

Chapter 3

Japan's Foreign Policy in Major Diplomatic Fields

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

The security environment of the region around Japan has become more challenging than before. North Korea continues nuclear and missile development, including uranium enrichment activities, in violation of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks of September 2005 and the relevant UNSC Resolutions. Despite strong calls from the international community for North Korea to exercise self-control, North Korea proceeded with the launches of a missile which it called satellite launchings in April 2012 and December 2012 followed by a nuclear test in February 2013. These acts of provocation presented grave challenges to the peace and stability of the region including Japan, as well as the entire international community. Furthermore, China's moves to strengthen its defense capabilities, which lack transparency, and her intensified maritime activities are of concern to the region and the wider international community. Additionally, although gradual, Russia has also been pushing through military reforms. Following the recovery of its economy, Russia has been modernizing its military capabilities and has become increasingly active in the Far East. Moreover, Japan has witnessed the occurrence of various incidents that threaten the territories and sovereignty of the country. On top these developments, Japan is required to address global issues--including non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, international terrorism, maritime piracy, large scale disasters and cyber-attacks--that are extremely difficult for a single country alone to manage.

In order for Japan to respond to such security issues while maintaining its territorial integrity, protecting the lives and properties of Japanese

citizens, and ensuring sustainable prosperity, development and stability of the international community, Japan must develop and implement a multifaceted security policy to address not only traditional but also non-traditional threats.

Most importantly, Japan must be proactive in its efforts. It is imperative that Japan maintains an agile defense force, which will enable more effective deterrence and response and allow Japan to more effectively contribute to further stabilizing the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region and improving the global security environment.

Secondly, ensuring the forward deployment of the U.S. Forces based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and thereby strengthening the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements are essential not only for the security of Japan but also for the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan and the U.S. have been promoting cooperation in such wide-ranging areas as an extended deterrence, Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), and maritime, space and cyberspace affairs. In terms of the operation of the Japan Self Defense Force and the U.S. forces, both governments have agreed to enhance bilateral security and defense cooperation, including joint training, joint surveillance and reconnaissance activities, as well as joint and shared use of facilities. The Realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan needs to be steadily implemented to ensure the stable use of facilities and areas for the U.S. forces. In order to achieve steady progress in the Realignment in a timely manner, Japan and the U.S. decided to adjust the realignment plans and to delink the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and resulting land returns of the south of Kadena Air Base from progress on the Futenma Replacement

Facility as stated in the April, 2012 Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan Consultative Committee (so-called "2+2"). Both governments are determined to reduce the impact on local communities including Okinawa, while maintaining deterrence, by steadily implementing the existing agreements including the April, 2012 "2+2" Joint Statement.

Thirdly, it is also necessary to build multilayered security cooperation relations. It is crucial that Japan promotes bilateral cooperation with the ROK and Australia, which are fellow U.S. allies and countries that share fundamental values and interests, and advances trilateral cooperation under the Japan-U.S.-ROK and Japan-U.S.-Australia frameworks. As for its relationships with the UK, France, etc., Japan has been pursuing cooperative relationships, particularly in the field of defense equipment. Moreover, it is important that Japan strives to strengthen relations with the countries with which it shares interests in maritime security including freedom of navigation. It is also important to enhance cooperative relations with China, Russia which are major powers in the region. In addition to the above, Japan intends to make the most of multilateral regional cooperative frameworks such as EAS, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) to strengthen multilayered cooperative relations within these individual frameworks.

The safety and prosperity of Japan cannot be attained by simply improving the security environment around Japan, but is dependent on the peace and stability of the international community. Today the issues faced by the international community--such as regional conflicts, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, poverty, famine, infectious diseases, and other global issues--continue to diversify. Led by the determination to ensure the safety and prosperity of Japan by addressing these issues, Japan has been proactively working toward the resolution of various global issues.

