

Reference Materials on Japan's ODA

Section 1

Developments in Japan's Assistance to Developing Countries (October 2014–end of October 2015)

Month/year	Major Developments in Japanese Aid	Month/year	International Developments in Aid
2014.10	Emergency Grant Aid in response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West African countries (\$22 million)	2014.10	12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea)
10	State Minister Nakayama attended the Conference on the Reconstruction of Gaza (in Cairo)	10	10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit (in Milan, Italy) (discussed the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) until 2015 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, etc.)
10	Hosted the Third East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue (in Yokohama)		
11	Emergency Grant Aid in response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West African countries (\$18 million)	11	G20 Summit (in Antalya, Turkey)
11	Announced additional assistance of up to \$100 million in response to the Ebola virus disease	11	World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (in Okayama and Nagoya)
11	Hosted the Open Symposium Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Japan's ODA (in Tokyo)	11	Fourth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference (in Tokyo)
11	Hosted the Symposium "Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Main Challenges and Responses" (in Tokyo)		
12	Provided Emergency Relief Goods to the Republic of the Philippines for typhoon disaster	12	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) High Level Meeting (in Paris, France)
12	Hosted the Meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Public-Private Round Table (in Tokyo)	12	20th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20) (in Lima, Peru)
12	Dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team in response to the crash of an Air Asia plane in Indonesia		
2015.1	Provided Emergency Relief Goods to Malaysia in response to the flood disaster		
1	Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Middle East (Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine) (announced assistance of about \$2.5 billion for the Middle East)		
1	Second Japan-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Strategic Policy Dialogue was held (in Vienna)		
1	Foreign Minister Kishida announced assistance of about \$300 million for Ukraine		
2	Cabinet decision on the Development Cooperation Charter		
3	Announced financial cooperation of \$4 billion in total and training of 40,000 government officials and local leaders in the four years from 2015-2018 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (in Sendai)		
3	Assistance in response to the Ebola virus disease through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (\$1 million)		
3	Dispatched the JDR Team and provided Emergency Relief Goods to Vanuatu in response to the cyclone disaster, and Emergency GrantaAid to Pacific island countries (\$1.24 million)		
3	Announced the provision of ODA amounting to more than ¥42 billion over the 3 years from 2015 for girls' and women's empowerment and gender sensitive education programs as collaboration between the U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Akie Abe, First Lady of Japan during First Lady of U.S.'s visit to Japan.		
3	Provided Emergency Relief Goods to Chile in response to the floods disaster		
3	State Minister Nakayama announced assistance of about \$500 million for Syria and neighboring countries at the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria (in Kuwait)		

Month/year	Major Developments in Japanese Aid	Month/year	International Developments in Aid
2015.4	Provided Emergency Relief Goods, dispatched the JDR Teams, Emergency Grant Aid (\$14 million), and support through Japan Platform(JPF) (¥310 million) to Nepal in response to the earthquake	2015.4	G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in Lübeck, Germany)
5	At the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would provide assistance of no less than ¥55 billion and reach out to 4000 people in 3 years through human resource development and people-to-people exchanges. (in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture).	4	Summit commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Asian African Conference (Bandung Conference) (in Jakarta, Indonesia)
5	Prime Minister Abe announced "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure to provide approximately \$110 billion for "quality infrastructure development" in Asia over the 5 years from 2016.		
5	Emergency Grant Aid in response to IDPs in Yemen and Yemeni refugees in neighboring countries (\$2.4 million)		
6	Emergency Grant Aid in response to stranded persons in the Indian Ocean (\$3.5 million)	6	OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (in Paris, France)
6	Announced assistance of over ¥32 billion (about \$260 million) in total at the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction (in Kathmandu, Nepal)	6	G7 Summit (in Schloss Elmau, Germany)
7	Prime Minister Abe announced Japan-Mekong cooperation worth ¥750 billion over the next 3 years at the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting	7	Fifth WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade (AfT)
7	Emergency Grant Aid for the improvement of the humanitarian situation and stabilization in Iraq (\$10 million)	7	International Ebola Recovery Conference (in New York)
8-10	Emergency Grant Aid (totaling \$2.6 million), provided Emergency Relief Goods, and support through the JPF (¥75 million) to Myanmar in response to the flood disaster	7	Third International Conference on Financing for Development (in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
8	Hosted the World Assembly for Women in Tokyo: WAW! 2015 (in Tokyo)	8	Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
9	Provided Emergency Relief Goods to Dominica in response to the floods disaster	9	United Nations Summit for the adoption of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (in New York)
9	Approval of Japan's new global health policy "Basic Design for Peace and Health"	9	70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week (in New York)
9	Second Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (in New York)	9	G7 Outreach Foreign Ministers' Meeting regarding Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees and Displaced Persons (in New York)
9	Prime Minister Abe attended the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (in New York)	9	Meeting on "Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements under the new development agenda" (in New York)
9	Hosted the Third Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable. Exchanged views on TICAD VI (Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development) to be held in 2016 (in New York).	9	High-Level Event on the World Humanitarian Summit (in New York)
9	Prime Minister Abe attended the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly side event "The Path towards Universal Health Coverage" (in New York)		
9	Prime Minister Abe announced in his address at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly to provide assistance of about \$810 million (triple the amount provided in the previous year) for refugees and IDPs from Syria and Iraq, and to newly implement about \$2.5 million in humanitarian assistance for countries neighboring the EU		
9	Foreign Minister Kishida announces assistance to Palestine worth about \$12 million at the Middle East Quartet Outreach Meeting (in New York)		
10	Prime Minister Abe's visit to Mongolia and five Central Asian countries (Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan)		
10	Hosted the conference for International Volunteering Cooperation Organisations (IVCO 2015) (in Tokyo)		
10	Provided Emergency Relief Goods and dispatched an expert to Indonesia in response to smoke pollution (Haze)		
10	Hosted the First Meeting of the TICAD VI Public and Private Round Table (in Tokyo)		

1 The Development Cooperation Charter (approved by Cabinet decision in February 2015)

Development Cooperation Charter

February 10, 2015

Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter, decided by the Cabinet in 1992 and revised in 2003, has been the foundation of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy.

Currently, as it commemorates the 60th anniversary of its ODA, Japan and the international community are at a major crossroads. In this new era, Japan must strongly lead the international community, as a nation that contributes even more proactively to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community from the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, while continuing to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. This is also a juncture at which Japan's ODA activities should further evolve so as to strengthen further its role as an equal partner of developing countries in the joint efforts to address challenges facing the international community.

In the international community today, a huge amount of private funding flows to the developing countries, and various actors including the private sector, local governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are involved in global activities. These actors play important roles in dealing with development challenges and promoting sustainable growth in developing countries. Under these circumstances, Japan needs to address such development challenges not only through ODA but also by mobilizing various other resources.

Based on this recognition, the Government of Japan revises the ODA Charter and hereby establishes the Development Cooperation Charter, also bearing in mind the National Security Strategy decided by the Cabinet on December 17, 2013.

For the purpose of this Charter, the term "development cooperation" refers to "international cooperation activities that are conducted by the government and its affiliated agencies for the main purpose of development in developing regions." In this connection, "development" in this Charter is used in a broader sense rather than in the narrow sense; it also encompasses such activities as peacebuilding and governance, promotion of basic human rights and humanitarian assistance.

Such development cooperation needs to enhance synergetic effects for development through strengthened collaboration with other funding and activities of the Government of Japan and its affiliated agencies such as Other Official Flows (OOFs) and United Nations Peacekeeping operations (PKOs) as well as with private funding and activities whose objective is development or which contribute to development (i.e., funding and activities of various entities such as the private sector, local governments and NGOs).

