Chapter 4

Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public

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Section 1

Japanese Society and People Deepening Their Ties with the World

Overview

Tapping the Power of Foreign Nationals for the Growth of Japan

Increasing the number of people traveling between Japan and other countries stimulates the economy and promotes mutual understanding among different cultures. Based on this view, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) takes steps to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals to Japan and their stay in the country.

The Government of Ianan attaches importance to promoting Japan as a tourismoriented country and regional vitalization in Japan. In this regard, in 2014, following on from the previous year, MOFA relaxed visa requirements, mainly for the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) member states. A depreciated yen, combined with other factors, contributed to reaching a record high of more than 13 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2014. At the same time, Japan conducts strict visa screening to ensure that Japan remains the safest country in the world, all the while promoting Japan as a tourism-oriented country.

In order to further vitalize the Japanese economy and increase Japan's competitiveness, it is critical to secure outstanding manpower from home and abroad. In the Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised in 2014), the policy is set forth that the government promote further utilization of foreign nationals. MOFA works with relevant ministries and agencies to ensure that the system of accepting foreign nationals is well in line with the principle of respect for human rights. MOFA encourages lively debates among people regarding the concrete challenges and measures arising from the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japanese society.

International Organizations and Japanese Nationals

At international organizations, staff from all over the countries capitalize on their respective skills and traits to carry out activities for addressing global issues. Japan has been providing financial and intellectual contributions as well as personnel contributions to international organizations. If more Japanese staff play active roles at international organizations, Japan will have an enhanced presence in the international community and human resources of Japan will be enriched.

MOFA carries out programs to find, train,

support, and provide information to Japanese professionals who can play active roles at and contribute to international organizations, MOFA will continue to make active efforts to create an environment where outstanding Japanese nationals can play an active role on the global stage.

NGOs and Volunteers

The Government of Japan promotes "All-Japan" diplomacy which draws on the strengths of non-governmental actors. In this non-governmental organizations context. (NGOs) have become even more important in recent years as implementers of support activities in developing countries and as channels for offering policy proposals. NGOs play a significant role in fields that Japan excels in and can make international contributions to, such as health, water and sanitation, education, disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change. and emergency humanitarian assistance for refugees and disaster victims. MOFA regards NGOs as important partners in international cooperation, and strives to strengthen partnerships with NGOs through financial assistance. improving their operational environment, and policy dialogue.

Participants of the volunteer programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). including the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and the Senior Volunteers (SV), are crucial actors in international cooperation. In the countries or regions where they are dispatched, JICA volunteers see the development challenges from the same perspective as local people and work hard together to tackle them. Such programs are highly appreciated by various countries, as the symbol of Japan's aid with a Japanese flag. In addition, the programs play a substantial role not only in local economic and social development, but also in fostering mutual understanding, friendship, and goodwill between Japan and these countries and regions. Furthermore, these programs are also significant from the viewpoint that the knowledge and experience that **IICA** volunteers gain are fed back into Japanese society once they return home.

Cooperation with Local Governments

Local governments and communities play a critical role in building multi-layered and friendly international relations in a wide range of fields, including fostering mutual international understanding, developing relationships of trust, and strengthening Japan's brand.

MOFA regards local governments and communities as important partners promoting diplomacy, and aims to reinforce Japan's comprehensive diplomatic capacity through the "All-Japan" approach. To this end, MOFA engages in various collaborative activities with local governments communities based on the following priorities: (1) conveying Japan's local attractions to the world; (2) supporting the international initiatives of local governments and communities; and (3) providing extensive information about international exchanges.

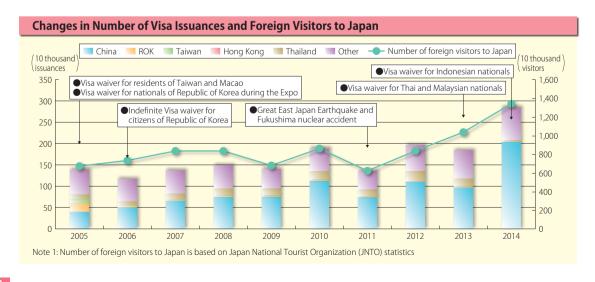
In addition, MOFA established the Task Force on Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan to advance the whole government's efforts toward overcoming population decline and vitalizing local economies in Japan, which is one of the top

priorities of the Abe Cabinet. The Task Force implements a robust diplomacy with a view of strengthening the partnerships between Japan's local governments and communities and overseas which contribute to regional vitalization in Japan.

1 Linking the Energy of Foreign Nationals to the Growth of Japan

(1) Growth Strategy and Relaxation of Visa Requirements

In the 2014 Revised Japan Revitalization Strategy released in June 2014, the Abe administration aims to increase the number of foreign visitors to Japan to 20 million by 2020, by taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games, and the whole government is committed to making Japan a tourismoriented country. Following the relaxation of visa requirements, including the waiver of visa requirements for visitors from Thailand and Malaysia in 2013, MOFA further relaxed visa requirements in 2014 for countries from which the number of visitors is expected to grow strongly, which is set out in the Japan Revitalization Strategy and the Action Program toward the Realization of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented Country. In specific terms, the following measures were taken: the introduction of multiple visas for nationals of Myanmar on January 15, the introduction of multiple visas for nationals of India on July 3, substantial relaxation of the requirements for the issuance of multiple visas for nationals of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam on September 30, simplification of the application procedure for single tourism visas for nationals of these three countries participating in package tours that are handled by accredited travel agencies on November 20, and visa waiver for Indonesian nationals based on a System of E-Passport Registration December 1. Furthermore, when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Brazil in August,



he announced the introduction of multiple visas for Brazilian nationals, which was followed by the announcement by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida of relaxation of the requirements for multiple visas for Chinese nationals, on the occasion of the APEC Ministerial Meeting (Beijing) on November 8. Currently, coordination is underway toward early implementation of these measures. These measures are expected to contribute to the efforts for the promotion of a tourism-oriented country and regional revitalization as well as to generating such effects as increasing the number of people who understand Japan and deepening international exchange.

The Japan National Tourism Organization (INTO) released a statistics that indicated a dramatic increase in the number of visitors from the countries to which Japan extended relaxation of visa requirements, thanks to such factors as depreciated ven, expansion of LCC routes or proliferation of duty-free shops in Japan. The number of foreign visitors in 2014 exceeded 13.41 million, surpassing by far the record high of annual visitors registered in the previous year (10.36 million).

As described above, relaxation of visa requirements is expected to make some contributions to the promotion of people-topeople exchange and to the growth of Japan's economy, thus prompting calls for further relaxation. At the same time, strict visa controls are practiced as a part of preventive measures in order to bar entry of undesirables. such as criminals and those who intend to work illegally, or those who could become victims of trafficking in persons. Aiming to achieve a balance between the promotion of a tourism-oriented country and Japan as the safest country of the world, MOFA is determined to continue working on the relaxation of visa requirements in the future, while minimizing the impact of the relaxation on public security by collaborating with relevant ministries, while paying attention to bilateral relations and diplomatic significance.

(2) Acceptance of Foreign Nationals / Social Integration

Since the Lehman Shock in 2008, the number of foreign long-term residents in Japan had been in downward trend; however, it turned to an increasing trend in 2012. With an aging and shrinking population, it is important for Japan to secure highly capable human resources, irrespective of their nationality, in order to further vitalize Japan's economy and to improve its competitiveness. The 2014 Revised Japan Revitalization Strategy specifically targets further utilization of foreign human resources, and it is hoped the number of

competent foreign nationals living in Japan will increase in the future.

MOFA has been cooperating with relevant ministries and agencies on a series of measures that would ensure respecting of human rights of foreign nationals. MOFA also hosts international workshops on the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japan, aiming to encourage debate among people by providing opportunities to discuss concrete issues and measures. At the workshop held in February (co-hosted by MOFA and the



Note 1: "Number of foreign residents" is based on the statistics as of end-December of each year (end-June only for 2014) (Number of registered foreigners before 2011; that of foreign residents since 2012) (Source: Ministry of Justice)

Note 2: "Ratio against the total population of Japan" is calculated based on the population as of October 1 of each year according to the "Census" and "Population Statistics" of the Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.



Workshop

International Organization for Migration (IOM)) under the theme of "Advance together with Young Foreign Nationals – Challenge for Future Generations," discussions were conducted focusing on educational problems, acceptance of diversity and challenges that the next-generation foreign nationals face in Japan, and the participants shared the recognition of

various challenges in living together with young foreign nationals.

During National Disaster-Prevention Week in September, MOFA organized "Briefing session on the Safety Confirmation Process of missing foreign nationals in Japan in case of disasters," using the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake. With participation from the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Justice, in addition to the Tokvo Metropolitan Government municipality-related organizations, such as the Tokyo Fire Department, the briefing session was held in an effort to cultivate mutual understanding of each organization's roles and initiatives and to promote network building.

Column

Relaxation of Visa Requirements and the Establishment of a **Tourism-Oriented Country/Promotion of International Goodwill**

Ten years ago, the number of foreign visitors to Japan was 6 million on annual basis. In 2013, this number exceeded 10 million for the first time, and in 2014, reached 13.41 million all at once. In particular, a large number of people from Southeast Asia and China visited Japan. This could be attributed to the multiplier effect created by the relaxation of visa requirements and various initiatives to attract tourists. Although Chinese tourists had already been a common sight even before the relaxation of visa requirements, visa exemptions for Thailand and Malaysia that were introduced in 2013 led to a particularly significant rise in the number of tourists from these countries who visit sightseeing spots across Japan. Recently, in addition to the classic tourist destinations of Tokyo and Kyoto, ski resorts in Hokkaido and other parts of Japan are also welcoming tourists from the South who yearn to see and experience snow. It is a common sight that these tourists enjoy skiing as well as snowball fights and playing on sleds.