The seamless efforts toward peace-building are crucial for the peace and stability of the international community. These efforts range the entire process from the peace keeping and emergency humanitarian assistance for the prevention of the recurrence of conflicts and the development of foundations for sustainable peace in post-conflict regions to the promotion of peace processes, the maintenance of security and the reconstruction and development. Japan has been addressing peace-building as one of its major diplomatic agenda. Japan's peacekeeping and peace-building efforts include proactive cooperation with the UN PKO, on-the-ground activities utilizing ODA, contribution to the UN and training for human resources development.



As "kizuna" Project of the United Nations, Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), a Japan Self-Defense Forces official providing a guidance about machine control method to a Haitian (Photo: Ministry of Defense)

Special Feature

20th Anniversary of Japan's Participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

1. Background of Japan's participation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO)

The 1990 gulf crisis provided Japan with an opportunity to deeply consider, as a member of the international community, in what form the country should contribute to peace and security of the international community. The Government submitted the United Nations Peace Cooperation Bill to the Diet in October 1990. As deliberation on the bill was not completed in the Diet, it failed to pass during the session and was dropped. However it did provide the impetus for further countrywide debates on Japan's contribution to the international community. In September 1991, the Government newly submitted to the Diet a draft Act on Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations, which included provisions of stipulated the so-called "five principles of participation in UN PKOs.*" Following heated debate in the Diet, it (hereafter referred to as the PKO Act) was approved in June 1992 and enacted in August. Before taking its present form, the PKO Act was revised twice (1998 and 2001), following Japanese experience of actual deployment of personnel for UN PKOs.

2. First Participation in UN PKO based on the PKO Act

As its first deployment based on the PKO Act in September 1992, Japan dispatched three electoral observers to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II), and also dispatched the engineering unit composed of approximately 600 personnel of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). In October 1993, Japan also dispatched 75 civilian police officers to UNTAC additionally. The operation in Cambodia, in which a total more than 1,300 personnel was involved from September 1992 to September 1993, made a major contribution to the peace-building efforts of Cambodia and therefore played a very significant role in the Japan's diplomacy. Meanwhile there is also a sad history during these operations. Mr. Atsushi Nakata, who was working as a UN volunteer for election preparations, was killed in April 1993 while Mr. Haruyuki Takada, who was deployed as a civilian police officer, died in the line of duty in May the same year. These were some of the most tragic events in the twenty-year history of Japan's participation in UN PKOs, and it also proved that peace and security of the international community is at times built on the ultimate sacrifice.

3. Japan's achievements in UN PKOs

Over the past 20 years, Japan has dispatched a total of more than 9,500 personnel** to International Peace Cooperation Assignments in 27 countries and regions including Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique, El Salvador, Golan Heights, East Timor, Nepal, Sudan, Haiti and South Sudan. As of December 2012, the breakdown of personnel who served is as follows: Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel--9,173; civilian police officers--82; electoral observers--251. The international community, such as the UN and recipient countries has deeply appreciated contributions by the Japanese personnel for their professionalism, discipline and integrity. As proven by this record, public understanding and support regarding Japan's cooperation in UN PKOs has greatly

* Five Principles of Participation in PKOs

1. Agreement on a cease-fire shall have been reached among the parties to armed conflicts.
2. Consent for the undertaking of UN PKO as well as Japan's participation in such operation has been obtained from the host countries as well as the parties to armed conflicts.
3. The operations shall strictly maintain impartiality, not favoring any party to armed conflicts.
4. Should any of the above requirements cease to be satisfied, the Government of Japan may withdraw its contingent.
5. Use of weapons shall be limited to the minimum necessary to protect the peacekeepers' lives, etc.

**The total number of personnel dispatched under the PKO Act for UN Peacekeeping Operations, International Humanitarian Relief Operations and International Election Observation Operations.

increased over the last 20 years. In 1994, 58.9% of respondents to the Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy by the Cabinet Office said that “Japan should maintain its current level of involvement” or “Japan should be more involved than the current level” in relation to UN PKOs, however in 2012 this figure increased to 83.3%.

