

2. Sustainable Growth

(1) Socio-economic Infrastructure

In order to reduce poverty in developing countries, it is necessary not only to implement measures to reduce poverty and to provide assistance in the areas of social development that directly help the poor, but also to

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan supports infrastructure development and fosters human resources to maintain, manage and operate these infrastructures, in accordance with the development policies of developing countries. Specific infrastructure development is carried out on roads, ports, airports, and information and communication technology (ICT). Such infrastructure contributes to the expansion of exchanges between urban and rural areas, ensures security in case of

promote sustainable economic growth. To that end, it is important to improve the socio-economic infrastructure that serves as the foundation for the development of developing countries.

disasters, and promotes trade with and investment from overseas countries. In addition, Japan develops social infrastructure, which contributes to ensuring education, health, safe water, hygienic environment, and housing, as well as better access to hospitals and schools. Japan also develops agricultural and fishery markets and fishing ports to revitalize local economies.



A Japanese engineer instructing local workers during the construction work for widening the New Bagamoyo Road
(Photo: Takeshi Kuno / JICA)



The construction site of a runway for a new international airport in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. (Photo: Yutaka Wakisaka / JICA Mongolia Office)



Underground transmission cables that connect Chidlom and Bangkapi substations in central Bangkok, Thailand. The existing cables were damaged or deteriorated considerably, and it was difficult to maintain them. Japan provided support for the construction of the underground tunnel for transmission and the installation of two new transmission cables between the two substations. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

Mongolia

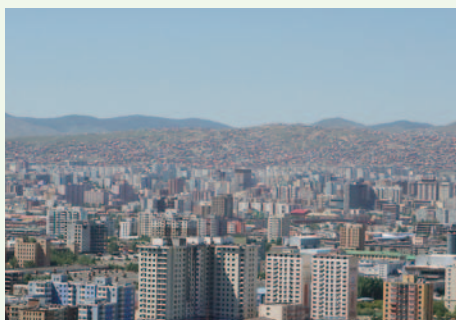
The Project on Capacity Development in Urban Development Sector in Mongolia

Technical Cooperation Project (June 2010 – May 2013)

In Ulaanbaatar City, the capital city of Mongolia, the influx of nomadic people from rural areas has increased the city's population from 650,000 in 1998, to over 1 million in 2007, and to 1.31 million by 2012. Approximately 40% of the country's total population is concentrated in this city. Ulaanbaatar City has a basin terrain surrounded by mountains. Nomads migrating into the city build and live in mobile residences called "gers" on the slopes of mountains, where infrastructure services are lacking. This is contributing to the disorderly expansion of the city. The "ger" areas, where 60% of the population of Ulaanbaatar City lives, are not connected to the central heating system,¹ and utilize coal for heating stoves. This has given rise to serious environmental concerns, including air pollution.

Urban planning and infrastructure development that reflect the population increase are urgent tasks for the sustainable development of Ulaanbaatar City. Based on this background, from 2007, Japan assisted Ulaanbaatar City in drafting its own urban development master plan. Subsequently, in order to support the City in the implementation of the master plan, Japan carried out the Project on Capacity Development in Urban Development Sector from 2010 to 2013.

Under this capacity building project, Japan dispatched a total of 14 experts to Ulaanbaatar City to support the City's legal system development related to urban planning, such as land usage regulations. The achievements of the project include the Urban Regeneration Bill, which is being deliberated at the Parliament of Mongolia to pass into law. In addition, Japan provides support to Mongolia for administrative capacity building required to implement urban infrastructure development projects.



Modern city streets and the "gel areas" on the slopes. (Photo: JICA)



"Gel areas" spreading with no control. (Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, in response to Mongolia's strong interest in cold regions engineering² used in Hokkaido, where the climate is similar to Mongolia's, experts were dispatched to Mongolia with the cooperation of Asahikawa City, Hokkaido. Mongolian experts also visited Hokkaido as part of their training in Japan. In recent years, technical exchanges on urban development in cold regions have been conducted between Mongolia and Sapporo City.

As described above, Mongolia has promoted infrastructure development based on the urban development master plan. The technologies and knowledge of Japan are being utilized for the development of Mongolia's urban transport systems and basic city infrastructure.

*1 A heating system that supplies warm water from thermal power stations. This system is commonly found in Ulaanbaatar City.

