

Assistance towards Myanmar's National Races

Japan highly regards the recent progress of national reconciliation, such as peace process with ethnic minorities in Myanmar. At the same time, peace process in certain areas is still ongoing and challenges for regional development still remains in many national races areas.

In the economic cooperation policy towards Myanmar, released in April of this year, we will conduct wide range of assistance such as improvement of people's livelihoods, including assistance for national races and rural development, capacity building and institutions development, development of infrastructure for sustainable economic growth. In order to promote regional development and establish peace, and to contribute to stable and sustainable development of Myanmar, we will proactively implement assistance towards national races areas.

1 Projects being Implemented

Currently, Japan is implementing assistance in accordance with challenges and needs of States, focusing on assistance in the agricultural sectors, which is the prime industry in the national races areas.

<Agriculture>

- (1) Rural Development in Northern part of Shan State through supporting diffusion and distribution of Alternative Crops of Opium Poppy (Technical Assistance) (2013/4~2018/3)
- (2) Small-scale Aquaculture Diffusion for Promotion of Livelihood of Rural Communities in Kayin State etc. (Technical Assistance) (2009/6~2013/6)
- (3) Distribution and production through circulating agriculture in South Shan State. (Technical Assistance) (2012/4~2015/4)
- (4) Diffusion of education on propagation of native medicinal orchids and high value-added economic plants among the rangers and villagers in Chin State (Technical Assistance in coraboration with Makino Memorial Foundation of Kochi Prefecture) (2011/1~2013/12)

<Reconstruction from Flood Damage, Disaster Prevention>

- (5) Provision of Construction Equipment and Agricultural Machinery for Disaster Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Flood Affected Areas including Kayin State and Rakhine State (Grant Aid) (2012/3/21 E/N) 1.6B JY

<Humanitarian Assistance>

- (6) Food assistance in 6 States/Regions such as Kayin, Rakhine, Shan, Kachin, Chin State (Grant Aid through World Food Programme (WFP)) (2012/4/8 E/N) 0.8B

JY

- (7) Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (Earmarked Contribution to UNHCR) 200M JY

<Public Health>

- (8) Assistance for Maternal and Child Health Program in Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (Supply of Nutrition supplement/Capacity building)

<Assistance towards national races in the Neighboring countries>

- (9) The Project for Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster prevention education for 9 Refugee Camps at the Thai-Myanmar border, (Grant Aid) approx. 9.8M JY
- (10) The Project for the Vocational Training in Refugee Camps at the Thai-Myanmar border (Grant Aid) approx. 14M JY

2 Projects Currently Being Considered

From now on, in order to promote regional development and establish peace through making people realize the dividend of peace, and to assist the progress of peace process, Japan will conduct projects in Kayin State, where the peace process is moving forward, as a model, and will spread best practices to other states. Japan will also continue to respond to other challenges/needs of each State, and humanitarian assistance needs.

<Regional Development>

- (1) Assistance for the Integrated Regional Development Plan to Support National Races in the South-East Area
- Support for formulating a development plan in Kayin State and Mon State for supporting planning of return and resettlement of refugees.
 - Implementation of pilot projects in sub townships in Kayin State (improvement of road and community infrastructure and support for improving livelihood).
- (2) Road Construction in Rakhine State and Kayin State
- (3) Construction of Community Bridges for the return of displaced persons in Kayin State
- (4) Nationwide Rural Development Project for Poverty Reduction
- Project for rural development reflecting local needs in Myanmar (Sub projects is considered under the development plan mentioned in (1) in Kayin and Mon State. In other Region and State, projects being considered will be based on local needs of improvement of infrastructure.)

3 Commissioning of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, as

Goodwill Ambassador for the Welfare of the National Races in Myanmar, and cooperation with the Nippon Foundation.

-Assistance in education, public health and agriculture in Shan States, Rakhine State and other areas.

(End)