4. Multidimensional UN PKOs and Nature of Japan’s Cooperation

The mandate and role of UN PKOs have been diversified over the last 20 years and Japan has steadily continued to cooperate while adapting to these changes as it operates various activities. Notably, the experiences of the engineering unit of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, which was responsible for infrastructure improvements including the maintenance and repair of roads and bridges under the UNTAC, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET), have been fully utilized in recent activities in UN PKOs. One of the features of recent UN PKOs has been the emphasis on the coordination with ODA or NGO’s activities as seen in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). The engineering unit of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, which has extensive expertise in providing assistance for nation building, particularly infrastructure improvement, is now playing an important role in assisting affected countries to make the transition from post conflict or independence -where peacekeeping operations are required- to redevelopment and rebuilding of social infrastructure, and then on to sustainable development.

5. Future UN PKO Involvement

In order for Japan to continue to cooperate in a manner befitting to its position as a responsible member of the international community, it is vital that all the relevant ministries, agencies and organizations of Japan, both public and private, implement harmoniously mid to long-term initiatives that retain the objectives of post-conflict reconstruction in parallel with driving diplomatic efforts for conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building including prevention of conflict recurrence. For that purpose, there are numerous legal and operational challenges to be overcome. For example, Japan is expected to cooperate in even wider areas, including new fields, while focusing on operations in the areas in which Japan excels. Japan must consider how it can implement initiatives in an integrated manner involving NGOs and other relevant public and private organizations as well as considering granting appropriate authority for the use of weapons in situations deemed necessary. The Study Group on Japan’s Engagement in UN Peacekeeping Operations which was launched in October 2010 also discussed these challenges, and an interim report was issued by the study group in July 2011.

The international community expects Japan to proactively contribute to UN PKOs. For example, Mr. Ladsous, the Under-Secretary-General for UN Peacekeeping Operations, expressed his expectations for Japan to dispatch high quality personnel, particularly female, in the fields of engineering, medicine, aviation, and as staff officers and police officers. As the security and prosperity of Japan are built upon peace and security of the international community, it is essential that Japan continues to vigorously advance discussions and make necessary decisions while understanding that responsible and proactive contributions to UN PKOs, which play a significant role in peace and security of the international community, also contribute to the national interests of Japan.

Terrorism and transnational organized crime such as trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, cybercrime, money laundering, have become serious security threats to the international community with globalization, the sophistication of information and communication technologies and increased movement of people. Terrorism and transnational organized crime not only compromise the national and public safety, but also have a serious impact on Japan's economic activities including investment, tourism and trade. Japan regards these crimes as its own problems and provides assistance to those nations with vulnerable legislative and regulatory systems to improve their capacity to address these issues. At the same time, Japan proactively strives to strengthen measure to counterterrorism and transnational organized crime through cooperation with the international community in various fields including strengthening of the international legal frameworks.

Furthermore, in the midst of the growing importance of space from diplomatic and security perspectives, Japan has been proactively tackling on the issues concerning the use of space for both civil and security aspects.

Japan has been proactively pursuing initiatives designed to realize "a world without nuclear weapons." As the only nation to have suffered an atomic bombing, these policies allow Japan to fulfill its mission of conveying the devastation caused by nuclear weapons to the world. At the same time, these policies enable Japan to attain the definitive goal of improving the security environment surrounding Japan. Under the framework of NPDI, a cross-regional group established chiefly by Japan and Australia in September 2010, the fourth and fifth foreign ministers' meetings were held in June and September 2012, respectively. These foreign ministers' meetings facilitated substantial discussion of important issues in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, including increasing transparency on nuclear weapons and the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). Additionally, Japan once again submitted its annual resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UN General Assembly in 2012, which was entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons." As was the case in 2011, this resolution received a record of 99 co-sponsor nations and was adopted with an overwhelming majority. In August, Japan and the United Nations University jointly hosted the Global

Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in Nagasaki City. The forum was attended by a wide variety of both international and domestic participants including international organizations, experts, civil society and media, allowing them to share the recognition of the importance of education on disarmament and non-proliferation. The forum also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the methods of promoting cooperation between various actors and further developing the initiatives.