In tandem with such moves to relax visa requirements for Southeast Asia and China, hotels in various regions are putting effort into attracting tourists through various Japanese culture activities. Some examples of these include not only tea ceremony and flower arrangement, but also dressing in yukata, hands-on experience in the making of sushi, Japanese drumming and being a ninja, as well as all-you-can-eat crab buffets. Furthermore, Yamanashi Prefecture is putting effort into sports initiatives. For example, a local Japan Professional Football League team has got an Indonesian soccer athlete, who is regarded as a national idol in his country, and Yamanashi Prefecture is organizing tours for visitors to watch the soccer matches. It is also organizing cycling events where cyclists can enjoy views of Mt. Fuji at the same time. In such ways, the national government,

together with local governments, the hotel and restaurant industry, and the tourism industry, are joining hands through public and private sector cooperation to establish a tourismoriented country. An increase in the number of foreign visitors to Japan not only contributes to the Japanese economy through domestic spending, but also helps to strengthen the sense of affinity and goodwill that foreign visitors will have of Japanese culture such as cuisine and history, and nature and products, as well as Japan and the Japanese people. This eventually contributes to promoting understanding of Japan, people-to-people exchanges and building friendly relations with other countries.



(Yamanashi City, April 4; Source: Yamanashi Prefecture)

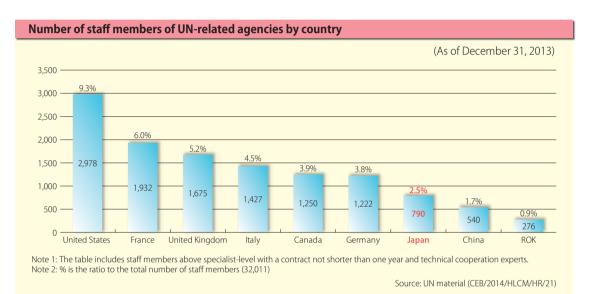
Visa exemption was first introduced for France in 1955. Today, it has been extended to 67 countries and regions, with the new additions of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. As a result of the efforts to promote Japan as a tourism-oriented country, the distance between Japan and China, as well as Southeast Asian countries, has diminished dramatically in recent years. The Government of Japan will continue "All-Japan" efforts, aiming to draw in 20 million foreign visitors by the year 2020.

- Q. What are visa exemption/relaxation of visa requirements?
- A. Generally, foreigners are required to have a visa to enter Japan. Currently, this visa requirement is exempted for 67 countries and regions that are considered to pose few problems in aspects such as security. In addition, visa requirements are also being relaxed for China and countries of Southeast Asia, particularly for countries where many visitors to Japan are expected to come from. The relaxation of visa requirements involves relaxing some of the visa issuance criteria for visa application such as economic means, simplification of application documents, issuance of multiple entry visas that allow the visitor to enter the country multiple times during the validity period, or introduction of visa exemptions.

2 Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Community

(1) Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Organizations

International organizations are found to serve the interests of the entire international community and draw on skills and traits from diverse nationalities in creating an environment where people of the world can enjoy peace, safety and prosperity. International organizations specialize in specific areas to solve global scale issues; for instance, poverty reduction, climate change, human rights, food, energy, refugee/IDPs protection, conflict



Preferred Number of UN Secretariat Staff Members by Nationality

(As of June 30, 2014)

(As of Julie 50, 2014)									
Ranking	Country	Number of staff (Female staff)		Range of preferred number of staff members					Ratio (%)
	·			Lower li	mit	(Mean)	Upp	oer limit	(70)
1	United States	355	(184)	373	\sim	(439)	\sim	504	12.24
2	United Kingdom	141	(56)	92	\sim	(109)	\sim	125	4.86
2	France	141	(74)	99	\sim	(117)	\sim	134	4.86
4	Germany	129	(65)	125	\sim	(147)	\sim	169	4.45
4	Italy	129	(62)	80	\sim	(95)	\sim	109	4.45
6	Canada	89	(46)	56	\sim	(66)	\sim	75	3.07
7	Japan	83	(53)	186	~	(219)	~	252	2.86
8	China	71	(34)	119	\sim	(140)	\sim	161	2.45
14	ROK	46	(21)	40	\sim	(47)	\sim	54	1.59
Other		1,717	(511)						
Total		2,901	(1,304)						

Note: "Staff members" in the table are those holding posts to which the principle of geographic distribution applies and not all staff members (a portion of the entire staff)

Source: UN material (A/69/292)

Japanese Working on a Global Scale

"The most attractive thing is that you are able to take part in system/framework creation based on first-hand experiences of people with a passion for creating a better world with others around the world regardless of race or nationality.



Visiting an elementary school supported by UNICEF in Timor-Leste, her former post

Ms. Yukiko Matsuoka (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: UNICEF Bangladesh) "We share many issues and talk about solutions, including payment of salaries for staff, problems with trading with banks, accounting processing and confirmation of the budget progress of projects, and many others. Amid the explosively growing amount of work involving emergency measures against the Ebola outbreak, everyone is committed to their daily assignments by helping each other."

Regular meeting with financial department staff members of the Office

Mr. Koumei Yamawaki (Finance and Administration Officer: WFP Guinea)

prevention/peace building, plague prevention measures. education. employment and empowerment of women.

Competent individuals with specialized knowledge, passion and capabilities contribute to the world beyond the framework of nation states are needed so that international organizations can perform their duties smoothly and fulfill their roles expected of them. In addition to financial and intellectual contributions for international organizations to deal with their tasks, Japan also makes contributions in terms of human resources to organizations. international However. unfortunately, the number of Japanese staff working in international organizations is still low compared to other major countries.

Taking the United Nations Secretariat as an example, the number of Japanese employees remains at around one-third of the "desirable number of employees" set by the UN according to each country's population and share of the body's budget.

More Japanese people taking active roles in international organizations translate to Japan having an enhanced presence in international community. It will also show the world that Japan is truly committed to the promotion of peace and prosperity of the world and supports this principle. When the number of Japanese people with various international experiences increases, it will also in turn lead to enrichment of human resources in Japan.

Standing on this principle, MOFA has established a section (Recruitment Center for International Organizations, Foreign Policy Bureau) responsible for finding and training of support and information provision to human resources who work in and contribute to the international arena, with an aim to increase the number of Japanese nationals working in international organizations. In 2014. organized 65 guidance sessions to provide information on the process of the recruitment of international organizations. It also hosted

Outreach Mission by HR staff of international organizations at five universities in the Chubu/Keihanshin area, with a total of about 920 participants.

Furthermore, it also supports the young people dispatched to international organizations under the Junior Professional Officer Program (a system of sending young Japanese nationals who aspire to work in international organizations as full-time employees for a fixed period of time to give them opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and experience in international organizations). It is also committed to designing and implementation of human resources training programs aimed at working for international organizations, coordination with HR sections of major international organizations, information collection, provision of vacancy information, and support for application procedures, etc.

Employees of international organizations are expected to play the role of a "bridge" between the international organization and their home country. For example, Japan co-hosts the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) along with the United Nations and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). At such International Conferences, Japanese UN staff members, who are able to understand the work process of both Japan and partner organizations and differences in the way of thinking between them, prove quite essential in moving forward with the projects and policy issues in a smooth, prompt and efficient manner and they are appreciated highly by the international organizations. The presence of Japanese staff international organizations has vital significance also from the perspective of promotion of Japan's diplomatic priorities.

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the UN's founding and the year 2016 is the 60th anniversary of Japan becoming a member state. Throughout these years, Japan has consistently followed a path of a peace-loving nation and contributed to the international community in terms of finance, policy initiatives and human resources. MOFA, with its knowledge and experience, will continue to work actively so that excellent Japanese nationals with high aspiration and passion who are capable of solving issues and understand the roles and responsibility of international organizations can take part in the international organizations.

Column

A Memorial Service Binding Disaster Areas with the World

The first Memorial service for the Great East Japan Earthquake was held on 11th March 2012 at the Place du Trocadéro (Paris, France), then at Lyon City Hall for its second year anniversary, and in the town of Coria del Rio (Spain) in 2014. "Why was it held at a small Spanish town?" The answer to this question lay in the exchanges Japan had developing with Spain and other European countries as far back as 400 years ago.

After the 1611 Sanriku Earthquake, Hasekura Tsunenaga was ordered by Date Masamune, who was seeking ways to rebuild the Tohoku region, to lead a delegation to Europe. After crossing the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, Hasekura arrived at Coria del Rio in Spain. Even today, around 700 of Coria's residents bearing the surname "Japón," are the descendants of some of these samurais who had traveled with Hasekura.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to meet an inhabitant of Coria del Rio (and a former Miss Spain) who is a member of the Japón lineage, and attended on 11th March the Memorial service organized by the town of Coria del Rio and people using the surname Japón. I met several of them and was very pleased to have had the occasion to discuss face-to-face with these people who remained attached to their Japanese roots for 400 years.

When I came to France 50 years ago, sources of information were not as widespread as today. Hence, I was always impressed and surprised by things I saw and heard when I first arrived in this country. However, what could have been the thoughts and feelings of the members of this delegation 400 years ago during seven years journey? Japanese history textbooks do not give us many details about Hasekura's delegation, nor about the Japón people who have never ceased to cherish and take pride in Japan for the last 400 years. I think that its members were real samurais we, the Japanese people, can all be proud of.

The Memorial service, which will be held on 11 March this year, will coincide with the 400th anniversary of the visit by Hasekura's mission to Italy. A commemorative event will be held in Rome,

and it should also be attended by many members of the Japón lineage. Although it seems naturel that the memories of a disaster tend to fade as time passes, Memorial services are still being held in various cities outside of Japan even now, four years after the disaster. I think these Memorial events are important because they give to people like me—people who have been living outside Japan for a long time—an opportunity to pray for the repose of victims and the recovery of disaster areas, and remind us to remain vigilant and be prepared for disasters.



Kenzo Takada, designer (Resides in Paris, France)

Column

The Voices of Those Who have supported the United Nations

"Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of United Nations" – Yasushi Akashi, former Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations

As Japan commemorates the 70th year of the end of World War II, the United Nations (UN) also enters the 70th year of its founding at San Francisco by the United States and other allied nations such as the United Kingdom. The number of UN member states has now grown by close to four times, from the initial 51 countries to 193 countries. Since joining the UN as the 80th member state in 1956, Japan has steadily expanded its participation and become increasingly more active.

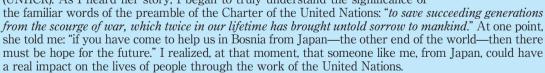
During the Cold War between the free market countries and the Socialist bloc, centering on the United States and Soviet Union, respectively, the Security Council had often failed to function. The United Nations has, nevertheless, produced significant results in areas such as achieving colonial independence, strengthening developing countries, and promoting human rights.

After the end of the Cold War in 1989, there were high expectations for the UN, and peacekeeping operations took place across many regions in the world. Although sometimes beset by setbacks and difficulties, they produced various achievements. In recent years, the UN has put its utmost efforts into tackling cross-border challenges, such as ethnic conflicts, terrorism, infectious diseases and environmental problems.