*2 Engineering technology specific to cold regions, such as well-sealed and well-insulated buildings and technology that prevents the freezing of roads.

Ghana

The Project for the Study on Comprehensive Urban Development Plan for Greater Kumasi

Technical Cooperation for Development Planning (December 2011 – September 2013)

Kumasi City is the second largest city in Ghana with a population of 1.91 million. The city sustains the regional economy as a hub for farming, agricultural processing, timber and mineral resources. It also serves a critical function as a transit point of the international distribution network that connects to the neighboring landlocked countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. In recent years, the rapidly increasing population has deteriorated the urban environment in the Greater Kumasi which includes Kumasi City and surrounding cities. The city center experiences severe traffic congestion and has expanded without proper planning. Furthermore, public services are not reaching the whole population. The development of urban infrastructure, such as road networks, water and sewer services, and waste management facilities, has not kept pace with the population increase.

One of the problems is that the area lacks an administrative framework as well as urban planning at the regional level, that is, a level higher than the city level. The Greater Kumasi required a mid- to long-term comprehensive strategic plan that was needed to pursue sustainable growth and development as an important hub for distribution in Ghana and the entire region.

Under such circumstances, Japan dispatched 16 experts in a wide range of sectors, including urban planning, transport, water and sewer systems, power supply, and economic development, to provide support for: (i) the development of the Greater Kumasi while keeping a balance with social and economic development; (ii) the formulation of a comprehensive urban development master plan; and (iii) the enhancement of the planning capabilities of the Town and Country Planning Department, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology through technology transfers.



A high-level meeting was held in June 2013 to explain the detail of development plan to the leading figures of the country. (Photo: JICA)

Cambodia

Project for Comprehensive Urban Transport Planning in Phnom Penh Capital City

Technical Cooperation for Development Planning (March 1, 2012 – Ongoing)

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city of approximately 1.35 million people, the number of registered cars has continued to increase against the backdrop of its recent economic growth. The traffic volume on Ring Road 271, one of the major roads in Phnom Penh, had increased by 9.1 times in 2011 compared to the 2000 level. As such statistics illustrate, traffic congestion and traffic accident incidence have steadily worsened.

Since the 2000s, Japan has been providing support to Cambodia for the formulation of a comprehensive urban transport master plan, the pillars of which include road maintenance and the introduction of public transport (bus service) in the city center. Support has also been extended for the development of city roads and bridges and the installation of traffic lights in order to improve intersection traffic. However, the public bus service is yet to be introduced and the city has not been able to take any effective measures in the face of the increasing volume of traffic coming from the expanded urban area.

Against this background, Japan is providing technical cooperation for updating the comprehensive urban transport master plan which incorporates traffic demand forecasts in accordance with the new traffic situation in Phnom Penh and for proposing priority projects. For the formulation of this master plan, a major traffic survey involving 43,000 participants was conducted to study the traffic demand model. In addition, in the city's first attempt to introduce public transport service, public bus service was implemented for one month as a social experiment. This attracted strong interest from locals as well as from people outside of Cambodia. Furthermore, Japan provided technology transfers and capacity building supports to urban transport policymakers to enable Phnom Penh to pursue independent efforts.



A social experiment with the public bus conducted in February 2014. This first pilot test of public transport in Phnom Penh attracted strong interest from local residents and people inside and outside of Cambodia. (Photo: JICA Survey Team)



Discussions with related agencies, city residents and experts at the stakeholder meeting held in August 2013. (Photo: JICA Cambodia Office)

The updated comprehensive urban transport master plan takes account of maintaining safety and comfort as well as harmony with the environment in urban areas. It also includes action plans that need to be implemented in the near future, such as mid- to long-term measures related to the development of public transport infrastructure for urban railways and LRT (Light Rail Transit)¹, management of parking areas in Phnom Penh, and enhancing traffic control at road junctions.

(As of August 2014)

¹ The next generation track transport system. With the use of Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) and improved tracks and platforms, LRT offers superior features in terms of punctuality, quick-deliverability, comfort, and ease of boarding and exiting. (Reference: Website of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sisaku/lrt/lrt_index.html#2)

Kenya

Project on Integrated Urban Development Master Plan for the City of Nairobi

Technical Cooperation Project (November 2012 – August 2014)

Nairobi City, the capital of Kenya, which aims to become a middle-income country by 2030 occupies a vital position in not only economic terms, but also politically and socially. However, Nairobi City had not updated its comprehensive urban development plan for nearly 40 years since 1973, and the city's urban development lacked vision and direction.

