

Chapter 3

Japan's Foreign Policy in Major Global Issues

1. Efforts for the Peace and Stability for Japan and the International Community

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe year to year. North Korea has continued nuclear and missile development including uranium enrichment activities in violation of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Moreover, the impact of the death of Kim Jong-Il, Chairman of the National Defense Commission, which was announced on December 19, 2011, remains to be seen. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to closely monitor for the developments in North Korea. Furthermore, insufficient transparency over China's military buildup and its intensified maritime activities in the area of sea around them are concern for the regional and global community. Additionally, in response to the developments such as its economic recovery, Russia is modernizing its military strength and becoming more active in the Far East. Moreover, it is necessary to respond to global issues that would be very difficult for a single nation to address on its own, such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, international terrorism, piracy, large-scale disasters, and cyber attacks, which constitute new types of threats to security.

In order for Japan to respond to such security issues to maintain its territorial integrity, to protect the lives and properties of Japanese citizens, and to ensure the sustainable prosperity and development as well as the stability of the international community, Japan must pursue a multifaceted security policy to address not only traditional but also non-traditional threats.

Firstly, active effort by Japan itself is important. From this viewpoint, Japan's defense forces need to

acquire dynamism to effectively deter and respond to various contingencies and to contribute effectively to further stabilizing the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and improving the global security environment in accordance with the new National Defense Program Guidelines approved by the Cabinet in December 2010. In this context, the Government of Japan formulated Guidelines for Overseas Transfer of Defense Equipment etc. in December 2011 in response to increasing expectations for the peace contribution activities and changes in the international environment in which it has become the mainstream among developed countries to participate in international joint development and production project. Henceforward, overseas transfer of defense equipment etc. will be conducted based on these guidelines.

Secondly, it is important to further deepen and develop the Japan-U.S. alliance, which is the linchpin of Japan's diplomacy and security and a public good for not only the Asia-Pacific region but also the international community, by way of adopting the today's international situation. Based on the results of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2" Meeting) in June 2011, Japan and the U.S. have been consulting closely with each other to make progress in concrete Japan-U.S. security and defense cooperation in a broad range of areas including missile defense, extended deterrence,¹ maritime, space and cyber security and information security. In addition, despite a severe fiscal situation, on various occasions, the U.S. has stated its intention to maintain and enhance the presence of the U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region, including the U.S.

¹ The concept of providing deterrence with one's own military capabilities to defend its ally from attacks by other countries.

forces in Japan. At the same time, both Japan and the U.S. will cooperate to make steady implementation of the realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan, including the relocation of the Futenma Air Station, in order to reduce the burden on Okinawa as soon as possible while maintaining deterrence.

Thirdly, it is also necessary to build multilayered security cooperation relations. It is important for Japan to promote bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Australia, that are fellow U.S. allies and countries that share fundamental values and strategic interests, as well as to advance trilateral cooperation under the Japan-U.S.-ROK and Japan-U.S.-Australia frameworks. Also, it is meaningful to strive to strengthen the relations with the countries that share interests in maritime security including freedom of navigation, and other issues at the same time to strengthen cooperative relations with China and Russia, that are major powers in the region. In addition to such efforts, Japan will utilize multilateral regional cooperation frameworks such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus), and strengthen multilayered cooperative relations among these individual frameworks.

Japan's security and prosperity can be achieved not only by improving the security environment surrounding Japan, but also by consolidating peace and stability of the international community. Based on the idea that Japan's the security and prosperity are ensured by actively addressing various challenges in the international community, Japan has been working proactively to solve the various issues of the world.

For Example, Japan has actively participated in international efforts to maintain peace and stability such as the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). In conflict regions, Japan is addressing peacebuilding as one of its major diplomatic issues, which is the seamless efforts ranging from the promotion of peace processes and emergency humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of conflicts to security maintenance, reconstruction and long term development, while also paying attention to prevent conflict recurrence and to build the foundation for development towards sustainable peace. Japan's peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts include contribution to the United Nations (UN) PKO, field efforts by utilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA), efforts at the UN and human resources development.