The UN presents a rather rigid structural front. However, there are many areas where it has responded flexibly to international situations, and taken action which demonstrated its great potential as a global institution, in areas such as conflict resolution and refugee assistance. We can say that the UN is today an indispensable instrument for global governance and vital means for Japan's diplomacy.



Most of us, in our youth, go through experiences that leave a deep impression on our minds and shape the rest of our lives. For me, it was an encounter with an old woman in Bosnia, at the beginning of the civil war, which left an indelible mark on my life and career. This woman had been displaced by the conflict, and had seen four generations of people in her family—her grandfather, her father, her children and grandchildren—leave home to fight in the World Wars, and later in the Bosnian civil war. When I met her, I had just completed my assignment as Junior Professional Officer and had started working as regular staff at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As I heard her story, I began to truly understand the significance of



In the twenty years that followed, I continued to work in conflict and crisis contexts, from various angles, from humanitarian aid and support to democratization, to peacekeeping and, most recently, development. Since November 2014, I have been serving as Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator for Crisis Response at the United Nations Development Programme. I am now married with two daughters and, over many years of continuous work and travel to conflict zones, I have always remembered my encounter with the old Bosnian woman. Fulfilling her hopes means passing on a better world to my daughters.

It does not mean, however, indulging in simplistic idealism. The UN, 70 years into its existence, is a space of constant confrontation of national interests and diplomatic maneuvering by Member States. We must navigate these waters carefully and gradually, with subtle tact and good judgment, strategy and focus, and maintain a calm, controlled approach, even as we are driven by our passion and commitment to the ideals of peace, development and respect for human rights. 70 years after the end of World War II, as Japan enjoys sustained peace and prosperity and has regained its prominence as a world power, let us do our share, collectively and individually, to plant the seeds of hope in the places that need it most.





(2) Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

A. Development assistance

It is estimated that in Japan there are over 400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in international cooperation activities. Most of them grasp local needs at the grassroots level and provide flexible and detailed support in problem-stricken developing countries/regions and importance in international cooperation is increasing.

MOFA provides financial cooperation in the form of grant assistance for economic and social development projects implemented by Japanese NGOs in developing countries/ regions (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) and actively provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) through NGOs. In the fiscal year 2014 (as of end-December), 27 Japanese NGOs implemented 38 Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects in 19 countries and one region in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and so forth. The projects cover a wide range of assistance, including, health/medical/hygienic care (maternal and child health, countermeasures for tuberculosis/ HIV/AIDS. water/hygiene, etc.). development (environmental development/ technological improvement for agriculture). support for the people with disabilities (vocational training/employment assistance, provision of wheelchairs for children, etc.), education (building schools, etc.), mines clearance, etc.

Japan Platform (JPF) was established in 2000, with an aim to conduct emergency humanitarian aid effectively and promptly



Women Empowerment in Pirojpur District (Bangladesh) (Source: KnK (NPO))



Education Support for Syrian Refugee Children in Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Irag (Source: IVY (NPO))

through cooperation and partnership among the government, NGOs and the business community at the time of refugee crisis/largescale natural disasters. As of end-December 2014, 49 NGOs are members of JPF. In 2014, besides Emergency response to flood in northern Afghanistan, Humanitarian assistance for internaly displaced populations in Iraq, Humanitarian assistance in Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Humanitarian response in South Sudan, JPF carried out humanitarian aid activities in Afghanistan. Pakistan, Syria and its neighboring nations, Mvanmar, etc.

Japanese NGOs conduct a number of

activities using contributions from supporters and the income earned from their own business. In recent years, with growing public interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), an increasing number of companies with technologies and funds implement CSR projects in developing countries in partnership with NGOs with much knowledge international cooperation.

As seen thus far, by identifying NGOs that assume important roles in the area of development assistance as partners international cooperation, MOFA and JICA provide indirect support for NGOs' activities through various policy measures with an aim to enhance NGOs' capacity, enhance their expertise and develop human resources so that NGOs are able to strengthen the foundation for their activities and perform further tasks. In 2014, MOFA conducted four projects, namely "NGO Study Group," "NGO Overseas Study Program," "NGO Intern Program" and "NGO Consultant Scheme".

Moreover, the general meeting of the "NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting" was held in June 2014 in order to promote dialogue/ coordination with NGOs. Also held were the ODA Policy Council to discuss overall ODA and the Partnership Promotion Committee to discuss support for NGOs and cooperation measures. MOFA also takes the opinions of NGOs into consideration when conducting negotiations at, for example, the United Nations with regard to the efforts in addressing global-scale issues in the development and humanitarian areas, including formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

B.Partnership in other major diplomatic areas

MOFA also cooperates with NGOs in areas other than those related to development assistance. For instance, at the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations, Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto (professor emeritus of Jumonji University and principal of Jumonji Junior/Senior High School) represented Japan, and NGO representatives actively participated in discussions as members of the delegation of Japan. At the 69th United Nations General Assembly, Ms. Arino Yaguchi (associate professor of Tokyo Women's Medical University) attended the Third Committee, which deals with a range of social and human rights issues, as a advisor to the representatives of the Government of Japan. In addition, the government of Japan has initiated dialogues with civil society including NGO representatives and intellectuals on matters related to government reports to be submitted based on various conventions on human rights, third country resettlement projects, and the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security based on the United Nations' Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related resolutions. In the elaboration process of this Action Plan, 12 small-group meetings with representatives of civil society and relevant authorities have been held thus far. Civil society will continue to be involved after the adoption of the Action Plan, in the implementation and monitoring phases, through their participation in the evaluation committee.

The presence of Japanese NGOs is also increasingly being felt in the area of disarmament and MOFA actively promotes

cooperation with NGOs. Specifically, officials of MOFA officials participated in seminars on conventional weapons hosted by NGOs. Cooperation with NGOs is also implemented in the areas of removal of mines and unexploded shells and risk aversion education projects in Afghanistan and other countries.

Furthermore, in the area of nuclear disarmament, the government backs up NGOs' activities to deliver the first-hand experiences of atomic bomb victims about the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons to the international community through the commissioned project called "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" launched in 2010. As of December 2014, a total of 139 persons have been sent all over the world under this commission mechanism.

As for the area of transnational organized crime, future challenges on measures against trafficking in persons have been discussed between the relevant government agencies and NGOs which engage in this issue.

(3) JOCV · SV

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a program aimed at cooperation/ assistance for the economic and social development of developing countries while young people aged 20 to 39 are living and working together with the local people and fostering mutual understanding. Established in 1965 and celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015, the JOCV has dispatched a total of 39,727 volunteers to 88 countries (as of end-December 2014), and has contributed to the development of developing countries as the symbol of Japan's aid with a Japanese flag. Dispatched members have been engaged in about 200 types of work in nine areas: planning administration, commercial/tourism, public utility works, human resources, agriculture and fisheries, health/medical care, mining, social welfare and energy.

An El Salvador women's team coached by a JOCV took part in the international competition "World Table Tennis Championships" held in Tokyo from April to May 2014 for the first

time in four years and the team took 63rd place, improving its previous world ranking.

Senior Volunteers (SV) is a program to dispatch middle aged persons from 40 to 69 years of age with wide-ranging skills and rich experiences to developing countries. The program has been expanding every year since its foundation in 1990 and by the end of December 2014, a total of 5,568 volunteers to 73 countries were dispatched cooperation in nine areas, as the same as JOCV, has been implemented. Interest in SV program has been increasing in recent years from the perspective of supporting life after retirement and utilizing the rich experiences and expertise of retired senior citizens.

JOCV and SV are supported by the high aspirations of people who are keen to provide cooperation for the sake of economic and social development and reconstruction of developing countries. MOFA actively promotes these programs, seeing them as a core of participatory international cooperation by citizens. As of end-December 2014, 1,854 JOCVs and 441 SVs are working around the world (69 countries and 60 countries, respectively). Volunteer participants who have returned to Japan bring their knowledge and experience back to Japanese society by sharing their experiences in educational and local activity settings and these unique people's participatory activities of Japan are highly appreciated and have many expectations both domestically and internationally, including recipient countries. The IOCV program was awarded a special prize of the Yomiuri International Cooperation Prize in November 2014 which recognizes the achievements of individuals or groups in the area of international cooperation and exhibition of the importance of cooperation and contribution to international community.

Experiences gained from JOCV/SV programs can lead to the growth of participants as human resources who will make a positive impact on the global arena. Thus, in cooperation with companies, municipal governments and universities which need means to develop human resources, the government promotes approaches to expand the participants through the dispatch of employees, teachers and students to developing countries. For instance, as a program responding to the needs of private companies, such as small-and mediumsized enterprises, aiming for international development of their businesses, the government launched the "Private-sector Partnership Volunteer Program" in FY2012. Furthermore,



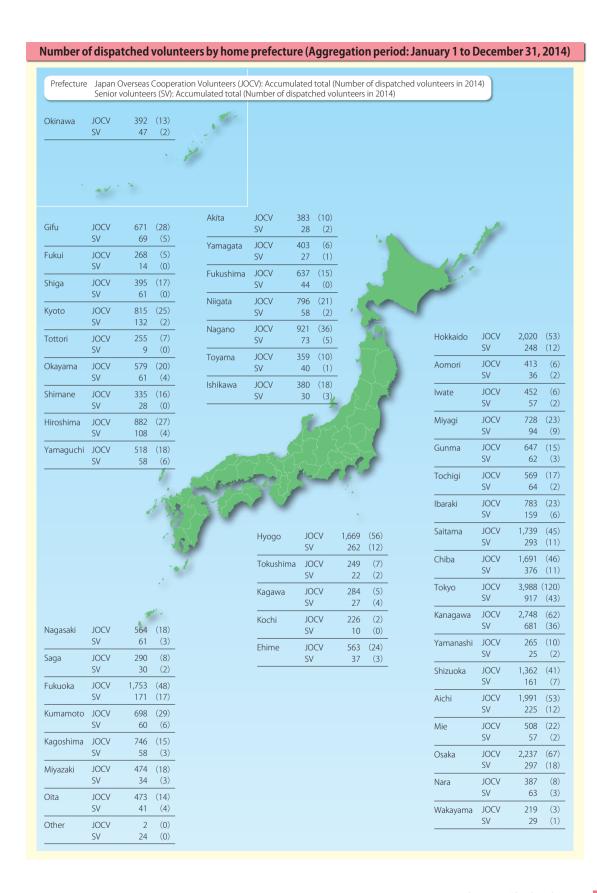
A JOVC member giving instructions to players at the World Table Tennis Championships (Source: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)



A SV member giving guidance to students in Mexico (Source: Kenshiro Imamura/JICA)

the government is committed to develop an environment for the feedback of the knowledge and experiences of the returned IOCVs and SVs into society, such as career support.