The population size of the Nairobi metropolitan area, which was 800,000 in 1980, increased to 3.1 million in 30 years (2009) and is expected to reach 5.2 million by 2030. The issues arising from this rapid increase in population, such as traffic congestion, expansion of slums, and environmental deterioration, have long been neglected. These issues have become so serious that they have significant consequences on the economic activities and the lives of residents. The further development of the area requires the establishment of a consistent urban plan which cuts across various sectors, such as the development of traffic networks, the residential environment, waste management facilities, and the water supply system.

This project supported the formulation of an urban development master plan by Nairobi City with the target year set at 2030. A total of 18 consultants were dispatched to provide support utilizing Japan's technologies and experience in various sectors, including urban planning, land usage planning, roads and urban transport systems, environment management, industrial development, electric supply planning, water, sewer and drainage systems planning, and human resources development. For example, they conducted a traffic fact-finding survey and estimated the future traffic demand based on the result, which has been reflected in the urban planning of Nairobi City. It is expected that the master plan formulated with the support of Japan will contribute to the development of Nairobi City, targeting 2030, and will be approved by the Government of Kenya as the Fourth Master Plan for the City of Nairobi.



A view from the Nairobi City Hall overlooking the business district of the city. (Photo: JICA Project Team)

(2) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The dissemination of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* contributes to the achievement of sustainable economic growth by upgrading industries and improving productivity. It also contributes to addressing issues related to medical care, education, energy, the environment, disaster risk reduction, and other social

issues in developing countries. Utilization of ICT improves their democratic foundation through encouraging information disclosure by the governments, and developing broadcasting media. In this way, ICT is extremely important for strengthening civil society through increased convenience and improved services.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan has actively offered assistance mainly for the development of communication and broadcasting equipment and facilities in developing countries, the introduction of the technology and systems they require, and relevant human resources development, in order to help improve the quality of life of all people and to eliminate the ICT disparities that exist between countries and regions.

Specifically, Japan has worked with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*, a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for telecommunications, to provide a variety of development assistance in the field of telecommunications to developing countries. In February 2013, Japan held a workshop and other activities in Tokyo with the aim of spreading e-health, or the use of ICT for health, in developing countries in order to help solve medical problems which are common throughout the world, with the cooperation of domestic ICT companies. At the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Busan, the Republic of Korea, from October to November 2014, a new resolution was adopted regarding the use of ICT for the

eradication of the Ebola virus disease. Japan endorsed the resolution and pledged to support ITU's efforts.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the international organization for the information and communication sector referred to as the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)* has served as a coordinator of regional policy. At the APT Ministerial Meeting in Brunei in September 2014, APT adopted a joint statement for member states and APT to cooperate on building a "smart digital economy" in the Asia-Pacific region. Their efforts have contributed to a balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure within the region. To reduce ICT disparities and solve social issues facing developing countries, including disaster risk reduction and medical care, Japan has supported human resources development such as training in the ICT field and ICT engineer and researcher exchanges through APT.

In June 2014, APT held a workshop in Tokyo on disaster management and communications. Participants shared their know-how and experiences on themes such as



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Mr. Takashi Nakayama, teaching the basics of computers and how to connect to the Internet at the Montfort Youth Centre in Malacca, Malaysia. (Photo: Natsuki Yasuda (Studio Aftermode) / JICA)



In September 2014, the first Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting (ISDB-T) Forum in Costa Rica was held after the full-scale broadcasting started in Central America. (Photo: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

the effectiveness and use of emergency communications and warning systems, and exchanged views on future challenges and efforts.

Improved connectivity among ASEAN member states is required for the realization of the ASEAN Community in 2015, and ICT is identified as an important pillar for strengthening this connectivity. With respect to ASEAN, the ASEAN ICT Masterplan was established in January 2011, and in November of that year, the ASEAN Smart Network Initiative and other measures for cooperation enhancement in the field of ICT were incorporated into the joint declaration (Bali Declaration) adopted at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting. Japan supports the development of ICT infrastructure in Myanmar using ODA, and in such ways, extends cooperation in the field of information and communication.