Operation by Self-Defense Forces engineering unit dispatched to United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) since 2010 (Haiti, photo: Ministry of Defense)

Securing maritime security is not only crucial for Japan's existence and prosperity as a maritime and trading nation but also extremely important for regional economic development. In particular, the piracy issue off the coast of Somalia is very serious

as it affects transportation of goods such as crude oil and other products from the Gulf states or Europe to Japan. In 2011, the number of piracy attacks on vessels in those waters reached a record high, and there was also a case of pirates, who attacked a

vessel affiliated with Japan, being sent to Japan for trial. Japan is making efforts to resolve the piracy issue by taking a multilayered approach, which includes not only the deployment of Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, but also mid-and-long term initiatives such as assisting countries around Somalia to enhance capabilities for preventing, suppressing, or prosecuting pirates for the purpose of stabilizing Somalia.

Even today 10 years after the 2001 terrorist attacks upon the U.S., terrorism remains a major threat to the international community as acts of terrorism continue to occur, and their methods and actors are diversifying. Furthermore, the progress of globalization and advances in information and communications technologies have resulted in the escalation of transnational organized crimes, which are conducted in large-scale and systematic ways across national borders. Terrorism and transnational organized crime pose major threats to the safety of civil society, the “rule of law”, and the market economy. They are threats to Japan, and at the same time they should be addressed by the international community with cooperative efforts. Japan contributes proactively to discussion and cooperation to counter terrorism and transnational organized crimes in the UN, the G8, and regional frameworks such as ASEAN.

Based on its moral responsibility as the only country in the world to have suffered the devastation caused by atomic bombs, and in order to improve the security environment surrounding the country as well, Japan is making proactive efforts toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Under the framework of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), a cross-regional group established chiefly by Japan and Australia in September 2010, the second and third foreign ministers’ meetings were held in April and September 2011 respectively, and these meetings featured substantial discussion of important issues in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, including increasing transparency on nuclear weapons and a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty

(FMCT). In addition, the resolution on nuclear disarmament that Japan submits annually to the UN General Assembly was submitted again in 2011 under the title, “United Action towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,” attracting the largest number ever of co-sponsor nations (99 nations) and was adopted with overwhelming majority support. Also, during the UN Disarmament Week in October 2011, Japan held a side event, co-sponsored with the UN, in which two Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons² shared their experiences of the atomic bomb blasts. Through efforts such as these and by communicating the horrible realities of nuclear weapons, Japan is working proactively to lead the discussion in the international community in the area of nuclear disarmament.

In addition to these issues, the international community has still been faced with diverse challenges beyond borders, including poverty, hunger, infectious diseases, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, regional conflicts, and global environmental problems. Under such conditions the role played by the UN in the international community of today continues to grow in its importance. As the sole international organization with universal membership and comprehensive capacities, the UN continues to work for the maintenance of peace and security of the international community through the activities of such organs as the General Assembly and the Security Council, by advancing international cooperation in a variety of fields. In addition, it also endeavors to enhance friendly relationship among nations.

For the international community to unite toward resolving the diverse challenges it faces, it is important for the UN to take appropriate measures by further improving its performance and efficiency and strengthening its functions. From this perspective, Japan is striving for the early realization of UN reform, especially the Security Council reform, and is playing a leading role in major international organizations including the UN, while making further human resource contributions, in addition to financial contributions.

² Prime Minister Kan announced the foundation of the Special Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons program at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki peace memorial ceremonies in August 2010, and the first appointment was made in September. Under this program, the Japanese government supports the efforts of atomic bomb survivors to communicate the horrible realities of nuclear weapons to the broader international community through the sharing of their personal experiences by appointing them as Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons. As of January 2012, a total of 61 persons had been commissioned as Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons.

The establishment of the “rule of law” in the international community is an important factor in promoting stable relations between countries, peaceful settlement of disputes, and “good governance” within countries. Japan regards the establishment of the “rule of law” in the international community as one of the pillars of its foreign policy, and is actively implementing various efforts towards this end. Establishing the “rule of law” is also important from the perspectives of maintaining the integrity of Japan's national territories, for securing maritime and economic interests, and for protecting one's own citizens.

Fully guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal values,

contributes to the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous society in each country, and leads to the peace and stability of the international community. Japan focuses on dialogue and cooperation, taking into account the particularity and diverse historical and cultural backgrounds of each country and region with a view to improving the human rights situations in the world, based on the view that protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms is basic responsibility of states. Japan will advance human-rights diplomacy in a comprehensive manner, by linking efforts in multilateral venues, such as the UN, and bilateral efforts through human rights dialogues.