Some of the returned volunteers have been hired by the Reconstruction Agency working as help personnel in disaster-stricken local governments, being engaged in various areas of cooperation, such as management of temporary housing. agricultural work assistance for evacuees, health consultation and guidance, while utilizing their own specialties and experiences gained in JOCV/ SV programs.



Cooperation with Local Governments

In recent years, local governments and communities have actively pursued wideranging economic exchange initiatives (export/ tourism promotion) and international cooperation, without being confined only to traditional international exchange (sister/ friendship city exchange) activities. The role played by local governments and communities in diplomacy is absolutely crucial from the perspective of fostering mutual international understanding, enhancing Japan's presence in the international community, and strengthening the Japan brand.

MOFA implements various measures to strengthen cooperation with local governments and communities engaged in international efforts in various fields with an aim to reinforce the comprehensive diplomatic capacity of the nation under the slogan of "All-Japan."

As measures to support local governments to promote the regional attractiveness of Japan and to develop local industry and regional economy. "Regional Promotion Projects" have been conducted using Japan's overseas diplomatic facilities. In 2014, various local governments held 10 PR projects and seminars for local products and tourism in Asia, North America and Europe.

MOFA also carries out "Regional Promotion Seminars" to promote the policies and appeal of their respective regions to the diplomatic corps in Japan, in cooperation with local



Fukuoka Prefecture PR project (Japanese ambassador's residence in Thailand, July 18)



Okinawa Prefecture PR project (Japanese ambassador's residence in the US, September 4)



study tour (Chiba City)



study tour (Koya Town, Wakayama Prefecture)

governments. In 2014, MOFA hosted three seminars with such themes as "Corporate/ Investment Attraction Strategy" and "Tourism" and conducted four local study tours (Chiba Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefecture, Chiba City and Koya Town, Wakayama Prefecture).

In February, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Seiji Kihara hosted the reception in support of the reconstruction of the Tohoku region attended by vice-governors of three disaster-stricken prefectures and chairpersons of the prefectural assemblies, where accurate information on the disaster stricken areas was provided using scientific data on food safety and local products. Furthermore, in view of supporting the international initiatives of local governments, the "Reception Hosted by Foreign Minister on the Occasion of the General Meeting of the Japan Association of City Mayors" was held in Iune. Exhibition booths of local governments and stage performances to advertise local attractions were examples of promotional activities to build networks with diplomatic corps in Japan and to deepen their understanding about the regions.

Japanese ambassadors and consuls-general, while staying in Japan for business or leave. visit local governments to present the latest information on other countries and give consultation about cooperation between their offices abroad and local governments. Information on international exchange is also provided proactively and a "Local Partnership Cooperation Forum" was held in Tokyo in



Reception in support of the reconstruction of the Tohoku region (February 4)



Reception Hosted by Foreign Minister on the Occasion of the General Meeting of the Japan Association of City Mayors (June 4)



Local Partnership Cooperation Forum (February 10)



Kansai Symposium (October 2)

February and a "Local Partnership Kansai Symposium Cooperation" was held in Osaka in October.

The first part of the "Local Partnership Cooperation Forum" was the diplomatic policy briefing. In the second part, four themes were discussed by working groups: "Export Promotion of Local Specialties, such as Agricultural Products," "Attracting Tourists from ASEAN Countries," "Promotion of Cultural Exchange," and "Supporting Japanese Companies to Develop Overseas Business," where local government officials and external experts, and officers from relevant ministries, including MOFA, exchanged their opinions.

The theme of the "Local Partnership Cooperation Kansai Symposium" was the "Economic Partnership and the Kansai Economy: Expectations for Revitalizing Kansai Economy" and active discussions were held about the outlook of economic partnership agreement negotiations and cases of SME (Small- and Middle-sized Enterprises) support

by MOFA. Moreover, a wide range of information on measures taken in collaboration between MOFA and local governments and international exchange and economic exchange initiatives conducted by local governments is now available on the Glocal Diplomatic Network and Glocal Web magazine posted on the website of MOFA.

Revitalization of the regions is regarded as a priority issue of the Cabinet and the government will make concerted efforts to address this issue. In an effort toward that end, MOFA has set up the Task Force on Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan. The Task Force cooperates with the Council on Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan of the Cabinet Secretariats to promote further partnership with the regions through summarization and generalization of information on the efforts of MOFA for regional vitalization in a cross-ministerial manner.

Section 2

Supporting Japanese Nationals Overseas

Overview

In 2013, approximately 17.47 million Japanese nationals traveled abroad, while there were approximately 1.26 million Japanese nationals living overseas as of October 2013. As more Japanese nationals travel and live overseas. the risk of Japanese nationals being involved in incidents or accidents, or facing terrorism. riots, or natural disasters abroad has increased. Protecting the lives and safety of Japanese nationals overseas and furthering their interests are one of the important missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

MOFA provides Japanese nationals with timely information on incidents and accidents including terrorism and kidnapping, wars, conflicts, natural disasters, and infectious diseases abroad. It also encourages them to take necessary safety measures. MOFA takes steps to strengthen its capability and measures to be able to offer as much assistance as possible to Japanese nationals who have strayed into danger. In particular, based on the lessons learned from the January 2013 terrorist attack in Algeria, in which Japanese nationals were among the victims, MOFA has enhanced its measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals and Japanese companies overseas.

Furthermore, following the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese in Syria from August 2014 to February 2015, the "Task Force on Bolstering Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Overseas" was established. The Task Force reviews the necessary measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas, as well as the steps to realize these measures.

In 2014, Ebola virus disease outbreak had been observed in Guinea Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa MOFA issued alerts to nationals traveling and living Iapanese overseas about traveling to or staying in these countries. It has also provided information regarding the status of the outbreak and measures to prevent infection.

On April 1, 2014, the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Hague Convention) entered into force. MOFA, as the Central Authority for the implementation of the Convention, provides assistance to realize the return of a child who has been wrongfully removed, and/or to realize visitation or contacts with a child across borders.

Japanese embassies and consulates-general

provide Japanese nationals overseas with essential administrative services, such as issuing passports and various types of certificates, as well as accepting notifications concerning nationality and family registers, and handling overseas voting. In addition, they support the daily lives of Japanese nationals living abroad through such activities as providing assistance to local Japanese Schools and Supplementary Education Schools. MOFA also assists Japanese immigrants and people of Japanese descendant, who have contributed to the development of closer bilateral relations between Japan and their respective countries "bridges". Furthermore, the Ministry endeavors to improve consular services, which play an important role in protecting the safety of Japanese nationals and furthering their interests. Efforts to this end include fostering experts in consular affairs, improving trainings, and strengthening networks for public-private cooperation.

Overseas Risks and Safety of Japanese Nationals

(1) Incidents and Accidents in 2014 and Countermeasures

As more Japanese nationals have been traveling overseas in recent years, there is a greater risk for them to become involved in atrocious incidents and contingent events (see Chapter 3-1-3-(3) for details). On January 20, 2015, video of two Japanese nationals captured in Syria by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was posted on the Internet, which was appeared to be followed by the killing of these two hostages in this terrorist incident (See Focus on page 20 for details).

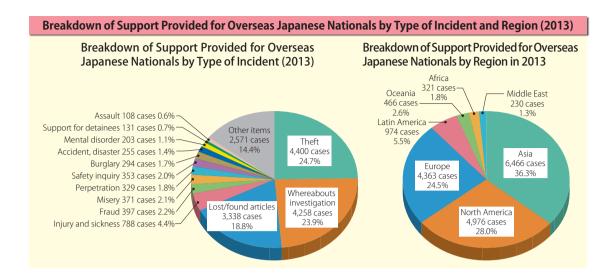
Terrorist attacks occurred mainly in the Middle East, Africa and South West Asia; examples of terrorist attacks include attacks on government facilities, such as security authorities, indiscriminate terrorism targeting citizens in places where many people congregate, such as public transportation facilities, religious facilities and markets, and capturing/killing of hostages perpetrated by Islamic extremist groups, such as ISIL, al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Terrorism committed individuals bv motivated by Islamic extremism occurred also in the Western countries. A Canadian soldier was shot and killed in October in Ottawa (Canada) and hostages were seized and held by a gunman in central Sydney (Australia) in December. A series of terrorist attacks occurred in January 2015, including an attack on a newspaper office in the city of Paris (France).

Kidnappings of foreign nationals also occurred around the world.

Murder incidents of Japanese nationals occurred in crimes in several countries such as the Philippines, Thailand and the United States.

Incidents in which Japanese nationals were involved include missing Japanese nationals while scuba diving off Bali island in Indonesia in February, collapsing the buildings by the explosion in New York (US) in March, car accidents in California (US) in August and November, and collision between a sightseeing



boat and a fishing boat in Brazil in September.

As for large-scale natural disasters, a number of trekkers of various nationalities including three Japanese nationals were killed in severe snowstorms and avalanches, caused by a cyclone on and around the mountains of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri of Nepal within the Himalava range in October.

As a case of a serious deterioration of security caused by political instability, although no Japanese nationals were involved in antigovernment demonstrations in Thailand from the fall of 2013 to May 2014 caused continuous chaos with occasional shooting incidents, etc. resulting in some deaths and injuries.

Also in Ukraine, "annexation" of Crimea Autonomous Republic by Russia in March intensified the confrontation between the Ukraine Government and armed forces: situations stayed unstable particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the East, and the Government of Japan provided information for its nationals in Ukraine.

Hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza intensified in June and July. Israel launched large-scale air attacks on Gaza and the rockets fired from Gaza landed in Israeli territory.

From September, the Hong Kong protest movement, "Occupy Central," organized by students and pro-democracy activist groups, went on a sit-down strike over the political reform issue. The situation was confused for several months such as occurring confrontation between these groups and police trying to clear the protest site.