At the same time, it is necessary for the international community to work together for strengthening global governance in order to address complex issues. It is also imperative to strengthen the functions of the UN in a manner which reflects the reality of the current international community such as the rise of emerging countries and the increased number of the UN Member States. With this understanding, Japan seeks to realize the UN reform in a timely manner, especially the Security Council reform, and plays a leading role in international organizations including the UN, while making human resource contributions as well as financial contributions.

The establishment of the "rule of law" in the international community is crucial for stabilizing relations among countries, achieving peaceful settlement of disputes, and advancing 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. The establishment of "rule of law" is also important from the viewpoints of maintaining Japan's territorial integrity, securing maritime and economic interests, and protecting Japanese citizens.

Human rights and fundamental freedom are universal values and it is the basic responsibility of states to protect and promote these values. At the same time, it is legitimate issue of concern for the entire international community. Moreover, the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous society and the realization of peace and stability within the international community require these values to be fully guaranteed within each country. In order to improve human rights throughout the world, Japan focuses on bilateral dialogue and cooperation as a means of addressing the issue in a way that takes into account the particularities and the cultural and historical backgrounds of each country or region.

From the perspective of improving human rights in each country, initiatives in multinational venues such as the UN including the Human Rights Council are

crucial. As such, Japan has been proactively pursuing cooperation with the international community.

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

ODA is Japan's most important diplomatic instrument. Today, when the international situation surrounding Japan is undergoing significant changes, the importance and effectiveness of ODA is increasing. With the aim of realizing a free, prosperous and stable international community, Japan provides assistance to countries that share fundamental values and the strategic interests. To this end, it is necessary to pursue strategic and effective utilization of ODA.

As globalization keeps on accelerating today, threats to mankind are becoming more diverse and serious. Those threats include the internationalization of domestic conflicts, terrorism, spread of infectious diseases, human trafficking and refugee issues accompanying the expansion of migration, economic crises, spread of poverty, worsening social disparity, climate change, environmental issues, natural disasters, and so on. In order to address these outstanding global issues we need to strengthen cooperation with the

international community based on human security as a guiding principle, toward the shared goals of achieving the MDGs, transition to green economy, and realization of sustainable development.

Japan believes that achieving the MDGs, the common development goals shared by the international community, is indispensable for realizing human security. As such, Japan continues to contribute proactively and plays a leading role in the efforts of the international community to achieve the MDGs. Furthermore, Japan believes that even after 2015, the target date of the current MDGs, it is necessary to establish a successive framework for the international community to work collaboratively. For this, Japan has been taking a leadership role in formulating an effective post-2015 development agenda (post-MDGs). Japan's leadership in the international community and foreign aid based on human security has been contributing to increase confidence in Japan.

Special Feature

Post-2015 Development Agenda (Post-MDGs)

1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The MDGs are common development goals shared by the whole international community in assisting developing countries. These goals were developed based on the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000 and other international goals. The MDGs set forth eight goals to be achieved by 2015, including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. These goals include 21 targets and 60 indicators.

By introducing simple, clear and time-bound targets, the MDGs have been playing an important role as a "compass" for development activities. The MDGs have already produced some positive results, such as meeting the targets regarding halving the proportion of people whose income is less than US \$1.25 a day and ensuring access to safe drinking water. However, a number of targets are considered difficult to achieve by 2015. For example, achieving universal access to primary education, improving of maternal health, promoting gender equality and empowering women are considered difficult to achieve in many regions by 2015.

Eight Goals

- Goal 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2 : Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3 : Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4 : Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5 : Improve maternal health
- Goal 6 : Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8 : Develop a global partnership for development



Promising bright future for children (Photo: Masako Imaoka / JICA)

2. Post-2015 Development Agenda

In addition to strengthening accelerating the efforts to achieve the MDGs, the international community has also commenced full-fledged discussions on the creation of international development goals beyond 2015.

Japan has been leading discussions in order to ensure that the new framework will be able to efficiently address the various challenges. In 2011, Japan established the Contact Group on the post-2015 development agenda in order to facilitate informal exchange of opinions among the concerned countries and organizations. The group had held a total of five meetings as of the end of 2012. Furthermore, in July 2012 the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is an independent advisory group of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, was launched. The discussions held at the Contact Group were shared with the High-Level Panel at the side event of the UN General Assembly held in September 2020, with the aim of facilitating dialogue between High Level Panel members and other stakeholders.