2. Japan's International Cooperation (ODA and Response to Global Issues)

In 2011, the warm-hearted support from the international community in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in March made Japan recognize anew the ties connecting it with the rest of the world. To respond to the solidarity demonstrated by the world, as well as to help build a peaceful and stable world that Japan requires, Japan needs to make proactive contribution to the peace and stability of the international community at an even greater level than before, through faithful

implementation of its international commitments regarding ODA. Japan has steadily been fulfilling the international commitment it has made, including the efforts toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the deadline of 2015; supporting the African region where MDGs efforts are behind schedule; and assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan, both of which are very important to peace and stability of the international community.



Saint Bernard Town (Southern Leyte, hit by massive mudslide in 2006) started fund-raising activities to return the favor to Japan which gave assistance to the town after the disaster in 2006. “The amount may be small, but we want to show our gratitude to Japan”, the mayor says. (Philippines)

With regard to Asian nations, with whom Japan has close relations, Japan has implemented assistance centered on infrastructural development such as transportation networks. In response to the flooding damage in Thailand and countries in its vicinity,

Japan has provided emergency assistance such as dispatching Japan Disaster Relief Expert Teams and conducted disaster-prevention and recovery assistance such as formulating a new master plan for flood control measures. In response to the so-

A Field Report from South Sudan on Peacebuilding Assistance in a Post-Independence Setting: Assistance Provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

On July 9, 2011, the new state of the Republic of South Sudan was born as the 193rd member state of the United Nations. Many precious lives were lost and numerous people had fled to neighboring countries as refugees caused by Sudanese civil war that had lasted for about four decades. The newly independent state South Sudan is still unstable. While ethnic conflicts continue to ravage the country, air strikes, allegedly carried out by the Sudan Armed Force, generate refugees in the area near the undefined north and south border at the time of independence of South Sudan.

Under the circumstances, UNHCR South Sudan office focuses on two major areas of activities: (i) support for the repatriation and



Clothing that is donated by a Japanese company is distributed among persons who have been displaced internally by an ethnic conflict that erupted in Jonglei State (Ms. Kaneda at left)

the resettlement of returnees from Sudan and other neighboring countries; and (ii) emergency humanitarian relief for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) caused by the ethnic conflicts and Sudanese refugees near the border. I have been dispatched to UNHCR South Sudan office as a UN volunteer under the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. This program offers a six-week training on peacebuilding to Japanese and Asian Program Associates (PAs) in Japan, after which all Japanese and some of Asian PAs dispatches to fields of peacebuilding around the world as UN volunteers. The period of overseas attachment is one year for Japanese PAs and six months for some Asian PAs.

I majored in architecture in the university as I was motivated to tackle housing problems in developing countries. While in the university, I served as an intern for UN agencies in Indonesia and supported reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the 2004 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the 2006 earthquake in central Java. After graduating, I joined a private management consulting firm and acquired various skills. Through the experience in the private company, I desired to challenge for the work of assistance to developing countries. The desire finally urged me to apply to this program.

The reintegration unit of UNHCR South Sudan office provides assistance to returnees peacefully reintegrated into local communities. This project aims at supporting returnees and host communities to promote peaceful coexistence without any conflicts over limited resources (water, land, etc.) and social facilities (clinics, schools, etc.). My main task at the unit is the management of the shelter project for returnees, which is underway in all ten states in South Sudan. Since the project is unable to cover all returnees, it focuses its targets on some vulnerable returnees' groups such as the elderly, single mothers, and child-only families.

Working in a country far from Japan where the culture and values are different does involve some difficulties as well as delightful experiences. Something that I find difficult to understand in daily life is the diversity of disposition that varies from one tribe to another, and the sentiment that each of the tribes has toward each other. There is still demarcation line among tribes; people in South Sudan think of themselves more as the Dinka, the Murle, the Nuer, and so forth than as "the South Sudanese." I have to take different approaches to communicate with different people because of their distinctive dispositions. In order that South Sudan becomes an affluent unified nation in the long run, it is required that they make efforts to get over the demarcation line among tribes and to contribute to the development of the nation as the South Sudanese. In the meantime, the time I feel glad about working here, despite the heat and infectious diseases such as

malaria, is when I see the beneficiaries decorating their shelters in their own way and reconstructing their lives. It gives me a great pleasure to see the people using their creativities to make their shelters “their own house and the basis for rebuilding their lives,” something more than just shelters, without merely depending on assistance.