Furthermore, the problems surrounding cyber attacks have led to growing concerns among ASEAN member states

as well in recent years. To address these issues, the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation was held in Tokyo in September 2013.

Japan actively provides comprehensive support for the overseas promotion of Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T)* in the areas of maintenance, personnel, and systems, which also contributes to Japan's economic growth. As of May 2014, ISDB-T has been introduced in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and has been adopted in a total of 16 countries. Japan has dispatched experts to eight countries, including the Philippines, Ecuador and Costa Rica, and has been transferring technologies since FY2009 as part of the support to ISDB-T adopter countries.⁹ Furthermore, JICA training is conducted every year for both adopter countries and potential adopter countries to promote the overseas spread and introduction of ISDB-T.

Glossary

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is technology that integrates computers and other information technology with digital communication technology, as characterized by the Internet and mobile phones.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

This UN specialized agency is responsible for the fields of telecommunications and broadcasting (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; 193 member countries). To ensure that people around the world are able to make use of telecommunications technologies, ITU provides support for: (1) the international allocation of radio frequencies used in mobile phones, satellite broadcasting, and other technologies; (2) the international standardization of technologies for telephone and the Internet, etc.; and (3) development in the field of telecommunications in developing countries.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

APT is an international telecommunications organization established in the Asia-Pacific region in 1979, made up of 38 member countries. Aiming for a balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, it develops human resources through training sessions and seminars and coordinates regional policies on standardization, wireless communication, and other telecommunication issues.

Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting – Terrestrial (ISDB-T)

ISDB-T is a terrestrial digital broadcasting system that was developed in Japan. Its functions, such as emergency alert broadcast, TV reception on mobile terminals, and data broadcasting, give the system advantages in disaster response and the realization of diverse services.

Note 9: The 16 countries are Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Paraguay, the Philippines, Bolivia, Uruguay, Maldives, Botswana, Guatemala, Honduras, and Sri Lanka (as of May 2014).

(3) Cooperation between Trade, Investment, and Other Official Flows (OOF)

The private sector plays a leading role in the sustainable growth of developing countries. It is essential to revitalize private-sector activities such as the development of industry and the expansion of trade and investment. However, in developing countries beset by a variety of challenges, it can

sometimes be difficult to develop capacities or set in place an environment for promoting trade and attracting private investment. Therefore, support from the international community is required.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan utilizes ODA and Other Official Flows (OOF)* to support the advancement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries, transfer of Japan's industrial technology, and formulation of economic policies. In addition, Japan supports the development of the trade and investment environment and economic infrastructures in order to enhance the export capabilities and competitiveness of developing countries.

The Doha Round Negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda)* of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which started in 2001 also emphasizes the promotion of development through participation in the multilateral free trading system by developing countries. Japan has contributed to the trust fund set up within the WTO with an aim to improve the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, thereby gaining the ability to implement the WTO agreements.

Regarding access to the Japanese market, Japan has

implemented the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)¹⁰, which applies lower tariff rates, in order to encourage imports of products from developing countries. Japan provides duty-free quota-free access* for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*. In addition, Japan also actively promotes Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)*, and tries to create an environment for economic growth in developing countries through liberalization of trade and investment.

In recent years, active discussions have taken place regarding Aid for Trade (AfT)* at various international organizations, including the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among other fora, as a means of further promoting support by developed countries, including Japan. Japan implemented its unique measure called "Development Initiative for Trade*," focusing on support for trade-related projects, twice since 2006. This Initiative is highly appreciated



A view over a port in Dakar, Senegal. (Photo: Yosuke Kotsuji)

Note 10: This system applies tariff rates lower than the MFN rates (preferential tariff rates) to designated agricultural and fishery products and industrial products imported from developing countries, in order to increase export income and promote industrialization and economic development in developing countries.

by numerous countries. Japan provides funds for the development of transportation networks vital to trade, including ports, roads, and bridges, as well as for projects to construct power plants and power grids, etc. Japan also provides technical cooperation in trade-related areas, including the training of customs officials and intellectual property rights experts.

Japan also provides assistance to small-scale production groups and small companies in developing countries for the One Village, One Product Campaign*. In addition, Japan supports developing countries in attracting private sector investment by identifying issues unique to those countries, and recommending measures to promote investment.