3. Major Challenges

Japan has been leading discussions on formulating the post 2015 development agendas to ensure that they will be appropriate for the new era, focusing on the major challenges as follows.

- Focus on poverty eradication and develop ambitious goals based on the current MDGs.
- Shed light on growth and employment to create wealth which is the driving force for development, and create employment opportunities for various social classes to ensure that whole societies can enjoy the fruits of growth.
- Based on the fact that approximately three quarters of the world's extreme poor live in middle-income countries, the focus should be placed on overcoming domestic disparities, and regional and social inequalities within a country.
- Address the emerging changes within the international community in the past decade, by coping with new important issues for sustainable development (disaster risk reduction, food security and nutrition), as well as promoting partnerships with the private sector, emerging countries and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Encourage efforts by the developing countries themselves (taking ownership) to improve development effectiveness.

In order to address the nexus among various challenges, it is beneficial to take a human security approach, which focuses on every individual and promotes the protection and empowerment of each person. Japan is determined to continue its efforts in creating the post-2015 development agendas based upon the principles of human security.

In order to contribute to the solution of these global issues, Japan must consolidate all of its efforts. In the field of ODA, a greater variety of actors outside the government are now involved in the provision of assistance. These include local municipalities, NGOs, private companies and universities, and the Government has been striving to strengthen cooperation with these actors.

It is essential to gain broad public understanding and support in providing ODA. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued to undertake initiatives designed to improve the efficiency and transparency of the assistance. More specifically, the Ministry held seven meetings of the Development Project Accountability Committee, which was launched last year. There have been 1,280 projects posted on the ODA Visibility website, which was launched for the purpose of increasing transparency of the projects and broadcasting the progress and outcomes of ODA projects systematically.

ODA has been beneficial to Japan itself. For instance, in its effort to support the economic development of Japan through ODA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working to improve the trade and investment environment by resuming Private Sector Investment Finance by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and introducing the ODA Loan with Currency Conversion Option scheme. The Ministry has also conducted investigations on the products and technologies of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to determine their needs and potential for project application. The Ministry has also undertaken and expanded measures to support overseas expansion of SMEs, such as Overseas Volunteering Program in Collaboration with Private Sector, designed for development of human resources for adapting to globalization, needed by SMEs.

Sustainable development is an issue for both developing and developed countries. Japan places sustainable development as one of its diplomatic priorities and leads international discussions on this subject. Japan announced “the Green Future” at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in June 2012. This Initiative includes promotion of the transition to a green economy, and is being steadily implemented by Japan.

As for climate change, which poses a threat to global sustainability, two working groups concluded their works at COP18 and an environment that

allows the international community to focus on the development of a new international framework after the Kyoto Protocol is now in place. As a part of its initiatives to facilitate regional or bilateral cooperation in achieving low carbon growth in the world, Japan has actively promoted concrete measures, including holding the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue and advocating the Joint Crediting Mechanism. Japan will continue to play a leading role in negotiations for a new framework.

Following the recent growing international debate on issues concerning the Arctic Region, such as those on the environmental issues, the opening of navigation routes and the development of natural resources, Japan is strengthening its involvement in the debate by, for instance, submitting a formal application for permanent observer status at the Arctic Council. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established the Arctic Task Force (ATF) in order to facilitate cross-sectoral discussions on Japan’s foreign policy on the Arctic and to advance appropriate policies. Under the ATF, members regularly share relevant information and exchange views. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also holds study groups on the issues surrounding the Arctic Region.

Concerning Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty adopted in 1959 introduces basic principles such as (1) the use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes, (2) freedom of scientific investigation and international cooperation, and (3) a freeze on territorial rights and claims. In keeping with these basic principles, Japan promotes research and observation activities, and is committed to the conservation of the Antarctic environment in accordance with the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. Japan contributes to the maintenance of the Antarctic Treaty System.