There have been reports of incidents in the mountains and the sea involving middle-ages and seniors, and also of persons becoming ill while traveling; in particular, there were a number of cases of deaths caused by sudden illness when staying at hotels. In dealing with such incidents or illnesses, there were some cases where the family members of the victims faced troubles due to extremely high medical or transportation costs compared to those in Japan or insufficient medical services.

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, had a global impact, resulting in the formal declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO). MOFA issued an infectious disease risk advisory for these three affected countries on August 8, 2014 and released Spot Safety Info and Region-wide Safety Info on the relevant areas to provide information on the status of the outbreak and infection prevention measures to Japanese nationals traveling and living overseas and raised caution on traveling and staying abroad.

Cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) in China and the Middle respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Middle East were confirmed respectively. Malaria, Dengue fever and other mosquito-borne infectious diseases infected millions of people around the world. Concerns over health hazards caused by air pollution are still growing in emerging countries, such as China, India and Southeast Asia.

[Tips for Traveling and Living Abroad]

As described in the earlier sections. emergency situations posing threats to the safety of Japanese nationals are continuously occurring all around the world. When traveling and living abroad, the following actions must be taken: (1) to check overseas security information in advance on the Overseas Safety Website or through media reports, etc. (2) to take full safety measures and risk aversion actions to prepare for emergency situations while abroad, and (3) In an emergency, to contact the Japanese diplomatic missions overseas nearby, such as the embassy/ consulate general, and family members in Japan in the event of an emergency. Expensive medical fees may be incurred abroad due to diseases and accidents, and it may be difficult to pay the medical cost or to receive proper medical care without travel insurance. It is extremely important for each individual traveler to purchase travel insurance with sufficient coverage.

(2) Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Abroad

As Japanese nationals expand their roles and presence in the international community, the number of Japanese nationals abroad for which missions diplomatic overseas and the provided Interchange Association, Japan support and protection increased in 2013 to 19,746 persons from 17,426 persons of 10 years ago (2003)1. In order to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals abroad, the protection systems in the diplomatic missions overseas have been strengthened. Still, it is necessary for each individual person to have awareness for risk management and take actions with understanding of risk trends and safety measures overseas. For those purposes, MOFA is enhancing and improving the contents of the

The Statistics on Assistance for Japanese Involved in Accidents and Other Incidents is an annual report on the number of Japanese nationals involved in any kind of troubles in foreign countries, such as incidents/accidents, acts of committing crimes, and falling victim to crime or disaster, and have received assistance provided by the diplomatic missions overseas and/or the Japan Foundation and was published in 1986 for the first time.

Overseas Safety Website for the provision of safety information and revises the functions and design of the website to enhance its usability.

The Consular Service Center of MOFA provides advice on safety issues abroad. In order to provide detailed response to the activities of Japanese nationals abroad, the center distributes a booklet titled "Kaigai Anzen Toranomaki" ("Essential Safety Tips for Overseas Travel") which contains comprehensive safety measures. as well as pamphlets describing measures to be taken in each predictable case, such as terrorism, kidnapping and intimidation. These pamphlets can also be downloaded from the overseas safety website.

Drawing lessons from the 2013 terrorist attack in Algeria involving Japanese nationals, MOFA is committed to enhancing the safety measures for Japanese nationals and companies overseas. As part of such efforts, MOFA launched the MOFA "Overseas Registration" on July 1, 2014. This new scheme aims to provide registered persons with the latest overseas travel safety information and

emergency contacts in the event of an emergency by asking short-stay (less than three months) travelers (those on tours or business trips), who are not required to submit the Overseas Residential Registration, to register their travel itineraries, including their place of stay and contact number. Furthermore, MOFA aims to develop a multilayered and complementary communication system to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals abroad: e.g. partial introduction of using Short Message Service (SMS)² of mobile phones as a one of the means to confirm safety in the event of an emergency.

The report of the government's verification committee and the report of the advisory committee on safety of Japanese nationals and firms overseas established in response to the

Overseas Travel Registration



Top 20 Diplomatic Missions Overseas in Terms of the Number of Cases of Assistance Provided (2013)

Ranking	Diplomatic missions overseas	Cases
1	1 Embassy of Japan in Thailand	
2	2 Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai (China)	
3	Embassy of Japan in France	829
4	Embassy of Japan in the Philippines	770
5	Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom	682
6	Consulate-General of Japan in New York (US)	663
7	Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles (US)	655
8	Consulate-General of Japan in Barcelona (Spain)	410
9	Embassy of Japan in Republic of Korea	358
10	Embassy of Japan in China	342

Ranking	Diplomatic missions overseas	Cases
11	11 Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong (China)	
12	12 Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu (US)	
13	Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco (US)	303
14	Embassy of Japan in Italy	275
15	Consulate-General of Japan in Guangzhou (China)	248
16	Consulate-General of Japan in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam)	240
17	Consulate-General of Japan in Hagatna (US)	226
18	Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle (US)	223
19	Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai (Thailand)	221
20	Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver (Canada)	213

Service sending a short text message between mobile phone or PHS users.

Overseas safety website (http://www.anzen.mofa.go.ip/)





System and outline of "Overseas Travel Safety Information"



Region-wide Safety Information

Providing information requiring attention to be paid in a broad area covering more than two countries or regions.

Basic Data for Safety Measures

Providing basic information on individual countries and regions useful for avoiding crimes and troubles, including information on the status of crime occurrence, frequently used crime techniques, measures to avoid crimes, points of attention related to emigration/immigration, and characteristics of local manners and customs in countries and regions.

Spot Safety Information (short time travel alert regarding specific events)

Providing up-to-date travel alert on incidents and accidents that occurred in specific locations in specific periods of time.

Travel Warning

Providing warning in four categories on the current situation and safety measures of individual countries and areas that require special attention for visiting and staying.

(It should be noted that there are separate criteria for the issuance of risk information related to infectious diseases.)

Outline of Terrorism and Kidnap Risks

Providing an outline of terrorism and kidnap risks in individual countries as a reference for securing safety.

terrorist incident against the Japanese nationals in Algeria recommended enhancing government and private collaboration. As one of the specific measures based on the MOFA recommendation. and relevant ministries co-hosted the follow up meeting of the "Intensive Public-Private Joint Seminar on Overseas Safety Measures" in October with an aim to improve knowledge on risk management and the capacity of safety management officers of private companies. In order to provide Japanese companies engaged in overseas business operations with information on risk

management, the "Seminar on Safety Overseas" was held in Osaka (March), Nagoya (July) and Sendai (December). Hands-on training for responding to terrorism and kidnapping in June and September was participated in by both public and private sectors in order to further effectuate the private-public collaboration in responding to emergency situations. Moreover, the meetings of the "the Liaison Committee of Government and non-Government for Overseas Security" are held periodically to exchange information and opinions and to consult and discuss the

common issues between Japanese private companies/organizations engaged in overseas activities and MOFA.

The diplomatic missions overseas also hold "the Security regular meetings of the Consultation and Liaison Committee" comprising local Japanese organizations and private representatives to enhance opinion exchange and information sharing regarding safety measures. The "Seminar on Safety Overseas" was held at a total of 20 foreign cities to raise awareness about safety measures and risk management of Japanese residents in the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America, and Asia.

Consular Service and Assistance for Living Overseas

(1) Improving Consular Service

MOFA conducts a questionnaire survey every year on consular services and over-thecounter services provided by diplomatic missions overseas to reflect the voices of Japanese nationals residing overseas improvement and enhancement of consular services.

In 2014, the surveys were conducted by 150 diplomatic missions overseas and received about 20.000 responses. The result shows

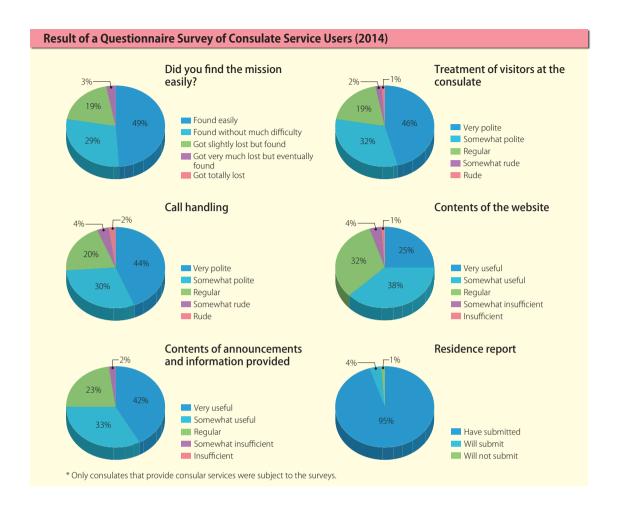
generally high satisfaction with regard to overthe-counter services; however, a small number of respondents expressed unfavorable opinions. Also, some responded that the "Visiting Consular Service" provided as part of consular services was not necessarily convenient for users. MOFA intends to continue its efforts for improvements while listening to the voices of the users so as to provide consular services in line with the needs of users.

(2) Issuance of Passports and Prevention of Illicit Acquisition of Passports

Approximately 3.21 million passports were issued in Japan in 2014. As of the end of December 2014, the number of ePassports³ is about 29.03 million, accounting for about 94% of all the valid Japanese passports.

The issuance of ePassports is effective for deterring the illicit use of passports, such as forged or altered passports; however, cases of illicit acquisition of passports by means of impersonation⁴ still continue occurring. There were cases where Japanese nationals or illegal foreign residents left and entered Japan using passports bearing the name of another person which had been acquired illegally. Also, passports with false identities were used for borrowing money from financial institutions, for opening bank accounts for the purpose of selling them to those who plot to commit other

- ePassports stores digitized facial image of the passport holder (biological information) on the IC chip. It was first issued in 2006.
- The number of illegal acquisitions of passports discovered: 86 passports in 2010, 43 in 2011, 26 in 2012, 13 in 2013 and 12 in 2014.

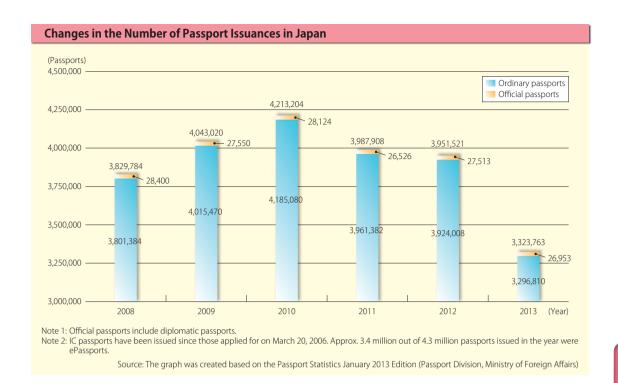


crimes, and for subscribing to mobile phone services without the real passport holders knowing. In order to prevent illicit acquisition of passports that may nurture these secondary or tertiary crimes, MOFA is further making efforts to enhance strict identity examination when issuing a passport, for example, by designating a stringent examination period against the illicit acquisition of passports through identity theft at passport offices located in each prefecture.