Elsewhere, Japan is proactively engaged with the Regional Technical Group on Aid for Trade for Asia and the Pacific, which researches successful examples of development cooperation that has contributed to economic growth through exports in the Asia region. At the WTO Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade held in July 2013 on the theme of “connecting to value chains,” examples of Japan’s development cooperation which helped build

international production and distribution networks in East Asia and contributed to regional economic growth were introduced as the outcome of the discussions of the Technical Group, and garnered high praise from participating countries. Furthermore, as a case of technical cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan provides support that contributes to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, including the fostering of industrial human resources, employment promotion, and securing of sophisticated local talent, through corporate culture courses, job fairs, and other means organized in collaboration with local universities and other actors.

The Bali Package* achieved at the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2013 incorporates trade facilitation. It is desirable that the Trade Facilitation Agreement* enters into force and is implemented at an early date. Japan has heretofore assisted developing countries with trade facilitation, and will continue to extend proactive support utilizing its knowledge and experience.



Products sold in a One Village One Product shop in Malawi. (Photo: Kenshiro Imamura / JICA)

Other Official Flows (OOF)

OOF refers to flows of funds to developing countries from the governments which are not considered to be ODA because the main purpose is not development. Examples include export credit, direct investment by governmental financial institutions, and financing of international organizations.

Doha Round Negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda)

Doha Round Negotiations are negotiations between multiple WTO members aimed at liberalizing trade in a wide range of fields, including reduction/elimination of tariffs on industrial products and agriculture, forestry and fishery products, and deregulation in the service sector. One of their challenges is the development of developing countries through trade. At the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2013, members agreed on such matters as the guidelines on rules of origin for promoting exports of least developed countries (LDCs) and the details of preferential treatment of services exports.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

LDCs are countries classified by the United Nations to be particularly lagging in development even when compared to other developing countries, based on their income levels. LDCs meet certain criteria, including per capita gross national income (GNI) of \$992 or less between 2008 and 2010. As of March 2013, there are 49 countries that have been so designated: Seven in Asia, two in the Middle East and North Africa, 34 in Sub-Saharan Africa, one in Latin America, and five in Oceania. (See page 256)

Duty-free quota-free access

Duty-free quota-free access means measures implemented by developed countries to eliminate customs duties, quotas, and other obstacles to imports of products from least developed countries (LDCs). Japan has expanded the number of applicable products, and approximately 98% of products exported by LDCs to Japan can be imported without payment of duties and without quotas. (As of July 2013)

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

EPAs are comprehensive economic agreements with specific countries (or regions) that, in addition to free trade agreements (FTAs) that stipulate the liberalization of trade in goods and services such as the reduction/elimination of tariffs, include such areas as investment, movement of people, government procurement, protection of intellectual rights, rulemaking for competitive policies, and bilateral cooperation intended to enhance broad economic ties. These agreements are expected to further vitalize trade and investment between countries and contribute to economic growth.

Aid for Trade (Aft)

Aft is assistance provided to developing countries to improve trade-related capabilities and to prepare and maintain infrastructures, for the purpose of aiding developing countries in achieving economic growth through the multilateral trading system under the WTO.

Development Initiative for Trade

Development Initiative for Trade refers to comprehensive measures to support sustainable development of developing countries through trade. Japan provided assistance totaling approximately \$17.6 billion in the three years from 2006 to 2008 and assistance totaling approximately \$23.3 billion in the three years from 2009 to 2011. For developing countries to enjoy the benefits of the free trade system, not only must trade be liberalized, but it requires the three aspects of (i) production (improvement of the ability to produce competitive products), (ii) distribution and marketing (development of a domestic and overseas logistics system, including the distribution infrastructure), and (iii) purchasing (pioneering of markets). The aim is to combine means of assistance such as "knowledge and technology," "funds," "people," and "systems" with these three aspects, and provide comprehensive support that connects producers and workers in developing countries to consumers both in the developed countries and developing countries.

One Village, One Product Campaign

One Village, One Product Campaign is overseas utilization of an approach that began in Oita Prefecture, Japan, in 1979. The aim is to create jobs and revitalize the local community by developing unique local products through the utilization of local resources and traditional techniques. Efforts are made to focus on handicrafts, textiles, toys, and other attractive products that display the unique ethnic characteristics of developing countries in Asia and Africa, etc., and reach out to a wider range of people, thereby aiding in the expansion of exports of products from developing countries.