When I applied for this program, I was somewhat worried about what I could do in the unfamiliar area of peacebuilding. However the short-term training course gave me the basic knowledge and enabled me to join a network of civilian experts around the world. I learned in the field that civilian experts in various fields utilize the advantage of their own expertise under the broad concept of peacebuilding. Before joining this program, I thought that only specialists of peace studies, human rights, international politics, humanitarian assistance or other related areas were working in the field of peacebuilding. However, what I realized here is that wide range of expertise will be useful in the field of peacebuilding. For instance, in the case that an ethnic conflict occurred in one of the states; villages are set on fire, leaving many people injured and homeless. The evacuation of the injured may not be possible without a pilot, and the delivery of emergency humanitarian relief such as food, water, and shelter to the homeless may not be possible without people experienced in procurement, logistics, financing or engineering. To put it another way, expertise of various fields that private sector workers in developed countries have acquired through their specialised work has an important role to play in peacebuilding. It is needless to say that human resources like Japanese, who are generally hard-working, assiduous, and precise, are needed in what may be at the center of humanitarian assistance, which does not have a moment to lose.

In my future, I hope to build specialities on my field experience under this program, and to become a peacebuilder to contribute to peacebuilding.

Keiko Kaneda
Program Associate of the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia
for Peacebuilding,
UNHCR South Sudan



The shelter project for returnees in Central Equatoria State

called “Arab Spring” that has spread across the Middle East and North Africa, Japan is proactively supporting the reform efforts of each country in that region, including efforts to achieve the transition to the stable systems in those countries.

ODA is an important means of expressing Japan’s gratitude to the solidarity shown by the international community in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. At the same time, it plays an important role to advance an open reconstruction of Japan in cooperation with the international community for a quick reconstruction from the earthquake. The ODA will continue to be utilized for the reconstruction of affected areas and Japan’s economy. For example, supplying products of affected areas through ODA to developing countries on the basis of their needs accelerates the reconstruction of industries in the areas and counter reputational damages. In addition, through resuming Private Sector Investment Finance by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), promoting public-private partnerships including assistance to SMEs, and expanding the scope of countries and fields eligible for ODA loans, it has been an important challenge of Japan’s ODA to support overseas infrastructure development by Japanese firms and to combine the economic growth of both developing countries and Japan.

To carry out such international cooperation actively and steadily, public understanding and support is essential. For this purpose, it is important to involve various actors such as Japanese companies including SMEs, NGOs, and local governments in ODA projects to deepen their understanding of the importance of ODA as well as to fully mobilize their skills and knowledge. It is also important to enhance the efficiency and transparency of aid. Thus the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has formulated Country Assistance Policies for each recipient country and established the new Development Project Accountability Committee as a forum for exchanging opinions with the experts. Furthermore, the website called “the ODA Visibility” was established to make the current status and achievement of all the ODA projects in principle visible on the websites of the Ministry and JICA, to release information systematically.

In recent years emerging countries are rapidly playing large roles in the field of development, and there is a renewed recognition of the roles played by the private sector in developing countries in terms

of their economic growth. In light of such structural changes of the aid in the international community, there is a need for traditional donor countries, including Japan, to conduct effective aid in cooperation with diverse aid-relating parties. Development is discussed as one of the key agenda items in the G20, whose membership includes emerging countries, and the first Ministerial Meeting on Development was held in 2011. In the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in November include approximately 160 countries, international institutions, and NGOs and other members of the private sector took part, and they reached an agreement on the final outcome document that pointed out the importance of the transparency and results of aid and called for efforts such as toward the construction of a framework for cooperation involving diverse aid-relating parties. While cooperating to organize this forum, Japan also actively took part in discussions as a major donor country to formulate this final document.