The international society holds a high level of interest and expectation in Japan’s science and technology which is at the highest level in the world. Japan aims to realize sustainable growth and resolve global issues by working more actively with other nations through cooperation in the field of science and technology. To this end, Japan has been making efforts in advancing cooperation based on the bilateral science and technology cooperation agreements, dispatching scientists and experts, conducting large scale international scientific development projects, and promoting ODA in the field of science and technology.

3. Economic Diplomacy

In 2012, the global economy experienced a deepening downturn. As was the case in 2011, this downturn was attributed to persisting uncertainty over the entire global economy following the European sovereign debt crisis. A slowing of economic development in China, India and other emerging countries and a sense of uncertainty on how the U.S. would respond to its "fiscal cliff" also contributed to economic woes. The uncertainty increased as food prices soared and commodity prices hovered at a high level. In this unstable economic environment, some emerging or developing countries began to exhibit some signs of protectionism and grew less willing to establish new trade rules. Domestically, while reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake is well underway, the balance of trade deteriorated due to reduced exports--attributed to the strong yen and reduced demand from emerging countries--and increased fossil fuels imports. In order for Japan to maintain its growth, it is crucial that it strengthens free trade arrangements to discourage protectionism. It is also important that Japan considers a market of 4 billion consumers in the Asia-Pacific Region, which is expected to grow further, as indispensable to its own market and leverage regional vitality for the sake of Japan's economic growth.

Further multilateral cooperation is a key to addressing the European sovereign debt crisis and other issues facing the global economy. At the G8 Camp David Summit held in May 2012 in the U.S., the G8 Leaders agreed on the importance of a strong and cohesive Eurozone while affirming their unified desire for Greece to remain in the Eurozone. Additionally, the summit facilitated discussions on the importance of simultaneous pursuit of fiscal consolidation and economic growth. At the G20 Los Cabos Summit held in June 2012 in Mexico, the Los Cabos Action Plan was formulated, which is a political pledge by developed and emerging countries to work in cooperation as the G20 to restore market confidence and achieve global economic growth. Prior to the G20 Summit, Japan expressed its intention to contribute US\$60 billion to increase the IMF resources in order to prevent exacerbation of the European sovereign debt crisis while also calling for specific action by individual countries. As a result, many countries, including emerging countries, presented specific contribution

amount during the summit, and Japan made a significant contribution to forming agreement by other countries to increase the IMF resources.

The liberalization of trade is crucial for maximizing opportunities for Japan's growth. In order to firmly maintain the credibility of the multilateral trading system, Japan must strive to resist protectionism and continue to proactively engage in the Doha Round and other negotiations under the WTO, and to cooperate with relevant countries for further promoting trade liberalization throughout the world. Moreover, Japan is also expected to continue making contributions to the efforts of OECD to hold dialogues with emerging countries for the purpose of preventing bribery of foreign public officials and disseminating the prevalence of international standards in areas including investment.

On bilateral or regional trade, it is also important that Japan continuously strengthens its endeavors to achieve high level of economic partnership. During the ASEAN-related summit meetings held in November, it was announced to launch negotiations for the FTA among Japan, China and the ROK and RCEP. Together with the TPP, the negotiations in which Japan has expressed its intention to participate, these serve as the regional initiatives for realizing FTAAP. Furthermore, at the Foreign Affairs Council's meeting in November the European Commission obtained a negotiating mandate for the Japan-EU EPA, which cleared the path for the launch of negotiations between Japan and the EU. In addition to this, progress is being made in the EPA negotiations with Australia, Mongolia, Canada and Colombia as well as in the joint study for EPA with Turkey. Japan has also been proactively making contributions to discussions at APEC with the view to realizing the FTAAP. APEC economies agreed to the APEC List of Environmental Goods (54 items) at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Vladivostok, Russia in September. This allows APEC economies to make practical contributions to green growth while rejuvenating initiatives for trade liberalization.