Bali Package

Bali package is part of the Doha Round negotiations reached at the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in December 2013. The Doha Round negotiations, which started in 2001, have remained deadlocked due to clashes between emerging economies and developed countries, among other reasons. In order to achieve a breakthrough, new approaches have been explored, including the buildup of partial agreements. The Bali Package consists mainly of three fields: (1) Trade facilitation; (2) Part of the field of agriculture; and (3) Development. The Package decided to establish a work programme on the remaining issues of the Doha Round negotiations (e.g., agriculture, mining products, and services) by the end of 2014. (Subsequently, the deadline for establishing the work programme was extended to July 2015 at a special meeting of the WTO General Council.)

Trade Facilitation Agreement

This agreement provides for the simplification and enhanced transparency of customs procedures aimed at trade promotion. The protocol to make this agreement a part of the WTO Agreement was adopted at a special meeting of the WTO General Council in November 2014. If this agreement is concluded, it will become the first multilateral agreement reached by all member states of WTO since its founding in 1995. According to preliminary estimates, the conclusion of the agreement is expected to increase GDP by \$1 trillion annually.

**The West African
Economic and
Monetary Union
(UEMOA)**
**Advisor custom policies for better processing of commercial exchange
within UEMOA
Development of custom service for better processing within UEMOA
Individual Expert (October 2012 – Ongoing)**

The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)¹ is a regional organization that consists of eight West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. UEMOA aims to create a large-scale regional common market by establishing a common currency, trade and custom systems to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Although the population of each member country of UEMOA is not large by any means, the region as a whole is an attractive market with 100 million people. However, distribution within the region relies on road transport, which in turn raises transportation costs due to the inefficiency of the custom processes at the borders. This has been one of the factors that prevent trade from gaining momentum in the region.

In order to solve this problem, UEMOA has been promoting efforts to harmonize and simplify the custom processes, such as by introducing One-Stop Border Posts (OSBP)². UEMOA is also working to vitalize the regional economy and enhance the competitiveness of member countries through initiatives, including the proper collection of taxes by customs and smuggling prevention measures.

To meet these needs, Japan has dispatched two experts on custom services to UEMOA to conduct analysis and give advice on the issues related to international corridor³ and custom processes (including the management and facilitation of OSBP) in the region. In addition, Japan provides support for UEMOA's efforts to establish the common market by giving advice on the drafting of a strategy for the facilitation of trade within the region.

At the same time, Japanese companies have little information on francophone West Africa compared to the rest of Africa. Japan provides support to enable more Japanese companies to expand their businesses into the UEMOA area, such as the provision of information on the custom systems in the region by the experts dispatched by way of JICA. (As of August 2014)

*1 UEMOA: L'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africain. All UEMOA countries are French-speaking.

*2 A system to facilitate more efficient border procedures, in which two countries that share the border jointly conduct at one time immigration/departure procedures and customs inspections on the road.

*3 Transport infrastructure such as roads and bridges that connect international ports and inland areas in order to facilitate the movement of people and goods across borders. Typical examples include support for hard infrastructure such as ports, roads, power and water supply, and soft infrastructure such as the improvement of the management of OSBP.



Participants in the first Japan-UEMOA high-level customs cooperation meeting held in June 2013 in Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso. (Photo: JICA)

(4) Policy Formulation and Institution Building

For the sustainable growth of developing countries, not only the establishment of the socio-economic infrastructure, but also the policy formulation, institution building, and human resources development are important. It is essential

<Japan's Efforts>

As part of its support for policy formulation and institution building, Japan provides assistance for development of the legal system. Improvement of the legal system serves as the foundation for development of a country through self-help efforts that are based on good governance. Assistance for this sector is a typical example of person-to-person cooperation between Japan and the recipient countries, such as Indonesia, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Mongolia, Cambodia, Laos, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh, and plays a role in the “the Visibility of Japanese Aid.”

In addition, improvement of the legal systems in developing countries through such measures is an important effort in the sense that it will also improve the business environment there for Japanese companies. Japan's assistance for the improvement of legal systems draws on Japan's “soft power.” The assistance promotes and underpins the growth of the world, including Asia.