When there was a change in the name of the passport holder, etc., the previous method was to make amendments in the registered entry. However, the amended passport information may not be regarded as authentic identification

in other countries. In light of this situation, MOFA abolished the previous method and started issuing new updated passports since March 20, 2014.

the meantime. Machine Readable Passports (MRP) are issued in most countries of the world, in accordance with recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). the penetration of ePassports with improved security progresses, possibilities of more effective use of IC chip functions such as those containing biological information fingerprints in addition to facial images, is now being considered and discussed at the ICAO and the International Organization



Standardization (ISO).

Consignment of passport-related work from the prefectural governments to city/town offices has been possible since 2006, such as application and delivery, and about 750 cities/towns had started passport service by the end of 2014, which covers about 40% of all the cities/towns in Japan.

(3) Overseas Voting

The overseas voting system allows Japanese voters living overseas to vote in national elections. In the elections after June 2007, it was made possible to vote in the small electoral district election for the House of Representatives and in the electoral district election for the House of Councilors (including by-election and recall election), in addition to voting in the proportional representation segment of elections for the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. In December 2014, the 47th election for the House of Representatives was conducted. A referendum concerning the constitutional

amendment can also be voted in the same manner.

In order to vote overseas, it is necessary to be registered in advance in the overseas voter directory managed by the election board of the city/town government and to obtain overseas voter identification. Voters with valid overseas voter identification can vote by choosing one of the following three methods of voting, diplomatic mission overseas voting, postal voting, or voting in Japan. Japanese diplomatic missions overseas have been making efforts to disseminate the system and to increase the number of registered voters by publicizing this system and carrying



b Voting by mail

A voting slip can be requested by sending your registered certificate and a written request for a voting slip to the chair of the election administration committee of the municipality where you are registered. Send the completed voting slip to the chair so that it arrives at the voting venue before the end of voting (20:00 Japan time) in Japan. (Voting possible the day following that of public announcement or notification.)



c Voting in Japan

If an overseas voter is temporarily staying in Japan during the election time or before the voter is registered on a domestic voters' list after returning home, the voter may vote in the same ways as other domestic voters (early voting, absentee voting and voting on the election day).

out a visiting service for the registration of

Japanese nationals living in remote areas.

(4) Assistance for Japanese Nationals Living and Engaging in Activities Overseas

A. Japanese schools and Supplementary Education Schools

Education for children is one of the major concerns for Japanese nationals living abroad. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, MOFA carries out assistance for Japanese Schools (partial subsidy for school building rental fees, rewards for locally hired teachers and safety measures expenses) so that the overseas school children at the age of domestic compulsory education can receive education equivalent to that of in Japan. MOFA also provides assistance (partial subsidy for school rental fees and rewards

for locally hired teachers) for Supplementary Education Schools (educational institutions established to maintain children's ability, such as Japanese language ability) mainly in areas where Japanese Schools are not located. The number of Japanese children living abroad has been on an increasing trend in recent years, and MOFA and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology intend to continue/ enhance its assistance.

B. Medical/health measures

In order to provide health advices through consultations to Japanese nationals residing in countries where the medical situation is generally poor, MOFA dispatches medical teams with the cooperation of domestic medical institutions (13) cities in five countries in FY2014). MOFA also dispatches medical specialists in regions where air pollution is causing grave concern (12 cities in four countries in FY2014). In addition, MOFA has been actively providing medical information, such as information on the spread of infectious diseases overseas, through the Overseas Safety Website and the websites of diplomatic missions overseas.

C. Other needs

In order to eliminate the complexity of various procedures for Japanese nationals living overseas (including converting Japanese driving licenses to one of the country of residence and obtaining residence/work permits) and to make living abroad more comfortable, MOFA continues talks with foreign governments. When converting driving licenses in Japan, persons with driver's licenses issued in a foreign country can obtain Japanese drivers licenses without taking certain examinations (written examination and skill examination) if it is recognized that they should have no problem operating vehicles.

On the other hand, it is mandatory to take driving tests when converting Japanese licenses to local licenses in some North and South American countries, for example, MOFA is calling for those countries to streamline the procedures for license conversion as in Japan.

MOFA also supports victims of atomic bomb attacks living overseas in applying for the authorization of Atomic Bomb Diseases and for the issuance of Health Check Certificates, via diplomatic missions overseas.

Cooperation with Emigrants and Japanese Descendants, Nikkei

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of 146 years as of 2014. There are estimated 3.19 million overseas Japanese, Nikkei, with especially large numbers residing in the North, Central and South America. They make positive and great contributions to the development of the countries in various fields, including politics, economy, academics and culture, and at the same time, they act as

a bridge between Japan and these countries in developing close relations.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Central and South America (Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Chile and Brazil) in July and August 2014 and had active interactions with Japanese descendants.

Together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MOFA provides cooperation in Central and South America where an estimated 1.78 million Japanese descendants live. Various forms of assistance are offered, including welfare support for aging emigrants, training in Japan for Japanese descendants, and dispatch of volunteers to the local Nikkei communities. On the occasion of a visit to Brazil Prime Minister Abe announced Japan's intention to take a number of measures to strengthen the relations between Japan and the Nikkei communities in Central and South America, including a significant increase in the number of trainees participating in the Education Program for Next-Generation Nikkei and volunteers for Nikkei communities.

A program inviting Nikkei leaders in various fields to Japan has been carried out in North. Central and South America. Efforts are underway to strengthen relations with Japanese descendants in these regions. Such efforts include holding conferences to discuss how to enhance bilateral relations between Nikkei leaders and the heads of diplomatic missions overseas and active provision of opportunities for Japanese high-level officials on visits to meet Japanese descendants.

The 55th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad was successfully held by the



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishi attending the National Nikkei/ Japanese-Mexican Convention (May 2, Sinaloa, Mexico)

Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad in Tokyo in October, participated in by about 140 emigrants and their descendants from 23 countries/regions. The welcome party was attended by His Imperial Highress Crown Prince, in addition to numerous government officials, including State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of various ministries and agencies to deepen exchange with emigrants and their descendants.

Japan intends to provide support for Japanese emigrants and their descendants, promote cooperation with the young generation and strengthen the bond between these people and Japan.

Entry into Force of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Hague Convention) and its Implementation

The Hague Convention is designed to ensure immediate return of a child who has been wrongfully removed from one contracting state to another. It is based on the idea that the custody (parental authority) of a child, whose parents' international marriage was failed, should be decided in the state in which the child habitually resides. Also, in order to ensure the opportunity for trans-boundary parent-child access, the Hague Convention prescribes that Contracting States should cooperate for realization of parent-child access.

Reference: Number of Applications for Assistance Received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Based on the Implementation Act of the Hague Convention (as of the end of 2014)

	Application for assistance in child's return	Application for assistance in visitation or contact with child
Application concerning a child (children) in Japan	17	50
Application concerning a child (children) outside Japan	12	14

With an increase in the number of crossborder exchanges and international marriage and divorce, the Government of Japan signed and deposited the Instrument of Acceptance of the Hague Convention on January 24, 2014. Following this, the Hague Convention came into force in Japan on April 1, 2014, and, at the same time, the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was enforced.

A governmental agency designated as the Central Authority provides assistance to fulfill the obligations under the Hague Convention. In Japan, MOFA assumes the role of the Central Authority for communications/ cooperation with foreign Central Authorities to implement the Convention, and for assistances provided to the parties including locating whereabouts of the child and arranging mediation services towards amicable solutions. Dealing with cases under the Hague Convention requires accurate understanding of not only the Convention but also domestic family laws and international private law. Also, some of the parties involved in under the

Hague Convention are victims of domestic violence or child abuse, which requires response with specialist expertise. Therefore, MOFA employs a wide range of specialists in dealing with cases, including legal specialists, such as lawyers, specialists in supporting victims of domestic violence and specialists in child psychology.

In the nine months from the entry into force of the Convention to end-December, MOFA received a total of 93 applications: applications for assistance in return of the child and 64 applications for assistance in access to the child.

As a result of the entry into force of the Hague Convention, children are confirmed to have returned to Japan from another country in five cases and to another country from Japan in two cases (as of the end of 2014). In three cases for which MOFA provided assistance, access to the child was realized (including communications via video phone). There was a case of trans-border parent-child access in which a child visited the father living overseas during a long-term school vacation.

Column

Serving as an Attorney in a Hague Convention Case

After the Hague Convention took effect in Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received its first request for assistance in the return of a child under the Convention. I was fortunately involved in this case as the representative attorney for the mother, and will now report briefly on the background and future challenges of the case.

In this case, the Japanese mother brought two children from country A back to Japan in March 2014, and did not return to country A after that. The father, who had been left behind in country A, submitted an application for assistance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened the case for assistance. Although the father who had been left behind wished to resolve the matter through settlement rather than court proceedings, direct discussion between the two parties made little headway. As such, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to commission mediation at an ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) institution, the Dispute Resolution Center of Tokyo Bar Association. Under the direction of the two mediators (a lawyer, and a clinical psychologist / researcher), sessions were held on four appointed dates, and the parties ultimately arrived at an agreement that the children and the mother return to country A.

In ADR, constructive discussions were conducted on issues such as whether it was more beneficial for the children to attend school in Japan or in country A, and how the access of both parents to the children could be secured. However, due to the barriers posed by differences in values and cultures of the two parents with regard to raising children, and differences in the educational systems of the two countries as well as time constraints of mediation, two parties failed to reach a final conclusion that they were both satisfied with. For such reason, the mother decided to bring the children back to country A, in order for the two parents to continue with a settlement in country A.

However, as court orders that were disadvantageous to the mother had been issued in country A, she faced the risk of arrest there. For this reason, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested

confirmation from the Central Authority of country A that the mother would not be arrested, and succeeded in achieving the safe return of the children and the mother to country A.