Development Cooperation Charter

-For peace, prosperity and a better future for everyone-

At present the international community is in the midst of a transformation. It is experiencing changes in the global power balance on an unprecedented scale, an expansion of international economic activity due to rapid progress in globalization and technological innovation, deepening interdependency, and the growing influence of various non-state actors. Against this background, all kinds of risks in every part of the world can have a direct negative impact on the peace, stability and prosperity of the world including Japan. These risks range from transboundary challenges such as environmental issues and climate change, water-related issues, natural disasters, food crises and hunger, energy issues, and infectious disease, threats to the peace and stability of the international community such as international terrorism, transnational organized crimes, and piracy, to humanitarian issues in fragile states, regional conflicts, and political instability. In addition, as emerging and developing countries are taking on more economic importance, economic growth in these countries will affect the course of the growth of the global economy. Inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in these countries is thus essential for the stable growth of the global economy as a whole. Furthermore, in light of Japan's current economic and social situation, deepening its cooperative relations with the international community including the emerging and developing countries and tapping into their vigor are the keys to its own sustainable prosperity. Amid all these changes, a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community is increasingly intertwined with the national interests of Japan. To secure its national interests, it is essential for Japan, as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, to work together with the international community including developing countries to address global challenges.

The development challenges confronting the world have also changed significantly. While many countries, notably emerging countries, achieved progress in development, even such countries are experiencing problems such as political and economic instability

owing to poor governance and other factors, internal disparities, sustainability issues, and the “middle income trap.” Furthermore, countries such as small island countries have particular vulnerability and other issues that have emerged which cannot be assessed by income levels alone. In addition, countries are being left behind in terms of growth due to various vulnerabilities resulting from internal conflicts and political instability as well as their geological and climate conditions. To overcome such vulnerabilities, these countries are urgently in need not only of humanitarian assistance but also securing the stable foundations of development such as peace, stability, rule of law, governance and democratization, as well as setting in motion the process of development. In addition, in context of inclusive development that leaves no one behind, it is important to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders in society including women participate in every phase of development. As such, the world is facing more diverse and complex challenges. These challenges are increasingly widespread, transcending national borders as the world is increasingly globalized. In the world faced with such difficult challenges, individual countries are required more than ever to exercise ingenuity and take action.

I. Philosophy

Bearing in mind the recognition described above, Japan will implement development cooperation, that is, “international cooperation activities conducted by the government and its affiliated agencies for the main purpose of development in developing regions,” based on the philosophy described below.

(1) Objectives of development cooperation

Japan recognizes that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want. Since 1954, when it joined the Colombo Plan, Japan has consistently sought peace and prosperity of the international community, supported the development efforts of developing countries through development cooperation that centers on its official development assistance (ODA), and made efforts to solve global issues. This embodies the basic stance of Japan to earnestly tackle challenges facing the international community as a responsible major player. Many years of Japan's steady down-to-earth efforts to this end has won the respect and confidence of the international community, which expects Japan to play a more proactive role for the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community in a way commensurate with its national capabilities.

Japan overcame a range of problems and realized a period of high economic growth and a peaceful stable society with a small economic disparity to become the first developed country in Asia. At the same time, Japan has taken advantage of its philosophy in development cooperation, experience and expertise to deliver distinctive cooperation to Asian and other countries to support their economic growth. In these processes, it has experienced many successes and failures, and has accumulated a wealth of experience, expertise and lessons learned. The experience, expertise and lessons thus learned are not limited to those from the postwar high-growth period but also those from addressing present challenges such as declining and aging population, and reconstruction after the earthquake. Such experience, expertise and lessons learned contribute to addressing development challenges facing the world today, and the international community also has high expectations in this regard.

Bearing in mind the expectations of the international community, Japan, as a responsible major player in the world, will contribute more actively and exert strong leadership in addressing challenges facing the international community - especially development challenges and humanitarian concerns. Doing so is of great significance from the perspective of solidifying the confidence that the international community has in Japan.

In today's international community, it is no longer possible for any nation to secure peace and prosperity by itself. Under such circumstances, the path Japan should take to continue developing a prosperous and peaceful society lies in a serious effort to tackle various global challenges in cooperation with the international community, including developing countries, for a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community, and, in this process, to build solid and constructive relationships with various actors in the international community. Development cooperation provides one of the most important means for Japan in its agile implementation of such diplomacy; it carries significance as an “investment for the future.”

Based on this recognition, Japan will promote development cooperation in order to contribute more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. Such cooperation will also lead to ensuring Japan's national interests such as maintaining its peace and security, achieving further prosperity, realizing an international environment that provides stability, transparency and predictability, and maintaining and protecting an international order based on universal values.

In the present international community, various actors including private companies, local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an increasingly important role in addressing development challenges and supporting sustained growth of developing countries. It is therefore important to mobilize a wider range of resources that are not limited to ODA. In this context, ODA, as the core of various activities that contribute to development, will serve as a catalyst for mobilizing a wide range of resources in cooperation with various funds and actors and, by extension, as an engine for various activities aimed at securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

(2) Basic policies

Japan's development cooperation for the objectives described above should be based on the philosophy that has been formed over its long history and should be further developed. In this context, the directions for development cooperation are defined as basic policies below:

A. Contributing to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes

Japan's development cooperation has contributed to peace and prosperity of the world through cooperation for non-military purposes, which is one of the most suitable modalities for international contribution. Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II. Japan's development cooperation has been highly regarded by the international community as an embodiment of the country's sincere aspirations for peace and prosperity of the international community. Japan will continue to uphold this policy and comply with the principle of avoiding any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts, in proactively contributing to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

B. Promoting human security

Human security - a concept that pursues the right of individuals to live happily and in dignity, free from fear and want, through their protection and empowerment - is the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan's development cooperation. Japan will thus focus its development cooperation on individuals - especially those liable to be vulnerable such as children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and internally-displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples - and provide cooperation for their protection and empowerment so as to realize human security. At the same time, Japan will make efforts so that this basic policy will be understood and accepted widely among its partner countries, thereby mainstreaming the concept even further in the international community. Likewise, from the standpoint of its people-centered approach, Japan will also proactively contribute to promoting basic human rights, including women's rights.

C. Cooperation aimed at self-reliant development through assistance for self-help efforts as well as dialogue and collaboration based on Japan's experience and expertise

In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together. These are some of the good traditions of Japan's cooperation which have supported self-help efforts of developing countries and aimed at future self-reliant development. On the basis of these traditions, Japan will continue to provide cooperation aimed at developing countries' self-reliant development by emphasizing their own initiatives and self-help efforts as well as further deepening dialogue and collaboration with them while taking advantage of Japan's experience and expertise. In these processes, Japan will attach importance to building the foundations of self-help efforts and self-reliant development such as human resources, socio-economic infrastructure, regulations and institutions. It will also go beyond waiting for requests from partner countries by focusing on dialogue and collaboration with diverse actors not limited to governments and regional agencies of these countries, including proactively presenting proposals while giving full consideration to policies, programs and institutions related to development in the country concerned.

II. Priority policies

(1) Priority issues

In line with the philosophy described above, Japan sets out the following priority issues for development cooperation, while taking note of the inter-relationships between them, in order to deal with development challenges that are becoming more diverse, complex and broadly based, and also to achieve peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

A. "Quality growth" and poverty eradication through such growth

The world's poor population is still large in number, and reducing poverty, especially eradicating absolute poverty, is the most fundamental development challenge. Especially as regards fragile states that have not been able to grasp the opportunities for development for different reasons and as regards people in vulnerable situations, it is important to provide both assistance from a humanitarian point of view and assistance designed to set the development process in motion and overcome vulnerability.

At the same time, in order to resolve the poverty issue in a sustainable manner, it is essential to achieve economic growth through human resources development, infrastructure development and establishment of regulations and institutions as well as the growth of the

private sector enabled by the aforementioned actions, which are aimed at self-reliant development of developing countries. However, such growth should not be merely quantitative in nature, given that some of the countries that have achieved a measure of economic growth face challenges such as widening disparities, sustainability issues, inadequate social development, and political and economic instability. Rather, it should be “quality growth”. Such growth is inclusive in that the fruits of growth are shared within society as a whole, leaving no one behind. It is sustainable over generations in terms of consideration to, among other aspects, harmony with the environment, sustained socio-economic growth, and addressing global warming. And it is resilient, able to withstand and recover from economic crises, natural disasters and other shocks. These are some of the challenges Japan has tackled in its postwar history. Japan will take advantage of its own experience, expertise and technology as well as lessons learned in order to provide assistance to realize “quality growth” and poverty eradication through such growth.