Moreover, for the democratic development of developing countries, Japan provides support for institution building and the strengthening of legal, judicial, administrative, public service, and police systems, the implementation of democratic elections, the strengthening of civil society, and the improvement of the status of women. Japan also provides support for the prevention of corruption, the development of statistical capabilities, and

to support the eradication of corruption, reforming legal and institutional systems, the improvement of the efficiency and transparency of public administration, and the strengthening of the administrative capacity of local governments.

the enhancement of the abilities of local governments.

For the issues of criminal justice, Japan also sponsors training and seminars for professionals in the criminal justice field from developing countries in Asia and the Pacific through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). Training provided by UNAFEI includes those concerning the treatment of female criminals with regard to human rights considerations.

In the area of capacity building of police agencies that constitute a cornerstone in maintenance of domestic security, Japan provides support with a combination of the transfer of the knowledge and technology based on the track records and experiences of the Japanese police in international cooperation, and provision of equipment and maintenance of facilities, while emphasizing the development of human resources, including improvement of systems and enhancement of administrative capabilities. The National Police Agency (NPA) dispatches experts to and accepts trainees mainly from Asian countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. Through this cooperation, Japan strives to transfer the attitudes, investigative abilities, and forensics technology of the democratically controlled Japanese police, who are trusted by the Japanese people.



A scene from a mock trial by trainees of judges and public prosecutors, held at the Royal Academy For Judicial Profession in Cambodia. (Photo: JICA)

In Myanmar, various reforms have been actively promoted since the inauguration of the new administration in 2011. The establishment of the rule of law through legal and judicial reforms is essential for promoting such reforms. In particular, it is an urgent task to develop legal and judicial systems for transitioning to a market economy and improving the investment environment.

The existing laws in Myanmar include many laws with content that no longer corresponds with the more complex and advanced market economy that exists today. In addition, due to the ad-hoc development of laws and regulations, the whole legal system is not systematized, and contradictions and overlaps are found between laws. Such issues are undermining the transparency and predictability of the legal system that is necessary to consider investment and business in Myanmar.

The relevant ministries and government offices with jurisdiction over legislation lack staff who have expertise in drafting laws. Moreover, there are limited opportunities for training on legislation drafting. Even at the Union Attorney General's Office (UAGO), which is responsible for conducting assessment and giving advice on legislation drafting, training that deals with the aforementioned issues is not fully integrated into the training programs. Thus, opportunities to gain specialized knowledge and know-how are limited.

Under such circumstances, the project for capacity development of legal, judicial, and relevant sectors was started. It aims to improve organizational and human resource capacities of the legal and judicial agencies in Myanmar (UAGO and the Supreme Court of the Union (SC)) to be able to develop and properly enforce laws suited to the needs of the times, society and international standards.

This project implements activities that address issues related to the drafting and revision of economic and other laws that Myanmar is facing, while improving the capacity of relevant ministries and government offices in legislation preparation as well as the capacity of UAGO to assess and give advice on legislation. The project also reviews, from mid- to long-term perspectives, the foundation for the development of human resources, consistency and systematization among laws and regulations, and the order of priority of lawmaking. By doing so, it will aim to contribute to the autonomous and sustainable development and proper enforcement of laws in the future, as well as the establishment of the rule of law, democratization, and economic reform.

Specifically, three long-term experts have been assigned to Nay Pyi Daw to implement various activities, such as holding seminars on intellectual property and arbitration laws, and giving lectures during the training of new judges at SC, so that UAGO and SC personnel can develop perspectives required for preparing and assessing legislation.

(As of August 2014)



Training of new judges at the supreme court of Myanmar. JICA long-term experts conduct lectures on criminal laws for new judges. (Photo: JICA)

(5) Cultural Preservation and Promotion

In developing countries, there is a growing interest in the preservation and promotion of their unique cultures. Cultural heritages that symbolize countries are not only sources of pride for those people, but are also resources that can be effectively utilized for tourism, to develop the socio-economic environment of surrounding areas for local residents. On the other hand, many cultural heritages in developing countries are at risk in terms of preservation and

maintenance. The assistance to protect cultural heritage can be viewed as cooperation that directly reaches the hearts of the people in those countries, and has long-term impacts. In addition, the preservation and promotion of culture, such as invaluable cultural heritage that is shared by all humankind, is an issue that should be addressed not only by the countries with cultural heritage in danger, but also by the entire international community as well.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan has continued to contribute to the promotion of culture and higher education, as well as preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries through Cultural Grant Assistance* since 1975. Specifically, Japan has constructed facilities for preserving and utilizing cultural heritage and cultural properties, sports and cultural facilities, higher education and research organization facilities, and provided the necessary equipment for these facilities. Those facilities built in developing countries are also used as bases for providing information about

Japan, and for cultural exchanges with Japan, as well as for deepening understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity towards Japan. In recent years, from the viewpoint of "Japan Promotion," Japan has also emphasized support for Japanese language education and support that contributes to disseminating Japanese contents.