In Japan, procedures under the Hague Convention are characterized with a wide range of options available for resolution of the problem. Although application under the Convention has only begun in Japan, I hope that we will be able to build up good practices and become a model for other countries in the future, not only in court proceedings, but also in other mediation cases conducted with the assistance of the Central Authority.



Toshiteru Shibaike, Attorney

Section 3 **Diplomacy** with the Support of the Public

Overview

Proactive Information Dissemination to the Public

Public understanding and support are indispensable for the smooth implementation of Japan's foreign policy. As such, providing prompt and clear explanations on the policy details and on the role of government is crucial. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is committed to enhancing its ability to communicate information, using all forms of media in an agile and effective manner, combining public relations, media relations and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Regular press conferences are conducted four days a week by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the State Ministers for Foreign Affairs, or the Press Secretary, while extraordinary press conferences are held as necessary. MOFA releases statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Press Secretary announcing the stance of the Government of Japan on specific issues, and issues press releases that provide information on MOFA's activities. In addition, the Minister, State Ministers, and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers explain the Government's foreign policies directly the public through

appearances on TV and by means of other media. MOFA also assists in facilitating reporting activities of the diplomatic events.

MOFA's official website swiftly distributes information about diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and provides the latest and basic information on Japan's foreign policy and international affairs. MOFA also uses social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Furthermore, MOFA organizes speeches by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to promote public relations through dialogue with Japanese nationals and holds various lectures by its officials at international excharge organizations. universities and high schools nationwide to promote understanding of Japan's foreign policy and the international situation, as well as to cultivate the next generation of Japanese leaders. Moreover, MOFA strives to improve two-way communication with the public through such public consultation initiatives as receiving comments and opinions on its official website.

Declassification of Diplomatic Records

To further enhance the public understanding of and confidence in Japan's foreign policy,

MOFA established the "Committee for the Promotion of Declassification of the Diplomatic Records". MOFA is actively engaged in transferring records to the Diplomatic Archives and in their declassification. The Ministry also strives to implement the procedure smoothly and swiftly while accelerating the process of declassification.

Enhancing Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

MOFA is continuing its efforts to enhance policy the comprehensive foreign implementation structure, while allocating its limited resources to high priority areas in order to promote flexible diplomacy that can respond appropriately to the changes in both domestic and international situations.

With regard to Japanese diplomatic missions overseas, MOFA established the Embassy of Japan in Iceland in January 2014 and the Embassies of Japan in Marshall Islands, Armenia, and Namibia in January 2015. However, the number of Japanese diplomatic missions overseas remains fewer than those of other major countries. MOFA is therefore committed to improving this situation strategically. Also, the number of staff members of MOFA is relatively small compared to that of other major countries. In order to better respond to the complex diplomatic challenges and make international contributions comparable to other major countries, MOFA continues to make every effort to increase the number of staff members. In FY2015 and beyond, MOFA will continuously make efforts ensure competitive foreign implementation structure that is comparable to that of other major countries, while further streamlining. Under a fluid international situation, in the 2014 budget, MOFA allocated 666.1 billion ven to support the above-described foreign policy implementation structure, and to (1) ensure/promote national interests reflecting the changes in the strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific region and (2) realize the "Promotion of Grobal Interests" through contributions to global issues.

Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy

As is referred to in the National Security Strategy, expanding the intellectual base on Japan's diplomacy and security and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people will lead to strengthening Japan's diplomatic power in the middle- to long-term. Therefore, MOFA will deepen exchanges with think tanks in the diplomacy and security fields, strengthen their development and reinforce supports, and actively make use of the insights of private sector intellectuals.

Active Provision of Information to the Public

(1) Information Provision through Domestic Media

MOFA has committed itself to appropriate information provision through various media, such as newspapers, television and the Internet in order to gain the understanding and support of Japanese nationals for Japan's foreign policy. In particular, the press conferences of the

Foreign Minister are open to foreign media, Internet media and freelance journalists and the records and videos of the press conferences are posted on the website of MOFA. On the occasion of overseas visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, information is sent from the visited countries so that the people can easily trace and understand the processes and outcomes. In addition, MOFA carries out information provision cooperation for media coverage in various forms. which include transmission information on foreign policy using email newsletters, provision of information on foreign policy to media personnel in local areas, and interviews of high-level officials of MOFA by newspapers of their local hometown.

When factual errors and insufficient information are reported by the media, MOFA will submit an appeal for correction when it is

Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	87 times
State Minister for Foreign Affairs	7 times
Press Secretary	30 times
Total	124 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2014

Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	47 times
Statements by Press Secretary	51 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,318 times
Total	1,416 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2014

deemed necessary and will contribute its views or post its views on the website of MOFA upon announcement at a press conference. These are all efforts to gain an accurate understanding of Japan's approach and stance domestically and internationally.

(2) Information Provision through the Internet

MOFA is working on provision of information through the Internet using websites and social media in order to garner understanding and support for Japan's foreign policy from Japanese nationals and from the international community. MOFA's Japanese website posts information on recent diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister. and provides the latest news and basic information on such as Japan's foreign policy and international affairs. Furthermore, MOFA posts a wide range of contents including "Easy Ways to Understand International Situations," which explains international situations in an understandable manner, and "MOFA for Kids"

for the students of elementary and junior/ senior-high schools.



MOFA's website



Regular press conference by the Foreign Minister (MOFA, Tokyo)

日本の領土をめぐる情勢



Japanese Territory

Regarding MOFA's English website as an important tool for public diplomacy, MOFA has enhanced the function of sending messages in English pertaining to Japan's foreign policies and Japan's positions on international affairs. In April 2014, MOFA set up a special site, "Japanese Territory," in eleven languages.



MOFA for Kids



Official Facebook of MOFA

Information is also available through the websites of Japanese embassies and consulates general overseas in local languages.

In light of the spread of various forms of social media, MOFA sends out information using Facebook and Twitter and also actively uses YouTube for sending video messages.

(3) Dialogue with the People

MOFA promotes "Public Relations through Dialogue with Japanese nationals" to provide the people of Japan with an opportunity to directly talk to the Foreign Minister and its officials.

As a part of such opportunities, MOFA holds "Talk to the Minister" to give explanations on Japan's foreign policies and the principles

Number of Lectures on Various Topics Offered by the Ministry and the Number of Visits to the Ministry by Elementary and Junior/Senior-High School Students

Lecture on the International Situation	22 times
Diplomatic Talks	76 times
Talks for High school	113 times
Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to the Ministry	70 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2014

and other themes in which the people have much interest and give candid answers to the questions and opinions of the participants.

MOFA is committed to promote understanding of foreign policies and international affairs through various occasions. For instance, MOFA organizes lectures by its officials at international exchange organizations. universities and high schools throughout Japan, through "Lecture on the International Situation," "Diplomatic Talks" and "Talks for High School programs." It also holds debate sessions between university students and young officials of the ministry through "Dialogue with Students," as well as providing opportunities for young students to visit MOFA ("Visits of Elementary, Junior- and High-School Students to MOFA.")

In September 2014, MOFA held the



Lecture on the International Situation (July 13, Support Center for Senior Citizens Activities, Suginami Ward, Tokyo)

"International Issues Presentation Contest." which is a renewed version of the previous "Debate on International Issues by University Students" and participating students made excellent presentations on the theme of "My Proposal—Japan's Future ODA."

Japan's ODA policies and specific measures are introduced to the public through various symposiums, lectures and "ODA Delivery Lectures" in which the officials of MOFA are dispatched to schools (52 lectures). MOFA issues the journal "Diplomacy" with the aim of raising people's interest in diplomacy through active discussions on foreign policies from a wide range of opinion leaders, including scholars, journalists and NGOs. In 2014, the journal featured and highlighted various diplomatic issues, such as current international affairs in the Middle East and Ukraine. introduced information on international information/warfare and published a number of papers by prominent experts from around the world.

Ιn order also further promote understanding on the organizational structure and foreign policies of MOFA, numerous pamphlets are released such pamphlets include



Memorial photo of elementary, junior and senior-high school students on the occasion of their visit to MOFA



Journal on foreign affairs titled "Diplomacy"

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs," "Japan's Security Policies," and "We Will Support the International Business Activities of Japanese Companies."

In addition to the above, MOFA surveys

Number of Public Opinion Communications (received by the Office for Comment and Opinion)

By email	103,583 times
By phone	7,836 times
By fax / letter	873 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2014

public opinion through various forms of media, including the website of MOFA, the website of the Prime Minister of Japan and his Cabinet, and the electronic governmental inquiries window ("e-Gov"), as well as through telephone calls, fax messages and letters. Opinions and comments gathered from the public are shared throughout MOFA and used as a reference in policy making and planning.

(4) Promotion of Declassification of Diplomatic Records and Information Disclosure

MOFA has voluntarily disclosed, in addition to documents prior to the World War II, postwar diplomatic records and made them public at the Diplomatic Archives since 1976. MOFA has set up the "Committee for the Promotion of Declassification of the Diplomatic Records", which is chaired by either State Minister for Foreign Affairs or Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and participated by external experts, to engage actively in an effort to transfer diplomatic records that have past more than 30 years since their compilation/ creation to the Diplomatic Archives for the public to have access. 12 meetings in total of the said Committee were held by December 2014. The speed of declassification of diplomatic records has been accelerating, particularly

since the fall of 2011, and the number of files, which have been transferred and completed the procedure of declassification, reached 22,000 at the end of 2014 (starting from May 2010).

Furthermore, MOFA discloses information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs (Act on Access to Information) while giving consideration to national security, relationship of mutual trust with other countries, impacts on diplomatic negotiations and the protection of personal information. In 2014. MOFA received 684 requests for disclosure and documents totaling 70,474 pages were disclosed.

Enhancing Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

In order to respond to the increasingly severe security environment and diversifying diplomatic issues, it is necessary to dramatically enhance the foreign policy implementation structure, which is still less sufficient than that of other major countries. In view of this. MOFA is devoted to enhancing its foreign policy implementation structure by reforming personnel structure and diplomatic missions overseas, such as Embassies and Consulate-Generals.

Diplomatic missions overseas, such as Embassies and Consulate-Generals, not only represent Japan but also play a key role in diplomatic areas, such as information gathering on the diplomatic frontline, provision of information to the public overseas, promotion of diplomatic relations, and international contribution. At the same time, they are responsible for operations directly related to the improvement of benefits for Japanese nationals, such as protecting their lives and safety, providing support for Iapanese companies, promoting investment and tourism, and securing energy and other resources.