From this perspective, Japan will provide assistance necessary to secure the foundations and the driving force for economic growth. Its scope includes: the development of industrial infrastructure and industries through improvements in such areas as infrastructure, finance and trade and investment climate; sustainable cities; introduction of information and communications technology (ICT) and high technology; promotion of science, technology and innovation; research and development; economic policy; vocational training and industrial human resources development; employment creation; and the promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries that includes the development of food value chains. At the same time, Japan will provide assistance necessary to promote people-centered development that supports basic human life, taking full account of the importance of human and social development. It encompasses health care, safe water and sanitation, food and nutrition, quality education for all, disparity reduction, empowerment of women, culture and sports that brings about spiritual affluence.

B. Sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society

Stable development through “quality growth” will not be achieved unless the rights of individuals are guaranteed, people can engage in economic and social activities with a sense of safety, and the society is managed equitably and stably. With a view to solidifying the foundations for such development, Japan will provide assistance so as to share universal values such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights and the rule of law as well as to realize a peaceful, stable and secure society.

The establishment of the rule of law, the realization of good governance, the promotion and consolidation of democratization, and respect for basic human rights including women's rights constitute the basis for effective, efficient and stable economic and social activities, and thereby support social and economic development. They also hold the key to realizing an equitable and inclusive society including reducing disparities. Japan will thus provide the necessary assistance in such areas as: development of legal and judicial systems that involves the development of positive law and the training of legal and judicial experts including experts in the correction and rehabilitation of offenders; development of economic and social systems; improvements in governance which include the training of civil servants and institutional capacity building for anti-corruption and other purposes; development of a democratic political structure including an electoral system; and democratization process with a focus on the media and education for democracy.

Peace, stability and security are prerequisites for nation-building and development. Accordingly, Japan will comprehensively address a wide range of factors causing conflict and instability, including poverty. It will also provide seamless assistance for peacebuilding from conflict prevention, emergency humanitarian assistance in the conflict situation, and promotion of conflict termination to emergency humanitarian assistance and assistance for recovery, reconstruction, and development in the post-conflict stage. Such assistance will address a range of needs such as: humanitarian assistance for refugees and internally-displaced persons; protection and participation of women and the socially vulnerable; reconstruction of social and human capital; the restoration of governance functions based on a trusting relationship between the government and the public; the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance and the collection of small arms; and the restoration of public order. In natural disasters and other emergencies, Japan will provide prompt assistance taking into account longer-term recovery and reconstruction. In view of the fact that threats to stability and security can hamper socio-economic development, Japan will also provide assistance to enhance capacities in developing countries such as: the capacity of law enforcement authorities including capabilities to ensure maritime safety; the capacity of security authorities including capabilities to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons; and the capacity of developing countries in relation to global commons such as seas, outer space, and cyberspace.

C. Building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges

Transboundary challenges facing humanity include environmental issues and climate change, water related issues, major natural disasters, infectious diseases, food issues, and energy issues. These challenges significantly affect not only developing countries but also the international community as a whole, causing damage to many people with particularly serious impact likely on the poor and other vulnerable people.

These global challenges cannot be dealt with by a single country and require united efforts at the regional level or by the international community as a whole. Taking full account of the international development goals such as the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs), the post-2015 development agenda and the discussions regarding these goals, Japan will take the lead in addressing these challenges including through participation in the formulation of international goals and guidelines and active efforts to achieve these goals. Through these efforts, Japan will seek to contribute to building a sustainable and resilient international community.

In this context, Japan will address challenges such as: actions against climate change including the creation of a low carbon society and adaptation to adverse effects of climate change; infectious diseases control; promotion of universal health coverage; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction; disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery measures; conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources from forests, farmlands and oceans; promotion of a sound water cycle; environmental management and other environmental-related initiatives; responses to demographic challenges including an aging population; food security and nutrition; sustainable access to resources and energy; closing the digital divide.

(2) Priority policy issues by region

In view of the increasingly diverse, complex, and broader-based development challenges and the progress in globalization in the international community today, it is necessary to implement cooperation that cater to the needs and characteristics of each region while maintaining a global perspective. Bearing in mind the priority policy issues for each region mentioned below, Japan will provide more focused cooperation in a strategic, effective and agile manner while coping flexibly with ever changing situations. In this process, attention will be paid to the increasing relevance of recent developments such as: moves towards regional integration such as establishment of regional communities; efforts to address trans-boundary issues at the regional level; efforts towards greater-area development; efforts to strengthen inter-regional connectivity; and increasing connectivity among regions. In addition, Japan will extend necessary cooperation to countries based on their actual development needs and affordability. These include countries that despite progress in development, are laden with challenges that hamper sustained economic growth, notably the so-called “middle income trap,” as well as with development challenges including global challenges such as exposure to natural disasters, infectious diseases, and environmental issues and climate change; small island countries and others that are faced with special vulnerabilities despite having attained a certain level of per capita income.

Asia is a region that has a close relationship with Japan and high relevance to its security and prosperity. With this recognition, Japan will extend development cooperation to the region.

Particularly with respect to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, Japan will support the establishment of the ASEAN Community as well as the comprehensive and sustained development of ASEAN as a whole. This will include a focus on the development of both physical and non-physical infrastructure including that which is needed for strengthening connectivity and the reduction of disparities both within the region and within individual countries. Japan will specifically strengthen assistance to the Mekong region as well as continue its assistance to countries that have already achieved a certain level of economic growth to keep them from being caught in the “middle income trap” through assistance to promote increased productivity and technical innovations such as human resources development. At the same time, priority will be attached to assistance that raises disaster risk reduction and disaster relief capabilities and promotes the rule of law, which constitutes the basis for stable economic and social activities. Japan will also promote cooperation with ASEAN as a regional organization to support united efforts to tackle its challenges.

With respect to South Asia, Japan will support regional stability and the fulfillment of a variety of level of regional potential. This will involve cooperation for building the foundations for economic development through growth, including cooperation on improving trade and investment climate especially by developing infrastructure and strengthening connectivity in the Asian region. Japan will also extend cooperation on basic human needs such as health care, sanitation and education, and on socio-economic infrastructure development for narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

With respect to Central Asia and the Caucasus, Japan will support nation-building and regional cooperation for the long-term stability and sustainable development of the region and its neighboring regions, while taking into consideration the disparities within the region.

With respect to Africa, Japan will provide assistance through joint efforts of the public and the private sector through the process of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) so that Africa’s remarkable growth in recent years based on expanding trade, investment and consumption will lead to further development for both Japan and Africa. Japan will take particular note of Africa’s initiatives towards regional development and integration at the sub-regional level. Meanwhile, Africa still has countries that are prone to conflict or are burdened with an accumulation of serious development challenges. Bearing this in mind, Japan will continue to actively engage in assistance for peacebuilding and assistance to fragile states from the perspective of human security, providing necessary assistance with a view towards establishing and consolidating peace and stability, and solving serious development challenges in the region.

The Middle East is an important region not only for Japan but also for the international community as a whole in terms of peace, stability and stable energy supply. With a view to proactively contributing to the peace and stability of the region and to the coexistence and mutual prosperity of Japan and the Middle East, necessary assistance will be provided to address challenges such as peacebuilding,

reducing disparity and human resources development.

With respect to Central and Eastern Europe, Japan will support the moves towards the integration of Europe, which shares universal values such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, by providing assistance necessary to this end.

With respect to Latin America, Japan will provide assistance to foster an environment more conducive to economic development through trade and investment among others, and to extend necessary cooperation against a backdrop of internal disparities which exist even in countries that have achieved considerable progress in development. Consideration will be given to the presence of ethnic Japanese (“Nikkei”) communities in the region, which serves as a strong bond between Japan and the region.

With respect to small island countries in Oceania, the Caribbean and other regions also have vulnerabilities that are peculiar to small island countries. They are also faced with the challenge of coping with the effects of global environmental problems including: water scarcity, damage due to sea level rise and natural disasters associated with climate change. Japan will provide assistance based on individual development needs while bearing in mind the peculiarities of small island countries.