Securing stable supplies of resources is essential for Japan, which relies on foreign sources for many resources. Enhancement of the relationship with resource-rich countries and diversification of supplier countries are becoming more important as Japan has

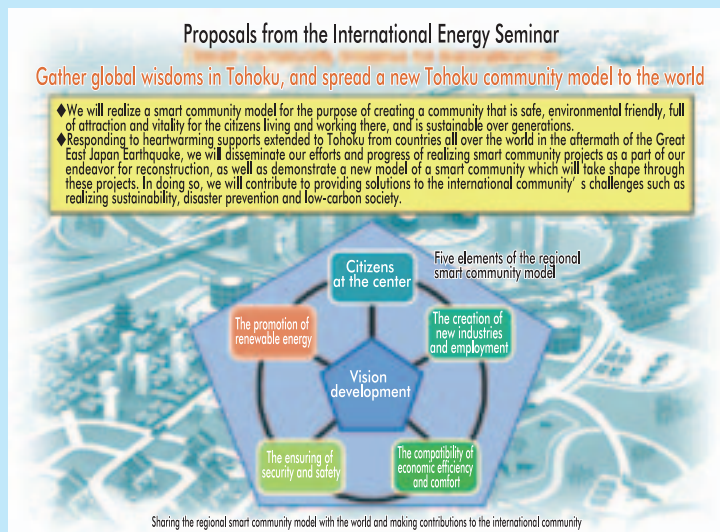
Smart Community Proposals for Reconstructing the Disaster-Affected Areas: The World's Wisdom for the Disaster-affected Areas, the Disaster-affected Areas' Activities for the World

On March 2, 2012, just prior to the one year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the International Energy Seminar on “Smart Community Proposals for Reconstructing the Disaster-Affected Areas” was held in Iizaka, Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture. This international seminar was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of the Environment, and was attended by approximately 430 people from both within and outside of Japan including people from the disaster-affected areas, foreign diplomatic delegations and staff of international organizations in Japan, and experts from enterprises and research institutes.



Panel discussion

The seminar was held with the theme, “the world’s wisdom for the disaster-affected areas, the disaster-affected areas’ activities for the world.” The seminar introduced the pioneering smart community* initiatives being conducted by different countries across the world. These initiatives are designed to create low-carbon, resource circulating communities. The seminar also facilitated vibrant discussion on the possibility of applying these initiatives in the disaster affected areas. Furthermore, the specialists recommended by people from the affected areas discussed the necessity and the appeal of smart communities from the perspective of those affected by the earthquake. This discussion turned into vibrant debate. Some opined that a successful smart community project needs to be citizen-centered, pursue security and safety, and create new industries and employment opportunities. The results of these discussions are summarized in *Smart Community Initiative towards the Reconstruction of the Disaster-Affected Areas*. Furthermore, some of the participating international organizations expressed their intention to provide assistance to the affected regions.



We will gather global wisdoms in the affected areas and advance reconstruction while fully leveraging that wisdom and share the outcome with the world. We strongly hope that this will contribute to the restoration of the affected areas.

* Development of communities in which the energy consumption of households, offices, commercial facilities, public transportation and other energy users is viewed as one entity to be fully optimized.

increased its dependence on fossil fuels since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Japan should also address such issues in the context of international cooperation on energy saving and renewable energy as well as the formulation of strategy to secure energy supplies in consideration of the impact of the Shale Revolution. In the face of expected world population growth and looming global food shortage, sustainable development of agriculture and the consequent stability of food prices are of increasing significance. In 2012, the drought in the U.S. and other difficulties contributed to the record high market prices of corn and soybean. In response, Japan advocated the cooperation towards food security on improving agricultural production and productivity, promoting private agricultural investments in a responsible manner and enhancing market transparency at international fora such as G8, G20 and APEC. Additionally, Japan, as a responsible fishing nation, has been promoting the conservation and management of marine living resources internationally with the regional fishery management organizations, including leading discussions on the strengthening of conservation and management measures of tuna stocks. In July, Japan signed the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

In order for Japan to maintain a vibrant economy in the current environment, where domestic demand is on the wane as the country's population decreases, connecting overseas growth to Japanese economic growth is becoming more important than ever. With this understanding, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively supports the overseas expansion of Japanese companies. Furthermore, in its effort to support Japanese business overseas, the Ministry proactively promotes the conclusion of investment agreements, tax treaties and social security agreements, which

are legal frameworks required for a positive business environment. Furthermore, it has designated contact points for support to Japanese companies at all of its diplomatic missions abroad. They will provide information and deal with issues involving governments and other institutions of partner countries. They will also promote Japanese products and Japanese brands at diplomatic missions or facilities as well as undertake initiatives to protect intellectual property. In its efforts to protect intellectual property, Japan deposited the Instrument of Acceptance on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in October, becoming the first country to have concluded the agreement.