Japan has also been tackling global issues. As globalization is rapidly progressing, the threats to human security, namely the threats to people’s survival, livelihoods, and dignity, are diversifying and intensifying. Those threats include the internationalization of domestic conflicts, terrorism, the spread of infectious diseases, issues of human trafficking and refugees accompanying the expansion of migration, economic crises, spread of poverty-related problems, environmental and climate-change issues, and natural disasters. In order to respond to such issues, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation in the international community toward the achievement of the shared goals including the MDGs and realization of sustainable development. Considering that the achievement of the MDGs is necessary to attain human security, Japan continues to make proactive contributions and is leading the efforts in the international community. Japan is also playing a leading role in discussions on the Post MDGs, the international development framework beyond 2015, (the year 2015 is the deadline to achieve the MDGs) Japan believes that the international community should establish a set of shared goals and work together beyond 2015. Furthermore, considering the transition to green economy that can balance economic growth and environmental protection to be an important issue for realization of sustainable growth worldwide, Japan contributed actively to the discussions in fora

such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

On the subject of global environment, the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Nagoya in 2010, was able to achieve important results such as adopting the “Nagoya Protocol” and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Despite the great national crisis of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan has made clear to the international community that its position to address the efforts on climate change is unwavering and continues proactive efforts in this area. Amid difficult negotiations in the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Japan was able to achieve considerable results by contributing proactively to the debate, as the conference was able to make progress toward a future framework, reflecting Japan's proposals. At the COP17, Japan announced “Japan's Vision and Actions toward Low Carbon Growth and a Climate Resilient World” to effectively address global warming, and regional cooperation is being advanced through practical efforts under this vision such as formulating a strategy regarding low-carbon growth in Africa and advancing “East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership”. Through such efforts, Japan will make active contributions toward the achievement of low-carbon growth worldwide.

There has been a growing international debate on issues such as environment, opening of shipping routes, and development of natural resources in the Arctic Region. Recognizing the need to be appropriately involved in such debate, Japan is strengthening its participation in international discussions regarding the Arctic Region, such as submitting a formal application for permanent observer status at the Arctic Council. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has

established the Arctic Task Force (ATF) in order to make a cross-sectoral approach towards Japan's foreign policy on the Arctic and to advance appropriate policies. In addition to sharing the related information and exchanging opinions regularly, ATF holds study meetings on the Arctic region.

Concerning Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty adopted in 1959 stipulate Antarctica as the area south of 60 degrees South Latitude and introduces basic principles in the area such as (1) the use of Antarctica for peaceful purpose, (2) international cooperation and freedom of scientific investigation, and (3) freeze on territorial rights and claims. Japan is promoting research and observation activities in Antarctica in accordance with these basic principles and is striving to preserve the environment of Antarctica based on the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty adopted under the Antarctic Treaty in 1991, and is contributing to the maintenance of the Antarctic Treaty System.

The international community holds high interest in and expectations at Japan's scientific and space technologies, which rank at the highest level in the world. The Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan, approved by the Cabinet in August 2011, stipulates the need for new development of science and technology diplomacy. To advance science and technology of Japan and the world as a whole, to achieve sustainable growth and to resolve global issues, Japan is actively making efforts in enhancing science and technology cooperation through bilateral joint committees, dispatch of scientists and experts, and multilateral cooperation in fields such as nuclear fusion. In the field of outer space, Japan is advancing cooperation in various areas with the U.S. and contributing actively to the creation of international norms to develop a safe space environment in order to address the rapid increase of space debris.

3. Economic Diplomacy

It is becoming more and more important to actively promote economic diplomacy as the economic condition in Japan and abroad is becoming increasingly severe as represented in increasing instability in international financial markets, declining population, the falling birthrate and the aging population, and the fiscal deficit. In addition, the government's top priorities have been Japan's

recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and giving priority to addressing the reconstruction-related issues is required in promoting economic diplomacy.

The fundamental concept behind economic diplomacy toward reconstruction is a ‘Reconstruction Open to the World,’ as incorporated in “Basic Policy for the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

A Message from Mr. Kanetoshi Oda, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nippon Poly-Glu Co., Ltd.

My dream is that one day people throughout the world can drink unboiled water without any worries. With this dream in mind, my company developed affordable and safe water deparatives and now we export the products to Bangladesh and other developing countries. It all started when I experienced the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995 in Kobe. Drinking water was in short supply and I thought, "There is a pond in front of me. How helpful it would be if I could use this water for drinking". This was how I came to establish Nippon Poly-Glu Co., Ltd. in 2002. At the beginning, I was thinking of the domestic market only. However, on second thoughts, I realized that safe drinking water was mostly needed in the developing world.