III. Implementation

(1) Implementation principles

Efforts will be made to implement development cooperation effectively and efficiently, while taking into account international discussion including on development effectiveness, so as to obtain maximum effect towards realizing the philosophy and implementing the priority policies described above. It is also necessary to give full consideration to the impacts of cooperation to the recipient countries and societies, and to the appropriateness of cooperation. Based on such considerations, Japan will implement development cooperation in accordance with the following principles.

A. Principles for effective and efficient development cooperation

(a) A more strategic approach

A more strategic approach should be taken to maximize the impact of Japan's development cooperation. In other words, it is important for the government and implementing agencies to work as one – in cooperation with diverse stakeholders – and to mobilize various resources available to Japan. It is also important to engage in the development cooperation cycle of policymaking, implementation and evaluation in an integrated manner.

On policymaking, it is necessary to fully recognize that development cooperation is one of the most important tools of Japan's foreign policy, which calls for strategic and agile responses to ever-changing international affairs. With this recognition, Japan will formulate strategic and effective policies and goals concerning development cooperation, prioritizing as appropriate, based on its foreign policy. In the process, Japan will thoroughly assess diverse factors such as: the state of affairs in the international community including developing countries; the development policies and programs of developing countries; and the strategic importance of the recipient country and the development challenges being addressed in relation to Japan. In addition, for the purpose of clarifying its development cooperation policies, thematic policies, regional policies, and country policies will be structured under this Charter.

In implementing development cooperation, Japan will enhance synergies between ODA and non-ODA finance/cooperation so as to make the most of resources of the government and its affiliated agencies. Furthermore, from the standpoint of its foreign policy and more effective and efficient development cooperation, Japan will organically combine technical cooperation, loan assistance and grant aid. It will also strive to increase the speed of implementation, improve related systems and operate them flexibly.

In the light of the importance of evaluation not only for improving effectiveness and efficiency but for accountability to the public, Japan will conduct evaluations at the policy and program/project levels and feed the results back to the decision-making and program/project implementation processes. Such evaluations, while focusing on outcomes, will take into account the peculiarities and conditions of the recipients. Efforts will be made to undertake evaluation from a diplomatic point of view as well.

(b) Cooperation that takes advantage of Japan's strengths

Japan's human resources, expertise, advanced technology and systems today were developed in the process of overcoming various challenges as it underwent high economic growth and rapid demographic changes. These assets can be beneficial for developing countries in addressing similar challenges, both present and future; in fact, expectations for Japan are high in this regard. In implementing development cooperation, Japan will proactively adopt proposals from various actors in the private and other sectors. It will also work with universities and research institutions to make good use of their expertise and seek out their untapped capabilities. Japan's assistance in infrastructure development will not be limited to constructing physical infrastructure. It will also address the non-physical aspects that encompass developing systems for operating and maintaining such infrastructure as well as human resources development and institution building. Such an integrated approach will enable active utilization of Japan's

experience and expertise. In addition, given that Japan's distinctive characteristics such as Japanese values and occupational culture are highly regarded by the international community, it will take into account the possibility of utilizing its soft power including the Japanese language.

(c) Proactive contribution to international discussions

Japan will strive to make its development cooperation policies better understood by the international community, and for this purpose, categorize the experiences and expertise gained in its development cooperation. To ensure that Japan's policies are adequately reflected in the process of shaping the philosophy and trends in international development cooperation, Japan will proactively participate in and contribute to relevant discussions at the United Nations, international financial institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), especially its Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and other international frameworks.

B. Principles for securing the appropriateness of development cooperation

So as to secure the appropriateness of its development cooperation policies and individual programs/projects and to give consideration to the various impacts of such cooperation on the recipient countries and societies, Japan's development cooperation will be provided in accordance with the principles described below, and by comprehensively taking into account developing countries' development needs and socio-economic conditions, as well as Japan's bilateral relations with each recipient country.

(a) Situation regarding consolidation of democratization, the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights

Japan will pay adequate attention to the situation in the recipient countries regarding the process of democratization, the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights, with a view to promoting the consolidation of democratization, the rule of law and the respect for basic human rights.

(b) Avoidance of any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts

Japan will avoid any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts. In case the armed forces or members of the armed forces in recipient countries are involved in development cooperation for non-military purposes such as public welfare or disaster-relief purposes, such cases will be considered on a case-by-case basis in light of their substantive relevance.

(c) Situation regarding military expenditures, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, export and import of arms, etc.

Japan will pay close attention to the situation in recipient countries regarding military expenditures, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, and export and import of arms, etc. This is done with a view to maintaining international peace and stability including the prevention of terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and based on the position that developing countries should allocate their resources appropriately and preferentially for their own socio-economic development.

(d) Impact of development on the environment and climate change

In order to make development compatible with the environment and to achieve sustainable development, Japan will give thorough consideration to the impact of development on the environment and climate change, and implement development cooperation which takes full account of the environment.

(e) Ensuring equity and consideration to the socially vulnerable

In implementing development cooperation, Japan will pay full attention to the social impact and give full consideration to ensuring equity, while making efforts for participation of wide-ranging stakeholders in every phase of development cooperation, with a view to reducing disparities and in consideration of the socially vulnerable such as children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

(f) Promoting women's participation

In the context of gender equality and greater role of women in development, Japan will encourage the participation of women at every phase of development cooperation and be more proactive in ensuring that women share equitably in the fruits of development, while giving consideration to the possible vulnerabilities of women and their special needs.

(g) Preventing fraud and corruption

It is necessary to prevent fraud and corruption in implementing development cooperation. While taking measures to encourage establishment of a compliance system by bid winners, Japan will work with recipient countries to create an environment conducive to preventing fraud and corruption, including the strengthening of governance in these countries. In this context, Japan will ensure adherence to appropriate procedures and strive to ensure transparency in the implementation process.

(h) Security and safety of development cooperation personnel

In order to ensure security and safety of development cooperation personnel, Japan will pay adequate attention to strengthening security and safety management capacity, gathering security information, taking security measures, and ensuring safety of workers in construction sites. Particularly in relation to assistance in politically unstable or unsafe areas such as assistance for peacebuilding, special security measures and arrangements will be implemented.

(2) Implementation arrangements

In view of the increasingly diverse, complex, and wider-based development challenges as well as the increasingly diverse development actors and development-related funds, Japan will strive to improve the implementation architecture of the government and the implementing agencies, strengthen collaboration at different levels, and reinforce the foundations for sustained implementation of development cooperation.

A. Improvement of the implementation architecture of the government and the implementing agencies

In implementing its development cooperation, the government will improve collaboration among the relevant ministries and agencies, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serving as a hub in charge of coordinating the planning of development cooperation policies. It will also ensure close collaboration between the government, which is responsible for planning policies, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is responsible for implementation. At the same time, the government and JICA will further strive to develop the capacities of these organizations as well as to improve relevant systems and institutions, while clarifying the division of their roles and responsibilities. Especially to improve the competitiveness of its development cooperation, the government and JICA will address issues such as agility, expertise, knowledge accumulation, research capacity, reinforcement of the functions of offices abroad, human resources development and arrangements for emergency humanitarian relief. Consideration will be given to the role of JICA domestic offices as a node for various actors, including companies, NGOs, local governments, universities and research institutions, and the public at large.

B. Strengthening partnerships

In the international community today, various non-governmental actors play an increasingly important role in the development of developing countries. With this recognition, collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for other official funds such as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), and the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) will be strengthened. The government will also enhance mutually beneficial partnerships with various actors so as to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing a wide range of resources, including the private sector.

(a) Public-private partnerships and partnerships with local governments

Official funds including ODA will continue to play an important role in the development of developing countries. However, given that private flows currently far exceed official flows into developing countries, adequate consideration should be given to the fact that activities of the private sector now serve as a powerful engine for economic growth of developing countries. In Asia, hard (physical) and soft (non-physical) basic infrastructure built with development cooperation has contributed to improving the investment climate. Development cooperation's role as a catalyst promoted private investment, which in turn has led to economic growth and poverty reduction in the recipient countries. It is important to recognize that, through these processes, Asia has developed into an important market and investment destination for Japanese private companies, and therefore, an extremely important region for the Japanese economy. In addition, experience and expertise of Japanese local governments play an increasingly significant role in addressing many of the challenges facing developing countries.