In January 2015, Japanese Embassies were established in the Marshall Islands, Armenia and Namibia. The establishment of Embassies in these three countries is significant in terms of the following viewpoints. Cooperation with the Marshall Islands in various aspects, such as recovery of the remains of Japan's war dead, is becoming even more important in addition to the country's importance as a supply source of marine products and its sea lane location that is vital for Japan. Armenia

has an important role in the stability of the Caucasus and there is a high potential for stronger ties with Japan in various areas. including economic ties, since the country has recently been focusing on the development of its IT industry. Namibia is endowed with rich marine, mineral resources and the location that can become the logistics gateway to the Atlantic Ocean of southern Africa area. With these advantages as a background, the country expects expansion of trade and investment with Japan, especially in the resource development and energy fields, and Namibia is growing its importance in supporting Japanese companies and protecting Japanese nationals overseas. Diplomatic missions overseas of major countries have already acted in Namibia. and Japan needs to launch more active diplomatic operations through strengthening information gathering and further deepening the relationship with Government of Namibia.

As of FY2014, the number of Japanese diplomatic missions overseas is 207 (139 Embassies. 60 Consulate-Generals and 8 Permanent missions) and the number is still fewer than that of other major countries such as US (277) and China (254).

In FY2015, Japan will establish Embassies in the Maldives, the Solomon Islands, Barbados, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Moldova for the following reasons, based on the idea that it is essential to further strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure to a level equivalent to other major countries.

As for the Maldives, 40,000 Japanese people visit the country every year. As located on the Indian Ocean sea lane, it has geo-political importance. The Maldives is friendly to Japan, providing consistent support the international arena.

Next, the Solomon Islands are bestowed with marine resources such as tuna and mineral resources. In addition, it is necessary Japan to further strengthen implementation structure for projects to recover the remains of the Japanese war dead and to commemorate them.

Barbados is located at on important hub of regional transportation in the East Caribbean area. It is also important for Japan for the purpose of further strengthening relations with major countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which possess an influence, and have a similar stance with Japan in the international arena.

Tajikistan has a long border with Afghanistan, and thus the country is important in terms of anti-terrorist and anti-drug measures, as well as in contributing to the stability of the entirety of Central Asia. Japan has friendly relations with Tajikistan, a trustworthy country in the international arena.

Turkmenistan is a resource-rich country with the world's fourth-largest reserves of natural gas. Japanese companies participate in a development project with a total investment of 1 trillion ven. It is also important for regional stability since the country shares borders with Afghanistan and Iran.

Finally, Moldova is located at a point of strategic importance between the EU and Russia. and has been working on democratization and market-oriented economic reform. The country is also important from the

perspective of keeping a close watch on the situation in Ukraine.

Since the need for supporting Japanese companies is increasing rapidly and provision of information to the public overseas in other cities in addition to capitals is needed, Japan will establish Consulate-Generals in León. Mexico and Hamburg, Germany, In León, the number of Japanese nationals and companies has been rapidly increasing in recent years. In Hamburg, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has its seat. The Tribunal's importance for the settlement of maritime disputes by peaceful means is increasing in Also, some of Germany's recent vears. prominent media companies have their headquarters in Hamburg.

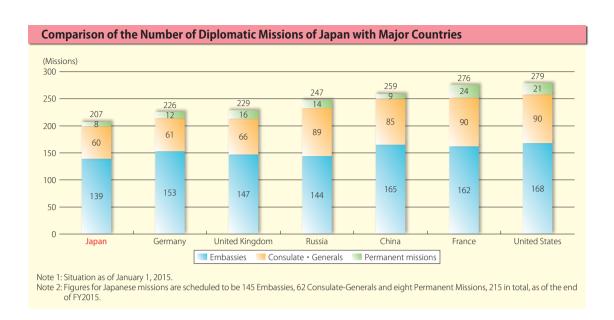
As for the number of staff members, given the government's policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses in the light of the current severe budget situations, MOFA set the number of staff members to be 5.787 with an increase of 34 staffs in FY2014, in consideration of the importance of strengthening the organizational structure to implement foreign policy and as a preparation for the scheduled establishment of the National Security Secretariat of Japan. However, this number is still insufficient when compared to that of other major countries. MOFA is therefore continuing to improve its personnel structure, with a view to building a more effective and efficient system. In the meantime, based on the understanding that enhancing the foreign implementation structure remain policy necessary in FY2015, MOFA plans to increase its staff members by 82 persons in order to address important issues such as

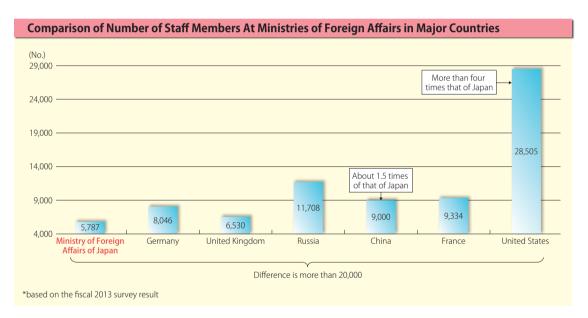
implementation of Japan's foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map and the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," strengthening its capacity to transmit information and enhancing the organizational structure to implement public relations activities. promoting economic diplomacy and supporting the overseas activities of Japanese nationals.

In order to support the foreign policy implementation structure of Japan and to (1) ensure/improve national interests reflecting the changes in the strategic environment of the Asia-Pacific region and (2) realize the "Promotion of Global Interests" through contributions to global issues, under a fluid international situation, MOFA appropriated a budget of 666.1 billion yen for FY2014 (an increase of 9.5% from FY2013). The total amount of the FY2014 supplementary budget was 190.5 billion ven. The supplementary budget included the total amount of 159.9 billion yen allocated as additional financial demand for emergency humanitarian/ reconstruction assistance, including measures against the Ebola virus disease and support for the stabilization of the Middle East, North

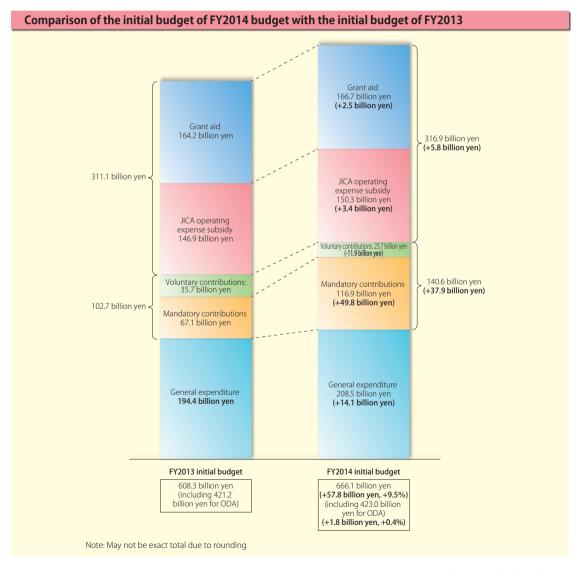
Africa and Europe. It also included the sum of 30.5 billion ven allocated to revitalization support for SMEs using ODA and revitalization of local economy as economic measures. The FY2015 initial government budget proposal appropriated 685.4 billion ven (an increase of 2.9% from FY2014) in order to strongly promote "Japan's Foreign Policy that Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map" under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation by identifying the following five priorities: (1) strategic public diplomacy, (2) contribution to global issues based on the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," (3) promotion of economic diplomacy to boost "Abenomics," (4) proactive/strategic use of ODA, and (5) dramatic expansion of the foreign policy implementation structure.

In order to promote the Japan's national interests, it is essential to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure. We will strategically continue to proceed enhancement of foreign policy implementation structure, so that it will be equivalent to that of other major countries, while further streamline the structure itself.









Column

The Role of an Official Residence Chef

I am asked frequently what the job of an official residence chef is like. In a word, the task is to serve meals at banquets held at the Ambassador's official residence, but daily life holds plenty of variety that can't be easily summed up.

I have worked as an official residence chef for Ambassador or Consul General in Thailand, Italy, India and San Francisco (United States) and at this moment serve as Head Chef of the official residence of Ambassador Yoshikawa of Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in New York. The



Preparing the banquet (UN Ambassador's offficial residence kitchen)

guests have different tastes in food at each place, and ways of procurement of food ingredients also vary significantly. At my present workplace, the guests Ambassador Yoshikawa hosts range from over nearly 200 UN member states. As their cultural backgrounds and eating habits vary greatly, I often face unexpected dietary restrictions. Even though New York has fewer problems with availability of ingredients in general, compared with Japan, I still struggle to find some things—being a chef specialized in Japanese cuisine. I also take special care to keep the daily menu healthy, as fine dining tends to be high in calories.

Throughout my career I have served my meals to the Imperial House and successive Prime Ministers of Japan and foreign guests such as Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand, Norodom Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. I serve elaborately prepared meals every time and I feel happy and fulfilled to hear positive feedback from the guests when they tell me that the meal was good.

The local cuisine of the country at each of my posts also inspires me to create new dishes. Tasting authentic local cuisine in its local region is an especially great pleasure, since every chef generally has



Head Chef Murakami (center) with Prime Minister Abe. Ambassador Yoshikawa and their wives (September 24, Official residence of UN Ambassador)

a professional interest in eating. Such experience also provides great opportunities to learn. I do not have any concrete plans after my present post as Head Chef at Ambassador Yoshikawa's official residence, but I will continue my career relating to food. I am convinced that my international experience in foreign countries will be of great help to me.

Atsushige Murakami, Head Chef of Official Residence. Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Role of Intellectuals, etc. in Diplomacy

In building a future international order in the changing world, it is becoming more apparent that experts from the private sector are able to take initiative in freely conducting policy discussions on a global scale without being bound by the official views of governments, which in return has an impact on the world's opinion, as well as on the policy decisions of each government.

Some of the examples include World Economic Forum (Davos), which has a large influence on international economic policies, and the Shangri-La Dialogue, which provides prominent experts and ministers of the world with an opportunity to discuss Asian security issues.

This tendency still exists and there is an increasing importance for human resource development for think tanks (study and research institutions) and the use of experts from universities, etc. so that Japan is able to take part in the discussion arenas of major countries.

MOFA launched a subsidy scheme for study/research on foreign policy and security in FY2013 which aims to improve the abilities think tanks to collect/analyze/send information and to recommend policies. The outcomes of the study and research have been used for planning and developing foreign policies.