I myself countlessly went to Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, saleswomen called "Poly-Glue Ladies" go from door to door in villages and sell our products with a demonstration in which they add the water deparatives to the muddy water in a glass and stir it up, with the result that the upper half of the glass of water is purified. At first, I tried to "teach" local employees how to sell the products but then I decided to leave sales method to them. That was when everything started to go smoothly. They thought on their own and exchanged ideas on how to sell the products.

It took me a while and I made tremendous efforts before I realized that to let of the local staff have their own way was the key to successful business. I am sure that companies in a similar sector will be able to put their businesses on track sooner based on my experience. I believe that the Japanese are innately best at the bottom-of-the-pyramid (BOP) businesses. However, the problem is that many companies just cannot take a first step. I wish they would start their businesses from what they can do even though it would be a small step, rather than flinching before the sheer scale of the business or the risks involved. Small and medium-sized enterprises should be agile enough to take up the challenge.

At present, we sell water deparatives in about 40 countries. We plan to expand our business more to developing countries where our products are needed. In 2012, my company was introduced to UNICEF India through the MDGs Public-Private Partnership Network by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are thinking of helping improve the water situation in India, where many infants die from diarrhea. As a first step, we are planning to conduct a field survey there. We still have a long way to go, but it would be an ideal business for companies if business profits and social contribution can go together.

Kanetoshi Oda
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Nippon Poly-Glu Co., Ltd.



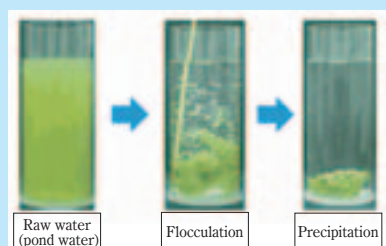
Children waiting in line for drinking water (Mr. Oda at center) in Bangladesh



"Poly-Glu" Ladies at work in Bangladesh



Children gathered around Poly-Glu water in Bangladesh



The water deparatives make the water clean and drinkable.

Reconstruction Efforts,” which was adopted in July 2011. The solidarity and support from around the world that Japan received after the Great East Japan Earthquake showed anew the close ties between Japan and the world. In light of this, Japan aims to promote reconstruction in the disaster-struck areas, which would be a pioneer case to eventually revitalize the entire Japanese economy, by strengthening bonds (*kizuna*) with the international community and incorporating various types of vigor from abroad.

As a result of the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant after the earthquake, many countries and regions imposed restrictions on import from Japan, including prohibiting import of Japanese products or requiring safety certificates of products imported from Japan. Active release of information and lobbying resulted in reduction of the regions and products subject to restrictions, but restrictions on Japanese products still remain in effect in many countries and regions. In close cooperation and coordination with relevant government ministries, agencies and institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan will continue to provide accurate information in a timely manner on the latest situation in Japan and the safety of Japanese products to foreign governments, international institutions, foreign industrial sector and media, to promote relaxing and lifting of the restrictions.

The earthquake became a reminder of the importance of securing energy and other resources for Japan. While Japan depends on imports for the majority of its energy, mineral resources, food, and other resources, it has become an even more important diplomatic issue to secure stable supplies of resources as demand is increasing in emerging countries recently, and in 2011 in particular the situation in the Middle East and North Africa became unstable and the effects of the earthquake continue. From this point of view, Japan is strengthening multi-layered cooperative relations with resource producing countries, promoting diversification of supply sources, and advancing international partnership and cooperation through the International Energy Agency (IEA), the

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Japan is also working on formulation of principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), as its own initiative for food security.

Since fishery resources are valuable sources of nutrition not only for Japan but also for the entire world, Japan is playing an active role in securing sustainable use of fishery resources by utilizing its experience and technologies in the fisheries field and working with the regional fishery management organizations³ as a responsible fishing nation, while taking into consideration of the need for environmental protection at the same time. While cooperating with other countries, Japan has been actively contributing toward developing and implementing effective conservation and management measures such as appropriate fisheries management and elimination of illegal fishing in order to preserve and manage international fishery resources based on scientific evidence.