In light of the above, the government will promote development cooperation through public-private partnerships and partnerships with local governments utilizing the resources of the private sector and local governments and promoting private-led growth, in order to support economic development of developing countries more vigorously and effectively and to enable such development to lead to robust growth of the Japanese economy. Specifically, partnerships with Japanese companies including small and medium-sized enterprises, local governments, universities and research institutions, and other actors will be strengthened in

order to implement cooperation aimed at creating an environment conducive to the promotion of trade and investment among others in such areas as human resources development, development of legislation and institutions, and development of infrastructure and relevant systems from planning to implementation phases in a consistent manner.

In promoting public-private partnerships, Japan's development cooperation will seek to serve as a catalyst for expanding economic activities, while utilizing excellent technology and expertise, and ample funds of the private sector for addressing the challenges faced by developing countries. In addition, taking full account of the priority policies of development cooperation described earlier, Japan will give consideration to ensuring inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience of growth as well as promoting capacity building so that private investment that is made along with development cooperation will contribute to "quality growth" in developing countries.

(b) Coordination in emergency humanitarian assistance and international peace cooperation

In the context of increasingly severe and frequent disasters, there is plenty of scope for contribution by Japan, a country known for its disaster risk reduction. For effective implementation of disaster relief and other emergency humanitarian assistance, coordination with international organizations, NGOs and other actors that have relevant expertise will be strengthened.

In addition, Japan will continue to promote coordination with international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) to maximize their effective implementation.

(c) Partnerships with international, regional and sub-regional organizations

With their expertise, impartiality and wide networks, international organizations can implement effective and efficient cooperation in sectors or regions that are less accessible in bilateral cooperation and by taking advantage of their distinctive characteristics. Such multilateral cooperation can bring about synergies if combined with bilateral cooperation. Japan will therefore continue its proactive collaboration with international organizations in such areas as humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, governance and global issues. In addition, in view of the role played by international organizations in shaping philosophy and trends in international development cooperation, Japan, as a responsible member of the international community, will strive to increase its influence and presence in international organizations and, by extension, the international community so that it can play a leading role in creating international norms. Furthermore, Japan will hold regular consultations with individual international organizations for policy coordination to create synergies with bilateral cooperation. Special attention will be paid to ensuring accountability to the public as regards the impacts and evaluation of development cooperation through international organizations.

Japan will also reinforce its partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations in view of the trend towards regional integration and the importance of a transboundary approach at the regional level.

(d) Partnerships with donors, emerging countries and other actors

Like Japan, other donors have accumulated experience and expertise over many years of their development cooperation. Donor partnerships are required for greater development effectiveness. From this perspective, Japan will continue to promote partnerships with other donors in development cooperation to maximize its effectiveness, bearing in mind the perspective of its foreign policy.

In implementing development cooperation, it is also important to take advantage of expertise, human resources and their networks, and other assets that have been accumulated in the recipient countries during the many years of Japan's development cooperation. Japan's triangular cooperation involving emerging and other countries capitalizes on such assets. In view of the high regard held by the international community, Japan will continue to promote triangular cooperation.

(e) Partnerships with the civil society

Partnerships with the civil society in and outside of Japan, including NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private foundations, are important both for greater cooperation effectiveness and for the equitable and stable development of the recipient countries as they can accurately assess varying views and needs on the ground and take timely flexible actions. With this recognition, the government will strategically strengthen partnerships with NGOs/CSOs, including reinforcing their participation and collaboration in development cooperation. From this standpoint, the government will support excellent development cooperation projects of Japanese NGOs/CSOs and their capacity development. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA will focus on developing human resources and systems in the social development sector.

The government will also encourage the participation of its people from all walks of life in development cooperation and promote utilization of their expertise in society, with a view to expanding those involved in development cooperation, including the recruitment of JICA Volunteers. In this regard, the government will provide adequate information to the public and listen to the voice of the people at all levels including suggestions regarding development cooperation.

C. Strengthening the foundations for implementation

In order for Japan's development cooperation to fulfil the required role of realizing its philosophy and implementing its priority policies, the foundations for its sustained implementation including financial and human resources must be strengthened. Necessary efforts will be made to this end while being mindful of the internationally-agreed target of increasing ODA to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) and fully recognizing its extremely severe fiscal situation.

(a) Information disclosure and promoting understanding of the public and the international community

Development cooperation is financed by tax revenues from the public. The public's understanding and support are therefore essential to secure necessary funds for the sustained implementation of development cooperation. For this purpose, the government will strive for effective public relations on development cooperation in Japan, timely and adequate disclosure of information on implementation, evaluation and other aspects of development cooperation to the wider public in a transparent manner. The government will also provide easy-to-understand explanations on the policies, significance, outcomes and evaluation of Japan's development cooperation by the international community among other aspects. The government will also actively engage in public information abroad as it is important to make Japan's development cooperation and its achievements better known and understood by the international community including developing countries.

(b) Promoting development education

The government will promote development education at school and various other places. The objective is for the public to develop the capacity to assess various aspects of development challenges facing the world, understand how these challenges relate to Japan, regard the challenges as their own for independent analysis, and participate in actions to address these challenges.

(c) Developing human resources and solidifying the intellectual foundations for development cooperation

Fostering human resources for development cooperation remains an important issue in the face of diversifying development challenges. In particular, promoting development cooperation in such areas as the rule of law, governance, finance and ICT calls for strengthening the institutional structure such as by training and securing the necessary human resources. The government, industry and the academia will therefore work as one to promote the training and development of globally competent human resources with specialized expertise among consultants, researchers, students, and employees at universities, private sector and NGOs/CSOs in addition to the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA. Efforts will also be made to increase opportunities for such persons to fulfill their capacity within and outside Japan and to make institutional and structural improvements.

In order to play a leading role in shaping the philosophy and trends in international development cooperation by making use of its strength, the government will also work with universities and research institutions among others to reinforce the intellectual foundations, including research capabilities to plan and disseminate development cooperation. This may take the form of joint policy research by researchers from Japan and developing countries or intellectual networking of such researchers.

(3) Reporting on the status of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Charter

The government will report the status of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Charter in the "White Paper on Development Cooperation," which is reported annually to the Cabinet.

February 10, 2015
Cabinet Decision

2 The ODA Charter (approved by Cabinet decision in August 2003)

Revision of Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter

August 29, 2003
Cabinet Decision

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter, approved by the Cabinet in 1992, has been the foundation of Japan's aid policy for more than 10 years. The world has changed dramatically since the Charter was first approved, and today there is an urgent need for the international community, including Japan, to address new development challenges such as peacebuilding. Faced with these new challenges, many developed countries are strengthening their ODA policy, to deal with the serious problems that developing countries face. At the same time, not only governments and international organizations, but many other stakeholders are also assisting developing countries.

All stakeholders engaged in development assistance are strengthening their mutual collaboration. In line with the spirit of the Japanese Constitution, Japan will vigorously address these new challenges to fulfill its responsibilities commensurate with its national strength and its standing in the international community. In this regard, it is important to have public support for ODA. It is essential to effectively implement ODA, fully taking into account the domestic economic and fiscal situation as well as the views of the Japanese people.

Against this background, the Government of Japan has revised the ODA Charter, with the aim of enhancing the strategic value, flexibility, transparency, and efficiency of ODA. The revision also has the aim of encouraging wide public participation and of deepening the understanding of Japan's ODA policies both within Japan and abroad.

Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter

I. Philosophy: Objectives, Policies, and Priorities

1. Objectives

The objectives of Japan's ODA are to contribute to the peace and development of the international community, and thereby to help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity.

Taking advantage of Japan's experience as the first nation in Asia to become a developed country, Japan has utilized its ODA to actively support economic and social infrastructure development, human resources development, and institution building. Consequently, Japan has significantly contributed to the economic and social development of developing countries, especially in East Asia.