In FY2013, Japan provided assistance in a wide range of areas. In addition to proactive assistance in the sports field in the lead-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan provided assistance for the preservation of

cultural heritage and assistance through the provision of Japanese documentaries and educational TV programs. In the area of sports, Japan provided assistance for the improvement of sport facilities and equipment in 17 countries. In the area of cultural heritage preservation, Japan decided to implement a project for the construction of the Petra Museum in Jordan, as well as to provide equipment for



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Mr. Hiroaki Yagi (archeology), teaching how to keep antiquities records at an archaeological museum in San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador. (Photo: Ernest Manzano / JICA)

the preservation and restoration of the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Furthermore, Japan supported the provision and improvement of Japanese TV program software in five countries.

Japan has contributed to the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, including equipment provision and preliminary studies and surveys, through “the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage” established through UNESCO. Placing an emphasis on human resources development in developing countries, Japan has also been providing assistance by dispatching international experts, which mainly include Japanese experts, and holding workshops in order to transfer techniques and knowledge to developing countries. Japan has also been supporting intangible cultural heritage such as traditional dances, music, handcraft techniques, and oral traditions by implementing projects of successor training, records conservation, creation of preservation mechanisms, and other activities through “the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” established in UNESCO.

Glossary

Cultural Grant Assistance

Cultural Grant Assistance provides funding to contribute to the promotion of culture and higher education and the preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries (procurement of equipment, and construction of facilities, etc.) “Cultural Grant Assistance” includes “General Cultural Grant Assistance” which provides assistance to governmental organizations, and “Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects,” which provides assistance to NGOs and local public entities for small-scale projects.

Ghana

The Project for Construction of Baseball and Softball Field at Labone Senior Secondary School

Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (February 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014)

In March 2014, the construction of Ghana's first genuine baseball field was completed with support from Japan. The field is named “KOSHIE¹ GHANA.” Although football is by far the most popular sport in Ghana, baseball and softball have begun to fully take root in the country, in part due to the many years of supports extended by Japanese nationals living in Ghana. The excitement of baseball and softball – throwing, hitting, and chasing a white ball – is catching on in the land of Africa. The baseball-playing population in Ghana has been increasing year by year, thanks to the activities of organizations such as the Ghana Baseball and Softball Association (GHABSA), the Ohayo Ghana Foundation, a Japanese NGO in Ghana and the Association for Friends of African Baseball (AFAB), a Japanese NGO that has long supported the promotion of baseball in Ghana.

Be that as it may, baseball practices and games had been conducted in unmaintained vacant lands and school grounds. Therefore, this Grant Assistance



Commemorative photograph taken after the hand-over ceremony and the opening game at the baseball and softball field of Labone Senior Secondary School. Everyone is showing a happy smile. (Photo: Embassy of Japan in Ghana)



At the hand-over ceremony and the opening game at the baseball and softball field of Labone Senior Secondary School. A scene from an exciting game. (Photo: Yoko Higuchi)

for Cultural Grassroots Projects was implemented to install a backstop, replace the soil, and take other measures to create a baseball and softball field. This field was made by the hands of people who love baseball. In the final phase of the work, the members of GHABSA as well as Ghana's veteran and young baseball players and baseball-playing boys gathered at the field to work with volunteers from the Embassy of Japan in putting down baseball bases, removing small stones, and smoothing the ground with a roller.

It is expected that KOSHIE, the product of joint efforts by the Japanese and the Ghanaian people, will contribute to the development of sound physical and mental health of Ghanaian boys and girls through the sport of baseball and softball. Today as well, Ghana's baseball-playing boys and girls are chasing a white ball with their friends at KHOSHIE.

*1 KOSHIE is the name of one of famous baseball stadiums in Japan.