The recovery of the world economy is slowing against the backdrop of the spread of the European sovereign debt crisis triggered by the resurgence of the Greek debt crisis in May 2011, and other factors. The G8 Deauville Summit held in May in France discussed utilizing fora such as the G20 to address risks, including those arising from the European sovereign debt crisis. While the G20 Cannes Summit held in November in France when the European sovereign debt crisis was deteriorating since summer welcomed the political commitment of European leaders toward overcoming the crisis and formulated the Cannes Action Plan to realize strong, sustainable, and balanced growth of the world economy. For the prevention of protectionism, the G20 Cannes Summit reaffirmed the commitment to measures such as rectification of protectionist measures including new export restrictions, and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting agreed to re-extend their commitment on standstill to refrain from imposing new protectionist measures through the end of 2015.

Amid such an international economic situation, it is important for Japan to achieve growth incorporating vigor of the world, especially of the strongly growing

³ These are international organizations established based on treaties on fishery management in waters of a certain size for fish such as bonito and tuna that migrate over broad areas. Examples of regional fisheries management organizations to which Japan belongs include the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Asia-Pacific region. As part of such effort, in a Cabinet decision in November 2010 the “Basic Policy on Comprehensive Economic Partnerships” the Government of Japan decided to take major steps forward from its present posture, and to promote high-level economic partnerships with major trading powers that withstand comparison with the trend of other such relationships and, at the same time, that it will first press ahead with fundamental domestic reforms in order to strengthen the competitiveness it will need for economic partnership of this kind.

On the subject of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Peru for an Economic Partnership (Japan-Peru EPA) was signed in May 2011 and the Japan-India CEPA entered into force in August. Even after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan is promoting high-level economic partnerships with a wider range of countries, in a strategic and multifaceted manner, including making progress on negotiations on an EPA between Japan and Australia as well as efforts toward the prompt resumption or launch of negotiations on EPAs such as the ones with ROK and the EU, as well as the Japan-China-ROK trilateral FTA.

In relation to broader regional economic partnerships, based on the above Basic Policy, Japan has advanced information gathering as well as consideration and discussion domestically concerning the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, which is the only path to the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) where negotiations have actually begun. In November 2011, Prime Minister Noda stated in a press conference that he had decided to enter into consultations toward participating in the TPP negotiations with the countries concerned, and he conveyed this decision to the countries concerned at the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting held in Honolulu in the same month. Regarding the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA), Prime Minister Noda stated in the ASEAN-related Summit meetings held in Bali, Indonesia in the same month that, in addition to the TPP, Japan would also take the lead in contributing to the development of frameworks for economic

partnership based on the ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, ROK) and ASEAN+6 (Japan, China, ROK, Australia, New Zealand, India), and gained the support of many countries.

In advancing liberalization of trade and investment, upholding and strengthening of the World Trade Organization (WTO) system which brings legal stability and predictability of international trade remains an important issue. At the eighth WTO Ministerial Conference held in December 2011, ministers shared the view that it was unlikely that all elements of the Doha Round negotiations could be concluded simultaneously in the near future and that explore different negotiating approaches. Japan will work proactively in pursuing these approaches.

To link the growth overseas to the growth of Japan, it is essential to continue exploring overseas markets. There is a great demand for infrastructure in the world, particularly in Asia. It is important to build “Win-Win” relationships where Japan supports development of those countries and realizes its own growth together with them by supplying Japan’s outstanding infrastructure technologies such as high-speed rail, water, and environmental technologies. From this perspective, the Ministry is working to improve and strengthen the structure for support private enterprise’s efforts by taking measures such as appointing “Specialists in Infrastructure Projects” at Japanese embassies and consulate-generals in selected countries, to provide active support for Japanese private sectors’ advancement into infrastructure development projects overseas.

Furthermore, Japan will actively promote the conclusion of investment agreements, tax treaties, and social security agreements, which are legal frameworks to support the overseas activities of Japanese firms’ as well as prepare conditions for their economic activities. The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), a new international legal framework to prevent counterfeit and pirated goods, of which negotiation began with a proposal by Japan, was signed by eight countries in Tokyo in October 2011. Japan will work toward its early entry into force as well as encourage Asian nations and other countries to participate.