Amid the post-Cold War advancement of globalization, the international community presently finds itself in a new environment, grappling with a multiplicity of problems such as the gap between the rich and the poor; ethnic and religious conflicts; armed conflicts; terrorism; suppression of freedom, human rights, and democracy; environmental problems; infectious diseases; and gender issues.

In particular, humanitarian problems, such as extreme poverty, famine, refugee crises, and natural disasters, as well as global issues such as those related to the environment and water, are important issues that need to be addressed in order for the international community as a whole to achieve sustainable development. These problems are cross border issues that present a grave threat to each and every human being.

Furthermore, conflicts and terrorism are occurring more frequently and they are becoming even more serious issues. Preventing conflicts and terrorism, and efforts to build peace, as well as efforts to foster democratization, and to protect human rights and the dignity of individuals have become major issues inherent to the stability and development of the international community.

Japan, as one of the world's leading nations, is determined to make best use of ODA to take the initiative in addressing these issues. Such efforts will in turn benefit Japan itself in a number of ways, including by promoting friendly relations and people-to-people exchanges with other countries, and by strengthening Japan's standing in the international arena.

In addition, as nations deepen their interdependence, Japan, which enjoys the benefits of international trade and is heavily dependent on the outside world for resources, energy and food, will proactively contribute to the stability and development of developing countries through its ODA. This correlates closely with assuring Japan's security and prosperity and promoting the

welfare of its people. In particular, it is essential that Japan make efforts to enhance economic partnership and vitalize exchange with other Asian countries with which it has particularly close relations.

Japan aspires for world peace. Actively promoting the aforementioned efforts with ODA, and manifesting this posture both at home and abroad is the most suitable policy for gaining sympathy and support from the international community for Japan's position. Therefore, Japan's ODA will continue to play an important role in the years to come.

2. Basic Policies

In order to achieve the objectives outlined above, Japan will carry out ODA even more strategically, in accordance with the following basic policies.

(1) Supporting Self-help Efforts of Developing Countries

The most important philosophy of Japan's ODA is to support the self-help efforts of developing countries based on good governance, by extending cooperation for their human resources development, institution building including development of legal systems, and economic and social infrastructure building, which constitute the basis for these countries' development. Accordingly, Japan respects ownership by developing countries, and places priorities on their own development strategies.

In carrying out the above policy, Japan will give priority to assisting developing countries that make active efforts to pursue peace, democratization, and the protection of human rights, as well as structural reform in the economic and social spheres.

(2) Perspective of "Human Security"

In order to address direct threats to individuals such as conflicts, disasters, infectious diseases, it is important not only to consider the global, regional, and national perspectives, but also to consider the perspective of human security, which focuses on individuals. Accordingly, Japan will implement ODA to strengthen the capacity of local communities through human resources development. To ensure that human dignity is maintained at all stages, from the conflict stage to the reconstruction and development stages, Japan will extend assistance for the protection and empowerment of individuals.

(3) Assurance of Fairness

In formulating and implementing assistance policies, Japan will take steps to assure fairness. This should be achieved by giving consideration to the condition of the socially vulnerable, and the gap between the rich and the poor as well as the gap among various regions in developing countries. Furthermore, great attention will be paid with respect to factors such as environmental and social impact on developing countries of the implementation of ODA. In particular, the perspective of gender equality is important. Japan will make further efforts to improve the status of women, giving full consideration to the active participation of women in development, and to ensuring that women reap benefits from development.

(4) Utilization of Japan's Experience and Expertise

Japan will utilize its own experience in economic and social development as well as in economic cooperation when assisting the development of developing countries, fully taking into account the development policies and assistance needs of developing countries. Japan will also utilize its advanced technologies, expertise, human resource, and institutions.

Implementation of ODA will be coordinated with key Japanese policies to ensure policy coherence, taking into consideration implications for Japan's economy and society.

(5) Partnership and Collaboration with the International Community

Mainly with the initiative of international organizations, the international community is sharing more common development goals and strategies and various stakeholders are increasingly coordinating their aid activities. Japan will participate in this process, and endeavor to play a leading role. In parallel with such efforts, Japan will pursue collaboration with United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, other donor countries, NGOs, private companies, and other entities. In particular, Japan will enhance collaboration with international organizations that possess expertise and political neutrality, and will endeavor to ensure that Japan's policies are reflected appropriately in the management of those organizations.

In addition, Japan will actively promote South-South cooperation in partnership with more advanced developing countries in Asia and other regions. Japan will also strengthen collaboration with regional cooperation frameworks, and will support region-wide cooperation that encompasses several countries.

3. Priority Issues

In accordance with the objectives and basic policies set out above, the following are Japan's priority issues.

(1) Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction is a key development goal shared by the international community, and is also essential for eliminating terrorism and other causes of instability in the world. Therefore, Japan will give high priorities to providing assistance to such sectors as education, health care and welfare, water and sanitation and agriculture, and will support human and social development in the developing countries. At the same time, sustainable economic growth, increase in employment, and improvement in the quality of life are indispensable for realizing poverty reduction and Japan places importance on providing assistance for these issues accordingly.

(2) Sustainable Growth

In order to invigorate developing countries' trade and investment, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and to support sustainable growth, Japan will place importance on providing assistance for the development of socioeconomic infrastructure — a key factor for economic activity, and also for policy-making, the development of institutions, and human resources development. This will include (i) cooperation in the field of trade and investment including the appropriate protection of intellectual property rights and standardization, (ii) cooperation in the field of information and communications technology (ICT), (iii) the acceptance of exchange students, and (iv) cooperation for research.

In addition, Japan will endeavor to ensure that its ODA, and its trade and investment, which exert a substantial influence on the development of recipient countries, are carried out in close coordination, so that they have the overall effect of promoting growth in developing countries. To that end, Japan will make efforts to enhance coordination between Japan's ODA and other official flows such as trade insurance and import and export finance. At the same time, private-sector economic cooperation will be promoted, making full use of private-sector vitality and funds.

(3) Addressing Global Issues

As for global issues such as global warming and other environmental problems, infectious diseases, population, food, energy, natural disasters, terrorism, drugs, and international organized crime, further efforts must be given immediately and in a coordinated manner by the international community. Japan will address these issues through ODA and will play an active role in the creation of international norms.

(4) Peace-building

In order to prevent conflicts from arising in developing regions, it is important to comprehensively address various factors that cause conflicts. As part of such undertakings, Japan will carry out ODA to achieve poverty reduction and the correction of disparities, as referred to above. In addition to assistance for preventing conflicts and emergency humanitarian assistance in conflict situations, Japan will extend bilateral and multilateral assistance flexibly and continuously for peace-building in accordance with the changing situation, ranging from assistance to expedite the ending of conflicts to assistance for the consolidation of peace and nation-building in post-conflict situations.

For example, ODA will be used for: assistance to facilitate the peace processes; humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance, such as assistance for displaced persons and for the restoration of basic infrastructure; assistance for assuring domestic stability and security, including disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR), and the collection and disposal of weapons, including demining; and assistance for reconstruction, including social and economic development and the enhancement of the administrative capabilities of governments.

4. Priority Regions

In light of the objectives stated above, Asia, a region with a close relationship to Japan and which can have a major impact on Japan's stability and prosperity, is a priority region for Japan. However, Japan will strategically prioritize assistance to Asian countries, fully taking into account the diversity of the Asian countries' socioeconomic conditions and changes in their respective assistance needs. In particular, the East Asian region which includes ASEAN is expanding and deepening economic interdependency and has been making efforts to enhance its regional competitiveness by maintaining economic growth and strengthening integration in recent years. ODA will be utilized to forge stronger relations with this region and to rectify disparities in the region, fully considering such factors as the strengthening of economic partnership with East Asian countries.

Also, Japan will give due consideration to the large population of impoverished people in South Asia. With respect to Central

Asia and the Caucasus region, assistance will be provided to promote democratization and transition to market economies.