As a result of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company following the Great East Japan Earthquake, many countries continue to impose import restrictions on products from Japan and they have become one of obstacles to reconstruction of the affected areas. Through close cooperation with other ministries and organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been striving to provide foreign governments and international organizations with accurate and up-to-date information of Japan's efforts to strengthen its inspection systems and restrictions on distribution and encouraging foreign governments and international organizations to lift or ease restrictions. As a result of these efforts, Mexico, Peru and New Zealand have lifted restrictions in 2012 to join Canada and Chile, which lifted restrictions in 2011. The EU significantly eased restrictions in 2012. It is important to continue to strengthen these efforts and provide proactive support for Japanese companies, including SMEs, in order to enable them to expand their businesses overseas and to encourage the export of infrastructure, agricultural and fishery products.

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. In order for Japan to implement foreign policy effectively it is essential to promote interest in and affinity for Japan and build a positive image of Japan by providing information, not only to governments but also directly to citizens, and by encouraging interpersonal

interaction at a general public level (public diplomacy).

From this perspective, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been introducing diverse aspects of Japanese traditional and pop culture, and has been promoting Japanese language education overseas through the Japan Foundation. Furthermore, through cooperation with other ministries, agencies and various organizations, the Ministry of Foreign



A performance of "kuromori-Kagura"(a traditional art of Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture) in France (as a related project of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake)(Photo: the Japan Foundation)

Affairs proactively communicates the advantages of Japan, values of Japanese people and the appeals of regional cities by making the most of Japanese diplomatic missions overseas.

In order to involve intellectuals who influence international public opinion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs invites to Japan international opinion leaders, journalists, other leaders and promising individuals who are likely to attain future leadership positions. Additionally, the Ministry supports the participation of Japanese intellectuals in international conferences. Japan assists developing countries in the preservation and restoration of Cultural heritage as well as in the capacity building of experts, through cultural grant assistance and also through cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other international organization.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also places a focus on communication and public relations concerning important diplomatic agendas. In order to counter harmful false rumors following the Great East Japan Earthquake and to restore and strengthen Japanese brands, the Ministry has been undertaking projects to communicate the appeals of regional cities through Japanese diplomatic missions overseas and invitational programs designed to facilitate a better understanding of Japan. Additionally, the Ministry hosted side events at international conferences to communicate the safety of Japanese products and appeals of Japanese regional cities, particularly those of the Tohoku region.

Japan has created opportunities for major

international media outlets to conduct interviews with the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Japanese ambassadors to foreign countries as a part of initiatives to protect territorial integrity. Furthermore, Japan has provided comprehensive explanations to intellectuals and the media and has enhanced digital public relations. All these initiatives are aimed at allowing Japan to proactively and effectively communicate to the world and enhance understanding and support for the Japan's position and legitimacy of its claims.

In August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs completed organizational reform thereby establishing a new organization for the Press Secretary/Director-General for Press and Public Diplomacy. The purpose of the reform was to allow strategic and organic implementation of a scheme to communicate with the press, domestic and international public relations, and cultural interactions under unified leadership. Furthermore, for strengthening Japan's initiatives in relation to public diplomacy, the Public Diplomacy Strategy Headquarters was established under the auspices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The first meeting of the Headquarters was held in October, where discussions on the approach to public diplomacy and future public relations strategies took place. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosts the Global Communications Liaison Meeting on International Public Relations with the Cabinet Secretariat in order to encourage cooperation of ministries and agencies in the area of international public relations.