala and kangaroo she had brought from Australia and the children were very much delighted. I also took part in the delivery relay, passing the dolls to the Prime Minister. Not many koalas left in the stockpile, I was trying to hand a kangaroo doll to a nearby child however the child become so angry with me and shouted, "No!! I want a koala doll from auntie Gillard!" Prime Minister Gillard was that popular. Then, Prime Minister Gillard had conversation with family members. She politely took her shoes off when she entered a space partitioned off by pieces of corrugated cardboard.

After we saw her off, the mayor told me and Australian colleagues, "This is the first time we saw their many happy faces in town since March 11. I am so grateful that Prime Minister Gillard came to see us". When Foreign Minister Matsumoto passed on the message to Prime Minister Gillard, she was smiling all over, clapping her hands with joy. I learned later that Minami-Sanriku Town, in particular, left a deep impression on her among her visit to Japan, South Korea and China.

Hitoshi Kozaki

Deputy Director, Oceania Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau
(Mr. Kozaki accompanied Prime Minister Gillard to Minami-Sanriku Town.)



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard hands out koala dolls to children (photo by Minami-Sanriku Town)



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, at the center, is briefed by Foreign Minister Matsumoto on the damage during her visit to Minami-Sanriku Town.