Japan will prioritize its assistance for other regions on the basis of the objectives, basic policies, and priority issues set out in this Charter, giving consideration to the needs for assistance and the state of development in each region.

Africa has a large number of least developed countries, and is affected by conflicts and serious development issues, amid which self-help efforts are being stepped up. Japan will provide assistance for these efforts.

The Middle East is an important region for energy supply and for the peace and stability of the international community, but it has destabilizing factors including the situation of Middle East peace process. Japan will provide assistance towards social stability and the consolidation of peace.

Latin America includes countries that are relatively well developed, but also island nations with fragile economies. Taking into consideration the disparities arising within the region as well as within countries, Japan will extend the necessary cooperation.

With respect to Oceania, assistance will be provided, as there are numerous vulnerable island nations.

II. Principle of ODA Implementation

In line with the philosophy set out above, Japan's ODA will be provided by comprehensively taking into account developing countries' need for assistance, socio-economic conditions, and Japan's bilateral relations with the recipient country, and ODA will be provided in accordance with the principles of the United Nations (especially sovereign equality and non-intervention in domestic matters) as well as the following points:

- (1) Environmental conservation and development should be pursued in tandem.
- (2) Any use of ODA for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts should be avoided.
- (3) Full attention should be paid to trends in recipient countries' military expenditures, their development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, their export and import of arms, etc., so as to maintain and strengthen international peace and stability, including the prevention of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and from the viewpoint that developing countries should place appropriate priorities in the allocation of their resources on their own economic and social development.
- (4) Full attention should be paid to efforts for promoting democratization and the introduction of a market-oriented economy, and the situation regarding the protection of basic human rights and freedoms in the recipient country.

III. Formulation and Implementation of ODA Policy

1. System of Formulation and Implementation of ODA Policy

(1) Coherent Formulation of ODA Policy

In order to ensure that the government in its entirety implements ODA efficiently and effectively in a unified and coherent manner pursuant to this Charter, medium-term ODA policies and country assistance programs will be formulated, taking into account the partnership and collaboration with the international community referred to in the Basic Policies and ODA policies will be formulated and implemented in accordance with them. Country assistance programs will be drawn up for major recipient countries, and will set out explicitly the points to which priority is to be given, based on Japan's aid policy, and reflecting the recipient countries' true assistance needs.

In accordance with these medium-term ODA policies and country assistance programs, various methods of assistance — financial cooperation in the form of loans and grants, and technical cooperation — will be linked together effectively so as to take full advantage of the characteristics of each method. At the same time, Japan will be mindful of the balance between hardware type cooperation such as construction and provision of equipment, and software type cooperation such as technical cooperation and institution building. Each method will be reviewed appropriately.

(2) Collaboration among Related Government Ministries and Agencies

In order to ensure that the government as a whole formulates and implements policies in a unified and coherent manner, under the auspices of the Council of Overseas Economic Cooperation-Related Ministers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will play the central coordinating role in strengthening broad collaboration between the ODA-related government ministries and agencies, including by means of personnel exchanges and by utilizing the expertise of those related ministries and agencies. For this purpose, the government ministries and agencies will actively use consultation for a such as the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on ODA.

(3) Collaboration between Government and Implementing Agencies

While making clear the roles of the government and the implementing agencies (the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and the apportionment of responsibilities among them, collaboration will be strengthened, including by means of personnel exchanges to ensure an organic linkage between the government and the implementing agencies. In addition, implementing agencies will strengthen their mutual collaboration.

(4) Strengthening of Policy Consultation

In formulating and implementing assistance policies, it is essential to fully grasp the development policies and assistance needs of developing countries by engaging actively in policy consultation before requests are made by developing countries. At the same time, Japan will set out its assistance policies to the developing countries through dialogue, and the development policies of developing countries and Japan's assistance policy will be reconciled in order to maximize the effect of Japan's aid within those developing countries' development strategies. Furthermore, Japan will support efforts by developing countries to improve their policies and systems, including the ability to formulate and implement assistance projects. Japan will also take into consideration whether such efforts by the developing countries are sufficient in the formulation and implementation of ODA.

(5) Strengthening the Functions of Field Missions in the Policy-making Process and Implementation

The functions of field missions (primarily overseas diplomatic missions and offices of implementing agencies) will be strengthened, so that they will be able to play a leading role in the policy-making process and in implementation. In particular, steps will be taken to develop a framework for strengthening the system, including through the use of outside personnel. Japan will also make efforts to make comprehensive and accurate assessments of developing countries' development policies and assistance needs, primarily at the local level. Japan will comprehensively identify local socioeconomic conditions and other aspects through local interested parties.

(6) Collaboration with Aid-related Entities

Collaboration with Japanese NGOs, universities, local governments, economic organizations, labor organizations, and other related stakeholders will be strengthened to facilitate their participation in ODA and to utilize their technologies and expertise. Japan will also seek to collaborate with similar entities overseas, particularly in developing countries. In addition, in the implementation of ODA, appropriate use will be made of the technologies and expertise of Japanese private companies.

2. Increasing public participation

(1) Broad Participation by Japanese Citizens from All Walks of Life

The government will take measures to foster participation in assistance activities by Japanese citizens from all walks of life, and to promote these citizens' interaction with developing countries. Such measures will include providing sufficient information, listening to public opinion, soliciting proposals for ODA activities, and extending cooperation to volunteer activities.

(2) Human Resources Development and Development Research

The government will make efforts to foster aid personnel with the necessary expertise and to increase the opportunities for aid personnel to be active both within Japan and overseas. In parallel with these efforts, high-quality personnel, such as persons with considerable overseas experience and extensive knowledge, will be widely sought and be encouraged to participate in ODA activities.

In addition, the government will encourage regional studies relating to developing countries and research on development policy, to promote accumulation of Japan's intellectual assets in the development sphere.

(3) Development Education

Development education is important for promoting public understanding with respect to international cooperation including ODA, and for fostering people that will be engaged in international cooperation in the future. In this perspective, the government will take measures in schools and on other occasions to carry out more widespread education on development issues, such as the problems that face developing countries, relations between Japan and developing countries and the role that development assistance should play. Necessary educational materials will be distributed and teachers will be trained.

(4) Information Disclosure and Public Relations

It is important for information on ODA policy, implementation, and evaluation to be disclosed widely and promptly to ensure the sufficient transparency, and for it to be publicized actively. Therefore, the government will use a variety of means to provide information in easy-to-understand formats, and to create opportunities for Japanese citizens to come into contact with ODA activities that Japan is undertaking.

In addition, the government will make enhanced efforts to disseminate information regarding Japan's ODA to developing countries as well as other donors.

3. Matters Essential to Effective Implementation

(1) Enhancement of Evaluation

The government will carry out consecutive evaluations at all stages, i.e. ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post, and evaluations at each level, i.e. policy, program, and project. Furthermore, in order to measure, analyze and objectively evaluate the outcome of ODA, third-party evaluations conducted by experts will be enhanced while the government undertakes policy evaluations. The evaluation results will be reflected in subsequent ODA policy-making and efficient and effective implementation.

(2) Ensuring Appropriate Procedures

The government will adopt procedures to ensure that full consideration is given to the environmental and social impact of implementation of ODA. The government will make efforts to conduct appropriate and efficient procurement with regard to quality and price. At the same time, while ensuring these aspects, the procedures will be simplified and accelerated.

(3) Prevention of Fraud and Corruption

The government will implement appropriate measures to ensure the transparency of the activity-selection and implementation process, and to prevent fraud, corruption, and improper diversion of aid. In addition, the government will make efforts to assure the appropriate use of funds by enhancing auditing, including through the introduction of external audits.

(4) Ensuring the Safety of ODA Personnel

Safeguarding the lives and personal safety of ODA personnel is a prerequisite for the implementation of ODA. The government will fully obtain security related information and will take appropriate measures.

IV. Reporting on the Status of Implementation of the Official Development Assistance Charter

The government will report the status of the implementation of the Official Development Assistance Charter in the "White Paper on Official Development Assistance (ODA)," which is reported annually to the Cabinet.

August 29, 2003
Cabinet Decision

3 List of Current Sector-Specific Development Policies and Initiatives

Sectors	Sector-Specific Development Policies and Initiatives	Outline
Gender	The Initiative on Gender and Development (GAD), announced at the 49th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (2005) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunya/gender/initiative.html	(1) Strengthening integration of gender equality perspectives in ODA policies (2) Strengthening gender analysis and promoting women's participation in society (3) Support for policies and systems that promote gender equality (4) Strengthening cooperation with the international community and NGOs (5) Organizational and administrative capacity building
	Support measures towards "a society in which all women shine"	In September 2013, in his address to the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe pledged to cultivate the power of women as the greatest potential for the growth of the Japanese economy, and at the same time, to further strengthen cooperation with the international community as well as assistance to developing countries with the belief that creating "a society in which all women shine" will bring vigor to the world. Specifically, the Prime Minister announced that Japan would extend ODA exceeding US\$3 billion in the next three years (2013-2015) based on the following three pillars: (1) Facilitating women's active role / participation in society and women's empowerment (2) Enhancing Japan's efforts in the area of women's health care as a part of its Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy (3) Supporting women's participation and protecting their rights in the area of peace and security
Education	Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth, announced to coincide with the UN Summit for adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunya/education/pdfs/lspg_ful_en.pdf	Japan announced a new education cooperation strategy coinciding with the UN Summit for adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The new strategy was established as an education thematic policy set forth in the Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in February 2015. (1) Educational cooperation to achieve inclusive, equitable and quality learning (2) Educational cooperation for industrial, science and technology human resource development and foundation building for socio-economic development (3) Establishment and expansion of global and regional networks for educational cooperation
Healthcare	Basic Design for Peace and Health, approved by the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy (2015) http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page22e_000761.html Statement made at "The Path towards UHC" UN General Assembly health side event (2015) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ghp/page3_001390.html	The Basic Design was developed as a guideline for global health policy under the Development Cooperation Charter. Its fundamental principal is human security. (1) To build a society which is resilient to external factors such as public health emergencies and disasters (2) To establish a seamless utilization of essential health and medical services throughout life thus achieving Universal Health Coverage (3) The effective appropriation of Japanese health workers, expertise, drugs, medical devices, medical technologies, and medical services.
Water and Sanitation	The Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI), announced at the 4th World Water Forum Ministerial Conference (2006) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunya/archive/wasabi_gai.html	(1) Promotion of integrated water resource management (IWRM) (2) Supply of safe drinking water and sanitation (3) Support of water use for food production and other purposes (4) Water pollution prevention and ecosystem conservation (5) Mitigation of damage from water-related disasters
Environment	"Green Future Initiatives" announced at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) (June 2012) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/kankyo/rio_p20/gaiyo.html	Under the guiding principle of human security, Japan will contribute to the transition to a green global economy and building of a society resilient to disasters. (1) Spreading the idea of "Future City". Annually invite 100 people involved in urban planning of developing countries. Host an international conference on "Future City" in Japan. (2) Contributing to the transition of the global economy towards a green economy. • Increasing government dialogues (East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogues, TICAD Strategy for Low Carbon Growth and Climate Resilient Development). • Organize a 10,000-experts team of Green Cooperation Volunteers over the next three years. • Provide US\$3 billion in assistance over the next three years for renewable energy, etc. in the area of climate change. • Establish the Joint Crediting Mechanism. (3) Building resilient societies Provide US\$3 billion in assistance over three years from 2013 to 2015 to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the field of development and international cooperation. (Also introduced at the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku.)
	Initiatives to assist developing countries in tackling environmental pollution announced at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" (October 2013) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_000140.html	Japan's environmental technologies, which Japan has developed to overcome pollution over the past years, will be utilized to assist developing countries in tackling environmental pollution: (1) Provide US\$2 billion of ODA in total over three years from 2014 in the three areas of measures to tackle air pollution, water pollution, and waste management. (2) Establishing a capacity building program for mercury pollution prevention (a 3-year JICA group training course sharing the lessons learned from Minamata disease experience, sharing Japan's knowledge to tackle mercury pollution, assisting developing countries in legislation for ratification of the Convention, etc.)

Sectors	Sector-Specific Development Policies and Initiatives	Outline
Environment	Japan's assistance to developing countries for countering climate change in 2013-2015, announced as part of the proactive diplomatic strategy for countering global warming "ACE: Actions for Cool Earth" at the 19th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 19) (November 2013) http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/page3e_000130.html	Japan announced that it would extend assistance, public and private finance combined, amounting to ¥1.6 trillion (approximately US\$16 billion) (of which public finance accounts for ¥1.3 trillion [approximately US\$13 billion]) during the 3-year period between 2013 and 2015 to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in response to climate change in developing countries. Japanese assistance reached the above amount in eighteen months from January 2013.
	Adaptation Initiatives, announced at the UN Climate Summit (September 2014) http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ch/page3_000921.html	Japan announced its intention to consistently assist developing countries' adaptation actions both in terms of their plans and implementation, including human resources development of 5,000 people, over a three-year period.
Trade and Investment	"Partnership for Quality Infrastructure," announced at the 21st International Conference on the Future of Asia (May 2015) Announcement of follow-up measures (November 2015)	In May 2015, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, will provide approximately US\$110 billion (¥13 trillion) for "quality infrastructure development" in Asia over the next five years through the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure." In November 2015, Japan announced follow-up measures to the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" that would improve ODA Loans and Private-Sector Investment Finance, including acceleration of procedures of ODA Loans and establishment of new ODA Loans.
	People-centered investment, presented at OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (May 2014)	In promoting investment to developing countries through public-private partnerships aimed at development, Japan attaches importance to the following three factors that are based on a people-centered perspective. Japan promotes such people-centered investment. (1) Inclusiveness: Have as many people as possible enjoy the economic benefits of investment (2) Resilience: Enhance social resilience to economic fluctuations, climate change, and natural disasters through investment (3) Capacity building: Advance capacity-building among local people
	Aid for Trade	As Aid for Trade, Japan will: (1) Reform the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) in consideration of the current situation of trade with developing countries (2) Make proactive contributions to effective use of Aft, fight against protectionism and trade and finance-related fields
Disaster Risk Reduction	Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction, announced at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000070617.pdf	Japan will build with the international community a society that is resilient to disasters by sharing with the world its knowledge and technology as a country advanced in DRR. This cooperation will effectively combine (i) non-material assistance, (ii) material assistance, and (iii) global and region-wide cooperation. The DRR cooperation will total to US\$4 billion and train 40,000 human resources over four years from 2015 to 2018.
Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance	Humanitarian Aid Policy of Japan (July 2011) http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/emergency/pdfs/aid_policy_japan.pdf	Basic understanding and view on humanitarian assistance policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for the basic principles of humanitarian assistance (humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence) • Assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons • Seamless transition from humanitarian assistance to development assistance • International response to natural disasters, contribution to disaster risk reduction efforts • Security of humanitarian aid workers • Promotion of civil-military coordination • Pursuing timely and efficient delivery • Coordination with other humanitarian actors including NGOs etc.

Section 3

List of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)

As of the end of Oct. 2015

	Region	Number of cases	Country
Countries which have reached the Completion Point* ¹ (36 countries)	Africa	30	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia
	Middle East	1	Afghanistan
	Latin America and the Caribbean	5	Guyana, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bolivia, Honduras
Countries which have not reached the Decision Point* ² (3 countries)	Africa	3	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

*1 Debt relief will be provided to HIPCs that reached the Decision Point as mid-phase relief. A new economic and social reform program will then be implemented as a second phase. If the country is acknowledged as having demonstrated favorable achievements, it will reach the Completion Point of the Enhanced HIPC Initiative and comprehensive debt relief measures will be provided.

*2 In order to reach the Decision Point, HIPCs are required to first formulate national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) describing the policies they will implement with the financial resources that will become available as a result of debt relief, and obtain approval by the World Bank and the IMF Executive Board. Debt relief approval will be decided based on the PRSP, the HIPC's actual achievements in the economic and social reform program demanded by the IMF, and an analysis of the debt repayment capacity of the indebted country.