4. Efforts to Promote Understanding and Trust toward Japan

The impact of public opinion on foreign policy has been increasing in recent years with the rapid

development of information and communications technology and the growth of democracy. It is thus

essential to promote interest in and affinity for Japan and build a positive image of Japan to implement foreign policy effectively by providing information, not only to governments but also directly to citizens, and by strengthening people-to-people connections.

From this point of view, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has been carrying out various policies including providing information on foreign policy to intellectuals who have influence on public opinions, introducing diverse aspects of Japanese traditional and pop culture, and promoting Japanese language education overseas through the Japan Foundation. Furthermore, to realize the New Growth Strategy approved by the Cabinet in June 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been providing information actively on the strengths of Japan and on the attractions of its regions, in partnership with related ministries and agencies of the Japanese government, and relevant institutions making good use of Japan's overseas diplomatic missions (embassies and consulate-generals), with a view to promoting strategy for the "Cool Japan" and "a tourism-oriented nation."

Since in the immediate aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided information and issued press releases to overseas media, and briefed foreign governments, experts, and businesses to communicate accurate information abroad and prevent misunderstandings of the post-quake situation in Japan. The Ministry invited related parties to visit Japan as well in order to increase their understanding of the actual situation of Japan

by seeing it with their own eyes. The Ministry also strengthened release of information using the websites, social media, and other means of information and communications technology and expressed Japan's gratitude for the support from overseas. In addition, in order to restore and strengthen trust in the Japan brand, the Ministry also promoted public relations for Japanese products, exhibited them at travel fairs and other events, and held photo exhibitions on the post-earthquake reconstruction, in cooperation with related government ministries and agencies, local governments, and businesses.

The Ministry invites international opinion leaders, journalists, other leaders and promising individuals who are likely to attain future leadership positions in order to deepen their understanding of Japan. The Ministry also supports the participation of Japanese intellectuals in international conferences to strengthen the representation by Japanese experts. Furthermore, the Ministry organizes Exchange Year programs that commemorate diplomatic anniversaries with other countries and in 2011 exchange activities were extendedly held in Germany, Kuwait, and the three Baltic states. Japan is providing international contributions in the area of culture, including the preservation and restoration of cultural properties and training of specialists, through provision of cultural grant assistance for developing countries, and cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other international organizations.



Japan booth at a sightseeing exhibition (February 2012, Philippines)

JET Programme Bonds Japanese and American Hearts: Beyond the Tragedies of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The March 11th tsunami took the precious lives of two American participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Ms. Taylor Anderson and Mr. Montgomery Dickson, both working as assistant language teachers in Ishinomaki City and Rikuzentakata City respectively, lost their lives after evacuating their students. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Dickson, who deeply loved Japanese children, have left their aspirations which bonded Japanese and American hearts. They have been handed down to their students, who keep them very much alive. Here, a message from one of Ms. Anderson's students is introduced:

A Message from Ms. Haruka Kameyama, in the third grade at Mangokuura Junior High School, in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture

I first met Ms. Taylor in her English class at the elementary school where I went to. By then, I had already attended some private English lessons because I had long been interested in English and foreign cultures. So I think I was an active student in Ms. Taylor's class. The more I learned about the cultures of foreign countries and how they differ from Japan, the more I became intrigued by their charms. Ms. Taylor was full of humor, and taught us the joy of learning English. As I learned English more, my passion of English increased. Everyone, myself included, loved Ms. Taylor so much.

The Great East Japan Earthquake completely changed what we had taken for granted. Many sad things happened. Fortunately, however, none of people close to me lost their lives. At least that was what I thought at the time.

However, I learned the sad news of Ms. Taylor's passing away some time after I returned home from the gymnasium where we and many others took shelter and newspapers began to cover more news about the disaster. I could not believe it. I was just not ready to accept what happened at that time.

Ms. Taylor, I have really learned a lot from you. I will never forget what I felt in your class such as the allure, joy and desire to learn English more. I have a dream to become an English teacher in the future. I will study harder to make that dream come true and, someday, I will be a teacher just as wonderful as you.

Thank you very much, Ms. Taylor.



Ms. Taylor, at center, talks with children (photo by Taylor Anderson Memorial Gift Fund)



Ms. Taylor gives a class. (photo by Kazuma Elementary School in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture)