

Diplomatic Bluebook 2016

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Diplomatic Bluebook 2016

Japanese Diplomacy and
International Situation in 2015

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

In principle, this Diplomatic Bluebook 2016 describes an overview of the international situations and Japan's diplomatic activities between January 1 and December 31 of 2015; however, some important events that occurred through beginning of March 2016 are also included.

In this book we have tried to provide plain and easy-to-understand explanations that anyone would find easy to read. Some articles in columns were contributed by prominent persons who are internationally successful and others concern activities which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) particularly emphasized in 2015.

Key speeches, communiques, and statistics which were listed in the Diplomatic Bluebook until 2002 were moved to the MOFA website at <http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>. You will find an electronic version of this book and English summaries of back numbers of Diplomatic Bluebook at <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html>.

For more details with respect to Chapter 3, Section 1, "4. Disarmament, Non-proliferation, and the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy," and Chapter 3, Section 2, "1. Japan's Development Cooperation," please refer to the MOFA's publications, "Japan's Efforts on Disarmament and Nonproliferation," "Japan's Development Cooperation White Paper" and "Japan's International Cooperation." These documents are also available on the MOFA website at <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/report.html>.

Please note that the titles of persons and names of countries appearing in this book are those as of 2015.

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs

The year 2015, which falls on a milestone marking the passing of 70 post-war years, turned out to be a year to renew determination to further contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community, while looking back on the path of Japan as a peace-loving nation during the post-war period. In April, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Republic of Palau to mourn and pay tribute to those who died in World War II and pray for peace, and in August, the Prime Minister's statement was issued on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

With regard to Japan-United States (U.S.) relations, concrete results accumulated toward further strengthening of Japan-U.S. Alliance, including the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the New Guidelines) announced in April, the speech given by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, and the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship Supplementary to the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement. In addition, we believe the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement reached in principle in October, in which Japan and the U.S. played a leading role, was an important move to drive the growth of the Japanese economy.

In relations with neighboring countries, there was significant progress in 2015, such as the holdings of Japan - China - Republic of Korea (ROK) Trilateral Summit and Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the historic agreement reached between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the ROK regarding the issue of comfort women.

In 2015, the legislation for peace and security was enacted. We will continue to explain carefully that the legislation is to protect the lives and peaceful livelihoods of the Japanese people as an emergency preparedness in an increasingly severe security environment, as well as to further contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

Chapter 1 of the Diplomatic Bluebook 2016 takes a brief look at the international situation and Japan's diplomacy in 2015, Chapter 2 examines Japan's foreign policy that takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map, and Chapter 3 focuses on Japan's foreign policy to promote national and worldwide interests. Chapter 4, entitled "Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public," explains the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support Japanese society and people in deepening ties with the world, the strengthening of the diplomacy implementation structure and efforts for ensuring the safety of Japanese people overseas. Commentaries have been utilized together with charts and maps to aid readers' understanding, and themed "special features" and "columns" conveying voices from the diplomatic front lines are provided to make readers feel familiar with diplomacy.

To pursue a vigorous diplomacy, your understanding and cooperation is absolutely necessary. We sincerely hope that the Diplomatic Bluebook will help every one of you deepen your understanding of Japan's latest foreign policy and international affairs, and that it will provide an opportunity to widely disseminate the "right image" of a Japan proactively contributing to the peace and prosperity of the world.

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Fumio Kishida



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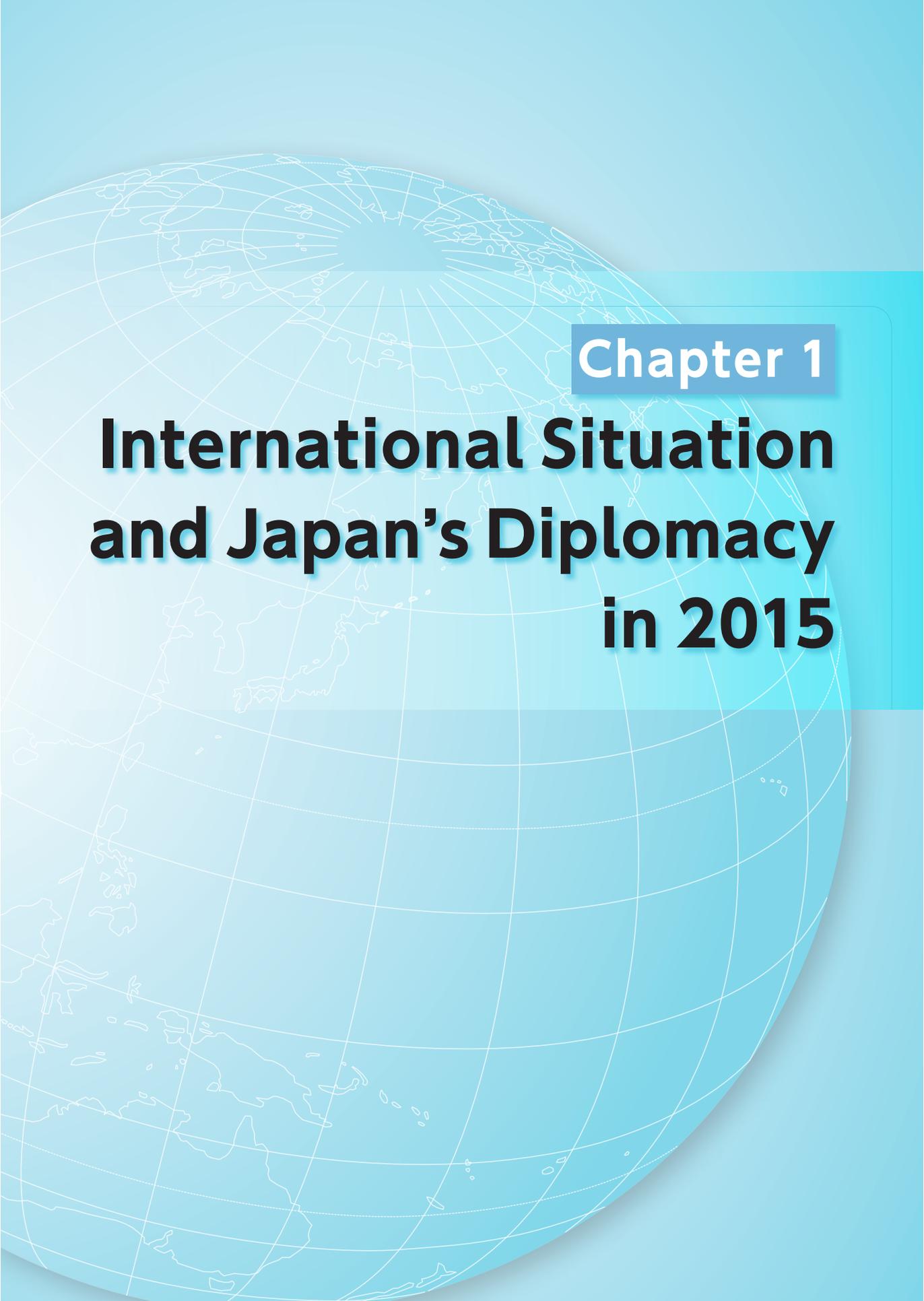
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Chapter 1

International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2015



International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2015

In order for Japan to ensure its security and economic national interests, and to continue to maintain and develop an international order desirable for Japan based on universal values such as freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights, it is essential to conduct strategic diplomacy, while rationally grasping changes in the international situation and responding to them.

Below is a broad overview of the international situation surrounding Japan and Japan's diplomacy in 2015 which takes a panoramic perspective of the world map under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," based on the principles of international cooperation, as well as issues to be addressed.

1 Overview of the International Situation

(1) Change in the International Situation in the Medium-term

[Change in the balance of power]

Since the turn of the 21st century, the presence of so-called emerging countries, in particular China and India, has been increasing. While the influence of China in the global economy increases, its military strengthening with lack of transparency is also pointed out.

Meanwhile, as globalization progresses, non-state actors, such as non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) showing a strong presence internationally and multinational corporations producing revenue equivalent to state budgets, have been playing a more important role in the international community, while concerning issues, such as areal spread of various kinds of terrorism, are also taking place.

The United States (U.S.) still occupies a leading position in the world in terms of overall national power, including not only military force and economic power, but also soft power such as values and culture. On the other hand, the rise of emerging countries causes changes in the balance of power, and various moves are being observed, such as the decline of strong leadership and increased multipolarity in the international order, the increasing complexity of international issues, and attempts to change the status quo by force and destabilizations of the order.

[Diversification and complexification of threats]

Issues related to the transfer, proliferation and improvement of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles constitute a major threat to the entire international community, including Japan.

Spread and diversification of international terrorism as well as the increase in the possibility of acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction by international terrorist organizations are negative aspects of

globalization, and remain a matter of serious concern to the international community. From this point of view, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially enhancement of nuclear security to prevent nuclear terrorism from becoming a reality, has become important. Advances in communication tools, including social networking services (SNSs) are also used in the diffusion of ideologies and expansion of the range of activities by international terrorist organizations.

Furthermore, thanks to recent advances in science and technology, new activity areas, such as cyber space and outer space, have been created for the human race. On the other hand, it has brought about new risks and threats along with great opportunities, while applicable rules have not been established.

[Growing concern over global issues]

While some developing countries have been achieving high economic growth benefitting from the progress of globalization and expansion of international economic activity, there are also the poorest countries unable to escape from severe poverty. Some data indicates that the poorest living on less than 1.9 US dollars a day still accounts for about 10% of the world's population¹. Poverty limits freedom and abundant potential of individual human beings, and concurrently becomes a source of social injustice, political instability and violent extremism.

There is a concern that global warming will have a serious impact on the global environment, including an increase in natural disasters and damages caused by such disasters. In addition, since it is socially vulnerable people who suffer from natural disasters, efforts for disaster risk reduction

are absolutely necessary to eradicate poverty and realize sustainable development. Furthermore, the number of people crossing borders has now increased dramatically due to globalization, posing an increasingly serious threat of the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases. Thus the strengthening of international crisis management system has become an issue.

[Globalizing world economy]

In the world economy, the global supply chain and financial systems are developing in line with the progress of globalization, strengthening interdependence more than ever before. While this creates an opportunity for further growth, an economic shock or oil-price decline in one region is apt to have an impact on other regions or the entire world economy simultaneously, as was seen with the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the European debt crisis.

Also, in order to further facilitate cross-border economic activities, there is a growing need to maintain and build an economic order based on rules.

(2) The increasingly severe security environment in East Asia

[China's extensive and rapid strengthening of military force which lacks transparency and unilateral attempts to change the status quo]

Peaceful development of China should be welcomed for Japan as well as for the entire international community. However, a series of military developments in China, as seen prominently in recent years, raises concern in the region and the entire international community.

For instance, China strengthens military power with lack of transparency, including

¹ World Bank website

continued expansions of its defense budget. China's defense expenditure has continued to show an approximately double digit increase rate from the previous year in a row since 1989. In addition, the organizational structure and equipment of the marine law enforcement agencies as exemplified by the China Coast Guard have been reinforced, while such agencies are not under the command and order of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Furthermore, China has been accelerating actions and unilateral attempts to change the status quo in waters and airspace, including the East China Sea and the South China Sea based on its own assertions which are incompatible with existing order of international law of the sea. For instance, in the East China Sea, Chinese government-owned vessels have continued to intrude into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands at the same frequency in 2015 as in the past. Furthermore, Chinese Coast Guard vessels apparently equipped with cannons have repeatedly intruded into Japan's territorial waters since the end of December 2015. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral resource development in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone and on continental shelves in areas pending delimitation. In November 2015, there also occurred an incident where intelligence-gathering vessels had repeatedly navigated outside the southern part of the contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands. In the South China Sea, China has been further conducting unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts, their use for military purposes, and attempts to create *faits accomplis*. Many countries including Japan have expressed concern over such China's actions. With regards to the

dispute over the South China Sea between the Philippines and China, the Philippines started arbitral proceedings in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Arbitral Tribunal decided on the issue of jurisdiction, ruling that it has jurisdiction over a part of the submissions by the Philippines. In November, the hearing on the merits was held. However, China continues its non-participation in the arbitral proceedings.

Japan has a high interest regarding the issues over the South China Sea as it relies on marine transportation for most of resources and energy, and attaches importance to freedom of navigation and overflight in South China sea, as well as the security of sea lanes. The international community is called upon to cooperate in order to protect open, free and peaceful sea. (see 2-1-2 (1), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)).

[North Korea's unclear direction]

North Korea has adopted a "byungjin policy" which simultaneously pursues the build-up of nuclear armed forces and economic construction. North Korea conducted its 4th nuclear test in January 2016, and in February, it launched ballistic missile, ignoring calls for restraint from the international community. North Korea's continued nuclear and missile development, which clearly violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, poses a direct and serious threat to Japan's security, and significantly undermines the peace and security of Northeast Asia and the international community.

(3) Growing concern over violent extremism and international terrorism

International terrorist organizations based in politically unstable regions with vulnerable

governance, such as the Middle East and North Africa, are intensifying their activities. In particular, “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)”, a militant group of Islamic extremists, carried out terrorist attacks outside their stronghold such as ones in Paris in January and November 2015, which caused a large number of civilian casualties. ISIL was also involved in the killing of foreign hostages including Japanese nationals in early 2015. ISIL poses a serious threat to the international order. They abuse religious ideology to deny the existing borders and nation states and recruit combatants from other regions by using online propaganda. The activities of ISIL have caused serious humanitarian crises including mass displacement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

(4) Global issues requiring urgent response

[Refugees]

The number of refugees and IDPs who fled from their home due to conflict or persecution is said to total about 60 million worldwide currently². It has been increasing significantly in recent years. Politically unstable regions in the Middle East and Africa have become major sources of refugees and IDPs. The refugee influx, in particular into Europe since the summer of 2015, has become an urgent issue for the international community.

[Spread of infectious diseases]

As for the Ebola outbreak, which had spread in West Africa since 2014, the end of the public health emergency of the international concern (PHEIC) was declared, including Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three most affected countries. However, the outbreak highlighted the need to improve

health systems in developing countries, crisis management in the international community including Japan and a system to handle a situation where Japanese nationals are infected abroad. Cases of infection caused by the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) corona virus, prevalent mainly in the Middle East region, were confirmed in the neighboring Republic of Korea (ROK) in 2015 (the ROK government declared the end of its outbreak in late 2015). Also, since May of the same year, Zika virus infection, a mosquito-borne infection, has been prevalent mainly in Brazil and other Latin American countries. Regarding Zika virus, the relation between the infection of pregnant women with the virus and microcephaly of the fetus is pointed out.

[Growing concern over the issue of climate change]

In 2015, the phenomenon of El Nino occurred on a large scale, causing the sea surface temperature to rise over a wide range of the Peruvian coast in South America, while there occurred droughts and floods in East Africa, and forest fires in Southeast Asia. The seriousness of climate change issues and necessity of the international community's action was once again recognized.

(5) Risks and opportunities of the international economy surrounding Japan

[Slowing down of the Chinese economy and the emerging economies]

In 2015, the Chinese economy, which is closely connected with the Japanese economy, was seen to be slowing down, and the decline of stock prices in the Chinese market since June upset global stock markets,

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) website

including those of Japan. Emerging economies dependent on resource exports were also seen to turn sluggish, due to the decline in resource prices.

[Growth in Asia-Pacific region]

The Asia-Pacific region surrounding Japan is an area where relatively high economic growth is expected from mid-and long-term perspectives, due to population growth and strong infrastructure demand. Japan is expected to tap into the growth in the region.

2 Japan's diplomacy

The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and was a year to reflect on the path of the post-war Japan. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Republic of Palau in April to mourn and pay tribute to those who died in the war and pray for peace. Furthermore, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Philippines for advancement of friendly relationship in January 2016 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the normalization of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. Also in the Philippines Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress paid tribute to those who died in the war and prayed for peace.

The Prime Minister, in his statement delivered in August 2015, looked back on the road to the war, post-war developments and the era of the 20th century, and sent to the world a message indicating how Japan should be created heading toward the 80th, the 90th and the centennial anniversary of the end of the war, with the lessons learnt engraved in the hearts of the Japanese people.

Japan, while making the utmost efforts for promotion of national interests in the increasingly severe international situation,

will contribute to peace and prosperity of the international community and further advance post-war developments as a peace-loving nation.

(1) Diplomacy taking a panoramic perspective of the world map and "Proactive Contribution to Peace"

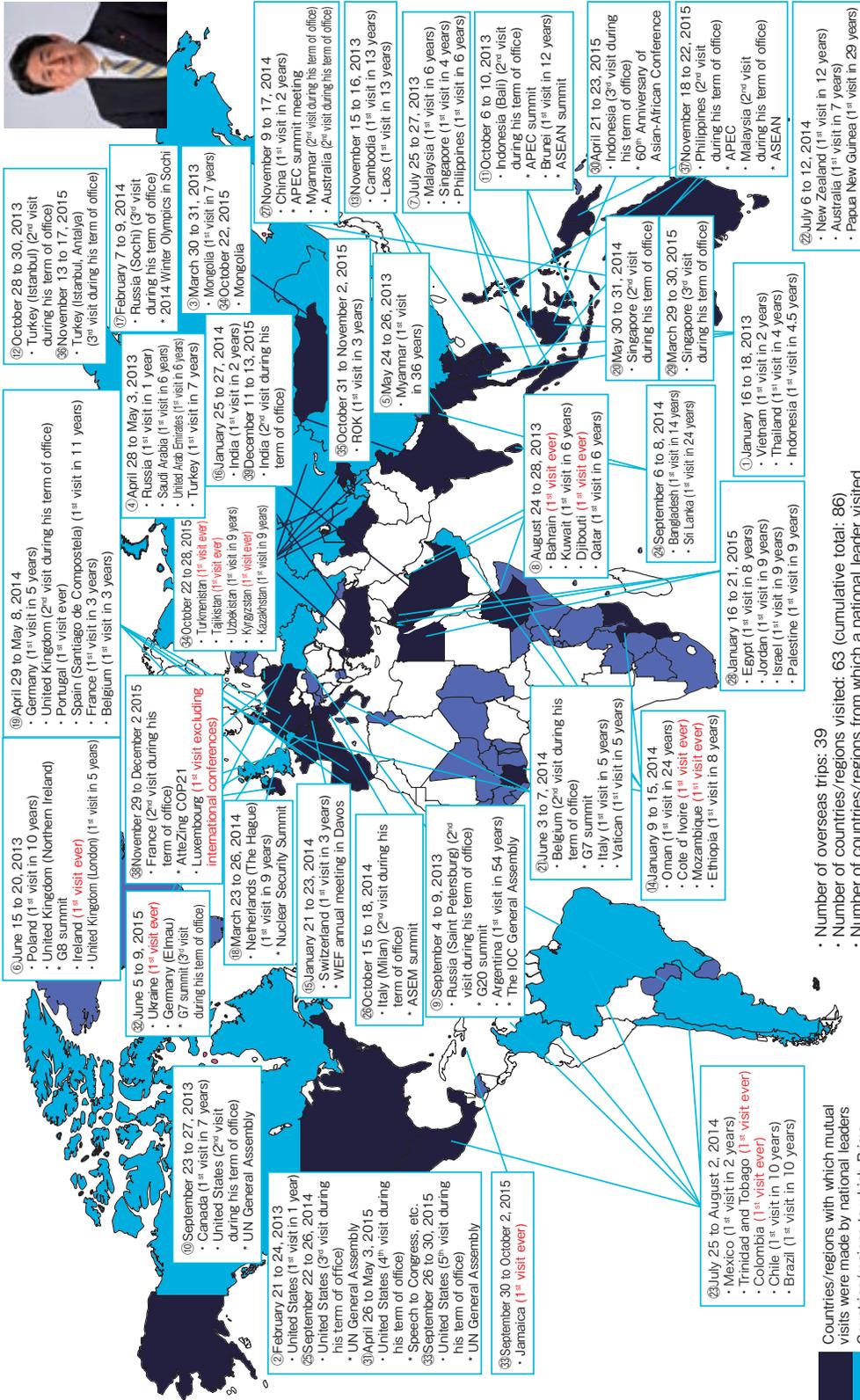
In order to create a stable and predictable international environment, which is desirable for Japan, it is important to build trust and cooperative relationships with countries worldwide and the international community by means of diplomatic efforts, to strengthen the basis for stability and prosperity of the international community and to prevent the emergence of threats in advance.

From such perspective, since the inauguration of the Abe administration, the Government of Japan has been deploying diplomacy which contributes to ensuring the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community, from a panoramic perspective of the world map, under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited 63 countries and regions (86 countries and regions in total) so far, and conducted nearly 400 summit meetings. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida visited 42 countries and regions (65 countries and regions in total), and conducted 604 meetings with foreign dignitaries (including 247 meetings with foreign ministers from 104 countries) (as of February 20, 2016). As a result, Japan's presence in the international community has steadily risen and personal trust between Prime Minister Abe and foreign leaders as well as between Foreign Minister Kishida and other foreign ministers have greatly been deepened.

In addition, Japan's continued efforts to

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's official visits abroad



As of February 20, 2016

address global issues such as disarmament and non-proliferation, peacebuilding, economic development, disaster risk reduction, climate change, human rights, women's empowerment and establishment of rule of law, constitute an important part of the "Proactive Contribution to Peace." Japan's diplomatic efforts and results are highly supported and appreciated by the international community.

In the current situation where the world is interconnected by globalization and technological innovation and threat to the security environment is becoming diverse and complex, no nation can maintain its own peace and security alone. International community expects Japan to play a proactive role for the peace and stability of the international community. The "Legislation for Peace and Security" which was approved by the Diet in September 2015, allows "seamless response" to any situation to protect the people's lives and peaceful livelihood and also enables Japan to further contribute to the peace and stability of the international community.

(2) The Three Pillars of Japan's Foreign Policy

In order to protect and promote Japan's national interests, Japan intends to continuously work on the following three pillars of Japan's foreign policy: ① strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, ② enhancing relations with neighboring countries, and ③ strengthening economic diplomacy as a means of driving the growth of the Japanese economy.

[Strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance]

The Japan-US Alliance is the linchpin of Japan's diplomacy. In cooperation with the U.S. which takes rebalance policy toward the

Asia Pacific region, Japan will continue to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance in all areas.

Currently, the Japan-U.S. Alliance is more robust than ever before. When Prime Minister Abe visited the U.S. in April, the two leaders confirmed that they would continue to fulfill a leading role in ensuring peace and stability of the region and the world. Prime Minister Abe also delivered an address entitled "Toward an Alliance of Hope" to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress. At the summit meeting held during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in November, it was agreed to build a network to realize peace and prosperity in the region, with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the linchpin.

In April, the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2") was held, and the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the New Guidelines) were announced. Together with the "Legislation for Peace and Security," the New Guidelines further enhance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, thereby expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including efforts under the New Guidelines.

Mitigation of the impact on Okinawa is an issue that the government makes utmost efforts to address. Japan will work toward Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma's earliest possible relocation to Henoko in order to eliminate its danger while maintaining the deterrence of U.S. forces.

[Enhancing relations with neighboring countries]

In terms of making the environment surrounding Japan stable, enhancing our relations with neighboring countries constitutes an important basis. The Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit was held in

November in the ROK for the first time in almost three and a half years. The three leaders reaffirmed that trilateral cooperation has been completely restored and reaffirmed that the Trilateral Summit is to be held on a regular basis.

The relations with China constitute one of Japan's most important bilateral relationships.

The two countries share the responsibility for the peace and stability of the region and the international community. Following a series of summit meetings and foreign ministers' meetings held in the previous year, the Japan-China relations are improving as a whole. Japan will continue to engage in dialogue and cooperation in various areas and endeavor to further promote the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests". Meanwhile, given that the situation in the East China Sea is deteriorating, Japan continues to respond in a firm but calm manner while making claims that should be made in dealing with China's intrusions into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands and its unilateral resource development in areas pending delimitation.

The ROK is Japan's most important neighbor that shares strategic interests. On the occasion of the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in November, the Japan-ROK summit meeting was held for the first time since the inauguration of the 2nd Abe administration, followed by a Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' meeting in late December, where the foreign ministers confirmed that the issue of comfort women is resolved finally and irreversibly (see P38 "Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion"). Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe and President Park confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders

to implement this agreement, and deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. In light of this agreement, the Government of Japan will move toward developing a new era of future-oriented Japan-ROK relations.

Also, in light of the increasingly severe security environment, it is essential to deepen cooperative relations with partners sharing such values as freedom and democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan and Australia, sharing common values and strategic interests, enjoy a "special relationship." Japan continues to both expand and deepen cooperation with the newly inaugurated Turnbull administration, confirming this "solid strategic partnership." With regard to India, Japan enjoys the relationship "blessed with the largest potential for development of any bilateral relationship anywhere in the world. The "beginning of a new era in Japan-India relations" was confirmed at the summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi during Prime Minister Abe's visit to India in December.

Cooperative relations between Japan and member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are being further enhanced in broad fields through mutual VIP visits including by leaders and summit meetings between Japan and the ASEAN.

Promoting political dialogue with Russia, Japan held Summit Meetings with Russia twice in 2015. Furthermore, with regard to the Northern Territories Issue, which is the greatest concern between Japan and Russia, Foreign Minister Kishida's visit to Russia in September marked the resumption of negotiations for the conclusion of a peace treaty. Toward the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia through the resolution of the issue of the attribution of the Four

Northern Islands, Japan will redouble its efforts on negotiations and proactively engage in political dialogue with Russia through various occasions. Moreover, toward a peaceful resolution to the situation in Ukraine, Japan will play an active role as the President of the Group of Seven (G7), while valuing solidarity with the G7.

Concerning North Korea, we strongly condemn the nuclear test in January 2016 and a spate of launches of ballistic missile by North Korea. Under its policy of “dialogue and pressure” and “action for action” and in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, Japan will continue to work toward the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues. As being a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, abduction by North Korea constitutes a universal issue among the international community as a violation of fundamental human rights. Regarding its resolution as one of its most important foreign policy issues, Japan will make its utmost efforts towards the resolution of the abductions issue as one of the most important foreign policy issues in cooperation with the international community.

【Promoting economic diplomacy as a means of driving the growth of the Japanese economy】

The promotion of economic diplomacy to drive the growth of the Japanese economy is one of the priority policies of Japan. For Japan, a maritime nation with scarce resources, it is critically important to maintain and develop an open and stable international economic order based on rules. To regain a strong Japan and revitalize its economy, Japan takes advantage of various international

frameworks concerning the economy, such as the G7, Group of Twenty (G20), and World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and APEC, to contribute to forming the international economic order.

An agreement in principle was reached in October 2015 on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, which creates a huge “single economic zone” involving a population of about 800 million and accounting for almost 40% of the world's GDP. It was signed in February 2016. The TPP Agreement, which establishes 21st century rules in a wide range of fields, including not only customs duties on goods, but also services, investment, intellectual property and state-owned enterprises, is expected to provide a new standard for trade and investment rules of the world. It is also worth noting that Japanese businesses, including small and medium-sized ones, would be connected with and thereby expand their field to the markets across the Asia Pacific region, which is the center of global growth. Furthermore, there was also progress in bilateral Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in 2015, such as the entry into force of the Japan-Australia EPA and the signing of the Japan-Mongolia EPA. In this way, the foundation of incorporating the vitality of overseas markets leading to the growth of the Japanese economy has been being steadily built.

In order to tap into the growth of other countries, including emerging economies, through Japanese companies' overseas activities, the public and private sectors need to work together. Thus Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida have taken the initiative to proactively perform top-level sales. Division for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership was set up in

MOFA in September to comprehensively promote public-private cooperative business operations. Japan will continue to promote the exports of infrastructure systems under the cooperation of the public and private sectors. In particular, infrastructure investment is to be promoted mainly in Asia through “The Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” aimed at developing infrastructure which is easy to use and durable as well as environmentally friendly and disaster resilient.

(3) Response to Global Issues

The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The year 2015 also marked 70 years since the foundation of the United Nations (UN) and the atomic bombings. In October, Japan was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a record-high 11th time among the UN member states. The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's accession to the UN. Through this opportunity, Japan will strengthen cooperation with the UN to continue to take lead in discussions on global peace and stability as a practice of “Proactive Contribution to Peace.” Furthermore, Japan will make efforts to promote Security Council reform, the essential component of the comprehensive reform of the UN, with a view to ensuring that the UN can better reflect the realities of the international community and address issues more effectively.

[Contribution to realizing a human centered society]

In order to take care of socially vulnerable people in the international community and realize a society where individuals can make the most use of their potential, Japan has been advancing international contributions under the notion of “human security.”

〈Toward a society where women shine〉

The realization of a “society where women shine” is a top priority issue of the Abe administration. The second World Assembly for Women (“WAW!”) was held in August to achieve “society where all women shine.”

〈Children, persons with disabilities and the elderly〉

Human rights and fundamental freedom are universal values, and socially vulnerable people in particular must enjoy their sufficient benefit. Children's rights are discussed at the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, where Japan actively leads the discussion. Japan became a party to the “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” in 2014 and, as part of developing the corresponding domestic legislations, the enforcement of the “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities” is scheduled for April 2016. Furthermore, having entered a super-aging society, Japan will continue to share with the world a wealth of knowledge accumulated about its own aging society.

〈Global Health〉

In “human security” where individuals are to be protected and their potential is to be fully developed, health occupies an important place. For Japan to play a major role in resolving global issues including those of health issues, based on the notion of “human security,” is nothing but the practice of “Proactive Contribution to Peace.” Given that building of a resilient and sustainable health system provides the basis of economic and social development and leads to the stability of the international community, Japan, making use of official development assistance (ODA), promotes universal health coverage (UHC), wherein all people in the world can receive fundamental health and medical services.

Japan also makes contributions toward strengthening the international capability to respond to public health crises caused by infectious disease.

〈2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development〉

At the UN summit held in September, the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted. Japan contributed proactively to its formulation. In the Agenda, a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are listed including the goals in such areas as health which were not fully achieved in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as new goals related to environment and inequalities. All countries are expected to work on the implementation of the SDGs. Japan will steadily implement the Agenda through working on the issues of health care and education as well as the mainstreaming of gender and disaster risk reduction, based on the notion of “human security.”

【Contribution to prosperity】

〈New Development Cooperation Charter〉

In February, in light of the changing environment surrounding official development assistance (ODA) in the international community, the “Development Cooperation Charter” was approved by the Cabinet. Japan will continue to actively contribute to a variety of development challenges based on three basic policies: ① Contribution to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes; ② Promoting of “human security”; and ③ Cooperation aimed at self-reliant development through assistance for self-help efforts as well as through dialogue and collaboration based on Japan's experience and expertise.

〈Climate Change〉

In order to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases on a global scale, the Paris Agreement, an agreement on a fair and effective

international framework applicable to all Parties for the first time in history, was adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December. Japan contributed proactively to its adoption. Japan will contribute to making this historic agreement lead to worldwide actions against climate change.

〈Disaster risk reduction〉

Disaster risk reduction is an area where Japan can take advantage of its strengths, based on its past experiences accumulated through many disasters. Japan hosted in March the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai City, and promoted the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction,” namely incorporating disaster risk reduction in policies of participating countries.

〈Utilizing science and technology for diplomacy〉

In order to promote science and technology diplomacy utilizing Japan's superior science and technology in various aspects of diplomacy such as security, global issues and international cooperation, the Science and Technology Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs was appointed in September.

【Contribution to peace】

〈Proactive initiatives for disarmament and non-proliferation〉

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings and as a responsible member of the international community, Japan has led the international efforts for realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. In order to maintain and strengthen the regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which constitutes the foundation of the current international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Japan led the discussions at the 2015

NPT Review Conference held in the 70th year since the atomic bombings.

〈Promotion of international peace cooperation〉

Japan has dispatched more than 10,000 personnel to a total of 13 United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO) so far, taking into account the importance of cooperation in UN PKO from the standpoint of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation. Japan’s contribution in the area of international peace cooperation have received significant appreciation both domestically and internationally. Four staff officers (as of February 2016) have been dispatched since 2011, and engineering units (353 personnel as of February 2016) since 2012, to the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

〈Measures against terrorism and violent extremism and for support refugee〉

The international community was forced to respond to serious terrorism and its underlying violent extremism in 2015. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism was also referred to in the Leaders’ Declaration at the G7 Ellmau Summit (in Germany). Japan in February expressed financial support for counter-terrorism capacity building in the Middle East and Africa, amounting to 15.5 million US dollars. In December, a “Unit of International Terrorism Information Collection” was established in MOFA to ensure the safety of Japanese people in and outside of the country.

With respect to the issue of a large number of refugees caused by the protracted Syria crisis, Prime Minister Abe announced at the UN General Assembly in September that Japan would provide assistance of 810 million US dollars to support Syrian and Iraqi refugees and IDPs and about 2.5 million US

dollars to implement humanitarian aid to neighboring countries of the EU. In addition, Japan announced additional financial support of about 2.7 million US dollars to countries neighboring the EU in November. Furthermore, at the Supporting Syria and the Region conference in London in February 2016, Japan announced financial support of about 350 million US dollars to Syria and Iraq as well as their neighboring countries facing refugees and IDPs.

〈Proactive efforts to strengthen the rule of law〉

In dealing with all of unilateral actions seen in the South China Sea to change the status quo and increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts and their use for military purposes, Japan has been working to maintain and promote open sea in cooperation with the countries concerned, while utilizing ODA and other means based on the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea.”

Japan will also work on efforts for ensuring the security of sea lanes through anti-piracy measures off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden as well as in Asia, for establishing and strengthening the “rule of law” in outer space and cyber space, as well as for addressing new opportunities and challenges in the Arctic.

(4) Strengthening strategic communication and the foreign policy implementation structure

【Strategic Communications】

In 2015, Japan communicated that it continues to follow the path of a peace-loving nation and contributes to the peace and development of the Asia Pacific region and the world. In 2016, there are many valuable opportunities available for Japan to lead discussions in the international community,

such as the G7 Ise Shima Summit to be hosted by Japan. While taking full advantage of these opportunities, Japan will enhance its strategic communication, communicating Japan's views in a strong manner, cultivating understanding and support for Japan through sharing Japan's rich and varied appeal.

[Enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure]

MOFA continues its efforts to enhance its comprehensive foreign policy implementation structure. MOFA will make efforts to achieve a further reform of the diplomatic missions overseas and personnel structure in order to ensure a level of foreign policy implementation structure that is comparable to those of other major countries.

Visit of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress to Palau

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Republic of Palau from April 8 to April 9, 2015, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, to pray for the war dead as well as promote friendly relationship between Japan and the Republic of Palau. The memorial events at the West Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead and at the U.S. Army 81st Infantry Division Memorial in Peleliu Island took place with the participation of the presidents and their spouses of the three Micronesian countries, the Republic of Palau, the Federal States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, remembering the war dead and praying to world peace, laid wreaths to the Monument and the Memorial. They also had an audience with the presidents of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and their spouses. (For the details about the relations with the Pacific Islands including Palau, see 2-1-5(3))

Reminiscence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress' visit to the Republic of Palau

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Palau ● Kazuhiro Tajiri

This visit was a historic event for Palau as well. In particular, President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr's strong desire to make the visit of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress successful spread from the whole Palau government to the people of Palau, and the leadership of the President was also felt even in the course of preparations for the visit. In addition, it was President Remengesau who came up with the idea of inviting President Mori and his spouse from the Federated States of Micronesia and President Loek and his spouse from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of Palau to welcome Their Majesties together. The idea is presumably attributed to his favorable consideration of Their Majesties as well as his careful attention given to the feelings of the leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who share a sense of mutual solidarity with President Remengesau.

Having been ruled by Japan for 30 years up until the end of World War II, in Palau, there remains an image of the Emperor of Japan in the pre-war period mainly among the elderly, and great interest was generated even before the visit. During the visit, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress opened the car window to wave with a smile to a large number of people who gathered on the roadside to welcome them. Their Majesties also shook hands and exchanged words warmly with hundreds of citizens and public officials, including residents of Peleliu Island. This provided an opportunity for the people of Palau to come into direct contact with the personality of Their Majesties.

Their Majesties' sincere remembrance and thoughtfulness shown to a large number of welcoming people and other people concerned enhanced the good image of Their Majesties and Japan, leading to further strengthening of friendship between Japan and the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress laying wreaths to the "West Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead" (April 9, Peleliu Island, Palau; Photo: Jiji)



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress waving to local children who greet Their Majesties after arriving at Palau International Airport (April 8, Palau; Photo: Jiji)

Development of Legislation for Peace and Security

In September 2015, the "Legislation for Peace and Security" was approved to enable Japan to respond seamlessly to any situations and to contribute even more to the peace and stability of the international community.

Through a variety of opportunities, the Government of Japan has been thoroughly explaining the "Legislation for Peace and Security" to the international community with transparency. As a result, Japan has gained understanding and support from many countries around the world, including Asian and Western countries. (see 3-1-1)

Background of enactment

May 2007 - June 2009 February 2013 - March 2014	In light of the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, it became necessary for Japan to reconstruct the legal basis for security. Based on this awareness, the "Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security" was convened to examine issues of the Constitution including those related to the right of collective self-defense.
July 2014	With the "Cabinet Decision on Development of Seamless Security Legislation to Ensure Japan's Survival and Protect its People," the basic policies for drafting legislation were determined.
May 2015	Two bills constituting the "Legislation for Peace and Security" (Law for the Development of Legislation for Peace and Security and International Peace Support Law) were submitted to the Diet.
September 2015	After more than 200 hours of deliberation in total at both Lower and Upper Houses of the Diet, the "Legislation for Peace and Security" was approved with the support from three opposition parties.

Main contents of the "Legislation for Peace and Security"

○Enhanced contribution to the peace and stability of the international community

1. International peace cooperation activities including United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations (PKO)

<Before the approval of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- Within the UN PKO framework, Japan contributes through transportation and engineering activities both in traditional PKO activities after inter-state conflicts and in nation building support after intra-state conflicts.

Challenge

- Conflicts that the international community deals with are changing in nature from inter-state conflicts to intra-state conflicts or a mixture of both, and tend to be prolonged. Also, in a post-conflict phase, it has become even more important to provide assistance in nation-building, and to create a secure environment necessary in providing such assistance.
- Furthermore, outside the UN PKO framework, international peace cooperation activities, such as providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance and protecting local population there, have been widely implemented.

<After the implementation of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- Japan can participate in broader range of activities:
 - Protecting local population in specific circumstances, protecting individuals related to operations in response to an urgent request, and dealing with tasks at Mission Headquarters.
 - Giving more advice and guidance to governing institutions (legislative, administrative, judicial).
 - Providing more assistance for establishing and restructuring of national defense organizations etc.
- Participating in international peace cooperation activities outside the UN PKO framework (internationally coordinated operations for peace and security).



Self-Defense Force Engineering Unit engaged in an activity in the UN mission in the Republic of South Sudan



Crossover bridge constructed by the Self-Defense Force at an elementary school in the Republic of South Sudan

2. Responses to situations that threaten peace and security of the international community

<Before the enactment of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- Based on acts on special measures such as Anti-terrorism Special Measures Act, Japan provided at-sea replenishment for foreign navy vessels that engaged in maritime interdiction activities in the Indian Ocean, and it has won appreciation from the international community.



Replenishment vessel conducting underway replenishment

Challenge

- Due to the lack of general law, Japan could not conduct information collection and education/training at ordinary times and conduct field surveys and coordinate promptly with other countries when dispatching troops.

< After the implementation of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- In situations that threaten peace and security of the international community, Japan can carry out cooperation and support activities including supply and transportation, search and rescue activities and ship inspection operations under certain conditions.

○Seamless responses to any situations

3. "Use of force" as a measure of self-defense

<Before the approval of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- "Use of force" as a measure of self-defense was allowed only if an armed attack against Japan occurs.

Challenge

- Given that the security environment surrounding Japan has fundamentally changed and continues to change, even an armed attack against a foreign country could threaten Japan's survival, depending on its purpose, scale and manner and so on.

< After the implementation of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- Maintaining the basic logic of the interpretation of Article 9 of the Constitution, the Government of Japan revised its interpretation. As a result, if the "Three New Conditions" are met, Japan can carry out the "use of force" as a measure of self-defense to ensure Japan's survival and protect its people even without an armed attack against Japan.
- There is no change in Japan's basic policy of an "exclusively defense-oriented posture."

<Three New Conditions>

- (1) When an armed attack against Japan occurs or when an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with Japan occurs and as a result threatens Japan's survival and poses a clear danger to fundamentally overturn people's right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness
- (2) When there is no other appropriate means available to repel the attack and ensure Japan's survival and protects its people
- (3) Use of force should be limited to the minimum extent necessary

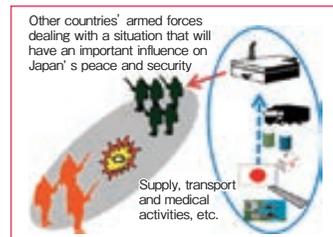
4. Response to situations that will have an important influence on Japan's peace and security

<Before the approval of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- When a situation that will have an important influence on Japan's peace and security takes place in areas surrounding Japan, Japan could carry out logistics support activities for the U.S. Forces.

Issues

- In dealing with situations that will have an important influence on Japan's peace and security, while the support to the U.S. Forces is at the core, it is essential to strengthen coordination with the armed forces of other foreign countries.



Logistics support activities

<After the implementation of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- Japan can carry out logistics support activities for the armed forces of the U.S. and other foreign countries which engage in activities contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the U.N. Charter.
- In addition, the range of possible support has expanded (provision of ammunition, lodging, storage, use of facilities, training services, etc.).

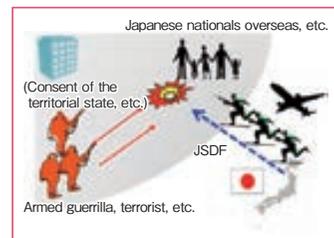
5. Rescue of Japanese nationals overseas

<Before the approval of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- In case of emergencies abroad, Japan could transport Japanese nationals who need the protection of their lives or bodies from the foreign country to safe areas.

Issue

- With many Japanese nationals working overseas and likely to be affected by an emergency such as terrorism, there is a need to enable Japan to rescue Japanese nationals overseas by using weapons if consent of the territorial state etc. is acquired.



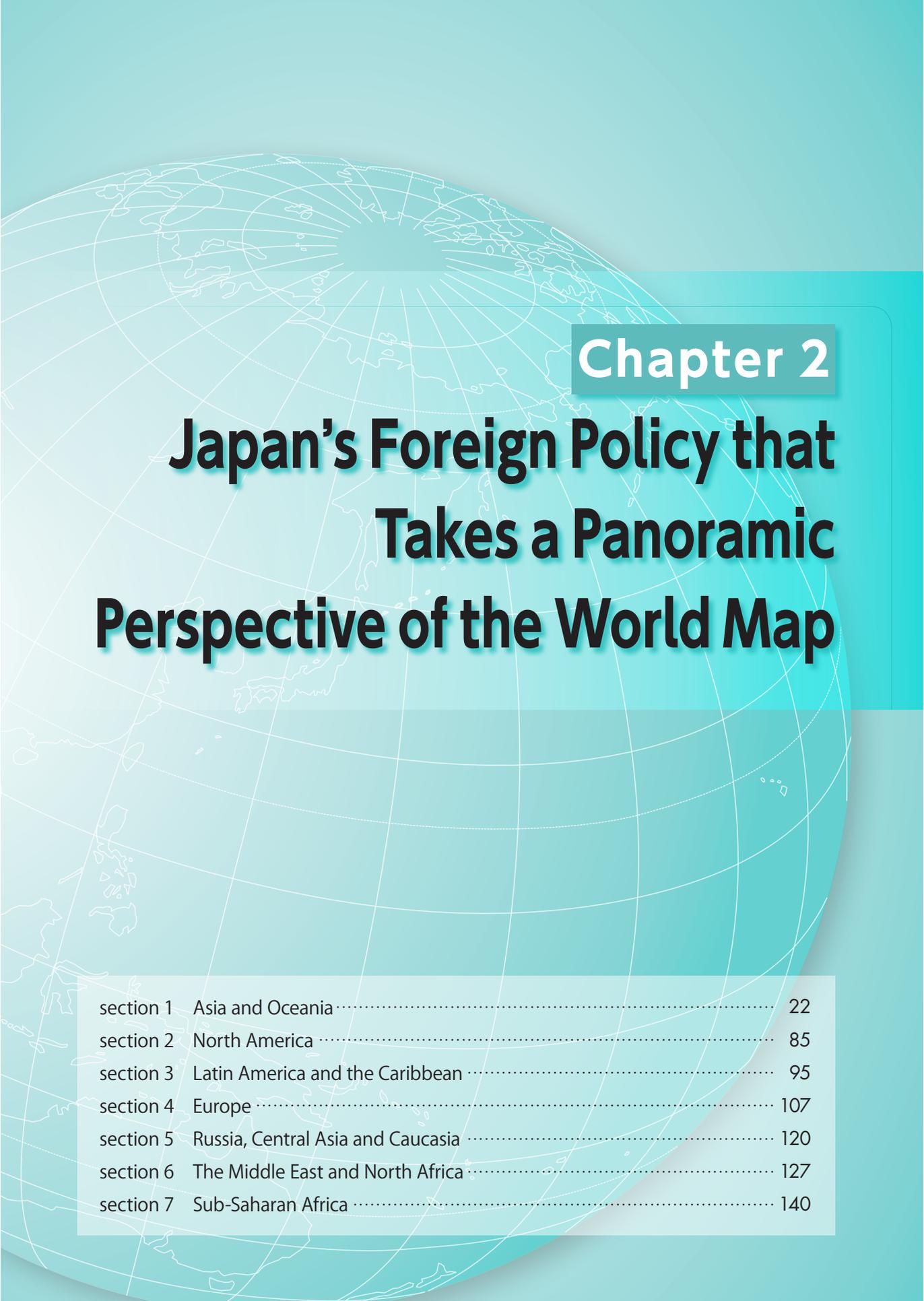
Rescue of Japanese nationals overseas

<After the implementation of the "Legislation for Peace and Security">

- If conditions such as the consent of the territorial state etc. are met, Japan can carry out not only transportation but also guarding, rescue and other measures for protecting the lives or bodies of the Japanese nationals overseas.

<Response to "Gray-zone" situations>

Based on the cabinet decisions, procedures for ordering public security operations or maritime security operations are expedited, in cases of responding to a situation where an infringement that does not amount to an armed attack occurs in areas surrounding remote islands, etc., and police forces are not present nearby.



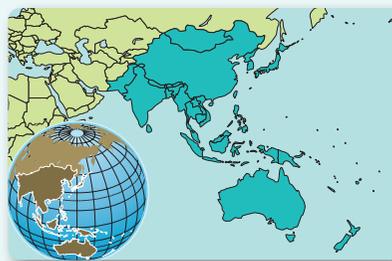
Chapter 2

Japan's Foreign Policy that Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map

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Section 1

Asia and Oceania



Overview

(General overview)

The Asia-Oceania region is home to many emerging countries and is blessed with an abundance of human resources. It is a world growth center and has been enhancing its presence. Of the world population of 7.3 billion¹, approximately 3.5 billion live in East Asia Summit (EAS) member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia)². This represents about 48% of the world's population³. The combined nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) member states, China and India grew 430% over the last ten years⁴, as compared with the world average of 180%. Total exports and imports of EAS member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia) is 11 trillion US dollars, making it the second largest market behind the European Union (12 trillion US dollars). Of these exports and imports, 33.1% are intra-regional⁵, illustrating the close economic ties between these nations and their high degree of economic interdependence. As the middle class expands, overall purchasing power is expected to rise sharply. This will support strong economic growth within the region,

and the huge demand for infrastructure and massive purchasing power of the large middle class will also help to bring renewed affluence and vitality to Japan. Realizing affluence and stability throughout Asia and Oceania is indispensable for Japan's peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, the security environment surrounding Japan within the Asia-Oceania region is becoming increasingly severe as seen in the following developments: provocation such as nuclear and missile development; countries in the region being modernizing their military forces in a manner that lacks transparency and trying to change the status quo by force or coercion; and tension within the region is growing over maritime issues, including issues in the South China Sea. (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-2 (1), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)). Other factors hindering the stable growth of the region include immature economic and financial systems, environmental pollution, unstable demand and supply of food and resources, natural disasters and aging populations.

(Japan-U.S. Alliance and Asia-Oceania region)

The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the linchpin of

¹ State of World Population 2015 Report

² ASEAN (member states: Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos), Japan, China, ROK, India, Australia, and New Zealand

³ World Bank World Development Indicators

⁴ World Bank World Development Indicators

⁵ International Monetary Fund (IMF), Direction of Trade Statistics

Japan's diplomacy, and is important for the Asia-Oceania region as well. Japan welcomes the U.S. policy with emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region (the United States' rebalance policy) contributing to the stability and prosperity of the region. When Prime Minister Abe officially visited the U.S. in April 2015, the two countries demonstrated their strong intention to continue to contribute to the region and the world based on their shared fundamental values. At a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in November 2015, the two leaders shared the view to build a network to realize peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the linchpin.

(China)

In recent years, while facing a variety of social and economic challenges, China has been significantly enhancing its presence in the international community in various fields against the background of its economic growth. The entire international community including Japan welcomes the development of China as a responsible, peace-oriented nation. However, China's moves to strengthen its military capabilities without sufficient transparency, and its increased maritime activities, are causing concern in the entire region.

Japan and China are neighbors across the East China Sea. Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships characterized by close economic relations and people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In 2015, the number of Chinese travelers to Japan was about 4.99 million (Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)), setting a record high for two consecutive years, following the previous year surpassing the two million mark for the first time. At the same time, there are a number of

political and social differences between the two countries, and precisely because they are neighbors, it is inevitable that frictions and confrontations occasionally occur.

A move toward the improvement of Japan-China relations was seen in 2015, and various dialogues and exchanges which had been sluggish over a long period until then were resumed. Meetings between Foreign Minister Kishida and Foreign Minister Wang Yi were held on the occasions of Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (March), ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings (August), and Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting (November). At the meetings, both Ministers candidly exchanged views. With regard to meetings between the leaders, Prime Minister Abe met with President Xi Jinping for the second time on the occasion of an event celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Bandung Conference in April and, at the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting, a meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council was realized for the first time. At this meeting, Prime Minister Abe and Premier Li Keqiang shared the recognition that Japan-China relations are heading for improvement and the trend should be further strengthened, coming up with specific results, such as confirming the resumption of mutual visits by foreign ministers and the importance of high-level exchanges including between foreign ministers. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe held informal talks with Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping on the occasions of the ASEAN-related summit meeting and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in November, respectively, where they conducted constructive exchanges.

Meanwhile, attempts to unilaterally change the status quo continue in the East China Sea. From January through the end of December 2015, Chinese Government-owned vessels intruded into Japanese territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands 35 times (95 vessels in total). The Senkaku Islands are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, they are under the valid control of Japan. The Government of Japan will continue to deal with the situation with resolute determination to defend Japan's territorial land, sea, and airspace. Furthermore, with regard to the unilateral development of resources carried out in the maritime area pending delimitation, the Government of Japan will continue to strongly request China to cease its unilateral development and to implement the agreement on cooperation ("June 2008 Agreement").

Japan and China share responsibilities for peace and stability in the region and the international community. Stable Japan-China relations are essential, not only for the people in the two countries, but also for the peace and stability in the Asia-Oceania region. Based on the concept of the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests," the Government of Japan will promote the development of Japan-China relations from a broad perspective through continued dialogues and cooperation at various levels.

(Taiwan)

Taiwan is an important partner which has intimate people-to-people exchanges and close economic ties with Japan. In 2015, the Agreement between the Interchange Association and the Association of East Asian Relations for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion

with Respect to Taxes on Income was signed. Working relations have been deepening through such cooperation. In line with the 1972 Japan-China Joint Communiqué, the relationship between Japan and Taiwan continues to be maintained through working relations at the non-governmental level, with emphasis on promotion of working cooperation to achieve closer bilateral ties.

(Mongolia)

In 2015, following the previous year, Japan and Mongolia actively carried out high-level exchanges. In February, Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg visited Japan and an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed, the first such agreement for Mongolia. Moreover, Prime Minister Abe visited Mongolia to hold the 8th summit meeting with President Tsakhia Elbegdorj. Japan will continue to further strengthen the mutually beneficial and complementary cooperation in wide-ranging areas, including economic cooperation, in order to develop the "Strategic Partnership."

(Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is Japan's most important neighbor that shares strategic interests with Japan. Their good relationship is essential for peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region. Japan and the ROK marked the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations in 2015, and more than 440 certified cultural and exchange projects were carried out in the two countries. In the political sphere, the first summit meeting between Prime Minister of Japan, Abe and President of the ROK, Park Geun-Hye was held in November and, in late December, the two Governments confirmed that the issue of comfort women, a long-standing issue, is resolved finally and irreversibly, thereby greatly advancing the Japan-ROK

relationship forward. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe and President Park confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement this agreement and deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. (See “Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion” on page 38). In light of this agreement, the Government of Japan will move toward developing a new era of future-oriented Japan-ROK relations. In order to respond firmly to a spate of provocative actions by North Korea, the Government of Japan will advance security cooperation between Japan and the ROK as well as among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

(North Korea)

In North Korea, the regime centered on Kim Jong-Un, the First Chairman of the National Defense Commission has been basically consolidated. North Korea conducted a nuclear test in January 2016 and launched ballistic missiles in clear violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. North Korea’s nuclear and missile development poses a serious threat to the entire international community. Japan will continue to closely coordinate with countries concerned, including the U.S., the ROK, China and Russia, and to strongly urge North Korea to take concrete actions toward denuclearization and other goals in compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. With regard to Japan-North Korea relations, Foreign Minister Kishida held a meeting with Foreign Minister of North Korea Ri Su-Yong on the occasion of the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Malaysia in August 2015. At the meeting, Foreign Minister Kishida conveyed Japan’s concerns, while requiring North

Korea to fulfill the agreement in May 2014 and strongly urged North Korea to return all the abductees at the earliest possible date. The Government of Japan, under its policy of “dialogue and pressure” and “action for action” and in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, will continue to work in close coordination with relevant countries toward the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues.

(Southeast Asian countries)

Against the backdrop of their high rates of economic growth, Southeast Asian countries have been assuming a greater importance and presence in the region. Japan has been working to strengthen relations with these countries, based on a longstanding history of friendly relations. In 2015, Prime Minister Abe visited Singapore (March), Indonesia (April), the Philippines and Malaysia (November). In July, the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo, and the leaders from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam visited Japan to attend the meeting. Ministers also frequently came and went to conduct high-level exchanges, including Foreign Minister Kishida. Amid the strategic environment of the Asia-Oceania region that has changed in recent years, Japan will continue to reinforce its dialogue and cooperation with Southeast Asian countries in the fields of politics and security to achieve peace and prosperity in the region. Moreover, as a “growth center” for the 21st century and as a region that contains the ASEAN Community established in late 2015, Southeast Asia continues to attract attention as a promising investment destination and trade partner. Hoping to capture a share of the vitality of this region to revitalize

the Japanese economy, the Government of Japan supports the development of the infrastructure and investment environment and backs up the advancement of Japanese companies into this area. Japan has been also working to reinforce people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In 2015, the Government of Japan took the opportunity of the milestone 60th anniversaries of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Laos and the signing of Japan-Cambodia Friendship Treaty to promote friendship and goodwill. Furthermore, the Government of Japan promoted youth exchanges through programs such as JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2015⁶, and measures to attract visitors from Southeast Asian countries, including easing visa requirements for visitors from Vietnam.

(Oceania countries)

① Australia and New Zealand

Japan and Australia, sharing fundamental values and strategic interests and working together on issues in the Asia-Pacific region and on global issues, have built a “special relationship” and are important partners that contribute together to the peace and stability of the international community. In recent years, Japan-Australia cooperative relations have been steadily deepening especially in the security and defense area on the basis of the Prime Ministers’ mutual visits and the Foreign Ministers’ close cooperation. In the economic area, the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force in January 2015, leading to further enhancement of the mutually complementary economic relations, including trade and

investment.

New Zealand is also a strategic cooperative partner with which Japan has been maintaining friendly relations for many years. On the occasion of Prime Minister Key’s visit to Japan in March 2015, the two leaders re-confirmed cooperation in regional and global issues in addition to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields such as economy, security and defense and people-to-people exchange.

② Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

PICs, which are neighbors that shares the Pacific Ocean, have deep historical ties with Japan. They are also important partners of Japan in the areas of international cooperation and the supply of fisheries and mineral resources. Japan has been further strengthening its relationship with PICs by hosting the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) and attending the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue as well as through mutual high-level visits. In May 2015, the 7th PALM was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima and the Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting was held for the second time on the occasion of the UN General Assembly held in September.

(South Asia)

South Asia is situated in a geopolitically important region at the intersection of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Not only because many countries in this region continue to register high economic growth, but also because young people make up a significant proportion of the region’s vast population of about 1.7 billion, the region is drawing attention for its economic potential, and is becoming

6 “Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs” promotes a people-to-people exchange between Japan and the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean. The Asia-Pacific regional component of this exchange program is called “JENESYS2015.” Through this exchange program, we seek to promote mutual trust and understanding among the people of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, and to build a basis for future friendship and cooperation. Furthermore, we also seek to promote a global understanding of Japan’s society, history, diverse culture, politics, economics and diplomatic relations.

increasingly important in the international arena. On the other hand, many countries in the region continue to face challenges such as poverty, democratic consolidation and terrorism, and achieving political stability remains a key issue for these countries. In addition, these countries are vulnerable to natural disasters including earthquakes. Japan will further strengthen its economic relations with countries in the region such as India with which Japan has had traditionally friendly and cooperative relations, enhance connectivity within the region and between the region and neighboring ones, and promote the strengthening of cooperation in the international arena. Likewise, Japan will continue to support efforts to address the challenges confronting each country, such as national reconciliation and democratic consolidation.

(Measures on the comfort women issue)

The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with issues of reparations, property and claims pertaining to the war, including the comfort women issue, under the San Francisco Peace Treaty and through international agreements including bilateral treaties. These issues have been legally settled with the parties to these treaties, agreements and instruments. From the perspective of facilitating feasible remedies for the former comfort women, the Government and people of Japan collaboratively established the “Asian Women’s Fund” (website of Asian Women’s Fund [Digital Museum]: <http://www.awf.or.jp/>) in 1995, through which they provided “atonement money” and carried out various medical and welfare projects. Successive Prime Ministers sent letters expressing “apologies and remorse” directly to each of former comfort women. The Government of Japan has made every

effort as mentioned above. It was confirmed in late December that the comfort women issue between Japan and the ROK is resolved finally and irreversibly. The two leaders also confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement this agreement, and that they would deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. (See the “Joint press release” by the foreign ministers of both Japan and the ROK on page 38).

(Strengthening Regional Cooperation)

The strategic environment surrounding the Asia-Oceania region is changing rapidly, and it is becoming critically important for Japan to cooperate and strengthen its relations with the countries of this region. While continuing to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, Japan will play an active role in promoting peace and prosperity in the region by reinforcing its relations of trust and cooperation with its partners in Asia-Oceania and elsewhere. In addition to strengthening bilateral cooperation, Japan also makes proactive use of trilateral arrangements for dialogue, such as Japan-China-ROK, Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-India, and Japan-Australia-India arrangements, as well as larger multilateral frameworks, such as Japan-ASEAN, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (EAS), APEC, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Japan-Mekong and others. With regard to the trilateral cooperation among Japan, China and the ROK, the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held in 2015 for the first time in approximately three and a half years, with major results as follows; The three leaders shared the view that trilateral cooperation had been completely restored; they reaffirmed that the Trilateral Summit should be held on a regular basis; and they decided that Japan would take chairmanship in 2016.

ASEAN exerts its centrality in regional cooperation in East Asia, so achieving a more stable and prosperous ASEAN as the motive force is absolutely essential to the stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. Based on this recognition, Japan has announced that it will actively support efforts to achieve even further integration after establishment of the ASEAN Community. The Japan-ASEAN relationship was further strengthened in a wide-range of areas, such as not only security and economy but also disaster management and people-to-people exchange, through the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August 2015 and the 18th Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November of the same year.

Cooperation between ASEAN and Japan is making steady progress under the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and Japan has steadily implemented its commitments. Japan and ASEAN shared concerns over the current situation which may undermine peace, safety and stability in the South China Sea. Under these circumstances, Japan is actively working on activities contributing to the stability of the region, such as capacity building assistance that leads to maritime security, taking advantage of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for ASEAN Member States and joint training with the Philippines Navy.

At the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in November, Prime Minister Abe reiterated that Japan puts its emphasis on expanding the scope of the EAS in the political and security areas and reinforcing the EAS institution. Almost all the leaders expressed their support for reinforced institution of the EAS as well as expanding its scope on political and security areas. The leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the

EAS.

At the same summit, Prime Minister Abe called for thorough strict abidance with the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea," based on a view that freedom of navigation and overflight at sea must be defended as a fundamental right. In addition, he stated that coastal states are required under international law, whether for military use or civilian use, to refrain from unilateral actions that would cause permanent physical change to marine environment in maritime areas pending final delimitation.

1 Korean Peninsula

(1) North Korea (including the abductions issue)

Under its policy of "dialogue and pressure" and "action for action," the Government of Japan has been continuing various efforts to realize its basic policy of seeking to normalize its relations with North Korea, through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, as well as settlement of the unfortunate past in accordance with the 2002 Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, while working closely with relevant countries, including U.S., ROK, China and Russia.

A Domestic Affairs and Economy

(a) Domestic affairs

North Korea marks the fifth year after the regime centered on Kim Jong-Un, the First Chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC), was established, but personnel changes of key leaderships still have been observed.

In July 2015, it became officially known that Minister for People's Armed Forces has been changed from Hyon Yong-Chol to Pak

Yong-Sik. In February 2016, it was found that the Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA) Ri Yong-Gil was replaced by Ri Myong-Su, former Minister for People's Security.

In late December 2015, North Korea announced that Kim Yang-Gon, Director of the United Front Department (Political Bureau member of the Party) in charge of the relations with the ROK, passed away in a traffic accident. A state funeral was held on December 31.

On October 10, 2015, a military parade took place in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea (WPK). In his opening remarks for the military parade, the First Chairman of the NDC Kim Jong-Un emphasized on the past achievements of the Party, including the "byungjin policy"¹, and called attention to the people and the youth.

On October 30, 2015, North Korea announced that the Party Congress would be held in early May 2016, for the first time since the 6th Party Congress held in October 1980.

(B) Economy

North Korea is said to be undergoing severe economic hardship, and the rebuilding of its economy is regarded as an issue of the utmost importance. The Economic Development Zone Law was enacted in 2013 and it was decided to establish 14 economic development zones throughout North Korea. A new Ministry of External Economic Affairs was established in 2014 and North Korea embarked on efforts to attract foreign investment.

On January 1, 2016, the First Chairman of the NDC Kim Jong-Un emphasized in

his New Year Address the determination to make efforts on economic construction and improvement of people's livelihoods, and pointed out the importance of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

The First Chairman of the NDC Kim Jong-Un has also mobilized the KPA to undertake large-scale construction projects. The "Mirae Scientists Street" including housing for thousands of households and "Paektu san Hero Youth Power Station" were completed to coincide with the 70th anniversary (October 10) of the foundation of the Party in 2015.

North Korea's economic growth rate in 2014 was 1.0% (Bank of Korea estimate), and it appears that it still faces structural problems across all industries, including lack of capital and energy, antiquated production equipment, and outdated technologies. Despite an upward trend of cereal production, North Korea's food situation is still in a difficult situation.

Trade with China continues to account for the largest amount of North Korea's external trade. In 2014, the value of North Korea's trade with China rose to 6.86 billion US dollars (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) estimate), accounting for almost 90% of North Korea's entire external trade excluding inter-Korean trade.

North Korea has also been working actively to attract tourists from foreign countries including China, and has conducted a variety of sightseeing tours.

B Security Issues

(a) Recent circumstances

Although the international community including Japan strongly demanded self-

¹ A "byungjin policy" which simultaneously pursues economic construction and the build up of nuclear armed forces was adopted at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK (General Assembly) held in 2013.

restraint, North Korea still continues nuclear and missile development (See (b) for more information).

Furthermore, North Korea has repeatedly taken provocative actions against the ROK. On August 4, 2015, there occurred an incident in which land mines exploded in the Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and two South Korean soldiers got injured. In response to this, the ROK resumed propaganda broadcasts against North Korea for the first time in 11 years. North Korea in return shelled the South Korean side twice on August 20, followed by corresponding shooting from the ROK side. North Korea asked for stopping the broadcasting within 48 hours, and notified that otherwise it would take a strong military action, which led to increased tension. Thereafter, however, high-ranking officials from both the ROK and North Korea conducted a consultation in Panmunjom, and announced a ROK-North Korea joint press statement on August 25 (see [D](#)).

(b) The current status of nuclear and missile development

On March 2, 2015, the day that routine regular U.S.-ROK joint military exercises began, North Korea launched a ballistic missile from the vicinity of Nampo, North Korea. On May 9, North Korea announced that it had successfully carried out an underwater test firing of a “submarine-launched ballistic missile” (SLBM). North Korea conducted the 4th nuclear test in January 2016,², and in February, it launched a ballistic missile which

it purports to be a “satellite”.

In February of the same year, Japan decided to take its autonomous measures against North Korea toward the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues³. In March, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2270, which strengthens sanctions greatly. Japan engaged in vigorous consultations and demarché with Security Council members aiming at adopting a resolution that includes strong measures, while maintaining close cooperation with relevant countries such as the U.S. and the ROK as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. As a result, a strong Security Council resolution reflecting Japan's position to a respectable degree was adopted. Japan will continue to respond appropriately in close cooperation with relevant countries to assure the strict implementation of the resolution, while implementing Japan's own measures steadily.

North Korea's continued nuclear and missile development poses a serious threat to the region as well as the entire international community. Japan, in close coordination with relevant countries, including the U.S., the ROK, China, and Russia, will continue to strongly urge North Korea to refrain from any further provocation and to carry out concrete actions toward denuclearization and other goals in compliance with the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

2 On January 6, 2016, Chosun Radio and Television Broadcasting announced in its special critical news that the country succeeded in a H-bomb test for the first time, while claiming that the nuclear test was intended for a self-defense measure to protect sovereignty and its right to exist.

3 Contents of Japan's autonomous measures against North Korea are as follows: (1)The Government of Japan increases the number of people who are subject to restrictions on movement of persons, including banning on the re-entry of foreign experts on nuclear and missile technology residing in Japan with an aim to go to North Korea; (2)The Government of Japan reduces the lowest amount that requires notification and bans the payment to North Korea as a rule; (3)The Government of Japan bans the entry of all North Korean flag vessels including those for humanitarian purposes and third-country flag vessels which have previously called at ports in North Korea; (4)The Government of Japan adds to entities and individuals designated for asset-freezing measures.

C Japan-North Korea Relations

(a) Efforts on the abductions issue

To date, the Government of Japan has identified 12 separate incidents, involving a total of 17 Japanese abductees, 12 of whom have not yet returned home. North Korea claims that 8 of these 12 have died and that it is unable to confirm that the other 4 ever entered its territory, but as no convincing explanation of this claim has been provided, Japan continues to work toward the resolution of this issue on the assumption that all of the abductees whose whereabouts are unknown are still alive. As well as being a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, abduction by North Korea constitutes a universal issue among the international community as a violation of basic human rights. Based on the basic recognition that the normalization of diplomatic relations with North Korea is impossible without a solution of the abductions issue, Japan has positioned its resolution as one of its most important foreign policy issues. Accordingly, Japan strongly urges North Korea to ensure the safety of all abductees, and their immediate return, to provide a full account of all the abduction cases, and to hand over the perpetrators.

(b) Japan-North Korea consultations

On the occasion of the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' meeting held in Malaysia on August 6, 2015, a meeting was held between Foreign Minister Kishida and Foreign Minister of North Korea, Ri Su-Yong. Minister Kishida conveyed Japan's concerns, while requiring North Korea to fulfill the agreement in May 2014 (agreement in Stockholm) and strongly urged North Korea to return all the abductees at the earliest possible date. In response, Minister Ri Su-Yong explained

that the Special Investigation Committee was faithfully conducting investigations based on the agreement in Stockholm.

However, after Japan announced its autonomous measures against North Korea, following the nuclear test in January and the launch of a ballistic missile in February, the Special Investigation Committee announced in February 2016 that it would totally stop the investigations on all Japanese nationals including abductees and dissolve the Committee. Japan strongly protested against North Korea and conveyed its intention of not abandoning the agreement in Stockholm. In addition, Japan strongly demanded that North Korea return all the abductees home in accordance with the agreement in Stockholm at the earliest possible date.

(C) Partnerships with the international community

Japan takes all possible opportunities to raise the abductions issue and other issues concerning North Korea, including at summit meetings, foreign ministers' meetings, and international conferences, and has succeeded in gaining the understanding and cooperation of other countries.

At the Japan-U.S. summit meeting held in April 2015, they confirmed that Japan, the U.S. and the ROK would continue to work closely on the North Korean nuclear and missile issues. On the abductions issue, President Obama expressed his understanding and support for Japan. Even since then, Japan has taken a variety of opportunities, including the Japan-U.S. summit meeting held on the occasion of the APEC Leaders' Meeting in November, to confirm cooperation between Japan and the U.S. and among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

Japan, the U.S. and the ROK took the opportunity of the UN General Assembly

held in September to hold a Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York, at which the three Ministers reconfirmed the importance of even closer cooperation on issues regarding North Korea. Moreover, Minister Kishida explained the current status of Japan-North Korea relations and confirmed that the three countries would continue close cooperation for the resolution of humanitarian issues including the abductions issue. Japan, the U.S. and the ROK have held a trilateral vice ministers' meeting since April 2015. At the 2nd meeting held in Tokyo immediately after North Korea's nuclear test in January 2016, they confirmed close cooperation among the three countries. In response to repeated provocations by North Korea, such as the nuclear test in January 2016 and the launch of a ballistic missile in February, Japan conducted telephone talks with the U.S., the ROK and other relevant countries to confirm close cooperation.

Leaders' Declaration issued at the G7 Summit in Germany in June 2015 strongly condemned North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missile programs, as well as its appalling human rights violations, and its abductions of nationals from other countries. At the East Asia Summit (EAS) (in Malaysia) and Japan-ASEAN summit meeting (in Malaysia) held in November 2015, the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns including the abductions issue was emphasized in respective Chair's statements. Aside from the above, in a joint statement issued on the occasion of Japan-Australia summit meeting held in December, it was

confirmed the two countries would urge North Korea to address urgently the humanitarian concerns including the abductions issue.

The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK co-tabled by Japan and the European Union (EU) was adopted at the Human Rights Council in March 2015 (for the eighth time in eight consecutive years). Furthermore, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, which contains stronger contents based on the Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council in March, was adopted by majority vote at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly in December (for the eleventh time in eleven consecutive years)⁴. On December 10 (New York time), the Security Council Meeting on the "Situation in the DPRK" was convened for two years in a row, and a comprehensive discussion was carried out on the situation in North Korea, including human rights.

Furthermore, a bill concerning abductions was submitted to the U.S. Congress. Given the rising awareness of the international community about the abductions issue, Japan will make its utmost efforts for an early resolution of the abductions issue in close coordination and cooperation with relevant countries concerned.

D Cooperation with and efforts by the international community

Regarding the relationship between the U.S. and North Korea, on a statement issued by a spokesman of the General Staff Department of the KPA on March 2, 2015 to protest the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises,

⁴ The resolution condemns North Korea's systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights and strongly urges North Korea to end all human rights violations. On top of that, Japan has been urging North Korea to implement the recommendations of the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) without delay. Moreover, it encourages the Security Council to continue to consider the recommendations of the COI and to take appropriate action, including through consideration of referral of the situation in North Korea to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and consideration of the scope for effective targeted sanctions against those who appear to be most responsible for acts that the COI has said may constitute crimes against humanity.

North Korea asserted that “It is the resolute determination we have chosen to accelerate a final destruction of the U.S. Empire and its follow-up forces in a conventional war if they provoke a war of aggression by means of regular armed force, and in our powerful nuclear strike (omitted) if they provoke a war of aggression by means of nuclear armed force.”

Meanwhile, North Korea continues to appeal to the U.S., claiming that replacement of the armistice agreement by a peace treaty must precede all problems to break the vicious cycle of intensified confrontation and tension in the Korean Peninsula, including in a speech given by Foreign Minister Ri Su-Yong at the UN General Assembly in October and a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (dated October 14).

Regarding the relationship between the ROK and North Korea, according to the ROK-North Korea joint press statement⁵ announced in response to the shelling incident in the DMZ in August 2015, a reunion project for war-separated families was conducted at Mt. Geumgang in October 2015, the 2nd reunion held under the Park Geun-Hye administration, and a North-South meeting of vice-ministerial level officials was held at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex in December, which ended up with no special announcement of agreement. In February 2016, the ROK government announced a full suspension of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex as a countermeasure for the nuclear test in January and the ballistic missile launch in February. It also explained that North

Korea exploited the ROK government’s past efforts so as to sophisticate nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. In response to this, North Korea expelled South Korean nationals from the industrial complex and declared that it would put the industrial complex under military control.

Regarding the relationship between China and North Korea, the exchanges at government and party levels were fewer than those in the Kim Jong-Il era, but Liu Yunshan, a Politburo Standing Committee member of the Communist Party of China attended the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary after foundation of the WPK held on October 10, 2015. He met with the First Chairman of the NDC Kim Jong-Un and transmitted a personal letter from President Xi Jinping. They also exchanged views on the future development of China-North Korea relationship.

Regarding the relationship between Russia and North Korea, the First Chairman of the NDC Kim Jong-Un did not attend the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary after the victory of the “Great Patriotic War” in May 2015. Instead, Kim Yong-Nam, the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly attended the ceremony. The year 2015 also marked the Russia-North Korea Friendship Year. Thus frequent mutual visits by high-ranking officials were observed.

Defectors who have fled from North Korea have to be kept in hiding to avoid being rounded up by the authorities in the countries where they are staying and forcibly repatriated to North Korea. The Government

⁵ Points of the ROK-North Korea joint press statement are as follows: (1) Talks between authorities to improve the North-South relations will be held in Seoul or Pyongyang at an early date; (2) North Korea will express regret for the fact that ROK soldiers suffered injuries due to the mine explosion; (3) The ROK will suspend all propaganda broadcasts along the Military Demarcation Line from noon, August 25, unless an abnormal case occurs; (4) North Korea will lift the semi-war state; (5) The ROK and North Korea will arrange reunions for war-separated families on the occasion of Chuseok (Lunar Bon in Japan: September 27) and continue to do so in the future. A working-level contact by the Red Cross will take place early in September; (6) North Korea and the ROK will revitalize private sector exchanges in various fields.

of Japan is addressing the protection and support of these North Korean defectors, in light of the purpose of the North Korean Human Rights Violation Act, taking into account a comprehensive range of factors, including humanitarian considerations, the safety of those concerned, and relations with the countries in which these defectors reside. Relevant Japanese ministries and agencies are working together closely to promote measures aimed at helping those defectors accepted by Japan to become settled here.

(2) Republic of Korea (ROK)

A Situation in the ROK

(a) Domestic affairs

In 2015, President Park Geun-Hye celebrated the 3rd year after inauguration, announcing the 4th national discourse after she took office, entitled “Necessity of 4 major reforms and request for public cooperation,”⁶ and asked for public understanding and cooperation for a significant re-launch of the Korean economy.

In February, the approval rating of the Park Geun-Hye administration fell to its lowest since she took office, due to public discontent against the year-end tax adjustments directly linked to people’s lives. In May, the president’s initial response was criticized as inadequate after a person infected with MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) was first discovered in the ROK. Consequently, her approval rate fell again.

However, the approval rate was restored again in September, because the increased military tension between the ROK and North

Korea caused by the mine explosion and the shelling in the inter-Korea demilitarized zone were relieved by the realization of an agreement through the contact between their high-ranking officials, and because President Park Geun-Hye visited China.

(b) Foreign policy

Advocating diplomacy based on “trust and principle,” President Park’s priority is to gain support for the “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative”⁷ and the “Trust-Building Process on the Korean peninsula.”⁸ In 2015, the president set the following three major goals: “Leading change in the situations on the Korean Peninsula and in its surrounding region,” “Building “trust” infrastructure for a peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula” and “Strengthening the global network for unification.”

Regarding the relations with the U.S., President Park Geun-Hye visited the U.S. in October to hold the 4th U.S.-ROK summit meeting, where she emphasized the strong U.S.-ROK alliance, such as through the announcement of a joint statement against North Korea.

Regarding the relationship with China, President Park Geun-Hye visited China in September 2015 to attend the ceremony celebrating the 70th anniversary of victory against Japan, and conducted a ROK-China summit meeting with President Xi Jinping. In December, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China entered into force. The ROK is strengthening the economic relationship with China.

6 The past public discourses include a public discourse on government reorganization plan (March 4, 2013), Three Year Plan for Economic Innovation (February 25, 2014) and a public discourse on the Sewol accident (May 19, 2014).

7 This initiative seeks to create a framework for multilateral dialogue in Northeast Asia, starting by launching dialogue and cooperation in fields where this is possible and building up trust, with a view to extending this cooperation to other fields, including security.

8 This initiative aims to develop north-south relations, establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula and laying the groundwork for Korean unification, by means of building trust between the two Koreas based on a solid foundation of security.

(C) Economy

In 2015, the ROK recorded a real GDP growth rate of 2.6%, down from the previous year's rate of 3.3%. Its exports were worth approximately 527.2 billion US dollars in total, down 7.9% compared with the previous year, while its imports totaled around 436.8 billion US dollars, down 16.9% on the previous year, leading to a trade surplus of approximately 90.4 billion US dollars (figures published by the ROK Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy Statistics).

In terms of domestic economic policy, "Four Major Reforms" were raised after the "Three Year Plan for Economic Innovation" announced in February 2014, thereby promoting structural reforms in the public sector as well as the labor, education and financial sectors. In the field of international trade, the government announced a "New FTA Promotion Strategy" which would proactively promote mega FTAs such as Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), improve the FTAs that had been already concluded, and facilitate new FTAs aimed at the markets of emerging countries.

B Japan-ROK Relations

(a) Bilateral relations

The year 2015 was the milestone year of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations. The ROK is Japan's most important neighbor that shares strategic interests, and good Japan-ROK relations are essential in ensuring peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, Japan and the ROK have worked in partnership on a variety of regional and global issues, including nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, peacebuilding and poverty not



Prime Minister Abe (left) shaking hands with President Park Geun (right) at a Japan-ROK foreign ministers' meeting (November 2; Seoul, the ROK; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

to mention issues involving North Korea. From now on, the Government of Japan will move toward developing a new era of future-oriented Japan-ROK relations, in all fields such as politics, economy and culture.

On June 21, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yun Byung-Se visited Japan for the first time since taking office, and positively exchanged views with Foreign Minister Kishida on advancing the Japan-ROK relations. On June 22, events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations took place, and Prime Minister Abe and President Park Geun-Hye attended the events held in their respective countries, with each offering congratulatory messages.

Furthermore, on the occasion of Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in November (in Seoul), a foreign ministers' meeting was held on November 1, and the first Japan-ROK summit meeting under the Abe administration took place between Prime Minister Abe and President Park Geun-Hye on November 2. While conducting a meaningful exchange of views on outstanding issues between the two countries, they also shared views on strengthening cooperation between Japan and the ROK in various fields, including security, people-to-people exchange and the

economy, and also discussed the issues of North Korea profoundly.

Furthermore, on December 28, it was confirmed that the issue of comfort women is resolved finally and irreversibly through a Japan-ROK foreign ministers' meeting (in Seoul) and a Japan-ROK summit telephone call. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe and President Park confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement this agreement, and that they would deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. (See "Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion" on page 38).

(b) Exchange

Mutual understanding and exchange between the people of both Japan and the ROK are steadily deepening and broadening. The year 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations, and the governments of the two countries certified the culture and exchange programs organized by local public entities and private organizations as projects commemorating the 50th anniversary to make the 50th anniversary a year of a wide range of exchanges between Japan and the ROK. More than 440 programs were certified by both governments as of the end of December, and a wide-range of exchanges were performed actively.

The number of people mutually visiting the two countries, which was only about 10,000 annually immediately after the normalization of diplomatic relations, reached about 5.84 million in 2015⁹.

The Nikkan Koryu Omatsuri (Japan-Korea Festival), an annual cultural exchange event in Japan and the ROK, respectively, took place in Seoul on September 19 and 20 and in Tokyo on September 26 and 27, with attendance of 158,000 people in total.

In addition to "JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2.0," or people-to-people exchange programs between Japan and Asia-Pacific regions, Japan made efforts to promote mutual understanding and build a friendly and cooperative relationship for the future through the promotion of "JENESYS2015."

(c) Takeshima dispute

Regarding a dispute between Japan and the ROK concerning the territorial sovereignty over Takeshima, Japan has consistently held the position that Takeshima is indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based on international law. Japan has been mobilizing various media to keep the rest of the world informed about Japan's position on the Takeshima dispute¹⁰, and has lodged repeated protests against the ROK over such matters as landing on the island by members of the ROK's National Assembly and others, the ROK's holding of military exercises and the construction of building. Japan has been making various efforts to settle the Takeshima dispute in a peaceful manner in accordance with international law, including proposing to the ROK a referral on the issue to the International Court of Justice three times (September 1954, March 1962 and August 2012). Japan will continue to

⁹ Numbers of visitors in 2015. Visitors from the ROK to Japan: 4,002,100 (figures published by the Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO)); visitors from Japan to the ROK: 1,837,782 (figures published by the Korea Tourism Organization (KTO)).

¹⁰ In February 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs created a brochure entitled "Takeshima: 10 points to understand the Takeshima dispute." Currently, available on the MOFA website in 11 languages (Japanese, English, Korean, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Russian, Chinese and Italian). Also, since October 2013, videos, flyers and pamphlets concerning about Takeshima have been published made public on the MOFA website and are currently available in the above 11 languages. Furthermore, efforts are being made to develop an App explaining the Takeshima dispute that can be downloaded.

make diplomatic efforts tenaciously.

(D) The issue of comfort women

It was confirmed that the issue of comfort women, a long-standing issue over many years between Japan and the ROK, is resolved finally and irreversibly based on the agreement reached at Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting on December 28, 2015 (See "Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion" on page 38). During a subsequent Japan-ROK summit telephone call, they confirmed and appreciated the agreement. Furthermore, the leaders of both Japan and the ROK confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement this agreement, and that they would deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. In light of this agreement, the Government of Japan will move toward developing a new era of future-oriented Japan-ROK relations.

(e) Other issues

With regard to matters arising from the judicial decisions in the ROK concerning "requisitioned civilians" from the Korean Peninsula¹¹, the problems concerning property and claims between Japan and the ROK were settled completely and finally through the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims

and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, so Japan will continue to deal appropriately with these issues on that basis.

Concerning the issue over the former Sankei Shimbun Seoul bureau chief indicted without arrest for defamation, the Seoul Central District Court delivered a judgment of acquittal and, after a few days, the judgment was established.

Other than these issues, Japan is providing as much support as possible from a humanitarian perspective in a wide range of fields including the issue of remains of people originally from the Korean Peninsula¹², support for ethnic Koreans in Sakhalin¹³, addressing the issue of atomic bomb survivors living in the ROK¹⁴ and helping Hansen's disease patients admitted to sanitariums in the ROK¹⁵.

Moreover, Japan and the ROK have engaged in several rounds of negotiations over the delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

C Japan-ROK economic relations

Japan and the ROK continue to maintain close economic relations. The total value of trade between Japan and the ROK in 2015 was approximately 8.57 trillion yen. Japan is the ROK's 3rd-largest trading partner and the ROK is Japan's 3rd-largest trading

¹¹ Some civilians of the ROK said to have been subjected to "forced requisition" by predecessor companies of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. during World War II, when the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese rule, brought claims for the payment of compensation and unpaid wages against the two companies. The Seoul High Court found in favor of the plaintiffs against Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation on July 10, 2013, and the Busan High Court ruled against Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. on July 30, with both courts ordering the perspective defendants to compensate the plaintiffs.

¹² The issue of the return of the remains of people originally from the Korean Peninsula which were left in Japan after the end of World War II. Japan is steadily repatriating the remains whose return has been requested by the Government of the ROK and which are able to be returned.

¹³ For various reasons, before the end of the World War II, the people from the Korean Peninsula traveled to what was then known as Minami Karafuto (South Sakhalin), but were compelled to remain there for a long time after the war ended under the de facto rule of the Soviet Union, without being given the opportunity to return to the ROK. The Government of Japan is providing such people with support to enable them to return home temporarily or permanently, and also to visit Sakhalin.

¹⁴ The issue of provision of support to those who were exposed to the atomic bombs while living in Hiroshima or Nagasaki during World War II, and subsequently went to live overseas. To date, Japan has provided support in the form of the Atomic Bomb Victim Health Handbook and allowances based on the Atomic Bombs Survivors' Assistance Act.

¹⁵ People who were admitted to Hansen's disease sanitariums built overseas by Japan before the end of the war had demanded the payment of compensation in accordance with the Act on Payment of Compensation to Inmates of Hansen's Disease Sanatorium. The Act was revised in February 2006, allowing compensation to be paid to those formerly resident in sanitariums overseas for the first time.

Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion

1. Foreign Minister Kishida

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) have intensively discussed the issue of comfort women between Japan and the ROK at bilateral meetings including the Director-General consultations. Based on the result of such discussions, I, on behalf of the Government of Japan, state the following:

(1) The issue of comfort women, with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time, was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women, and the Government of Japan is painfully aware of responsibilities from this perspective.

As Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Abe expresses anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.

(2) The Government of Japan has been sincerely dealing with this issue. Building on such experience, the Government of Japan will now take measures to heal psychological wounds of all former comfort women through its budget. To be more specific, it has been decided that the Government of the ROK establish a foundation for the purpose of providing support for the former comfort women, that its funds be contributed by the Government of Japan as a one-time contribution through its budget, and that projects for recovering the honor and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of all former comfort women be carried out under the cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the ROK.

(3) While stating the above, the Government of Japan confirms that this issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with this announcement, on the premise that the Government will steadily implement the measures specified in (2) above.

In addition, together with the Government of the ROK, the Government of Japan will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations.

2. Foreign Minister Yun

The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Government of Japan have intensively discussed the issue of comfort women between the ROK and Japan at bilateral meetings including the Director-General consultations. Based on the result of such discussions, I, on behalf of the Government of the ROK, state the following:

(1) The Government of the ROK values the GOJ's announcement and efforts made by the Government of Japan in the lead-up to the issuance of the announcement and confirms, together with the GOJ, that the issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with this announcement, on the premise that the Government of Japan will steadily implement the measures specified in 1. (2) above. The Government of the ROK will cooperate in the implementation of the Government of Japan's measures.

(2) The Government of the ROK acknowledges the fact that the Government of Japan is concerned about the statue built in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul from the viewpoint of preventing any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity, and will strive to solve this issue in an appropriate manner through taking measures such as consulting with related organizations about possible ways of addressing this issue.

(3) The Government of the ROK, together with the Government of Japan, will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations, on the premise that the Government of Japan will steadily implement the measures it announced.

The 50th anniversary of the normalization of the Japan-ROK relations

On June 22, 1965, Japan and the ROK signed the “Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea,” and exchanged the instruments of ratification on December 18 of the same year, whereby diplomatic relations were normalized. Given that the year at 2015 marks the “50th anniversary of normalization of the Japan-ROK relations,” Japan and the ROK worked to promote exchanges in various fields with the catch-phrase, “Together, let us open, a new future” to make the 50th anniversary a significant year.

The 50th anniversary celebration held in Tokyo and in Seoul on June 22 turned out to be a grand success with attendance of Prime Minister Abe and President Park Geun-hye, respectively. The two leaders gave a celebration speech respectively, in front of a folding screen that had been used at the ceremony for the exchange of instruments of ratification 50 years ago, celebrating a new beginning for Japan and the ROK. In addition, on the sidelines of the celebration event, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se visited Japan to hold a Japan-ROK foreign ministers’ meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishida. The “Nikkan Koryu Omatsuri (Japan-ROK exchange festival),” which began in Seoul on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, was carried out on a larger scale than usual in the year 2015, the 50th anniversary of normalization of the relations (September 19 - 20 (in Seoul), September 26 - 27 (in Tokyo)). In Seoul, besides parades including the Korean delegations’ procession and Yosakoi Arirang (a new dance combining Japan’s “Yosakoi Soran” and the Korean folk song “Arirang”), local traditional dances such as Awa Odori dance, Tsugaru Te-odori and Shimonoseki Heike Odori took place. Approximately 90,000 people gathered. Also, in Tokyo, Samulnori (music with Korean traditional musical instruments), traditional Korean tightrope walking and a K-POP concert took place in addition to a Korean delegations’ procession, which brought a great success with about 68,000 people gathering. A large number of young people from both countries participate in the “Nikkan Koryu Omatsuri (Japan-ROK exchange festival)” as volunteers each year. It has now been established as a symbol of exchange by mainly Japanese and Korean youth.

In addition, the governments of both Japan and the ROK actively cooperated to hold a “Joint Research Symposium” (June 19, in Jeju) with scholars from both Japan and the ROK, promoting exchanges between the people of the two countries. Moreover, in order to make the 50th anniversary of the normalization of the Japan-ROK relations a year of wide-ranging exchanges, the two countries authorized the cultural and



Prime Minister Abe greeting at the celebration for the 50th anniversary of normalization of the Japan-ROK relations (June 22, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Awa Odori (Nikkan Koryu Omatsuri (Japan-ROK exchange festival) in Seoul)



The Korean ‘delegations’ parade (Nikkan Koryu Omatsuri (Japan-ROK exchange festival) in Seoul)

exchange programs that municipalities, companies and private organizations engage in as “certified 50th anniversary projects.” Accordingly, more than 440 authorized projects got underway in the fields of arts, academics, youth exchange and sports.

On December 28, at Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting between Japanese Foreign Minister Kishida and Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se (in Seoul), an agreement was reached on the comfort women issue, which became an ending worthy of closing the 50th anniversary of the normalization of the Japan-ROK relations and a beginning to open up a future-oriented new era.



Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (December 28, Seoul, Korea)

partner. The ROK's trade deficit with Japan increased by approximately 8.4% compared with the previous year to about 2.09 trillion yen (Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance). In terms of the value of investment between Japan and the ROK, Japanese direct investment in the ROK totaled approximately 1,670 million U.S. dollars (down 33.1% from the previous year) (figures published by the ROK Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy), making Japan the ROK's 3rd-largest source of foreign direct investment. Direct investment in Japan from the ROK totaled approximately 580 million U.S. dollars (up 38.6% from the previous year) (figures published by the Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM)).

Thus, Japan and the ROK are important trade and investment partners for each other and progress is being made in forging new cooperative relationships between the two countries. For example, as well as the integration of supply chains in the manufacturing sector, Japanese and the ROK companies are undertaking joint initiatives focused on expansion into other countries.

Japan believes that economic partnership between Japan and the ROK is vital in order to further strengthen these close economic relations between the two countries, as

well as to ensure that both Japan and the ROK can play a leading role in regional economic integration in Asia. Based on this understanding, Japan and the ROK continue to strive to achieve progress in negotiations concerning Japan-China-ROK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

In addition, at the 14th Japan-ROK High-level Economic Consultation held in January 2016, in order to further strengthen economic relations, between Japan and the ROK, the two countries exchanged opinions concerning a wide range of subjects, including the economic climate in Japan and the ROK and economic relations between them, as well as the global economic situation and cooperation within multilateral and regional frameworks.

In the environmental field, the 17th Japan-ROK Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation was held in May. The two sides exchanged views on climate change, biodiversity and marine environmental issues and confirmed that Japan and the ROK will closely cooperate on these subjects.

With respect to the issue of restrictions by the ROK on imports of Japanese marine

products, a Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee was established within the WTO in September 2015, in response to Japan's request. In this regard, Japan has been taking various opportunities to request the ROK to repeal the increased restriction measures promptly subject to the WTO rules.

2 China/Mongolia, etc.

(1) China

A The Situation in China

(a) Economy

The Chinese economy has been gradually slowing down. In 2015, the real GDP growth rate showed an increase of 6.9% and total trade value fell 8.0% over the previous year (total import value in particular fell 14.1% over the previous year). On the other hand, the ongoing business trends vary greatly among regions and industries. By industry, for instance, while the secondary industry including manufacturing is slowing down, the tertiary industry such as finance and services is growing steadily.

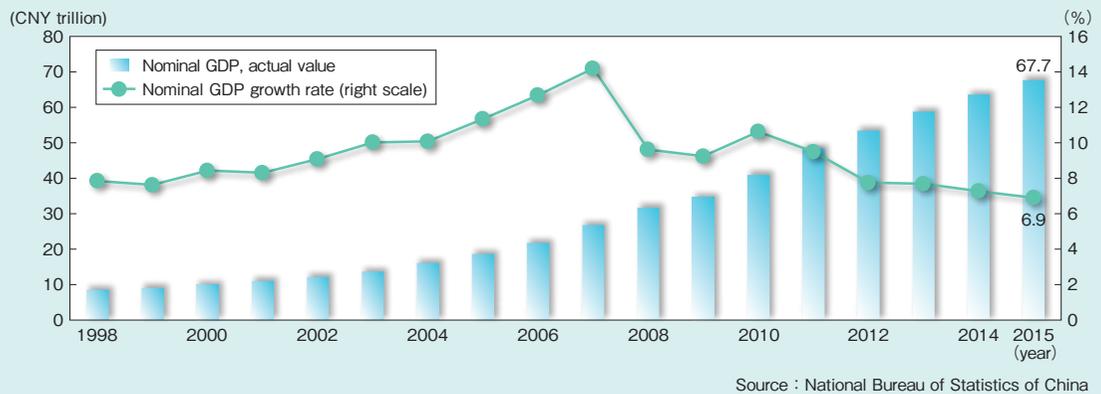
Turning to financial trends, there occurred rapid changes, such as volatile stock price fluctuations in the Shanghai stock market, and the weakening tendency of the renminbi over 6% against the U.S. dollar toward the end of the year, due to a change in the quotation of the central party of Renminbi in August 2015 (In late November of the same year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decided to incorporate the renminbi into the special Drawing rights (SDR) basket currencies. The application is scheduled for October 2016.), leading to an increasing concern about the outlook for the Chinese economy, coupled with the slowdowns in various economic indicators.

Ensuring stable growth of the economy is a

foundation of stable society and the source of Chinese people's support for the Communist Party of China, the ruling party. However it has become more complex and more difficult than ever before, with the background of reduced competitiveness, the negative legacy from the past rapid growth and the aftereffects of four-trillion-yuan-stimulus package." Under these circumstances, the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese government regard the current situation of the Chinese economy as the "new normal." It aims to ensure a transformation in economic development model from the conventional high-speed growth led by investment and exports to mid- to high-speed growth led by consumption and domestic demand through structural reforms from a mid- to long-term perspective while securing sustainable and stable growth by economic stimulus measures from a short-term perspective.

At the 5th plenary session of the 18th Central Committee held in October 2015, a proposal concerning the 13th five-year plan (2016-2020) was discussed and adopted, in which innovation and openness were positioned as the pillars of economic policy. In addition, General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly stated that, to achieve the conventional goal of doubling GDP and per capita income in 2020 as compared with 2010, the bottom line of the average annual growth rate during the period of this plan will be 6.5% or more. At the Central Economic Work Conference held in December of the same year, while showing a willingness to prop up the economy through fiscal policy as a basic economic policy in 2016 and the following certain period, the Chinese government is determined to put emphasis on elimination of excess capacity and housing inventory and the supply-side structural reform through

Development of China's GDP



improving productivity. It is to be noted to what extent can China implement the mid-to-long term reforms with overcoming short-term pain included in the next five-year plan to be determined at the National People's Congress scheduled in March 2016.

(b) Domestic affairs

While the economic growth is slowing down, a variety of social issues have emerged to serious levels, such as wealth disparity, environmental pollution, the spread of corruption and intensification of ethnic minority problems. The Xi Jinping leadership, after setting a target of "overall deepening of reform" and "rule of law" at the Third Plenary Session in 2013 and the Fourth Plenary Session in 2014 of the Central Committee, respectively, discussed the 13th Five-Year Plan (development plan from 2016 to 2020), the first five-year plan under the Xi Jinping regime, at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee, and clearly showed the attitude to commit to tackling various problems.

The anti-corruption movement strongly promoted since the inauguration of the Xi Jinping regime continuously performed in 2015 as well. Deprivation of party membership and public position as well as disposal by a

judicial institution was decided on in June for Zhou Yongkang (a member of the Party Central Political Bureau Standing Committee under the former Hu Jintao leadership), against whom a prosecutable case had been built in July in the previous year, and revocation of party membership was announced in July for Guo Boxiong, who was the highest-ranking military officer in the People's Liberation Army (former Central Military Commission Vice Chairman). Furthermore, interrogations targeting high-ranking local officials were also announced one after another in December, such as of the Shanghai Vice-Mayor and the Deputy Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Communist Party Committee.

On September 3, a military parade was carried out in Tiananmen Square for the first time in six years. Traditionally, a military parade used to be carried out on Chinese National Day (October 1) every 10 years commemorating the founding of the country (1949) but, in 2014, it was held on September 3, which was newly enacted as a "National anniversary celebrating victory in the Japanese war." In terms of social environment, values in Chinese society are becoming increasingly diverse, due to an increasing population of Internet users. Against this backdrop, the

tendency to newly strengthen pressure inside China, based on the “National Security Law,” is increasingly observed, and the restraint of a large number of human rights activists and lawyers was reported on in July. In addition, Mr. Pu Zhiqiang, a human rights lawyer, was convicted in December, for which concern about the human rights situation in China was voiced in the international community. Deeply-rooted dissatisfaction of the Tibetan and Xinjiang groups against the authorities is also in existence.

(c) Foreign policy

In 2015, active moves were seen in foreign affairs. Proactive economic diplomacy was deployed in light of the initiative entitled “One belt, one road (Silk Road Economic Belt/21st Century Maritime Silk Road)” proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, with emphasis on infrastructure exports including high-speed railway. The first general assembly of BRICS (emerging five countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Development Bank (Headquarters: Shanghai) was held in July, and the establishment agreement of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) came into force in December, whereby a China-led international development financial institution is expected to start in a full-fledged manner.

On the other hand, attempts by China to unilaterally change the status quo, such as land reclamations, building outposts and their use for military purposes in the South China Sea, have caused great friction among neighboring countries (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)). In September, President Xi Jinping visited the U.S. as a state guest and held a summit meeting with President Obama. At the ensuing joint press conference, President Xi Jinping stated, “There is no intention to pursue militarization.” Since October, the

“Freedom of Navigation” operations have been intermittently carried out by the U.S. forces, and China’s response is drawing attention.

In order to fully realize a “well-off society (a society enabling people to enjoy leisure to some extent)” by 2020, it is believed that China will aim to create a more favorable external environment. Increasingly of note is how a China that is expected to continue to increasingly strengthen economic power is going to deploy diplomacy in the future.

(d) Military affairs and security

China has continued to increase defense expenditures at a high level. The national defense budget also shows a high increase of 7.6% in 2016 as compared with the budget amount implemented in the previous year. However, no explanation has been given on the breakdowns of expenditure, and the intention to increase was not disclosed, either. Under such circumstances, the nuclear and missile capabilities and military power centered on naval and air forces are assumed to be enhanced extensively and rapidly in recent years. For instance, the Ministry of National Defense of People’s Republic of China formally announced the commission of their first aircraft carrier “Liaoning” in 2012. In December 2015, they announced that a second aircraft carrier is under construction in China.

Furthermore, unilateral activities by the Chinese military in the sea and airspace around Japan are on the increase, such as the setting of “Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea” in November 2013 and repeated navigation by Chinese Navy intelligence gathering vessel outside of the contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands in November 2015.

Such broad and rapid expansion of

military capability lacking transparency, and continued attempts to unilaterally change the status quo are common regional concern. Japan intends to strive to involve China in the international order based on the rule of law in cooperation with the countries concerned.

B Japan-China relationship

(a) Circumstances surrounding the Japan-China relationship

Japan and China are neighboring countries across the East China Sea, and have close economic relations and people-to-people and cultural exchange. Thus the relationship is inseparable, and constitutes one of the most important bilateral relationships. At the same time, Japan and China have numerous political and social differences. Thus, it is inevitable to have friction and conflicts, precisely because two countries are neighbors. Japan and China agreed to build a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests” in 2006, based on the idea that it is important not to affect the entire relationship, even if there are specific issues. Since then, the leaders of the two countries have continued to repeatedly confirm that they will promote a “Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests.”

In 2015, the Japan-China relationship was seen to tend toward improvement. After the summit meeting between Japan and China held in Beijing in November 2014, various dialogues and exchanges, which had been long stagnant until then, were resumed. In January 2015, a Japan-China security dialogue was held for the first time in about four years, enabling the two countries to exchange views on security policy, etc. In March, on the occasion of the foreign ministers' meeting among Japan, China

and the ROK held in the ROK, a foreign ministers' meeting between Japan and China took place. At an event celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Bandung Conference held in April in Indonesia, the second summit meeting was held between Prime Minister Abe and President Xi Jinping. The two leaders of both Japan and China shared the recognition that Japan-China relations are heading toward improvement, and confirmed the mutual intention to continue to accumulate dialogues and exchanges at various levels, thereby ensuring the tendency of improving relations. Dialogue between the two governments continued to take place in the second half of the year. On the occasion of ASEAN-related foreign ministers' meeting held in August in Malaysia, a foreign ministers' meeting between Japan and China was held. In addition, State Councilor Yang Jiechi visited Japan in October, paid a courtesy visit on Prime Minister Abe and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, respectively. He also exchanged views with National Security Advisor Yachi. On the occasion of the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting held in the ROK in November, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Li Keqiang had the first summit meeting. A foreign ministers' meeting also took place for the sixth time since August 2014. Through the talks, specific results were obtained, including the fact that the two leaders confirmed the resumption of mutual foreign ministers' visits to each other and the importance of high-level exchanges, including between the foreign ministers. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe had a standing conversation with Prime Minister Li Keqiang to conduct positive exchange on the occasion of an ASEAN-related summit meeting held in November, as he also did with President Xi Jinping on the occasion



Japan-China summit meeting (April 23, Jakarta, Indonesia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting (November 1, Seoul, ROK)

of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).

While an improving tendency in relations is confirmed by the two countries at repeated high level contacts, there continue to be intrusions by Chinese Government-owned vessels into the territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands and unilateral resource development by China in the maritime area pending delimitation.

It was in December 2008 that an intrusion by a Chinese Government-owned vessel

into the territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands first took place. In 2015, China dispatched government-owned vessels into the territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands almost every day, and repeated intrusions into the territorial waters 35 times (95 vessels in total). The Senkaku Islands are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. Consequently, there exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands. Since 1885, Japan had conducted repeated investigations and, having confirmed that there were no traces to suggest that the islands were under the control of the Qing dynasty, incorporated them into Japanese territory in January 1895. Subsequently, with the permission of the Government of Japan, numerous Japanese citizens settled on the Senkaku Islands, where they engaged in business activities such as the manufacture of dried bonito flakes. After World War II, the Senkaku Islands were placed under the administration of the U.S. by the San Francisco Peace Treaty. From 1895, when Japan obtained territorial title over the Senkaku Islands by lawful means under international law, until the 1970s, when the islands became the focus of attention after it was suggested that there might be oil reserves in the East China Sea, China did not raise any objections to Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands¹. Moreover, China has never explained why it had not expressed objections.

The Government of Japan will continue to deal with the situation with resolute

¹ It is confirmed that there exists a Chinese document created on the premise that the Senkaku Islands are part of Japanese territory in the 1950s and 1960s. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has posted on its website a map published by China in 1969 attaching a title indicating the Senkaku Islands as part of Japanese territory, from which it is considered to have been created on the premise that the Senkaku islands belonged to Japanese territory.

determination to defend Japan's territorial land, sea, and airspace. We have repeatedly used diplomatic channels to lodge strong protests and request the withdrawal of Chinese vessels.

With regard to the "Maritime and Air Communication mechanism between Japan-China defense authorities" to avoid unexpected situations, the two parties had discussions at the 4th and 5th joint working group meetings held in January and June 2015, and at the 3rd and 4th meetings for Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs held in January and December 2015. Both Japan and China share the view to continue to have consultation for early start of operation of the mechanism.

Japan and China share responsibility for the peace and stability of the region and the entire international community. Stable Japan-China relations are essential not only to the citizens of both countries, but also to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. Accordingly, based on the concept of the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests," the Government of Japan will promote the development of Japan-China relations from a broad perspective through continued dialogues and cooperation at various levels.

(b) Current state of China's unilateral resource development in the East China Sea

In recent years, China has accelerated its development activities of natural resources in the East China Sea. The Government of Japan has newly confirmed 12 structures since June 2013, and a total of 16 structures including those confirmed before then, on the Chinese side of the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China.

The Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelf in the East China Sea have not yet been delimited. Japan takes a position that maritime delimitation should be conducted based on the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China. In this regard, under the circumstances pending maritime boundary delimitation, it is extremely regrettable that China is advancing unilateral resource development. Every time China's related moves are recognized, Japan has strongly requested China to cease its unilateral development and to resume negotiations as soon as possible on the implementation of the "June 2008 Agreement" in which Japan and China agreed to cooperate on the development of natural resources in the East China Sea. In July 2015, while deciding to publish relevant information in an appropriate manner, Japan posted on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website a map indicating the position of the structure and related photos.

Considering it was concurred that Japan and China should aim to resume negotiations based on the "June 2008 Agreement" at a summit meeting between Japan and China held in November 2015, Japan will continue to strongly request China to resume negotiations immediately and implement the agreement as soon as possible. (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)).

(C) Japan-China economic relations

Economic relations between Japan and China, including trade and investment, are close and interdependent. The total trade between Japan and China (excluding Hong Kong) amounted to about 270 billion US dollars in 2015, and China has been the largest trading partner for Japan for nine consecutive years. According to Chinese statistics, direct investment from Japan decreased to about 3,210 million US dollars

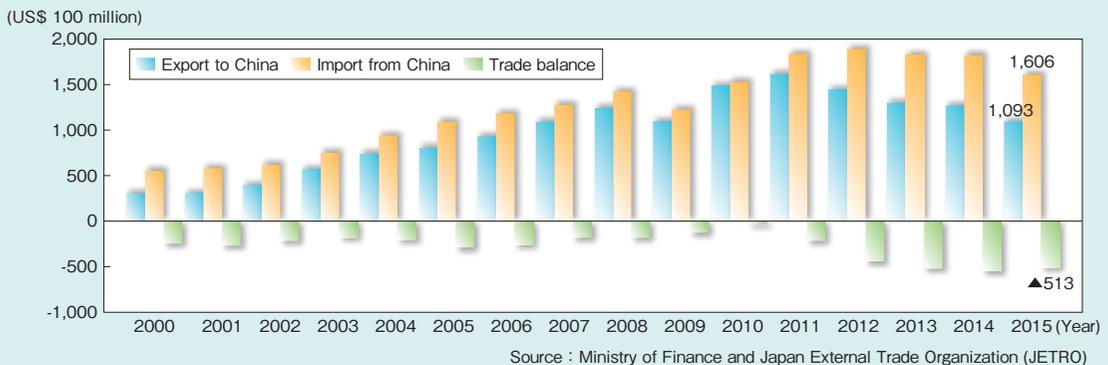
in 2015, due to increased labor costs: down 25.9% over the previous year (estimated based on officially published investment values). By country, Japan ranks 3rd in terms of the amount of direct investment to China (Singapore ranks first, followed by the ROK).

In 2015, various types of dialogues and exchanges were carried out in the economic field. In March, Minister of Civil Affairs Li Liguo visited Japan to attend the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (in Sendai), and met with Foreign Minister Kishida and others. It was the first time in about three years that a Chinese minister visited Japan. In April, Director of National Tourism Administration Li Jinzao visited Japan to attend a tourism ministers' meeting among Japan,

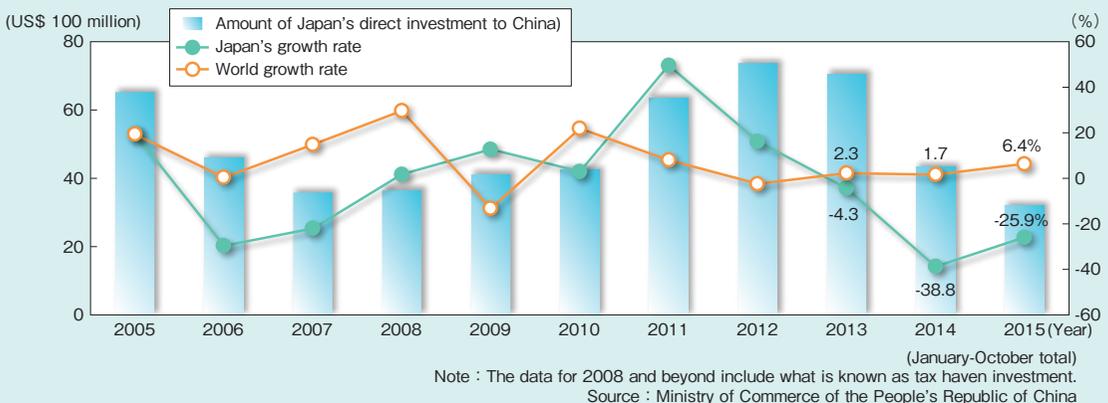
China and the ROK. Other minister-level dialogues included the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, China and the ROK (in April, Shanghai, China), Japan-China financial dialogue (in June, Beijing, China) and Japan-China Energy Conservation and Environment Forum (November, Tokyo). With regard to Japan-China economic partnership talks in which high-ranking officials of relevant ministries and agencies get together from the two countries, a deputy director general level meeting was held in July for the first time in about four years, followed by a vice minister-level meeting held in December for the first time in about five and half years.

At these meetings, they exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral issues

Change in Japan's Value of Trade with China



Change in Japan's Direct Investment to China





A delegation of Chinese university students visiting Japan No. 22 group (September 13-20; Photo: Japan-China Friendship Center)

and cooperations. Economic exchanges at the private sector level were also actively carried out. A Japan-China tourism and culture exchange delegation, consisting of more than 3,000 tourism industry officials and stakeholders, visited China in May, and President Xi Jinping made a speech with emphasis on Japan-China relations at the “Evening of Japan-China friendship and exchange.” In November, the Japan-China Economic Association, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly dispatched a delegation to visit China for the first time, having a meeting with Prime Minister Li Keqiang. In November, a group of entrepreneurs led by former Vice Prime Minister Zeng Peiyan visited Japan, and attended the 1st Japan-China CEO dialogue in Tokyo.

On the working-level, various dialogues took place, including the 16th Japan-China Fisheries Joint Committee (July, Tokyo) and Japan-China governmental negotiations for Agreement on Social Security organized for the first time in about three and a half years (November, Tokyo).

(d) Promotion of mutual understanding between Japanese and Chinese people (Current situation of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China)

A total of about 7.49 million people took part in people-to-people exchanges between



NHK Symphony Orchestra's performance from Beijing performances (October 31, Beijing, China; Photo: Dentsu)

Japan and China in 2015 (about 5.13 million people in 2014). The total number of Chinese visitors to Japan set a record high of about 4.99 million (up 107% over the previous year), and their vigorous willingness to purchase attracted attention with the term “*bakugai* (buying rush).” The total number of Japanese visitors to China fell 220,000 to 2.5 million (down 8% over the previous year).

(Japan-China youth exchange)

In 2015, Japan invited a total of about 3,500 Chinese high school and university students and others in the program “JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2.0” with China. Chinese young people that visited Japan felt Japan brands of its attractiveness and strengths including “Cool Japan” through school exchanges and tours to businesses, while they deepened a mutual understanding with Japanese youth, and the youth from the two countries discussed what the future Japan-China relationship should be.

(Exchanges in various fields)

To further develop Japan-China relations, the Government of Japan invites people at various levels in all walks of life to Japan, such as leaders of central and local governments in China, people having certain influence in the political, economic, public and academic sectors, and next-generation leaders and

opinion leaders in addition to young people who will carry the next generation, such as high school students, thereby making efforts for a wide range of relationship building and strengthening. The Chinese participants are expected to exchange views with various circles and experts and go on inspection tours, hoping that a good relationship will be built between the invitees and Japanese parties concerned and Japan will be more accurately understood through these exchanges. The Embassy of Japan in China carried out a contest to recruit written descriptions of impressions and photos on travels to Japan from May to June and from October to December of 2015 on a social networking site (SNS), gathering high interest. The number of views on the posting page reached 35 million.

Kabuki performances were also carried out in Beijing in April. Furthermore, during a period from October to November in 2015 referred to as an “Intensive Month for Japan-China Exchanges,” a variety of Japan-China exchange events took place intensively mainly in Beijing (Japanese drum YAMATO Beijing performance (October 13-14), NHK Symphony Orchestra Beijing concert (October 31) and Seri Yoko four seasons’ songs Beijing performance by Yoko Seri commemorating the visit to China for Japan-China friendship (November 13), etc.).

(e) Abandoned chemical weapons issue

The Government of Japan, according to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), has been working on the disposal of abandoned chemical weapons in China, making steady progress as follows: Disposal by mobile processing facilities has been being carried out in Shijiazhuang City, Hebei

and in Wuhan City, Hubei; test disposal is proceeding at Haerbaling District in Dunhua, Jilin Province; disposal was completed in Wuhan City in July 2015, and; disposal of about 39,000 abandoned chemical weapons is to be completed before the end of 2015².

(2) Taiwan

A Internal Affairs

Taiwan held a presidential election and Legislative Yuan elections in January 2016. While the ruling Kuomintang changed its presidential candidates, the opposition Democratic Progressive Party continued to be dominant during the campaign. Tsai Ing-wen, Chairperson of the Democratic Progressive Party was elected in the presidential election. The Democratic Progressive Party also won its outright majority in the Legislative Yuan elections for the first time. Accordingly, the ruling party is set to be replaced by the opposition party for the first time in eight years.

The economy showed weakness, reflecting a fall in exports. The real GDP growth rate slowed-down to 1.06% (preliminary figure) in 2015 over the previous year.

B Cross-strait Relations and Foreign Affairs

On November 7, President Xi Jinping of China met with President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan in Singapore. It was for the first time since 1949 that a summit meeting between China and Taiwan was held. Japan, as a consistent stance, hopes that the issue surrounding Taiwan will be resolved peacefully by direct dialogue between the concerned parties, and expressed the idea

² With regard to chemical weapons abandoned by the Imperial Japanese Army in the area of China, about 53,000 shells have been confirmed in a wide range extending from northern Heilongjiang to southern Guangdong Province, and it is estimated that about 300,000-400,000 shells are buried in the Haerbaling District, Jilin Province. The Government of Japan is conducting field surveys jointly with the Chinese government, and is proceeding with scrap and disposal projects as well as excavation and recovery operations in various parts, under the cooperation with the Chinese government.

Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting ~ toward the meeting to be held in Japan for the third time ~

1. History of the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting ~ the Trilateral Summit Meeting came into being in Japan ~

On December 13, 2008, Prime Minister Taro Aso of Japan invited Premier Wen Jiabao of State Council, China, and President Lee Myung-bak of the ROK to Fukuoka and hosted the first Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting.

It was not the first time to hold the Japan-China-ROK leaders' meeting. During the period from 1999 to 2007, Japan-China-ROK leaders' meetings had taken place in association with ASEAN+3 Summit Meetings. Accumulating Japan-China-ROK leaders' meetings, ministerial meetings and working-level experts' meetings came to be held in each area to follow or embody the outcomes of the leaders' meeting.

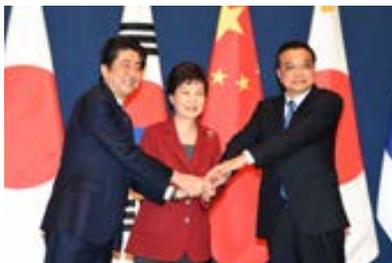
Based on these achievements, momentum was enhanced toward holding Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting independently, instead of on the margin of ASEAN + 3 Summit Meetings held in ASEAN Member States. The first Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held in Fukuoka, Japan, in December 2008.

Afterwards, Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meetings were held every year in the order of Japan, China and the ROK up to 2012, where the leaders conducted lively face-to-face discussions to achieve full cooperation in an increased number of areas on the basis of the achievements of the cooperation that had accumulated since 1999.

The practice was established as well whereby the Japan-China-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting was also held prior to the Trilateral Summit Meeting to undertake all possible preparations for discussions at the Trilateral Summit Meeting. In 2015, the Japan-China-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in March for the first time in three years, prior to the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting, which is still vivid in our mind.

2. Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting in 2016 — chairmanship to be taken by Japan

The Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting held in 2015 for the first time in approximately three and a half years, was meaningful in the following senses: (1) the three leaders shared the view that trilateral cooperation had been completely restored, (2) they reaffirmed that the Trilateral Summit should be held on a regular basis, and (3) they decided that Japan would take chairmanship. For Japan, the year 2016 will be a year when it hosts the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting for the third time. We aim for a Trilateral Summit Meeting with meaningful achievements in a wide range of areas, including economy, environment and youth exchange. Through these efforts, we intend to fulfill responsibilities for peace and prosperity in the region, shared among Japan, China and the ROK.



The Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting
(November 1, Seoul, Korea; Photo: Cabinet Public
Relations Office)



The Japan-China-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(March 21, Seoul, Korea)

of continuing to watch the development of the situation in the hope that the moves mentioned above will contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

C Japan-Taiwan relationship

The relationship between Japan and Taiwan is maintained on the basis of working relations at the non-governmental level, in accordance with the 1972 Joint Communiqué between Japan and China. For Japan, Taiwan is a crucial partner and an important friend, with which it shares basic values in the form of freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law, as well as close economic relations and people-to-people exchanges.

Against this backdrop, the working relationship has been deepening, and in 2015, cooperation arrangements were signed between the Interchange Association and the Association of East Asian Relations covering a variety of field, including the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and the application of competition laws.

Since the import restrictions on Japanese food products were strengthened in Taiwan in May, the Japanese side repeatedly requested the Taiwanese side through the Interchange Association for abolition and relaxation of the import restrictions that are not based on scientific evidence.

Taiwan also asserts its own claim to the Senkaku Islands and there have been moves by civilian activists to land on the islands, as well as cases in which vessels belonging to the Taiwanese authorities have navigated in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands. However, none of these situations have escalated to the extent where they affect Japan-Taiwan relations in general.

(3) Mongolia

A Domestic affairs

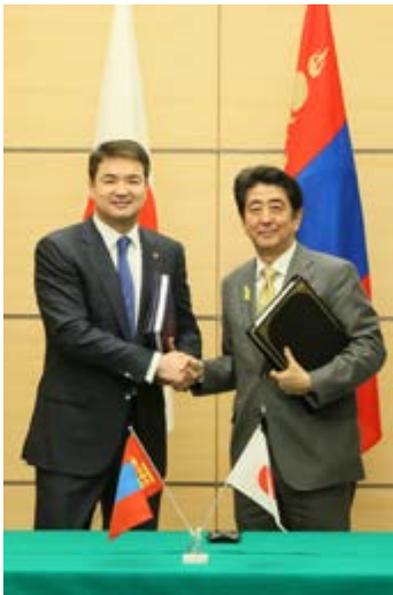
In August, a large coalition of the ruling Democratic Party/Justice Coalition (composed of Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) and Mongolian National Democratic Party) and Mongolian People's Party (MPP), an opposition party, was cancelled. This is because the Democratic Party broke the cooperation agreement it had entered into with the MPP, due to unfair dismissal of more than 600 national civil servants by ministers of the MPRP and sabotage by members of the same party at the State Great Hural (Parliament of Mongolia). Although President Tsakhia Elbegdorj called for continuation of the coalition, Chairman Zandaakhun. Enkhbold of the State Great Hural convened an extraordinary meeting to appoint new ministers. Accordingly, with six new ministers appointed, the 2nd Saikhanbileg cabinet consisting of the Democratic Party and the Justice Coalition alone was launched in September. The 2nd Saikhanbileg cabinet aims at a "government able to determine quickly" with continued emphasis on economic policy in the sluggish economic and financial situation.

The Mongolian economy was greatly depressed after recording a GDP growth of 17.3% in 2011, caused by a fall in global resources prices and the sluggish Chinese economy, as well as a decrease in foreign direct investment due to the restrictive policy for foreign investment into Mongolia against the backdrop of its resource nationalism and the enactment of such laws. The GDP continued double-digit growth from 2011 through 2013, and then fell to 7.8% growth in 2014. In 2015, the economy is expected to grow at about 4%.

B Japan-Mongolia relations

Japan will continue to strengthen friendly relationship as the “Strategic Partnership” with Mongolia, which shares fundamental values, such as freedom and democracy, and market economy.

In 2015, high-level exchanges were actively carried out following the previous year. Mongolian Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg visited Japan (February), followed by Chairman Zandaakhuu Enkhbold of the State Great Khural (February) and



The two leaders shaking hands after finishing the signing ceremony for the Japan-Mongolia Economic Partnership Agreement (February 10, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Mongolia (October 22, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

President Tsakhia Elbegdorj (May). Prime Minister Abe visited Mongolia in October as the first Japanese incumbent prime minister visiting Mongolia twice. In particular, on the occasion of Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg's visit to Japan, the Japan-Mongolia Economic Partnership Agreement was signed, the first such agreement for Mongolia. When Prime Minister Abe visited Mongolia, the 8th summit meeting was carried out between Prime Minister Abe and President Tsakhia Elbegdorj. Furthermore, a number of ministers visited Japan from Mongolia, such as the Minister of Industry, Minister of Population Development and Social Protection, Minister of Justice, Minister of Health and Sports, and Minister of Food and Agriculture.

In New York, the first consultation among diplomatic authorities of Japan, the U.S. and Mongolia was held in September as a new attempt, wherein they exchanged views on a broad range of fields including the economy, multilateral and regional cooperation and regional situation.

3 Southeast Asia

(1) Indonesia

In Indonesia, Joko Widodo was elected as President at the presidential election carried out in July 2014, and was inaugurated as the 7th president in October of the same year. President Joko in April 2015 hosted the 60th Bandung Conference Commemoration in Indonesia. In domestic policy, he has put emphasis on economic measures, announcing a series of economic policy packages containing deregulation with the world economy slowing-down.

In terms of the relationship with Japan, Indonesia continued talks at leader and

minister levels actively even after the inauguration of the Joko administration, facilitating communication between the two countries. In March, President Joko visited Japan and held a summit meeting. After the meeting, the leaders of Japan and Indonesia issued a joint statement entitled, “Japan-Indonesia Joint Statement - Toward further strengthening of strategic partnership supported by the seas and democracy,” and confirmed a strengthening of the strategic partnership supported by the seas and democracy, based on mutually beneficial cooperation, friendly relations and sharing of fundamental values. When Prime Minister Abe visited Indonesia in April to attend a summit meeting commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference (Asian African Summit 2015), a bilateral summit meeting took place between Japan and Indonesia, followed by another bilateral summit meeting organized on the occasion of an ASEAN-related summit meeting (in Malaysia) in November. In addition, Foreign Minister Kishida met with Foreign Minister Retno when the latter visited Japan in December. Furthermore, a Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting was held between Japan and Indonesia for the first time, wherein it was confirmed that the two countries will strengthen security and defense cooperation, and continue to work closely for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

Other exchanges included visits of Vice President Kalla to Japan in March and in May, and visits to Indonesia of Japan’s economic organizations and a delegation for Japan-Indonesia cultural, economic and tourism exchanges involving a total of more than 1,000 people.

(2) Cambodia

Cambodia is situated in a strategic point of the Southern Economic Corridor, and serves as a key country in strengthening connectivity and narrowing regional development gap in the Mekong region. The country has been promoting a development policy with emphasis on the enhancement of governance, with the aim of entering the group of Upper Middle Income Countries in 2030.

Japan has been cooperating actively with Cambodia, including through the Cambodia peace process in the late 1980s and in its subsequent reconstruction and development process. Thus the two countries remain in a good relationship. The year 2015 marked the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-Cambodia Friendship Treaty. In this memorial year, Japan and Cambodia made efforts for further strengthening the “strategic partnership” upgraded by the two leaders in 2013. A summit meeting was held three times in 2015: When Prime Minister Hun Sen visited Japan to attend the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March and to attend the Japan-Mekong summit meeting in July, and on the occasion of the ASEAN-related summit meeting (Malaysia) held in November. Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed again great appreciation and support for Japan’s “Proactive Contribution



Neak Loeung Bridge (Tsubasa-bashi) construction plan (Cambodia)

to Peace,” as well as gratitude for Japan’s support for election reform. In April, the Neak Loeung bridge constructed by Japan’s ODA was opened, and Prime Minister Hun Sen named it “Tsubasa” bridge. In June, the funeral of Chea Sim, former President of the Senate was held, attended by Ryu Shionoya, a member of the House of Representatives (Chairman of Japan-Mekong Parliamentary Friendship) as the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy. In October, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kazuyuki Nakane visited Cambodia. In December, members of Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship League also took the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to visit the country.

In domestic affairs, the ruling and opposition parties confronted each other over election results in the National Assembly (Lower House) in 2013. After the ruling and opposition parties agreed to a breakthrough for the political situation in July 2014, two laws were enacted in 2015: the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the National Election Committee and the revised Election Law, enabling the new National Election Committee to start operation. On the other hand, the confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties is also seen to have grown, including with the arrest warrant issued for the opposition leader in November, with local elections scheduled in 2017 and national election scheduled in 2018.

(3) Singapore

A general election took place in September, in which the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) led by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong won an overwhelming 83 of 89 seats, remaining in power. The general election drew attention concerning how much the

ruling party’s policy following the last general election of 2011 was accepted by the people. The considerate and precise implementation of policy management on actively accepting foreigners with due consideration to public willingness was evaluated, including reviewing part of the proactive foreigner acceptance policy, enhancement of the education system other than university education, expansion of support for the elderly and low-income earners, and improvement of housing conditions, leading to a reversal of the falling trend in support for the ruling party. Following the general election’s results, a large-scale cabinet reshuffle was conducted in October, allowing new ministers to be appointed for eight of a total of 15 ministries. Generation change in the leadership has also been in steady progress, as shown by the new ministers appointed from among next-generation leadership candidates referred to as the “fourth generation.”

In the relationship with Japan, VIP visits actively took place in 2015 following the previous year. In March, Prime Minister Abe visited Singapore to attend the state funeral of Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister and the founding father of Singapore. His visit was the third in three consecutive years. The two leaders also had bilateral talks at the ASEAN-related summit (in Malaysia) held in November, and confirmed further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries. At the ministerial level, Foreign Minister and concurrent Minister of Justice Shanmugamu visited Japan in March to meet with Foreign Minister Kishida. At the meeting, they agreed to continue to strengthen cooperation toward the 50th anniversary after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2016.

On the economic front, a number of

Japanese companies have established regional headquarters in Singapore, and cooperation between corporations from the two countries continues to progress in the area of infrastructure, etc. Furthermore, the two countries work together to actively carry out technical cooperation as well as intellectual and cultural exchanges targeting developing countries through the “Japan-Singapore Partnership Program 21 (JSPP21).”

(4) Thailand

Thailand is situated in the center of the Mekong region, and is one of the major countries in Southeast Asia. There exists a “strategic partnership” relationship between Japan and Thailand. Furthermore, a lot of Japanese companies are doing business based on investment accumulated over the years. Nowadays, they serve as an essential part of supply chains on a global scale for the Japanese economy.

The society is deeply divided, depending on public opinions denouncing or supporting former Prime Minister Thaksin after he was forced from political power by a coup in 2006. Amid such a situation, demonstrations and violent incidents caused government functions and civic life to be continuously affected from 2013 to 2014. In response, a coup was staged mainly by the military claiming to cope with the situation in May 2014. Under the parliament and interim cabinet established by the military government, a new constitution drafting process is under way. It is not likely before the end of 2017 that democracy will be restored through the implementation of parliamentary elections.

Various levels of exchanges, including political and economic, have been carried

out between Japan and Thailand on the foundation of the close relationship between the imperial and royal families. To boost the stabilization and restoration of democracy in Thailand and to deepen the relations between the two countries, a summit meeting was held four times in 2015 (visit to Japan (February), the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March), the 7th Japan-Mekong region countries summit meeting (July) and ASEAN-related summit meeting (November)). In November, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid visited Japan with major economic ministers.

In addition, as a result of a visa exemption Japan started in 2013 for Thai short-term travelers, Thai visitors to Japan totaled about 800,000 (about three times as many as before the visa exemption) in 2015. The increasing trend is continuing thereafter.

(5) Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is the first independent country for the 21st century, and has achieved the peace and stability under the support of the international community. Nation-building based on democracy is ongoing under President Rourke elected in 2012 and Prime Minister Araujo appointed in 2015. In July 2011, a “Strategic Development Plan (SDP)” (long-term guidelines for development policy up until 2030) was formulated, and the country is currently proceeding from the stage of post-conflict reconstruction to the stage of full-scale development. In July, a ministerial meeting of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)¹ was held in Dili, attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane from Japan as an observer.

¹ Timor-Leste hosted the CPLP summit in July 2014, which was the first international conference the country organized.

Japan continues to fully boost the efforts of Timor-Leste, which has shifted to a new stage of full-fledged economic growth and development through post-conflict reconstruction, while continuously maintaining close cooperation in the international arena, etc. Japan supports Timor-Leste's targeted policy of acceding to ASEAN smoothly, and assists in human resources development toward the accession.

Mutual VIP visits continued to take place actively, including a visit to Timor-Leste by Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Taro Kimura and a visit to Japan of Foreign Cooperation Minister Coelho, in addition to a visit by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane.

(6) The Philippines

In January, the Philippine National Police Special Action Force and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) clashed in Mamasapano, a Province of Maquindanao, Mindanao in southern Philippines. The incident caused casualties on both sides. The Philippine government and the MILF signed a comprehensive peace agreement in March 2014, and were preparing for establishing a new autonomous government in Mindanao. In response to this incident, however, a bill to establish an autonomous government has not been deliberated smoothly in the Philippines Congress, causing a delay in the peace process.

After the clash in Mamasapano, the approval rate of President Aquino fell temporarily, but then recovered to 58% in the December survey. The term of office of President is defined as six years (without re-election), pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Constitution. Thus President Aquino is to finish his term of office at the end

of June 2016. The next presidential election is scheduled for May 2016. President Aquino appointed Interior Home Affairs Minister Roxas as his successor in July 2015.

With regard to the dispute over the South China Sea with China, the Philippines government has been proceeding with arbitration based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Arbitration Tribunal admitted jurisdiction over part of the Philippines' submissions in October, and held an oral proceedings on merits in November.

In June 2015, the Government of Japan invited President Aquino as a State Guest. During his stay in Japan, President Aquino attended events at the Imperial Palace including State Banquet, had a summit meeting and dinner with Prime Minister Abe and participated in the Philippine Investment Forum organized by the business community. He also gave a speech at the House of Councillors in the Diet. The Philippines hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as Chair in November 2015. This provided an opportunity for Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida to visit the Philippines to respectively attend a summit meeting and a foreign ministers' meeting.

In January 2016, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Philippines. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress had visited the Philippines as Crown Prince and Crown Princess in 1962, but the latest visit to the country was the first visit as Emperor and Empress. Their Majesties attended a welcoming ceremony and State Banquet hosted by President Aquino at the Philippine presidential palace, and met with former students on government scholarship and ex-trainees having studied in Japan, as well as nurse and care worker candidates receiving Japanese language training before

Special
FeatureState visit of the President of the Philippines to Japan
~ Japan-Philippines relationship upgraded to a new height ~

The Philippines, a major member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has attracted the world's attention by achieving high economic growth in recent years under the leadership of President Benigno S. Aquino III, who took office in June 2010. In June 2015, the Japanese Government invited President Aquino as a state guest. The Japan-Philippines relations were further strengthened and upgraded to a new height through the state visit of the President to Japan.

1 Confirmation of friendly relations built between the two countries in the post-war period

During World War II, the Philippines was caught up in fierce fighting between Japan and the U.S., and many local Filipinos lost their lives. For some time after the war, people had harsh feelings toward Japan in the Philippines, but Japan and the Philippines normalized diplomatic relations in 1956 and, since then, the relationship has been steadily improving. At present, the Philippines is said to be one of the most pro-Japanese countries in the world. During his visit to Japan, President Aquino made the following comments on the development of friendly relations built between the two countries in the post-war period:



The State Banquet at the Imperial Palace (June 3, Photo: Imperial Household Agency)

<Excerpt from President Aquino's speech at State Banquet at the Imperial Palace>

"The pain and tragedy of the past have been healed by Japan's commitment to a relationship based on mutual respect, dignity and solidarity. For 59 years, our two nations have demonstrated that we can work together for our advancement and mutual benefit."

2 Deepening of bilateral cooperation as a Strategic Partner

In September 2011, Japan and the Philippines placed their bilateral relations as a "Strategic Partnership." Prime Minister Abe has held a summit meeting with President Aquino each year since he took office to strengthen the relationship. On this occasion of President Aquino's visit to Japan, a summit meeting took place at the State Guest House, Akasaka Palace, and a joint declaration was issued. The joint declaration confirms that the more enhanced relations of the two countries have entered into a Strategic Partnership stage.



The summit meeting (June 4, Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

As a symbol of bilateral cooperation, joint development of infrastructure will be implemented in Metro Manila. Metro Manila is faced with chronic traffic congestion, and there is a pressing need to improve the situation. At the summit meeting, the two countries decided to work together to develop the infrastructure pertaining to the transportation sector of Metro Manila, and agreed to a roadmap including specific projects (railway maintenance, etc.) to facilitate the development.

visiting Japan. Their Majesties also visited the Philippines Monument to the War Dead in Caliraya, Laguna Province, and laid flowers at the site.

(7) Brunei

Brunei was achieving high economic levels and excellent social welfare, thanks to rich natural resources, but the economic growth rate has fallen in the past few years, caused by falling crude oil and natural gas prices.

Japan and Brunei have maintained a good relationship based on the foundation of a stable supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) that has been continuing for many years. Japan intends to actively contribute to industry diversification, in which Brunei is making efforts. Furthermore, Brunei has been serving as the ASEAN Dialogue Coordinator for Japan since August 2015 for the following three years.

In October, King Hassanal Bolkiah carried out cabinet reshuffle for the first time in five years. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Seiji Kihara visited Brunei in late October to have talks with high-ranking government officials. It was confirmed at the meeting that the two countries would strengthen bilateral relations, and cooperation in the region and in the international arena.

(8) Viet Nam

Located next to sea lanes in the South China Sea and having a long border line with China, Viet Nam is a geopolitically important country. Given that the country embraces the 3rd largest population in Southeast Asia, and experiencing a surge in the number of those in middle-income brackets, Viet Nam is becoming a promising market. While the economy slowed down from the late 2000s, it is on a recovery trend in recent years thanks

to efforts for macro-economic stabilization such as curbing inflation, and foreign investment promotion through development of infrastructure and improvement of investment environment. Furthermore, the country is working on a reform of the financial sector and state-owned enterprises, and participated in the negotiations for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement to diversify the economy.

With regard to domestic affairs, the National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV), regularly organized every five years, was convened in January 2016. General Secretary Trong was re-elected, and the new leadership of the party was inaugurated. At the 11th session of the 13th National Assembly to be convened from March to April 2016, the president as the head of state and the prime minister are to be elected. In Viet Nam adopting a collective leadership, a significant change in policy on domestic and external affairs is unlikely. In recent years, awareness about the importance of incorporating democratic elements is gradually increasing even under the one-party leadership, as seen by the fact that a vote of confidence is implemented for the ministers in the national assembly and for the Politburo and Secretary



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane meeting with Deputy Secretary of Party Committee Thuong, Ho Chi Minh City (August 29, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Column

General election in Myanmar (the election observation mission dispatched by the Government of Japan) Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar ● Yohei Sasakawa

Myanmar, freed from a prolonged military regime, has been rapidly working toward democratization under the Thein Sein administration, by conducting an inclusive general election which took place on November 8.

Until the election day, skeptical reports regarding whether or not a free and fair general election would be carried out in Myanmar dominated in the international community. On the day before the election, I visited seven polling stations as chief of the Japanese election observation team in Myanmar. Wherever we went, our visit was welcomed and each officer in charge responded to our questions with a smile. At a certain polling station, there were four voting spots in the narrow space. Despite our worry that the crowded voting spots might confuse voters, an officer was confident that there would be no problem since people had been well informed in advance by staffs. On the voting day, when we arrived at the polling station early in the morning - at 5:30 a.m., more than 100 voters were already waiting calmly in a queue. Once the polling station was opened, they proceeded to their voting spot without any confusion to cast their vote, just as had been instructed by the official in charge on the previous day. Since the voting was scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m., there was a concern about how to deal with voters who arrive late at the polling station. It was decided that voters who enter the voting sites by 4:00 p.m. would be allowed to cast their vote. There seem to be no cases where a lot of voters rushed in around 4:00 p.m. at any voting site.



The author meeting with the staff before the voting



Local residents lining up in a queue for the voting

The ballot counting started in the evening of the voting day. I sat on the front row together with political party representatives of the candidates and observers from Australian, Thai and Dutch teams and monitored the counting. Ballot counting started with nearly 200 advance votes. Officials in charge showed us the ballot papers one by one and put them into the boxes according to faction, writing down the number of votes per faction on the board as well. With regard to invalid votes, the reasons for invalidity were explained to witnesses from concerned parties before nullifying the votes. For this reason, it took almost one hour to count nearly 200 votes, but it was a very fair and accurate vote counting. To prevent double voting, it was a rule to put ink on the little finger of those who have already voted. The ink was indelible for 48 hours and was partly provided by the Japanese Government. It was impressive that all voters were showing to each other their little fingers marked with ink after voting, with smiling faces, full of joy that a vote of each one of them had a role in the country's politics.



The indelible ink on the little finger is a testament to voting



The author watching vote counting

At polling stations, a total of 10,000 observers composed of 1,000 foreign election monitoring mission members and 9,000 domestic election monitoring mission members monitored the election. We discussed impressions of the election with the United States and European Union monitoring mission teams. We all shared the view that a free and fair election was held.

Watching a queue of people quietly waiting for more than an hour to vote in the hot weather, a scene quite different from the skeptical news reports before the election, I once again realized the importance of one vote.

In Japan, the voting age will be lowered to 18 this year. I hope young people in particular will have an interest in elections.

members in the Communist Party.

Viet Nam is seen to have a sense of vigilance against China over the situation in the South China Sea, given the situation in which China continues land reclamation and the construction of outposts in the Spratly Islands and installing oil rigs in the waters around the Parcel Islands. In terms of relations with the United States, the relationship is developing, as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam visited the U.S. for the first time since the end of the Viet Nam War in July 2015.

Japan is the largest donor of official development assistance (ODA) and the second largest investor country for Viet Nam. Japan-Viet Nam relations have been progressing in a wide range of fields, such as economic cooperation, security and cultural exchange, based on “the Extensive Strategic Partnership.” Mutual high-level exchanges are continuing, including the followings: Prime Minister Dung visited Japan to attend the Japan-Mekong summit meeting held in July, and General Secretary Trong visited Japan as an official guest in September 2015.

(9) Malaysia

The Najib administration, has been steadily implementing a “government transformation program,” a “new economic model,” the “10th Malaysia Plan” and an “economic transformation program” under

the slogan of “One Malaysia (nation first, prompt execution).” All of these programs were announced in 2010 to facilitate ethnic reconciliation, the enhancement of administrative reform and the improvement of public welfare. The country, with the aim to enter the group of advanced countries by 2020, proceeds with deregulation and liberalization to strengthen international competitiveness, while maintaining a steady growth at home, supported by investment and domestic consumption. In 2015, Malaysia served as Chair for ASEAN.

Concerning its relationship with Japan, the leaders of the two countries mutually visited again in 2015, following on from visits in 2013 and 2014. In May, Prime Minister Najib visited Japan as a dignitary for an official working visit, and met with Prime Minister Abe. The two leaders agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a “strategic partnership,” thereby continuing to strengthen cooperation on a wide range of issues in the regional and international communities. When Prime Minister Abe visited Malaysia to attend an ASEAN-related summit meeting in November, a bilateral summit meeting was held between the two leaders.

On the economic front, close cooperation continues, as shown by the fact that Japan is the largest investor for Malaysia and the number of Japanese-affiliated companies operating in Malaysia amounts to as many

Column

Heart-to-heart private exchange supporting the Japan-Laos relations

President of the Japan-Laos Association (former Japanese Ambassador to Laos) ● Itsuo Hashimoto

The year 2015 falls on the 60th anniversary since diplomatic relations were established between Japan and Laos. The relationship between the two countries developed gently and steadily during that period, although it went through little twists and turns including a regime change in Laos. The two countries now enjoy a “Strategic Partnership” with each other. I call it a “heart-to-heart partnership,” because warm and heat-to-heart contact can be seen in the relations with Laos at governmental and diplomatic levels, as well as at private sectors. Although Laos may not be a very popular country in Japan, there are more than ten friendship and exchange organizations across the country, which are performing a variety of activities.

In celebration of the “60th anniversary,” we, the “Japan-Laos Friendship Association” organized a visit of delegation to have exchanges with relevant people in the public and private sectors, and dispatched a delegation of approximately 150 high-profile people from relevant organizations to Laos on November 11. Our association is a private organization but we sincerely hoped to give a banquet to symbolize a celebration which “the whole nation is involved in.” So, we held one on November 12 with a total of about 250 people present, obtaining the support of the Japanese Embassy there. The attendees included high-profile government officials and people relevant to Japan from the Laos side, including Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Phan Kham, and from the Japanese side, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Kishino and Japanese nationals living there. (Photo 1: The author greeting on behalf of the organizers.). The delegation participated in the opening ceremony of the “Japan Festival” held to commemorate the “60th anniversary”, and split into groups to pay courtesies calls on dignitaries, take part in an economic symposium and visit factories.

Kawasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saitama Laos Friendship Association and Sakura International High School that composed the delegation have a proven track record of actively facilitating exchange with Laos. Sakura International High School students performed at the banquet and the “Japan Festival,” and drew a big round of applause.

The “Laos Festival” organized to commemorate the “60th anniversary” in the efforts of our association and these organizations including Sakura International High School also deserves special mention. This is the celebration event held at Yoyogi Park on May 23 and gained a participation of the minister in charge who came all the way from Laos. The event was organized by the Executive Committee set up in cooperation with the Embassy of Laos in Tokyo. (Photo 2: The opening ceremony of the festival.). The song & dance ensemble dispatched by the Lao government and various arts organizations in Japan gave a variety of performances for two entire days. According to the Executive Committee, a total of about 200,000 visitors appreciated the performances and enjoyed the exhibitions, products and food from Laos at the stalls at the venue over two days.



Photo 1: The author greeting on behalf of the organizers at the celebration



Photo 2: Festival

as 1,400.

The Look East Policy², which serves as a foundation for the good bilateral relationship,

celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012. In this program, about 15,000 people have studied or have been trained in Japan so far, and a

² A policy proposed by (then) Prime Minister Mahathir in 1981, with an aim to develop the economy by learning labor theory and management philosophy from Japan and the ROK.

program referred to as “Look East Policy 2.0” is under consideration to improve the quality of the Look East Policy, including increases for the number of people studying abroad. The two countries are cooperating in making the Malaysia Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), which was established in September 2011, a base for Japanese-style engineering education in ASEAN. The possibility of cooperation is also being studied on a high-speed railway project between Malaysia and Singapore.

(10) Myanmar

In Myanmar, since the transition to civilian rule in 2011, reform has been promoted under President Thein Sein, including democratization, national reconciliation, economic reform, and strengthening of the rule of law. In November, the first general election after the transition to civilian rule in 2011 was carried out in a generally peaceful manner, and the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Chairperson Aung San Suu Kyi won nearly 60% of all seats. In response to this, a new government is to be inaugurated in late March 2016. Aside from this, a positive move toward national reconciliation was observed, such as the signing of a cease-fire agreement between the Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups in October 2015.

Myanmar is situated in a geographically important region between China and India, providing high potential for development. Furthermore, since Myanmar citizens are generally friendly to Japanese people, Japanese companies indicate high interest. In light of these points, Japan expects Myanmar to develop as a country contributing to the prosperity and stability in the region by boosting its efforts for reform.

Meanwhile, President Thein Sein visited Japan to attend the 7th Japan-Mekong Summit in July. President Thein Sein also had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe. At the meeting, Prime Minister Abe expressed that, to contribute to the peace and stability in the region through the “proactive contribution to peace,” both public and private sectors will need to jointly support democratization and social and economic reforms in Myanmar. He also committed to boosting the peace process in the country together with Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar and providing ODA loans totaling about 100 billion yen. Furthermore, on the occasion of the Mekong-Japan Summit, Japan, Thailand and Myanmar signed a memorandum of intent related to the Dawe Special Economic Zone in the south of Myanmar, and reaffirmed cooperation for the development of the Dawe Special Economic Zone.

With regard to the above-mentioned general election, Japan dispatched a Japanese government election observer mission headed by Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, taking into consideration the importance of implementing



Japan-Myanmar summit meeting (July 4, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and supporting a free and fair election in the process of democratization in Myanmar.

(11) Laos

Laos is a landlocked country bordering the five countries of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The country is the key of the Mekong region. Economic development was delayed due to the geographical constraints and effects of the past civil war. In recent years, however, the country focuses on the geographical advantage of being located in the center of the Indochina to become a base for regional logistics through the improvement of the regional connectivity, thereby leading to its economic development. Internal politics are generally stable under the one-party rule system by the People's Revolutionary Party. Strong economic growth also continues in the country, led by the power generation and mineral resources sectors.

Japan and Laos in 2015 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and upgraded the bilateral relationship to a "strategic partnership." A leader-level of exchange activated in 2015, as shown by the summit meeting between Japan and Laos held three times in that single year. A variety of events commemorating the 60th anniversary also took place in both countries, further deepening mutual understanding at the grassroots level. In recent years, Japanese companies have been showing a growing interest in Laos. Thus not only conventional development cooperation but also economic exchanges including private investment are increasing, as shown symbolically by a local office opened by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in July 2014.

4 South Asia

(1) India

India is situated in between Southeast Asia and the Middle East, as well as in the center of the Eurasian continent. Thus the country lies in a geopolitically important region. India is also characterized as an emerging economic superpower, being the 3rd largest economy in Asia, with a huge market embracing the world's 2nd largest population and a huge domestic infrastructure demand. Furthermore, India is the world's largest democratic country, and shares common universal values with Japan, such as democracy and the rule of law.

The country has been maintaining a high economic growth rate around the 7% mark since Prime Minister Modi took office in May 2014. Consumption and production have been improving in addition to stock prices rising, and the foreign direct investment and finance emphasized by the Modi administration has



Prime Minister Abe receiving a welcome from Prime Minister Modi (December 12, New Delhi, India; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-India summit meeting (December 12, New Delhi, India; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

been increasing steadily as well.

In diplomatic relations, Prime Minister Modi has stepped up leader-level exchanges to strengthen relations with South Asian region and ASEAN members. He also has set the “Act East” policy with an emphasis on the relationship with East Asia and Southeast Asia. Furthermore, he has actively been meeting with the leaders of major countries including Japan, the United States, China and EU member states, thereby having India gain more influence in the international arena as a global power.

In the relationship with Japan, summit meetings took place in November, on the occasions of international conferences held in Kuala Lumpur and Paris. In December, Prime Minister Abe visited India, and a joint statement serving as a signpost for a “new Japan-India era” was announced, entitled “Japan-India vision 2025: Special strategic and global partnership-Cooperation for the peace and prosperity in the India Pacific area and the world.” The summit meeting came up with concrete results for further strengthening cooperative relations between Japan and India in various fields, such as politics and security, economic affairs and cooperation, people-to-people exchange and regional and global issues, and confirmed the beginning of a “new era in Japan-India relations.” In the field of politics and security, the two leaders agreed on a Japan-India nuclear cooperation agreement in principle, and signed a Defense Equipment and Technology Transfer Agreement and an Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classifieds Military Information. In the economic field, they confirmed a plan to introduce the Shinkansen system into a high-speed railway between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and announced the

establishment of a framework for providing a financial facility of 1.5 trillion yen to Japanese companies operating in India through the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to boost their business opportunities. During his visit, Prime Minister Abe visited Varanasi with Prime Minister Modi to see a religious ceremony in the Ganges.

Furthermore, a foreign ministers’ strategy dialogue between Japan and India took place in January, and a Japan-U.S.-India foreign ministers’ meeting took place in September for the first time to deepen the strategic partnership among the three countries.

(2) Pakistan

Pakistan is situated in a strategic location connecting Asia and the Middle East. Thus its political stability and economic development has significant meaning for the region, having great influence on the regional stability and growth. Pakistan has also become the most important country for international counter-terrorism measures. Furthermore, the country embraces a population of approximately 180 million. Thus its economic potential is high. Prime Minister Sharif has been addressing economic and fiscal reform and security improvements including counter-terrorism as the most important issues. Effects of the policy are gradually appearing.

In security, the Pakistani military has been continuing its operations against the armed forces including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) since June 2014. Although there occurred retaliatory terrorism incidents by the TTP in 2014, the number of such incidents was greatly reduced in 2015.

In foreign affairs, some moves on the relationships with neighboring countries

were observed. The relationship with India has cooled down since the summer of 2014, caused by the intensification of cross-border attacks by both Indian and Pakistan armies in Kashmir. While a full-fledged dialogue has not been resumed yet, a summit meeting between the two countries was held in Russia in July 2015, and it is also confirmed that Prime Minister Modi will participate in a South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit to be held in Pakistan in 2016. In addition, on the occasion of the 21st session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in November, a standing conversation between the leaders took place. Then, on his return home from a visit to Afghanistan in December, Prime Minister Modi paid a surprise visit to Pakistan and had a short meeting with Prime Minister Sharif. In this way, a certain move can be seen toward improved relations. The relationship with China has been further enhanced in a wide range of fields. When President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April, the bilateral relationship was upgraded to an “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership,” and as a first phase to build an economic corridor between China and Pakistan serving as a bridge of the “One belt, one road” being promoted by China, a launch of projects amounting to 2.8 billion US dollars was determined. In the relationship with Afghanistan, the Government of Pakistan served as mediator for a reconciliation process with the Taliban in July, but the dialogue has not progressed since then.

On the economic front, structural reforms have been carried out under the IMF program since September 2013. Foreign direct investment is on the decrease, but macroeconomic indicators have been

generally improving, including foreign exchange reserves and a continued growth rate around the 4% mark.

In the relationship with Japan, on the occasion of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (in Luxembourg) held in November, a foreign ministers’ meeting between Foreign Minister Kishida and Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of foreign affairs Aziz was held, the first such meeting after the Sharif administration was inaugurated, and the Government Business Joint Dialogue was also organized in Islamabad in November for the first time in three years, attended by 24 Japanese companies.

(3) Bangladesh

Bangladesh, in which Muslims account for about 90% of the population, is a democratic country located in the Bay of Bengal, and is geopolitically very important as an intersection between India and ASEAN.

In internal affairs, the security situation became worse for a period from January to March as the confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties intensified resulting in more than 100 death. The murder of an Italian occurred in September, followed by the murder of a Japanese in October. In addition, a series of terrorism incidents targeting Muslim and Hindu religious facilities and security officials and attacks against secular writers and bloggers occurred.

The country, though classified as a least developed country, maintains a steady economic growth rate of about 6%, attributed to robust exports such as textile products. Bangladesh embraces a population of about 160 million people, attracting attention as a potential market combined with production bases with an abundant, inexpensive and high-

quality labor force available and considerable infrastructure demand. The number of Japanese-affiliated companies doing business in the country has increased from 61 (2005) to 238 (December 2015). On the other hand, remittances from overseas emigrants and migrant workers serve as an important means for foreign currency acquisition, accounting for nearly 10% of nominal GDP. The stable supply of electric power and natural gas and infrastructure development has also become an issue for investment by foreign companies.

In the relationship with Japan, high-ranking Bangladesh government officials visited Japan one after another, and on the occasions of Asian-African Conference 60th anniversary summit held in April (in Indonesia) and UN General Assembly held in September, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Hasina conducted summit meetings and confirmed close cooperation under the “Comprehensive Partnership,” launched through mutual visits by the two leaders in the previous year.

(4) Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is situated in a strategic point on the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. The country is traditionally pro-Japanese and its geopolitical and economic importance is attracting attention. After the end of the civil war in 2009¹, the security situation has greatly improved. Japanese tourists quadrupled approximately as compared with 2008 to about 40,000 (2014).

In domestic affairs, Sirisena, a joint candidate of the opposition parties beat President Rajapaksa at the presidential election in January 2015, and was appointed

as the new president. At the general election carried out in August, the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) formed a grand coalition, and the leader of the UNP, Wickremesinghe, was re-elected as prime minister.

The new administration set up a National Reconciliation Bureau toward national reconciliation, an important issue after the end of the civil war, and has been working on the promotion of the issue in a variety of ways, including showing the intention to install a mechanism consisting of 4-layer systems to correspond to investigation of the truth related to alleged human rights violations, rights for justice, rights for compensation and prevention of recurrence of conflict.

The economy of Sri Lanka has been growing at 6% or above annually in recent years, and its per-capita GDP was recorded at 3,609 US dollars in 2014. Given the geopolitical importance of the country and its access to the Indian market, even higher growth is expected.

In the relationship with Japan, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe visited Japan to meet with Prime Minister Abe in October, and a “Joint Declaration on Japan-Sri Lanka comprehensive partnership” was announced. In this Declaration, it was confirmed that the two countries would facilitate cooperation for investment and trade promotion and national development plan, and implementation of initiatives for national reconciliation and peace building.

(5) Nepal

Nepal has geopolitical importance as a

¹ In Sri Lanka, the LTTE, an anti-government armed force composed of minority Tamil people living mainly in the north and east of Sri Lanka was in a state of civil war with the government for more than 25 years from 1983 to 2009, aiming at the separation and independence of the northern and eastern part of the country.

landlocked country sandwiched between the great powers of China and India. Japan has for many years been a major donor to Nepal, and the two countries keep traditionally friendly relations through a variety of exchanges including relations between the imperial family and the former royal family, and mountaineering.

The big earthquake that occurred in the central western area of Nepal on April 25 caused serious damage, including nearly 9,000 deaths and injured totaling more than 20,000. Japan, as emergency humanitarian assistance, implemented dispatch of an international emergency assistance mission comprising of rescue teams, medical teams and Self-Defense Force teams (medical assistance corps), provision of emergency relief goods, and an emergency grant aid of 14 million US dollars (about 1,680 million yen). Furthermore, at the International Conference on Nepal Reconstruction (in Kathmandu) held on June 25, Japan expressed as its recovery and reconstruction assistance the implementation of support totaling 260 million US dollars (over 320 billion yen) with an emphasis on reconstruction of houses, schools and public infrastructure, as well as support for Nepal's efforts toward better recovery from the earthquake disaster.

In domestic affairs, the country has been consistently making efforts for enacting a new Constitution since the Constituent Assembly opened in 2008, in response to the comprehensive peace agreement in 2006. The enactment process had gone through difficulties caused by the confrontation among major political parties. The big earthquake occurring in April 2015, however, accelerated a move toward enactment since the enactment was thought to be critical to recover from the earthquake disaster. In



Medical activities by Self-Defense Force troops



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visiting the disaster site of the earthquake in Nepal (June, Kathmandu, Nepal)

this way, a new Constitution reorganizing Nepal into a secular state of federalism was promulgated in September 2015. In October, pursuant to the provisions of the new Constitution, President Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) was elected as the new prime minister, and a coalition government including the CPN-UML was established.

As regards the relationship with Japan, a Japan-Nepal foreign ministers' meeting was held in March 2015, followed by a Japan-Nepal Political Dialogue between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (in Tokyo) in the same month, through which bilateral cooperation, including policy areas has been expanding.

(6) Bhutan

Bhutan shifted peacefully from a monarchy to a constitutional monarchy in 2008. Currently, efforts are being made to establish democratization under the Tobgay administration. The government sets Gross National Happiness (GNH) as a guideline for steering the country, and is working on economic independence, food production and reduction of the youth unemployment rate, all of which are issues targeted in the 11th Five-Year Plan (ending in 2018).

As regards the relationship with Japan, His Majesty and Her Majesty of Bhutan visited Japan as state guests in 2011 and, with the visit as an opportunity, exchanges between Japan and Bhutan have been active in a variety of fields and at various levels. In March, Economic Minister Wangchuk visited Japan, and met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi to exchange views on efforts for establishing democratization in Bhutan and Japan's support for agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

(7) Maldives

Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean, and its economic growth is mainly led by fishing and tourism, which accounts for about 30% of GDP. The country graduated from a least developed country in 2011, and increased its per-capita GDP to about 8,484 US dollars (2014).

In domestic affairs, the security situation is seen to have temporarily entered into a phase of destabilization, as evidenced by the bombing on a boat the president was aboard, which occurred in September, and a state of emergency declared in early November².

As regards the relationship with Japan, momentum to strengthen bilateral ties is growing, including the Embassy of Japan in the Maldives opening in January 2016. Mutual VIP visits have been active between the two countries. In July 2015, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane attended the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of independence held in Male, Maldives, whereas Foreign Minister Maumun visited Japan to participate in the "WAW! 2015," an international women's conference in August. At the Japan-Maldives foreign ministers' meeting held on this occasion, they agreed to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of marine and climate change.

5 Oceania

(1) Australia

A Brief summary and overview

In Australia, the Coalition (Liberal Party-National Party) won the federal general election held in September 2013, and Mr. Abbott, the leader of the Liberal Party, took office as Prime Minister. However, as a result of the Liberal Party of Australia leadership spill motion in September 2015, triggered by the growing criticism for his management of the government, former Communication Minister Turnbull won the contest and was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

Japan and Australia enjoys a "special relationship" sharing fundamental values and strategic interests, and the relationship between the two countries continues to be enhanced. Prime Minister Abe has built a relation with the new administration by

² On November 4, President Yamin of the Maldives issued a state of emergency declaration on the grounds of the existence of a "threat to national and social safety". On November 10, the emergency declaration was lifted since there was no longer a threat to the public.

holding a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Turnbull in September, followed by a summit meeting on the occasion of the Group of Twenty (G20) summit held in Turkey in November. In December, Prime Minister Turnbull visited Japan, and at the summit meeting, the two leaders stressed the importance of deepening the special relationship with a vision for shouldering responsibility for the peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the international community, and issued a joint statement: “Next steps of Special Strategic Partnership: Asia, Pacific, and Beyond.” Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kishida and Foreign Minister Bishop conducted an in-depth exchange of views and cooperation between the two countries with respect to a wide range of fields, such as politics, economy, security and cultural and people-to-people exchanges, at various occasions: of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) in May, the UN General Assembly in September and Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”) in November.

B Cooperation in the security field

The two countries are rapidly developing cooperation from the viewpoint that their close cooperation in the field of security and defense will contribute to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The two countries have so far regularized, the Foreign and Defense Joint Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”) and concluded the Japan-Australia Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, the Agreement on the Security of Information and the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology. The two countries are currently proceeding with negotiations to conclude an agreement to facilitate joint operations and exercises. The

possibility of Japan’s cooperation is also being studied in the development and production of Australian future submarine.

At the 6th session of the “2+2” held in November, Australia welcomed the enactment of “Legislation for Peace and Security” in Japan, followed by an exchange of opinions regarding the possibility of cooperation in light of the legislation. Furthermore, the two countries confirmed their priorities on the future defense cooperation, and discussed the maritime security in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, as well as the importance of trilateral cooperation with partners such as the U.S. and India.

At the Japan-Australia summit meeting held in December, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed the recognition that Japan-Australia cooperation in the field of security and defense is a cornerstone of the Asia-Pacific region, and explained that he intends to accelerate the various cooperation that is currently underway. In response, Prime Minister Turnbull stated that he hopes to strengthen Japan-Australia cooperation based on common values and interests. The two leaders also concurred on the importance of enhancing cooperation in the counter-terrorism and cyber security fields.

C Economic relations

The mutually complementary economic relationship between the two countries has been developing steadily over the years with Japan mainly exporting industrial products such as automobiles to Australia, while importing resources such as coal and iron ore, and agricultural products such as beef and wine from Australia. In addition to trade, cooperation in the fields of investment and innovation are expected to develop. In January 2015, the Japan-Australia



Japan-Australia summit meeting (December 18, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Australia foreign ministers' meeting (November 22, Sydney, Australia)

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force, resulting in an increased trade. In February 2016, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement was signed. As a result, further enhancement of economic relations between the two countries and the strengthening of cooperation in a wide range of fields, such as food supply, energy and mineral resources, movement of people, protection of competitive markets and consumers, intellectual property and government procurement are expected. Furthermore, the two countries have been closely cooperating in negotiations on multilateral frameworks such as the World

Trade Organization (WTO), and on regional economic cooperation including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The leaders of the two countries confirmed in the summit meeting held in December 2015 that the economic ties should be strengthened in the light of the Japan-Australia EPA and the TPP Agreement, and also agreed to deepen cooperation in the field of innovation.

D Cultural and people-to-people exchanges

There exists a foundation for affinity toward Japan in Australia, as shown by the fact that Australia is ranked 4th in the world in terms of the number of people learning Japanese language (2nd after the ROK if viewed in terms of the percentages compared to total population), and the number of sister city exchanges exceeds 100. People-to-people exchanges are active as reflected by the fact that in 2015, the number of flights between the two countries increased by approximately 30%. During the three years leading to 2016, there will be more than 1,000 Australian university students studying in Japan under the “New Colombo Plan,” through which they will enhance their knowledge about the Asia-Pacific region through studies and internships abroad and strengthen people-to-people exchanges.

E Cooperation in the international community

The two countries have been strengthening cooperation at various levels to take an active role in stable development of the region. In 2015, a joint statement was issued at the Foreign Ministerial level to promote disarmament and non-proliferation. The two countries also concurred to work together

toward the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). In addition, the leaders of both countries stressed the importance of an early realization of the Security Council reform, and reaffirmed to promote cooperation toward this end.

(2) New Zealand

A Brief summary and overview

Japan and New Zealand share fundamental values, such as democracy and market economy. The two countries have been maintaining good relations over the years, and are further strengthening the relationship based on the “strategic cooperative partnership.”

B Bilateral relations

On the occasion of Prime Minister Key’s visit to Japan in March 2015, the two leaders reaffirmed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in areas including economy, security and defence, and people-to-people exchange, and to cooperate on the regional and global issues, based on the idea of “strategic cooperative partnership” in the Asia Pacific region, which was declared during Prime Minister Abe’s visit to New Zealand in July 2014.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nakane visited New Zealand in February to attend a memorial ceremony commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake. From the New Zealand side, Defence Minister and concurrent Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Brownlee visited Japan in March to attend the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai). In May,

Civil Defence Minister Kaye visited Japan to attend the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meetings Summit (PALM7) (in Fukushima), and met with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane to exchange views on disaster risk reduction, which was one of the main agendas at the PALM7. In addition, Energy, and Resources and Transport Minister Bridges visited Japan in July, and met with Akihiro Ota, Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. He also visited companies related to the introduction of electric cars and building of hydrogen energy society.

C Economic relations

The two countries enjoys complementary economic relationship, and signing of the TPP Agreement in February 2016 is expected to further deepen this relationship. In July 2015, Hokkaido Government and the Embassy of New Zealand in Japan co-hosted a “Hokkaido food” symposium. An agri-tech seminar also took place at Japan-New Zealand Business Council held in October.

Furthermore, the two countries have been closely cooperating in the negotiations of multilateral frameworks such as WTO, and in regional economic cooperation such as RCEP.

D People-to-people exchange

In 2015, 30 university students from New Zealand visited Japan as part of a youth exchange project “JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2015.” In total, more than 1,000 high school and university students from New Zealand have visited Japan through youth-related programs since 2007.

Furthermore, networking between sister cities is enhancing, with an aim to promote mutual understanding among the youth.

New Zealand government-sponsored “Game on English” has been carried out to support English education for Japanese students through rugby, in which New Zealand won its 2nd consecutive championship in the World Cup. Through this program, 22 Japanese students visited New Zealand in 2015.

E Cooperation in the international community

The two countries have been playing an active role for the regional stability and development by further enhancing cooperation within the regional cooperation frameworks, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and PALM, while also cooperating in the field of economic development of Pacific island countries.

Furthermore, New Zealand has been elected as the UN Security Council non-permanent member for the term from 2015 to 2016, leading to heightened momentum of cooperating at the UN, including in the Security Council reform.

(3) Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

A Brief summary and overview

PICs, they share the Pacific Ocean and have deep historical ties with Japan, are important partners for Japan in areas such as cooperation in the international community and supply of natural resources. Japan has been further strengthening relations with PICs by hosting the PALM, holding the Japan-Pacific Island Leaders Meeting on the occasion of the UN General Assembly, participating in Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue and through mutual high-level visits.

B Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM)

Japan has been hosting the PALM every

three years since 1997. Japan and PICs have been building close cooperative relationship through candid discussion at summit-level on various common issues that they are facing, such as the challenges posed by their small and dispersed land, remoteness from major international markets, and the vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. In May 2015, the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) was held in Iwaki-city, Fukushima. Prime Minister Abe announced in his keynote speech the new vision of Japan's diplomacy toward the PICs and Japan's intention to implement assistance of more than 55 billion yen and to reach out to 4,000 people through human resource development and people-to-people exchanges in the next three years. Moreover, Leaders' Declaration - Fukushima Iwaki Declaration - “Building Prosperous Future Together” was adopted as outcome and it reaffirmed to elevate the partnership between Japan and PICs to a higher level.

C Mutual VIP visits by

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited the Republic of Palau on April 8 and 9 to mourn and pay tribute to those who died in the war and pray for peace (see Special Feature in Chapter 1). Their Majesties, remembering the war dead and praying for peace, laid wreaths to the “Monument of the War Dead in the Western Pacific” erected by the Government of Japan and to the “U.S. Army 81st infantry Division Memorial” in Paleliu Island. Prior to this, Their Majesties had an audience with the President of the Republic of Palau, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and their spouses.

In July, Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess visited the Kingdom of Tonga to attend the coronation ceremony of His Majesty King Tupou VI. Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess attended the coronation ceremony and luncheon, and met with Japanese residents and representatives of Japanese descendants.

In October, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister O'Neill visited Japan to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and met with Prime Minister Abe. The two leaders announced a joint message "40 Years of Friendship, Trust, Mutual Efforts and Toward the Future," confirming the progress that the two countries have made over the 40 years, and shared the view to promote interactive partnership for the future.

D Relationship with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

In September, a PIF Post Forum Dialogue was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and was attended by PIF members that consist of Pacific island countries (14 countries), Australia and New Zealand, as well as major donor countries such as Japan, the U.S., China and France. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane attended as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, and expressed the intention of Japan to continue to closely cooperate with the PIF to maximize the synergy between the PIF and PALM process, while valuing the Framework for Pacific Regionalism by PIF as complementing national efforts and contributing to sustainable and comprehensive development. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane took the opportunity to meet with the Prime Ministers of Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands,

respectively, as well as the Foreign Minister of Fiji.

E Situation in Fiji

In Fiji, Prime Minister Bainimarama who had seized political power after the military coup in 2006, won public confidence through the general election held in September 2014. Japan has been making efforts to strengthen ties with Fiji. The Prime Minister of Fiji attended the PALM7 in 2015 (he had not attended either PALM 5 or 6.), and the Japan-Fiji summit meeting was realized for the first time in ten years. Furthermore, mutual visits of high-ranking officials and Diet members were active, and concrete cooperation between the two countries progressed, such as dispatching a joint public and private economic mission headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masakazu Hamachi to Fiji to hold a "Japan-Fiji Trade and Investment Seminar" in December.

F Establishment of Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Marshall Islands

Marshall is a supply center of fishery resources, and is located on an important sea lane for Japan. Furthermore, as the cooperative relations with Marshall becomes increasingly important such as in collecting the remains of the war dead, Japan upgraded the representative office in Marshall to the Embassy of Japan in January 2015, followed by a dispatch of the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in August.

G Recognition of Niue as a state and establishment of the diplomatic relation

Since the transition to free association with NZ in 1974, Niue has expanded its diplomatic authorities and capacity to the

Special
FeaturePALM7: The 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

PALM7 was held from May 22 to 23, 2015 in Iwaki City, Fukushima, Japan.

PALM has been held every three years since 1997 in order that leaders of Japan and Pacific island countries (PICs) gather to have candid discussion on common challenges they face. The leaders and representatives of Japan, fourteen PICs, Australia and New Zealand attended PALM7 on the theme of "We are Islanders ~Commitment to the Pacific from Iwaki, Fukushima: Building Prosperous Future Together~"

The holding of the Summit in Iwaki City had significant meaning of expressing appreciation for the support received from all over the world, including PICs, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and introducing the robust reconstruction in the affected areas. The leaders visited the affected areas along with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Mrs. Abe, and witnessed the resilience of the region and the various efforts for reconstruction.

At the Summit, Prime Minister Abe gave a keynote speech, wherein he announced a beacon for diplomacy towards PICs and expressed that Japan will implement assistance of more than 55 billion yen and provide assistance to human resource development and people-to-people exchanges for 4,000 people over the next three years. Prime Minister Abe also announced that Japan will further enhance capacity development of PICs to address climate change and promote business exchanges between Japan and PICs. The participating leaders from PICs expressed their gratitude for Japan's support as well as high expectations for continued support. They also stated that they support Japan's position and efforts in the international community, including the United Nations.

Moreover, the leaders decided to promote cooperation in the coming three years with a focus on the following seven areas: (i) Disaster Risk Reduction, (ii) Climate Change, (iii) Environment, (iv) People-to-People Exchanges, (v) Sustainable Development, (vi) Oceans, Maritime Issues and Fisheries, and (vii) Trade, Investment and Tourism. Leaders Declaration - Fukushima Iwaki Declaration - Building Prosperous Future Together" was adopted as the outcome of the discussion.

In addition, a variety of exchange programs with the local community took place. Hula Girls from the Spa Resort Hawaiians performed their dancing for the leaders as PR Goodwill Ambassadors. Also, the ties and friendship between Japan and PICs have deepened through exchange with "Iwaki High School Students Support Group for PALM7" formed by local high school students and elementary and junior high school students, leading to increased momentum for further enhancement of relations.



PALM7 official logo



Family photo of the leaders



Visiting tour to the affected area: Prime Minister Abe and Mrs. Abe with leaders offering silent prayers after a floral tribute



Hula Girl from the Spa Resort Hawaiians PR Goodwill Ambassadors (Photo: Iwaki City)



Exchange program with children of Iwaki City

Column

Visit of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess to the Kingdom of Tonga Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Tonga ● Yukio Numata

Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess visited the Kingdom of Tonga from July 2 to 6, 2015, to attend the coronation of His Majesty the Kingdom of Tonga. Tonga is an island country in the South Pacific approximately 8,000 kilometers away from Japan with a population of about 100,000. In fact, Tonga is friendly toward Japan with deep ties with it. Japanese is a regular optional subject in the secondary education curriculum, and the *Soroban* (Japanese abacus) is a compulsory subject in elementary school. In addition, I think it is still fresh in memory that Tonga-born players contributed in the strong performances of the Japanese team in Rugby World Cup 2015.

Tonga is the only kingdom in the South Pacific, and the royal family of Tonga and the Japanese Imperial Family have been building close ties. This time was the third visit to Tonga for His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, and the first visit for Her Imperial Highness the Crown Princess.

On July 4, Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess attended the coronation of His Majesty King Tupou VI of the Kingdom of Tonga, which was held at Free Wesleyan Centenary Church in the central area of the city. Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess were seated in the front row, solemnly observed the ceremony, and celebrated the accession to the throne. At the coronation luncheon held at the Royal Palace following the coronation ceremony, Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess were seated close to Their Majesties the King and Queen and talked with H.R.H Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita and H.R.H Tupouto'a Ulukalala and H.R.H Crown Princess Sinaitakara from beginning to end.

His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince also participated in a series of related events, including an official dinner hosted by the Government of Tonga, and met with Japanese nationals, such as Youth and Senior Overseas Cooperation Volunteers who are actively working in Tonga, representatives of Japanese descendants, and rugby-related people representing the Tonga community in Japan as well.

The visit of Their Imperial Highnesses received a warm solicitude welcome not only from the royal family of Tonga and government officials but also from the general public. During the visit, warm care was shown by the Royal Family of Tonga everywhere, including H.R.H Tupouto'a Ulukalala and H.R.H Crown Princess Sinaitakala, who treated them cordially throughout the visit. The local media also reported on the visit very favorably.

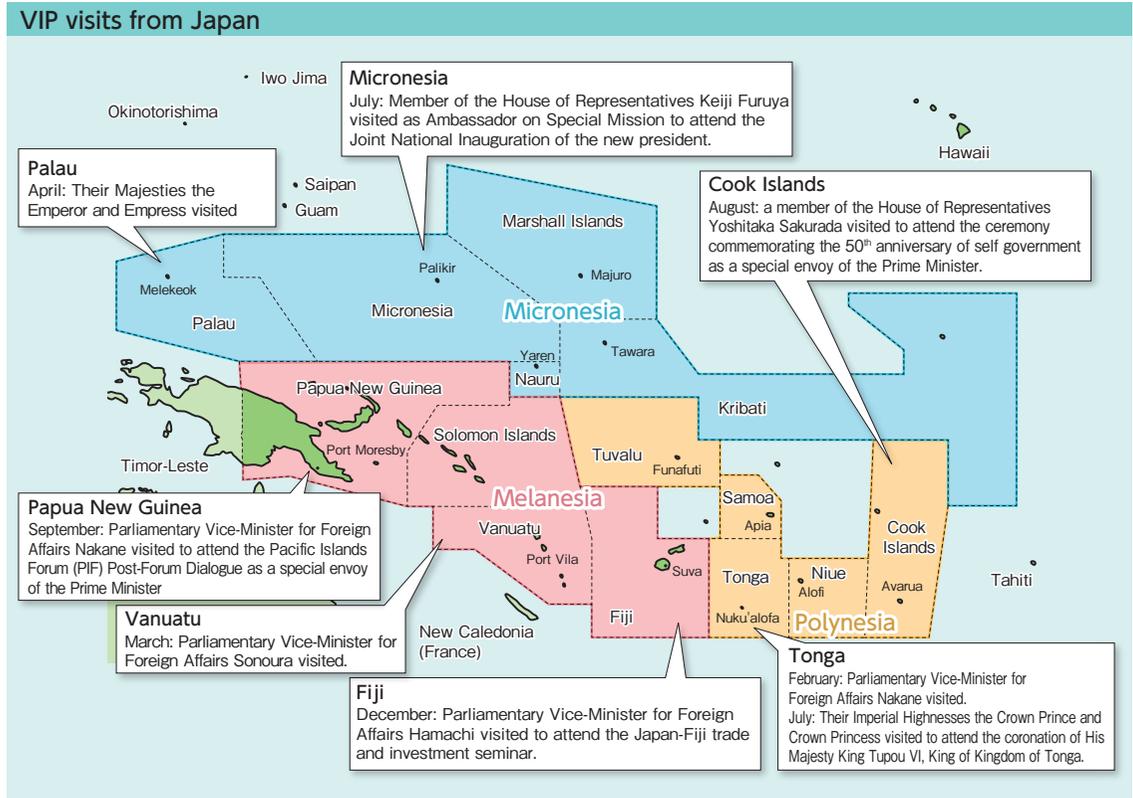
Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess have mentioned, in their review of the end of the visit to Tonga, that there were accumulation of not only governmental cooperation including ODA between two countries but also warm exchanges between peoples of both countries. Keeping the comments expressed by Their Imperial Highnesses in mind, I will do my best to deepen the friendly relations between Japan and Tonga as Japanese Ambassador.



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess were welcomed on the arrival at Fua'amotu International Airport in Tonga (July 3, Tonga; Photo: Jiji)



Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess attending the coronation ceremony (July 4, Tonga; Photo: Jiji)



equivalent level of an independent state, establishing diplomatic relations with many countries and becoming a member to many international organizations. Japan decided to recognize Niue as a state on May 15, 2015, and established a diplomatic relation in August of the same year, in view of the above and the growing importance of cooperation with Niue at the international arena.

6 Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the world's growth centers. The realization of a peaceful and prosperous region is one of the priority issues in Japan's diplomacy. From this perspective, Japan places a high priority on working with its neighbors to create a peaceful and stable regional community

underpinned by rules that comply with international law and a free, open and close-knit regional economy, making use of various regional cooperative frameworks, including Japan-ASEAN, Japan-Mekong cooperation, EAS, ASEAN+3, and APEC, while maintaining the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the linchpin of its foreign policy.

(1) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

At the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting held in November 2015 (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), it was declared that the ASEAN Community constituted of three communities of "political security," "economic" and "socio-cultural" (Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Establishment of ASEAN Community) would be established at the end of 2015, and the "ASEAN2025: Forging Ahead Together"

which shows the direction of the ASEAN Community for ten years from 2016 to 2025 was adopted. ASEAN has been working toward even further integration since the ASEAN Community was established.

ASEAN also plays an important role as a center of regional cooperation in East Asia. In addition, multi-layered East Asian regional cooperation centered on ASEAN is functioning through such frameworks as ASEAN+3, EAS, ARF and strengthened cooperative relationship in a wide range of areas including politics, security and economy. On the economic front, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), as well as other Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with various countries including Japan, China, the ROK, and India were concluded, creating a network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) centered around ASEAN. With regard to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the negotiations started in 2013, and entered into a substantive phase in three major fields of trade in goods, investment and trade in services in 2015. Participating countries look forward to the conclusion of the negotiations in 2016 (see 3-3-1).

Although its GDP is approximately 3.2% of the global total, it has achieved high economic growth rates over the last decade, and ASEAN attracts attention as a growth center of the world.

Since ASEAN is situated in a geopolitically important location and constitutes important sea lanes, and its stability and prosperity relates to those of not only the East Asian region but also the international community, it is important for the entire international community that ASEAN is integrated in accordance with values such as the rule of law and democracy.

Concerning issues over the South China

Sea, the tension has been tremendously heightened in the region caused by rapid and large-scale land reclamations, building of outposts and their use for military purposes in the sea.

In response to this, at the ASEAN-related summit held in November, the importance of freedom of navigation was reaffirmed, and a number of countries expressed opposition against land reclamations, building of outposts and their militarization in the South China Sea, and emphasized the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law.

The Philippines has been proceeding with arbitration concerning the dispute over the waters with China based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and, in October, the Arbitral Tribunal admitted jurisdiction over a part of the issues submitted by the Philippines. In November, oral proceedings on merits took place. In spite of such progress, unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions in the South China Sea have not been stopped, and the situation remains unpredictable (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-2 (1) and 3-1-3 (4)).

(2) Japan-ASEAN Relations

ASEAN exerts its centrality in regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. So achieving a more stable and prosperous ASEAN as the motive force is essential to the stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. Based on this recognition, Japan has announced that it will actively support efforts by “ASEAN2025” to achieve even further integration after establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015, while steadily implementing the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and

Cooperation and the Joint Statement that were both adopted at the 2013 ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting.

Having reached new heights following the 2013 Commemorative Summit Meeting, Japan-ASEAN relations were further enhanced in the areas of security and economy and other broad areas such as disaster management and human exchanges, through such meetings as the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) in August 2015, as well as the 18th Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (in Kuala Lumpur) in November that year.

In security area, Japan's efforts under the Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the principle of international cooperation was welcomed by many ASEAN Member States, and Japan and ASEAN shared "serious concerns" over the current situation which may undermine peace, safety and stability in the South China Sea. Under these circumstances, Japan is actively working on activities contributing to the stability of the region, such as capacity building assistance for maritime security, with the utilization of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for ASEAN Member States as well as joint exercises with the Philippines Navy.

In economic area, through ODA and JAIF, Japan will continue to support deepening the ASEAN integration after establishment of the ASEAN Community, including support for enhancing ASEAN Connectivity and narrowing gaps within the region. The ASEAN side welcomed the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure.". At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) in November, Prime Minister Abe

announced an "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative" and the establishment of a "Japan-ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund" as new ASEAN support measures. In addition, regarding Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), negotiations on trade in services have already been concluded and negotiations on investment are proceeding toward an early conclusion.

In other areas, Japan has been promoting the "Japan-ASEAN health initiative," to support human resources development with the aim to promote health, prevent illness, and improve the standard of medical care, and "Japan-ASEAN Disaster Management Cooperation such as through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA CENTRE). Furthermore, Japan promotes a variety of people to people exchange programs in ASEAN, via such initiatives as "JENESYS 2.0"¹, "the WA Project", and "Sport for Tomorrow."

The Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam), situated in a strategic location for land and sea transport, has been achieving strong economic growth, becoming a partner of growth blessed with a prospective future. Peace, stability and prosperity in the region are extremely important for Japan. Economic development in this region contributes to the redress of development gap and the promotion of regional integration within ASEAN, making it important for the stability and prosperity of the entire region. Although the Mekong region has been experiencing a significant growth through the recent progress of the

¹ Youth exchange programs with Asia Pacific countries and regions announced by Prime Minister Abe in 2013, involving a total of approximately 30,000 people.



Japan-Mekong summit meeting (July 4, State Guest House, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Mekong summit meeting (July 4, State Guest House, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

infrastructure development and economic activities, challenges such as development gap within the region still remains.

In July, Japan invited the leaders of five countries in the Mekong region, and hosted the 7th Mekong-Japan Summit (Japan-Mekong Summit Meeting) in Tokyo. At the meeting, the “New Tokyo strategy 2015” was adopted as a policy for Japan-Mekong cooperation for the next three years, from the viewpoint that it is important to make efforts with the aim to realize “quality growth” with inclusiveness, sustainability and resiliency. Furthermore, at the meeting, Japan announced the implementation of ODA support totaling 750 billion yen for the Mekong region in the next three years. Mekong region countries highly evaluated Japan’s efforts as contributing to enhancement of connectivity within and outside the region, “quality growth” in the

region and promotion of Japan-Mekong economic relations. In August, the 8th Japan-Mekong foreign ministers’ meeting was held in Malaysia, and the “Mekong-Japan Action Plan to realize the New Tokyo Strategy 2015” was issued.

(3) East Asia Summit (EAS) (participating countries: ten ASEAN countries and Japan, China, ROK, Australia, New Zealand, India, U. S. and Russia)

Launched in 2005, the EAS is an important regional forum, with its objectives to facilitate candid dialogue among leaders on issues of importance to the region and the international community, and to take advantage of leadership of the participating heads of governments to advance specific cooperative initiatives targeting issues of common concern in the region. Many democratic nations take part in the EAS, and it is expected that it will contribute to sharing fundamental values in the region, including democracy and the rule of law as well as to strengthening international rules concerning trade and investment.

At the EAS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Foreign Ministers discussed the future direction of the EAS, as well as regional and international situations, including the South China Sea and North Korea. Foreign Minister Kishida stated Japan’s stance on the South China Sea and North Korea. Moreover, he explained Japan’s initiatives and ideas in regard to strengthening the EAS, infrastructure investment and disaster risk reduction. In addition, he stated that Japan had held the “High Level Seminar on Peacebuilding, National Reconciliation and Democratization in Asia” in Tokyo in June, and expressed his appreciation to countries concerned for their

contribution to the seminar. With regard to the South China Sea issue, he stated that the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea” advocated by Prime Minister Abe at the Shangri-La Dialogue, should be thoroughly abided by, and expressed serious concerns over continued unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions in the South China Sea. With regard to North Korea, Foreign Minister Kishida stated that Japan’s policy of aiming for a comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern such as abductions, nuclear and missile issues remains unchanged.

At the 10th EAS held in November, (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) the Leaders discussed EAS’ initiatives, as well as regional and international situations. Prime Minister Abe stressed that the structure of the EAS should be further strengthened as the premier forum of the region, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary since its founding. He reiterated that Japan puts its emphasis on expanding the scope of the EAS in the political and security areas and reinforcing the EAS institution. Almost all of the Leaders expressed their support for reinforced institution of the EAS as well as expanding its scope on political and security areas, and the Leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the EAS.

In view of the increasingly severe security environment in the region, Prime Minister Abe expressed his determination that Japan will make further contributions to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community in accordance with the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, walking hand in hand with countries which share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human

rights and the rule of law. He also stated that “Legislation for Peace and Security” concretely puts such efforts into practice.

Regarding the South China Sea issue, he expressed serious concerns over ongoing unilateral actions in the South China Sea, including large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts and their use for military purposes. He also urged other leaders to share the common view that such remarks as not intending to pursue militarization of outposts built in the South China Sea must be followed by concrete actions. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe called for strictly abiding by the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea,” based on a view that freedom of navigation and overflight at sea must be upheld as a fundamental right. In addition, he stated that coastal states are required under international law, whether for military use or civilian use, to refrain from unilateral actions that would cause permanent physical change to the marine environment in maritime areas pending final delimitation. (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-2 (1) and 3-1-3 (4)).

While reiterating the importance of dialogue, he also underscored his support for the utilization of arbitral proceedings by the Philippines as a means to settle maritime disputes in a peaceful manner. He showed his strong expectation for full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and early conclusions of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). (see 3-1-3 (4) and 3-1-6).

On North Korea, Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan is consistent in its policy of pursuing a comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern including the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, and he called on

countries for their continued understanding and cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

(4) ASEAN +3

The Asian financial crisis was the direct catalyst for the launch of ASEAN+3, with the first ASEAN+3 Summit taking place in 1997. It currently covers cooperation in 24 fields, including finance, agriculture and food, education, culture, tourism, public health, energy, and the environment. ASEAN+3 member states are deepening the various cooperations based on the “ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2013-17).”

With regard to financial cooperation, the National Diet of Japan completed procedures for the approval of the Agreement Establishing ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in May, and that Japan concluded this Agreement in June. In food security, through the framework of the “ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve” (APTERR) Agreement, Japan provided rice to countries such as the Philippines and Cambodia in 2015.

At the 16th ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) in August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi explained Japan’s contribution to ASEAN+3 cooperation. In addition, he explained Japan’s position on Japan-China-ROK Trilateral cooperation, and issues concerning North Korea and the South China Sea with regard to North Korea, he seeks for each country’s cooperation on nuclear and missile issues and the abduction issue

At the 18th ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting held in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation that the normalization of Japan-China-ROK Trilateral cooperation process will

enhance further progress for the ASEAN +3 cooperation. He also pointed out the need for an early entry into force of the Agreement establishing ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and the importance of enhancing the function of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM). In addition, he stated that Japan would closely cooperate with the relevant countries for an early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The Prime Minister Abe also called for the further expansion of public-private partnerships to establish food value chains and for the easing and lifting of import restrictions that they had placed on Japanese food products. He also highlighted the importance of promoting student exchanges and tourism cooperation. Aside from the above, Prime Minister Abe mentioned that it is important for North Korea to refrain from provocations and to comply inter alia with UN Security Council resolutions. He called on ASEAN Plus Three member states for their continued understanding and cooperation toward an early resolution of the abductions issue. With regard to maritime security, Prime Minister Abe expressed serious concerns over ongoing unilateral actions in the South China Sea, including large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts and their use for military purposes, which change the status quo and increase tensions.

The “Final Report on East Asia Vision Group (EAVG) II Follow-up” was adopted at the summit meeting, and that government authorities will follow up on recommendations described in the EAVG II report.

(5) Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cooperation

Trilateral cooperation among Japan, China

and the ROK continues to play an important role in promoting exchange and mutual understanding among the three countries that enjoy geographical proximity and share historical ties. Furthermore, as economies that play a major role in the world economy and serve as the motive force driving the prosperity of the East Asian region, trilateral cooperation among Japan, China and the ROK continues to be vital in efforts to tackle various issues in the international community.

In March, the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held (in Seoul, ROK) for the first time in about three years, and Foreign Minister Kishida attended the meeting. The three Ministers discussed cooperation in such a wide range of areas as disaster management, environment, youth exchange, counter-terrorism, the Middle East and Africa, and shared the view that they would further promote such trilateral cooperation. With regard to the regional and global situations, the three Ministers exchanged their views frankly on regional issues such as the situation in Northeast Asia and the cooperation in East Asia and they reaffirmed their staunch opposition to the development of nuclear weapons by North Korea among others. The three Ministers decided to hold a Trilateral Summit at the earliest convenient time.

In light of this, the Sixth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit was held in November (in Seoul, ROK), and Prime Minister Abe attended. At the Summit Meeting, the Leaders of Japan, China and the ROK got together for the first time in about three and a half years, and frankly exchanged views on cooperation in a wide range of fields and pressing issues in the regional and international communities. The "Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia" was adopted with

significant results: the three Leaders shared the view that trilateral cooperation had been completely restored, they reaffirmed that the Trilateral Summit should be held on a regular basis, and they decided that Japan would take chairmanship in 2016.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to play a role of the chairman to enhance further positive cooperation, and stated he looked forward to welcoming in Japan PARK Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea and LI Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

(6) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Consisting of 21 countries and regions (economies), including those in the Asia-Oceania region, APEC promotes regional economic integration and intra-regional cooperation among the member economies on a voluntary basis. The Asia-Pacific region is positioned as the world's growth center, so strengthening cooperation and relationships of trust in the economic realm in this region is absolutely crucial if Japan is to achieve further development.

At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in the Philippines in 2015, the participating leaders had lively discussions on the themes of "Inclusive Growth through Regional Economic Integration" and "Inclusive Growth through Sustainable and Resilient Communities," under the overall theme of "Building an Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World." Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of strengthening the "rule of law in the economic field," and explained efforts of realizing a "Society with the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens" and measures supporting women's empowerment. (see 3-3-3 (4)).

(7) Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The ASEM was established in 1996 as the only forum to intensify dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. The ASEM currently consists of 51 countries and two institutions as members, and has been working through summit meetings and various ministerial meetings in the fields of politics, economy and culture/society/others defined as three pillars.

In November, the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Luxembourg. They had discussions on climate change, development, disaster risk reduction and management, connectivity, the future of the ASEM and the regional and international situations. Foreign Minister Kishida attended the meeting, and stated Japan's idea concerning a way for a response to climate change right before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) was to be convened. He also talked about necessary cooperation toward sustainable development in the international community and about cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction and management in the ASEM such as knowledge-sharing. Furthermore, he explained Japan's cooperation concerning international and regional issues, such as terrorism and violent extremism including ISIL, and refugees and migration issues, as well as Japan's ideas and position concerning the situation in the South and East China Seas and the issue of abduction by North Korea. The Chair's Statement issued at this Foreign Ministers' Meeting referred to maritime security with the situation of the South China Sea in mind, and explicitly mentioned the

abduction issue following the 10th ASEM Summit Meeting in 2014.

In April, the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting and the 3rd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting took place in Riga (Latvia). They discussed the promotion of cooperation in education between Asia and Europe, and the development of connectivity through multi-modal transportation between Asia and Europe, respectively. In December, the 5th ASEM Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting was held in Sofia (Bulgaria), and the participating ministers exchanged views, under the theme of "Towards Sustainable Social Development in Asia and Europe: a Joint Vision for Decent Work and Social Protection."

Japan hosted an ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Tokyo in September with participation of Ministerial level of ASEM members. They exchanged views on the current situation, best practices, and problems/challenges of tourism exchanges between Asia and Europe, and a Chair's Summary was issued.

(8) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC (15))

The significance and importance of the SAARC is re-examined from the viewpoint of regional connectivity. Japan attends the SAARC as an observer, and is making efforts for strengthening ties with the SAARC in a variety of fields such as democratization and peace-building, infrastructure, energy and disaster risk reduction. In the energy field in particular, the 8th Japan-SAARC Energy Symposium was organized (in Islamabad, Pakistan). They put together a proposal

² A transportation system in which an efficient and good transportation system is provided in accordance with the needs of users through cooperation of multiple transportation means.

entitled, “The medium-term vision for regional energy connectivity in the SAARC” in March. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane attended and expressed Japan’s position to continue to contribute to strengthening energy connectivity in the SAARC region through individual projects. Japan invited about 2,500 people from 2007 to 2015 (about 220 people in 2015), as part of youth exchange between Japan and the SAARC.

Section 2

North America



Overview

<United States>

Japan and the United States are strong allies sharing fundamental values and strategic interests. The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the linchpin of Japan's diplomacy and security, and plays a major role in maintaining the stability and prosperity not only of the Asia-Pacific region but also of the whole world. Japan welcomes the United States' rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific, as it contributes to the stability and prosperity of the region. The two countries will cooperate closely in order to play a leading role in creating order in the region.

In April, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the United States. This was the first official visit by a Prime Minister of Japan to the United States in nine years. On the occasion of this visit, both the leaders of Japan and the United States issued a Japan-U.S. Joint Vision Statement; a Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and a Fact Sheet: Japan-U.S. Cooperation for a More Prosperous and Stable World. The two leaders concurred that the Japan-U.S. Alliance will continue to play a leading role in ensuring peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Also, Prime Minister Abe became the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress. He presented a vision to create a world of



President Obama and Prime Minister Abe at the Japan-U.S. Summit (April 28, Washington D.C., U.S; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

peace and prosperity in the 21st century based on the strong ties between Japan and the United States as the two countries that share the same fundamental values.

The year 2015 saw close communication between top-level officials from the two countries, including the visit of Prime Minister Abe to the United States, the Japan-U.S. Summit held at the time of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Meeting in the Philippines, two Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meetings, and the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2"). In addition, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, led by Japan and the United States, was signed in February 2016, which further strengthened the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through these opportunities, the two countries also closely cooperated in responding to global challenges, such as

climate change and infectious diseases, while pursuing their cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, sending a strong message to the international community that Japan and the United States cooperate with each other in dealing with issues of urgent priority.

<Canada>

Japan and Canada are closely cooperating together in a wide range of fields including politics, economy, security and culture, as partners in the Asia-Pacific region, sharing fundamental values as members of the G7.

In November, Prime Minister Abe held a Japan-Canada Summit Meeting with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to exchange views on bilateral relations, including security, the TPP Agreement, the plan to export LNG from Canada to Japan, science and technology, as well as the situation surrounding East Asia and climate change issues. In the same month, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida met Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion, and confirmed cooperation in fields including the G7 meeting; nuclear disarmament; peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community; the TPP Agreement; the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21); and the rule of law. Also, Foreign Minister Kishida visited Canada and met Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion in February, 2016, where they confirmed that the two countries will lead the international community in tackling the challenges that the G7 and Asia-Pacific regions face.

1 United States

(1) Situation of the United States

A Politics

In the wake of the 2014 midterm election results, the Republican party acquired a majority of seats in both houses of Congress. Throughout the year, the Obama Administration had more difficulty running the government than in the previous year. Under these circumstances, President Obama continued to tackle major issues for the administration by using its executive powers.

In the State of the Union Address on January 20, 2015, President Obama made it clear that, in the domestic field, he will focus on economic policy for the middle class and make efforts for a better labor environment, implementing tax reform, infrastructure development, science and technology, and research and development while calling for cooperation by the Republicans. With regard to the commerce policy, he stressed that the U.S. should make a regional rule and asked for cooperation from both the Democratic and the Republican Parties, in order to achieve a new trade agreement that would cover from Asia to Europe. In the field of diplomacy, he pointed out, in addition to counterterrorism and eradication of ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), the nuclear issue of Iran, the situation in Ukraine, and policy change towards Cuba as challenges.

While the remaining term of office for the Obama Administration is two years, significant diplomatic achievements by the United States in 2015 included restored diplomatic relations with Cuba in July, the final agreement on the issues related to Iran's nuclear program, and the agreement in principle regarding the TPP Agreement in October. On the other hand, the Cuba and

Iran issues saw significant opposition from the Republican party in particular, and the lifting of economic sanctions against Cuba that the administration called for has not yet been realized due to opposition from the Congress. Also, Congressmen, especially pro-Israel members of Congress, expressed concern about the effectiveness of the final agreement on Iran's nuclear issue. Following the serial terror attacks in Paris in November, an act of terrorism took place in San Bernardino, California, in December. Amid the increasing fears of the public about security in the United States, the Republicans criticized the Obama Administration for its counter-terrorism measures, Middle East policy and increased intake of Syrian refugees.

The Republican Party kept opposing to executive measures to halt the deportation of certain illegal immigrants who meet some condition and the Healthcare Reform Law which are main policies of the Obama Administration since 2014, and related lawsuits continued. The Republicans held a majority in both Houses and it put more pressure on the administration. In particular, hardline conservative House Republicans severely criticized and increasingly protested the House Republican leadership as being too compromising with the Democrat and Obama Administration. As a result, Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner announced his resignation at the end of September over the handling of FY2016 appropriation bills, revealing the split in the Republican party as well. Even after Paul Ryan, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, became new Speaker of the House, no changes were seen in the confrontation between the Republican party and the Obama Administration. The Obama Administration rejected the Keystone XL

Pipeline Project promoted by the Republican party on November 6.

Despite the confrontation between the Obama Administration and the Democratic Party, and the Republican party, there was bipartisan cooperation on some bills after intense consultation such as the Budget Control Act that stipulates the relaxation of reduction measures against sequestration and increase in the upper limit of debt, in order to avoid closure of federal government offices and the Appropriation bill for FY2016.

2016 is the Obama Administration's final year, and also a presidential and congressional election year. In such situations, the confrontation is expected to be more acute between the government side that intends to promote major policies to leave some legacies and the Republican party that wants to take the reign of government. It is anticipated that aspects of factional politics will be increasingly clear in deliberations at Congress.

B Economy

(A) Current economic situation

The U.S. economy entered a recovery after reaching a trough in June 2009 and continued the recovery process throughout the year 2015. The real GDP (definite value) of October-December 2015 grew at an annualized rate of 0.7% from the previous quarter. Although the unemployment rate temporarily exceeded 9.0% during the term 2009–2011, since then it continued to improve to reach 5.0% in December, 2015. The U.S. economy is expected to continue following the recovery path; however, it is necessary to take note of the effects of normalization of U.S. monetary policy, the downfall in crude oil prices, and the stronger dollar, etc.

(B) Economic policy

In the State of the Union Address in January, 2016, with regard to economic policy, President Obama noted the importance of working on skills/technology and climate change/energy while mentioning cutting budget deficit, job creation, education and social services. In particular, with regard to the TPP Agreement, he stated that it was forged in order to open markets, protect workers and the environment, and promote U.S. leadership in Asia. In addition, he emphasized that it was not China, but the United States which will set the rules in the region through the TPP Agreement. He also called for the Congress to approve the Agreement, and grant him the means to implement it if they expect to show the strength of the United States in this century.

With regard to financial policy, the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) has been engaged in quantitative easing thrice since 2008; however, it decided to discontinue that at the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting in October 2014, and discontinued it at the end of the same month. With the 2007 sub-prime loan issue as a turning point, the United States had maintained a zero-interest policy for seven years since 2008 with its target level of the federal fund rate at 0% - 0.25%, where the target range of the official rate had been lowered sequentially. However, at the FOMC meeting in December, 2015, they decided to increase the target level for the first time in nine years since June, 2006.

(2) Japan-US Political Relations

Japan and the United States have been strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, which serves as the linchpin of its diplomacy and security, through strengthening of relationships of trust and closer policy coordination at

every level, including the prime minister and the foreign minister. In 2015, the two countries conducted two meetings and two teleconferences at the summit level, and two meetings and seven teleconferences at the Foreign Minister's level.

In April, Foreign Minister Kishida, Defense Minister Nakatani, Secretary of State Kerry and Secretary of Defense Carter held Japan-U.S. "2+2" meetings in New York. In light of the evolving security environment, the four ministers of the two countries reaffirmed the commitment to international peace and security. They also announced the new "Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the Guidelines)".

In April, Prime Minister Abe paid an official visit to the United States and conducted a summit meeting with President Obama. The two leaders confirmed the role of the Japan-U.S. Alliance for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and issued (1) Japan-U.S. Joint Vision Statement; (2) Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and (3) Fact Sheet: Japan-U.S. Cooperation for a More Prosperous and Stable World.

Under the new Guidelines announced at the "2+2" meeting on the previous day of the



State Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Kishida at the Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers Meeting (August 6, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Summit meeting, the two leaders confirmed a further enhancement of deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance, while steadily promoting the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan. Also, the leaders welcomed the progress of the negotiations between Japan and the United States on the TPP Agreement, and have agreed that the two countries will lead the entire set of negotiations towards an early conclusion. With respect to regional situations, the leaders concurred that Japan and the United States should play the pivotal role in maintaining and developing the Asia-Pacific region which is free and open based on the rule of law, and cooperate to engage China in such region. They also confirmed opposition to any unilateral attempts by China to ultimately change the status quo. Furthermore, both leaders reaffirmed that Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea would work together on North Korea's nuclear and missile issues. President Obama expressed his understanding and support for the abduction issue. In addition, they reconfirmed to cooperate with regards to Iran and other issues. As for global challenges, the two leaders exchanged views on climate change and measures against infectious diseases.

Prime Minister Abe made speech as the first ever Japanese Prime Minister in the joint session of the House and Senate of the United States Congress. In the speech, he recalled that Japan and the U.S., which once fought, became strong allies through post war reconciliation and contributed to the peace and prosperity of the region and the world. He highlighted the grown bond between the two countries over the 70 years after the war and stressed to make Japan-U.S. Alliance an "Alliance of Hope."

Prime Minister Abe visited Boston, San

Francisco, Los Angeles, as well as Washington D.C. In Boston, he had frank exchanges of views among a small number of participants at the private residence of Secretary of State Kerry. He also visited the John F. Kennedy Library, and exchanged views at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In addition to attending the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting, and giving a speech to the Congress in Washington D.C., the Prime Minister also visited the Arlington National Cemetery and the National World War II Memorial to pay tribute to the victims of the Second World War. At the Holocaust Museum, he met people who were saved by the visas issued by Japanese envoy Chiune Sugihara, and renewed his determination to never again repeat the tragedies of history. In San Francisco, he participated in a symposium with key figures from Stanford University and entrepreneurs as well as managers from Silicon Valley and visited local companies on the west coast, which is home to create innovation and support venture companies, sending the message that Japan considers them a pillar of growth strategy. Also, receiving a courtesy call by California State Governor Jerry Brown, the Prime Minister played the role of "top salesman" for bullet train technology. In Los Angeles, he offered flowers at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and visited the Japanese American National Museum to strengthen ties with Japanese Americans, while also calling for a further mutual investment between both the U.S. and Japan at the Japan-US Economic Forum.

Utilizing the opportunity of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia, Foreign Minister Kishida had a talk with State Secretary Kerry in August. The meeting was held on the day when an atomic bomb was

dropped on Hiroshima 70 years ago, and the two foreign ministers confirmed that they will cooperate with each other towards “a world free of nuclear weapons.” With respect to the TPP Agreement, Foreign Minister Kishida stated that it was time for the U.S. to show its leadership in order not to let the negotiations drift, and agreed that both parties will continue to cooperate with each other and seek an early conclusion on this issue. Foreign Minister Kishida said that in 2016 he would like to welcome State Secretary Kerry since Japan takes the G7 Presidency and holds Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Hiroshima in 2016. The Secretary of State Kerry responded by saying he was looking forward to it.

In September, Prime Minister Abe, who visited New York in order to attend the United Nations General Assembly, received a courtesy call from Vice-President Joe Biden. Prime Minister Abe mentioned that “the Legislation for Peace and Security” will further solidify Japan’s peace, and that Japan would like to cooperate more closely with the U.S. towards peace and stability in the region and international community. Vice-President Biden thanked Prime Minister Abe for his continuous efforts towards strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Both parties exchanged views on current U.S.-China and Japan-China relations including the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the United States, and have agreed that both countries will cooperate to tackle various issues including maritime issues. Prime Minister Abe stated that international community should demand North Korea refrain from provocations and comply with UN Security Council resolutions as well as the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. They reconfirmed the importance of the cooperation among Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea. With

respect to Russia, Prime Minister Abe referred to the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting held on the previous day, and explained that Japan had called for Russia to play a constructive role for the improvement of the situations in Ukraine and Syria. Vice-President Biden welcomed such actions by Japan.

In November, Prime Minister Abe met President Obama on the occasion of APEC in the Philippines. Prime Minister Abe stated that by the collaboration of Japan’s Proactive Contribution to Peace and the United States’ rebalancing policy, Japan would like to utilize the robust Japan-U.S. Alliance to realize peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the international community. He also said that in further advancing Japan-U.S. cooperation, by collaboration with countries that share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, he intends to, together with the U.S., build a network to realize peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the linchpin. President Obama supported Prime Minister Abe’s such idea. Prime Minister Abe stated that he intends to advance with strong determination the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henoko, which is the only solution, and work together on mitigating the impact on Okinawa for the purpose of the stable presence of the U.S. Forces. In response, President Obama stated that the United States will also cooperate to mitigate the impact on Okinawa. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan supports the “Freedom of Navigation” operations by the U.S. in the South China Sea, and he explained Japan’s existing stance regarding the activities of the Self-Defense Forces in the South China Sea, stating that such activities will be examined while taking into consideration the impact

that situations have on the security of Japan. Prime Minister Abe added that Japan will combine assistance menu including ODA, capacity building by the Self-Defense Forces, and defense equipment and technology cooperation to support relevant countries. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe stated that he opposes any unilateral actions that will change the status quo and increase tensions. Both leaders have exchanged opinions in such fields as the TPP Agreement, China, South and North Korea, and response to the Syria crisis, and agreed that the two countries will collaborate in the international arena, including climate change, cyber, the Global Health Security Agenda, and the Nuclear Security Summit.

(3) Japan-U.S. Economic Relations

The close cooperation in the economic field between Japan and the United States, the third and the largest world economies, is essential not only for revitalizing the economies of both countries, but also for further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and for the development of the global economy. In the “Fact Sheet: Japan-U.S. Cooperation for a More Prosperous and Stable World,” issued on the occasion of the Prime Minister’s visit to the U.S. in April 2015, the two countries confirmed cooperating in various fields, including energy, infrastructure, technology and global issues.

Japan and the United States led negotiations on the TPP Agreement, and an agreement in principle was reached in October. It was signed in February 2016. The TPP Agreement contributes not only to economic prosperity but also to the security in the Asia-Pacific region and thus has a strategic significance. The two countries will continue to collaborate with each other towards its early entry into

force.

In the energy field, the United States Congress passed a bill to lift a 40-year ban on crude oil exports in December partly due to requests and engagement from Japan and other countries. More diversified energy sources are expected in the future, including the possibility of crude oil imports from the United States. As for the Japan-U.S. Energy Strategic Dialogue established in 2014, the 2nd Dialogue was held in Tokyo in September, 2015. The participants from Japan included the relevant persons from the Foreign Ministry, the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Defense Ministry, and those from the United States included members from the Department of States and the Department of Energy. Based on the current energy situation, meaningful discussions took place on topics including energy security, and Japan-U.S. energy cooperation. With LNG imports from the United States scheduled to begin in 2016, Japan-U.S. cooperation in the field of energy is gaining momentum.

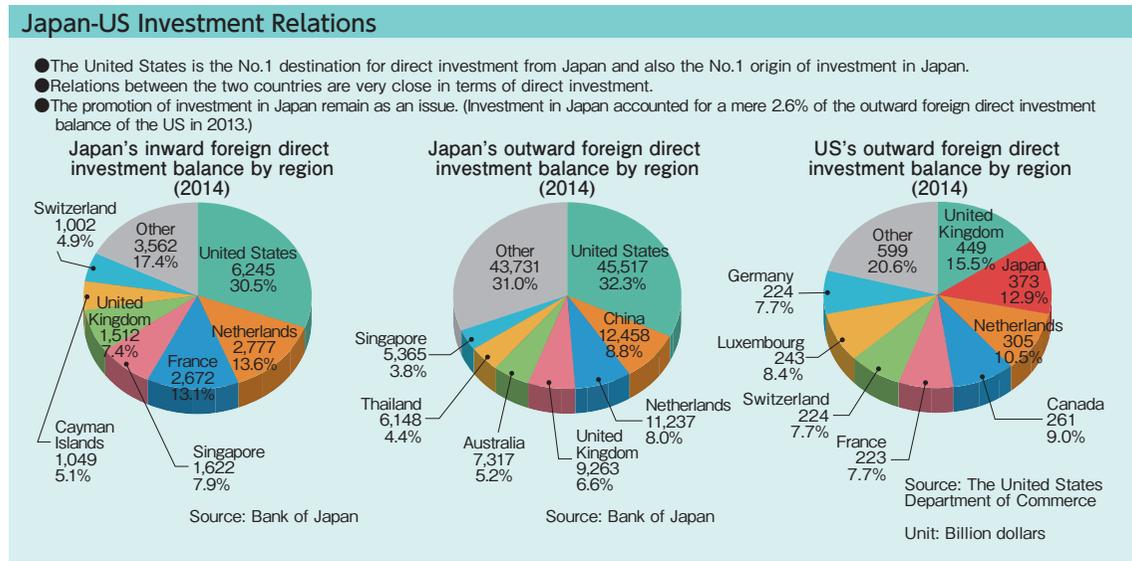
With respect to infrastructure development, Japanese companies have been involved in High Speed Railway Line Projects in the United States in cooperation with the public and private sectors. When Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx visited Japan in November, there was an agreement reached on establishment of the Japan-U.S. Conference on Cooperation for Railways, and collaboration between Japan and the United States in this field is expected to gain momentum. As for the California High-Speed Rail Project, Prime Minister Abe visited the United States in April and appealed the benefits of the bullet train technology at the top level to California State Governor Jerry Brown. During the visits to Japan by both

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in June, and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx in November, the superconducting maglev technology that could be introduced to the Northeast Corridor was promoted by having the foreign guests ride on one of the superconducting Maglev trains, and by Prime Minister Abe's "top sales" promotion. In November, Maryland received approval to use a federal subsidy worth 27,800,000 US dollars for superconducting maglev technology between Washington D.C. and Baltimore. In November, the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN) announced it would provide finance of approximately 4,900 million yen to the Texas Central Railway Project (private company project). Japan will continue to make efforts to introduce its high speed railway technology while closely cooperating with the United States to promote Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment."

With regard to investment and tourism, Prime Minister Abe visited New York in September, and met persons involved in

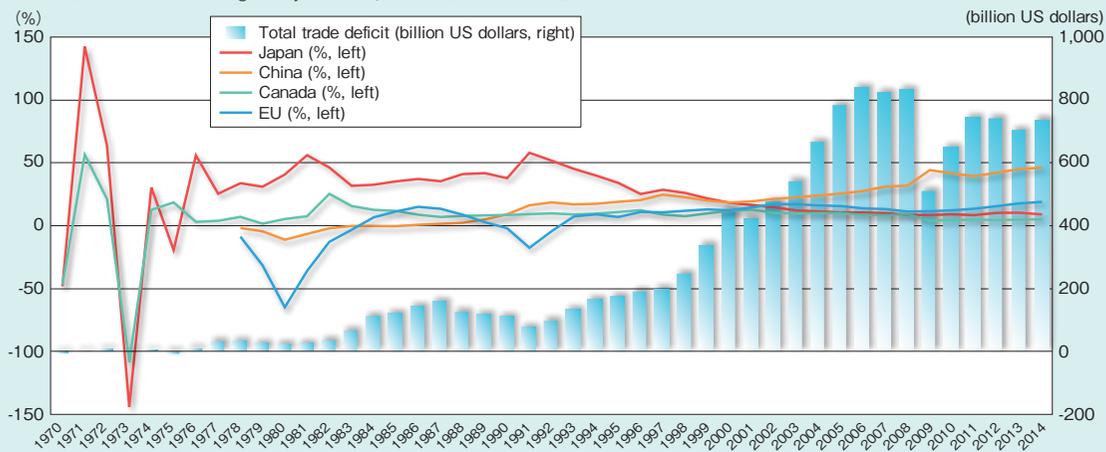
the financial sector in North America. He explained the second stage of Abenomics directly to such persons in North America, who have strong influence on the domestic and international communities, sending a message to strengthen Japan-U.S. economic relations, including investment in Japan. Also, in the Investment-in-Japan Seminar held by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Prime Minister called on U.S. companies for more investment in Japan, while promoting travel to Japan to attract more visitors at the tourism seminar held by the Japan National Tourism Organization.

In the technology area, cooperation between Japan and the United States is seen in such fields as the internet economy, life sciences, robots, and space technology. The relations between the two countries have also been strengthened for assistance for venture companies and creation of innovation. When Prime Minister Abe visited the United States in April, he announced a "Bridge of Innovation between Silicon Valley and Japan" (in Japanese: "Kakehashi"). This project aims to connect entrepreneurs



Decrease in the Ratio of Japan in the trade deficit of the United States

The ratio of the US trade deficit with Japan vis-à-vis whole trade deficit has gradually decreased since 1992, following its peak of 58.4% in 1991. It bottomed out at 8.7% in 2011, then has remained somewhat flat at the same level. On the other hand, the ratio of the US trade deficit with China vis-à-vis whole trade deficit has gradually increased, and it marked 46.3% in 2014.



(International balance basis)
Source: The United States Department of Commerce

from Silicon Valley with Japan, and utilize networks and technical know-how in Silicon Valley for venture assistance and innovation creation within Japan. In addition, Japan and the United States will cooperate in global issues, including the environment and climate change, global health, and cyberspace.

Efforts to promote communication between Japan and the United States at the private sector level were supported through cooperation provided to a delegation from Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) to the U.S. in June, the 47th Joint Meeting of Japan-Midwest U.S. Association (September), the 39th Joint Meeting of Japan-Mideast U.S. Association (November), and the 52nd Japan-U.S. Business Conference (December). Among these, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama attended the opening ceremony of the Joint Meeting of Japan-Midwest U.S. Association. In his opening speech, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama set forth a policy to strengthen the relations between Japan and individual

states in the U.S. through a state-by-state approach, thus making efforts as whole-of-nation to enhance the Japan-U.S. relations.

2 Canada

(1) Situations of Canada

In October, the 42nd Canadian Federal General Election was held and the Liberal Party won a single majority government, resulting in a change of government for the first time in nearly 10 years. Prime Minister Stephen Harper resigned on November 4, and a new administration headed by Justin Trudeau started.

With traditionally close relations with the United States, Canada pursues its diplomacy in multinational venues, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, G7, G20, and the Organization of American States (OAS), etc. In the mid-90's, Canada announced a peacebuilding policy (conflict prevention, support for reconstruction), while actively

engaging in U.N. peacekeeping operations, the antipersonnel mine issue, and promoting human security. The new administration headed by Justin Trudeau made it clear that it bases its policy on multilateralism, returning to the traditional multinational diplomacy approach. Canada indicated financial support worth 2,650 million Canadian dollars in total over five years to emerging economies in the area of climate change which is its diplomatic priority. It is also expected to be more engaged in the UN Peacekeeping operations.

On the economic front, the FTA negotiations with the ROK came into force in January, and FTAs with Ukraine were concluded in July. Also Canada is a participating country in the TPP Agreement, signed in February 2016, whilst continuing to work for building economic ties with Asia-Pacific countries and the expansion of intra-regional trade.

(2) Japan – Canada Relations

Foreign Minister Kishida had a talk with Foreign Minister Dion on the occasion of the APEC Ministerial Meeting in the Philippines in November. The two Ministers agreed to cooperate with each other for nuclear disarmament, peace and security and prosperity of the region and the world. Furthermore, during an exchange of views on the situations in the Asia-Pacific region, they also acknowledged that any attempt to change the status quo is a common concern for the international community, confirming the importance of peaceful solutions and the rule of law. On the economic front, the two foreign ministers recognized the benefits the TPP Agreement will bring to the region, agreeing to further advance bilateral trade and investment.

In November, Prime Minister Abe met Prime Minister Trudeau on the occasion of



Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Abe at the Japan-Canada Summit meeting (November 18, Manila, Philippines; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. The two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of security, while reconfirming their views on the situations in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the economic front, the two leaders agreed that the TPP Agreement will promote regional trade, investment and economic growth. Prime Minister Abe asked Canada to cooperate on the early realization of exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), and the improvement of business environment for Japanese businesses. Furthermore, the Japanese and Canadian leaders agreed to continue bilateral cooperation in broader areas, including science and technology and climate change.

With both governments participating in November, the 13th Japan-Canada Security Symposium was held in Ottawa, where key figures vigorously exchanged views. In February, 2016, Foreign Minister Kishida visited Canada to have a talk with Foreign Minister Dion. The two leaders acknowledged that both countries will cooperate with each other regarding the G7, and that Japan and Canada, important partners in the Asia-Pacific region, will take the lead in the international community and tackle such issues as North Korea, terrorism, and cyber.

Section 3

Latin America and the Caribbean



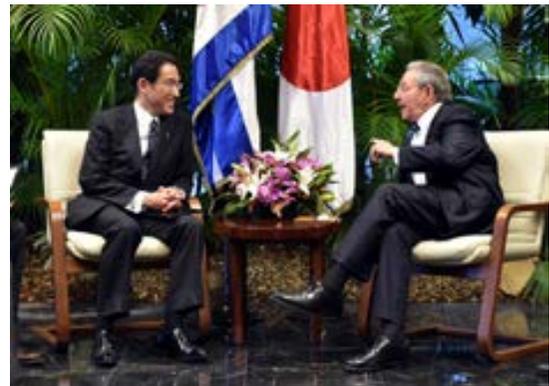
Overview

Latin America and the Caribbean region is a key partner for Japan, economically as well as in terms of strengthening and maintaining international order based on the rule of law. Although economic growth in the region has slowed since 2011 against the backdrop of falling commodity prices and the slowdown of major economies outside the region, Latin America and the Caribbean have a population of approximately 600 million, with a combined GDP of 6 trillion US dollars (approximately 2.5 times larger than that of ASEAN). The region is also a producer of mineral resources (including rare metals), energy and food, and a significant number of Japanese companies have established operations. Moreover, with the “rule of law” and democracy firmly established in nearly all Latin American and Caribbean countries, the region has a strong presence in the international community. Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean region have traditionally maintained a very friendly relationship. With over 2.13 million Japanese descendants, or “Nikkeis,” living in Latin America, the human and historical bonds between Japan and the region run deep. Moreover, Japan has long maintained economic ties with Latin America and the Caribbean as Asia’s largest investor.

In July and August 2014, Prime Minister Abe paid official visits to the region. During



Summit meeting between Prime Minister Simpson-Miller and Prime Minister Abe (September 30, Jamaica ; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Talks between Chairman of State Council Raul Castro and Foreign Minister Kishida (May 2, Cuba)

this trip, the Prime Minister announced three guiding principles of Japan’s diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean: (1) Progress together (strengthening economic relations); (2) Lead together (working together in the international arena); and (3) Inspire together (promoting people-to-people exchanges, cultural and sports exchanges, and other exchanges). Based on these principles, Japan

is strengthening the ties with the region.

In terms of strengthening economic relations, Japan has been engaged in creating a better business environment for Japanese companies operating in the region through establishing legal frameworks such as EPAs and investment treaties as well as consultations with governments of partner countries based on these frameworks. The Investment Agreement between Japan and Uruguay was signed in January, and the Investment Agreement between Japan and Colombia came into force in September. Also, Tax Treaty between Japan and Chile was signed in January 2016. In October, an agreement in principle was reached on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. Stronger economic ties are expected with Mexico, Chile, and Peru, participating states in the TPP agreement. Japan is promoting development assistance that employs Japanese technology, as increased demand for infrastructure in such areas as urban transportation and energy is expected within the region as a result of the economic growth. Japan has also been enhancing cooperative relationships with countries with abundant resources and food, in order to secure a stable supply of such resources and food.

With regard to increasing cooperation in the international arena, Japan has been collaborating with Latin American and Caribbean countries in addressing various issues, such as sustainable growth, environment and climate change, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as UN Security Council reform. At the same time, Japan has been reinforcing cooperation and dialogue with regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which has influence in the international community.

As for people-to-people exchanges frequent mutual visits by key officials took place, as in the previous year. In May, Foreign Minister Kishida became the first Japanese Foreign Minister to visit Cuba, and in September, Prime Minister Abe became the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Jamaica. The government has strengthened exchange at all levels with the region through the invitation of, not only key officials, but also young officials and Japanese descendants from the region (See 2-2-1 (2)).

1 Strengthening Relations and Cooperating with Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

(1) Strengthening Economic Relations

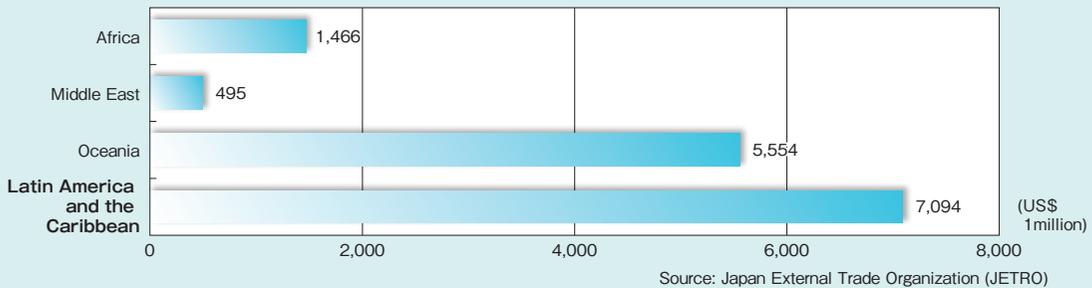
Latin America and the Caribbean region includes some of the world's largest economies, such as Brazil (7th largest GDP in the world and a G20 member) and Mexico (14th largest GDP in the world and a G20 member), as well as rapidly growing countries on the Pacific coast such as Colombia, Peru, Chile and Panama. Moreover, there are countries rich in food and mineral resources such as Argentina (a G20 member), Venezuela and Bolivia. There has been an increased attention on economic potential of the region.

The growth of the region's economy has been slowing down since 2011 due to falling commodity prices and the economic slowdown of major countries outside the region. However, many countries in the region have been steadily growing, still attracting high interest from Japanese companies.

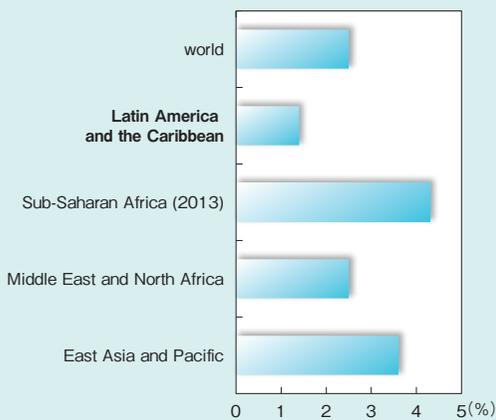
Japan places importance on the region as an economic partner to grow together, and the Government of Japan has been working in a unified fashion together with the private sector to promote and facilitate trade and investment relations between Japan and

Comparison of economic indexes

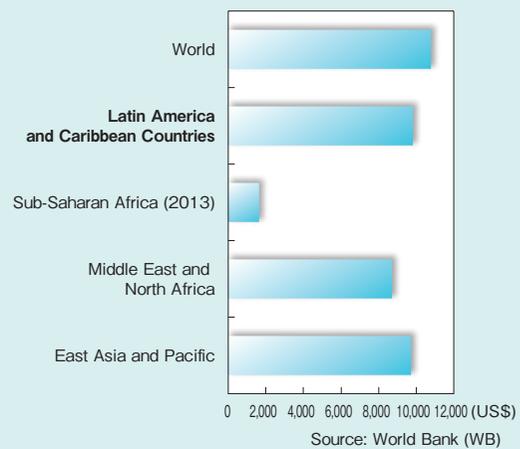
Japan's outward FDI stocks (2014)



GDP growth (2014)



GNI per capita (2014)



the region. Specifically, the Government organized the 2nd Japan-SICA Business Forum in May, and the 1st Japan-Cuba Joint Public-Private Committee Meeting which was held in November as a follow-up to Foreign Minister Kishida's visit to Cuba. Moreover, the Government of Japan is making efforts to strengthen economic relations, including promotion of Japanese companies' expansion into the region, through the promotion of establishment of EPAs, legal frameworks such as investment treaties and consultations based on such frameworks which contribute to trade acceleration and the improvement of the business environment for companies operating in the region as well as consultations

based on those frameworks. Specifically, in 2015 the Investment Agreement between Japan and Uruguay was signed and the Agreement between Japan and Colombia came into force. In January 2016 the Japan-Chile Tax Treaty was signed. Furthermore, the Government of Japan has been negotiating with Colombia for the conclusion of the EPA. Also, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of entry into force of the Japan-Mexico EPA, the Governments of Japan and Mexico organized the EPA 10th Anniversary Seminar and the 8th Mexico Business Environment Committee, continuing talks on reinforcing the bilateral economic ties. As a result of these efforts, the number of Japanese enterprises conducting

business in the Latin America and the Caribbean region reached 2,087 as of October 2014.

In January 2016, the Consulate-General of Japan was newly established in Leon, Mexico, reinforcing the back-up structure for Japanese companies that develop business in the region.

(2) Strengthening People-to-people exchange

The year 2015 marked the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil. Commemorating this anniversary, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited Brazil from October to November and met with President Dilma Rousseff and other dignitaries as well as communicating with Japanese descendants in different places. The year 2015 also marked the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the five states of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica). Taking the opportunity of the “Japan-SICA Friendship Year” between Japan and the above mentioned five states plus Belize, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino visited El Salvador and Honduras in December as Her Imperial Highness's first formal visit to overseas.

Japan has close human and historical ties with this region, where 2.13 million Japanese descendants live. With this background, the Government of Japan has been strengthening people-to-people exchange with the region. In addition to the above mentioned Prime Minister Abe's visit to Jamaica and Foreign Minister Kishida's visit to Cuba, several key figures visited Japan from the Latin America



Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino welcomed by local children (October 28, Brazil; Photo: AFP News)



Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino briefed on local crafts from Honduras President Hernández and his spouse (December 8, Honduras; Photo: Honduras President's Office)

and the Caribbean Region, including Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas in March and November, Bolivian Vice President Álvaro García Linera in April, Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández and his wife, and Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira in July, Dominica's Foreign Minister Francine Baron in October, and Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez in November (accompanied by Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa). In particular, as for the relations with Japanese descendants in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, the Government of Japan invited young leaders of Japanese descendants in the region, and journalists willing to communicate the appeal of Japan, aiming at promoting cooperation from broader aspects. In addition to the events mentioned above, the government

has strengthened exchange at all levels with the region through the invitation of young officials and journalists and various exchange programs. Several exchange programs were held with Brazil and the Central American countries, for which 2015 represented a significant milestone, in particular, the number of commemorative projects with Brazil exceeded 500 in both countries.

(3) Contributing to Stable Development of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

With the recognition that continued growth and political stability are the challenges for stable development of the region, Japan places emphasis on each country achieving stable economic growth through appropriate efforts to reduce poverty and social disparities while at the same time firmly maintaining democracy. From the above perspective, Japan has been providing reliable support through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other schemes in areas such as the improvement in living standards including education and healthcare as well as renewable energy development and industry infrastructure that may contribute to a sustainable economic growth in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Furthermore, Japan is promoting so-called triangular cooperation with countries such as Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico, which have reached a stage of providing aid to the third countries thanks in part to the assistance from Japan in the past.

Japan has also cooperated in many aspects of disaster risk reduction with the region, which is vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes and earthquakes. Japan has also actively cooperated in the environmental field as these countries are rich in biodiversity

and have deep concern over the increase of natural disasters due to climate change. The Government of Japan provided emergency relief goods to Chile, in response to the damage caused by floods in March, as well as to the Commonwealth of Dominica, which suffered a tremendous loss due to the tropical storm Erika in August. In September, during his visit to Jamaica, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan had decided to extend a new technical cooperation project in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy to Jamaica, St. Christopher and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in response to their requests as one of priority areas for cooperation. It is in line with the “Cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming the vulnerabilities particular to small island developing states,” which is the first of the pillars of Japan’s CARICOM policies, presented by Prime Minister Abe at the Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting held in the previous year.

(4) Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean Countries through regional organizations

Various efforts for regional integration have gradually been progressing in the region. In order to strengthen collaboration to address issues in the region and international society, Japan has been strengthening cooperation with the Pacific Alliance, the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Union of South American Nations/Union de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR), the Common Market of the South/Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), and other local organizations. In particular, the economic ties between Japan and SICA were



The 7th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 21, Costa Rica)

further reinforced in the year 2015, which marked the Japan-SICA Friendship Year. In February, Japan co-organized the 17th “Japan-Central America Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation” with SICA in Guatemala to deepen political dialogue. Also as mentioned above, in May, the 2nd Japan-SICA Business Forum was held in the same country, where Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto and 110 representatives from 52 Japanese companies/associations attended. As for the relations with the Pacific Alliance, the 1st Senior Directors and Officials Level Meetings were held in July. In the context of FEALAC, Japan and Brazil co-chaired the Science, Technology, Innovation, and Education Workshop. In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama attended the 7th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' meeting in Costa Rica and reported on the Robot Contest that had been held following Japan's proposal; Both the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and Asian region participated in the Contest for the first time in 2015, and this initiative was welcomed by other states. As a follow-up to the Summit meeting and Ministerial-Level Conference held in the 2014 Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year, in January 2015, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto visited three member states of CARICOM, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, and Guyana in which

the CARICOM Secretariat is located. Also, in June, he visited The Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda confirming that the Government of Japan would cooperate to further strengthen collaboration with CARICOM. In May, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama visited Saint Lucia to attend the CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), addressing a speech in the plenary sessions. He also had bilateral talks with the representatives of many CARICOM member states to further strengthen relations. In January 2016, the Embassy of Japan was newly established in Barbados, which improved the environment to further reinforce relations with CARICOM.

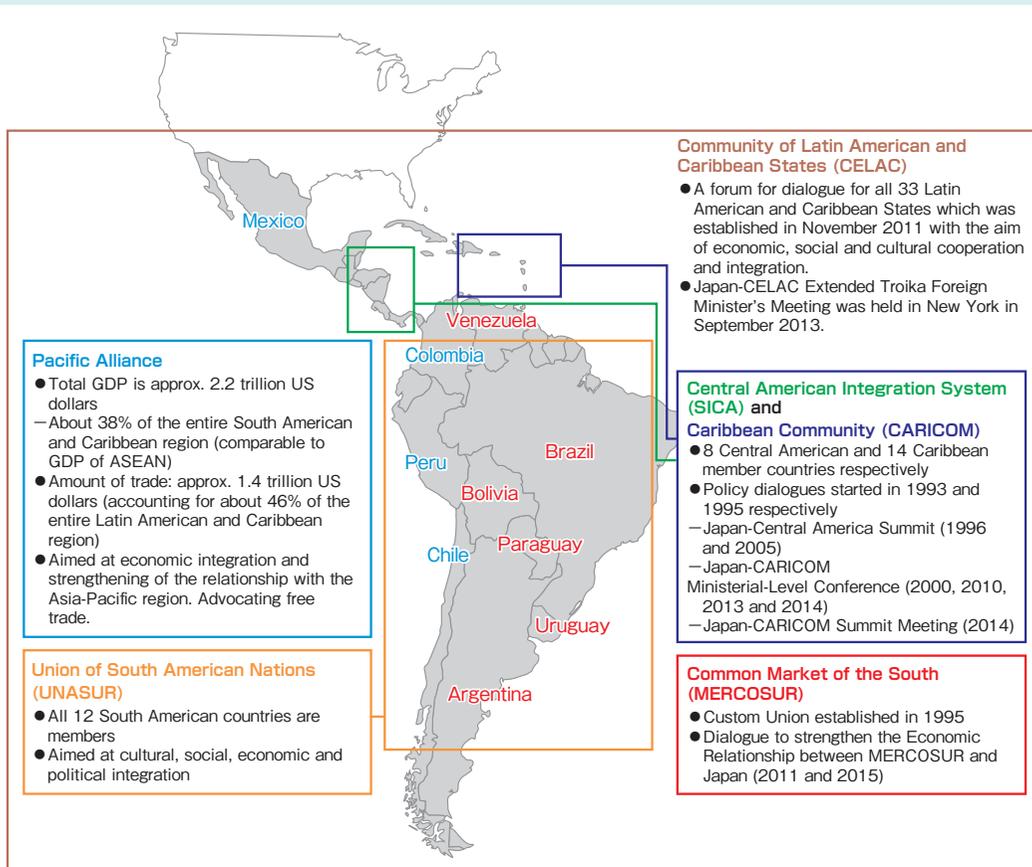
2 Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

(1) Political situation

Presidential or general elections were held in St. Christopher and Nevis, Guyana, Suriname, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Argentina, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2015 (for the details on the changes of governments, see the Figure “Major events in 2015 (by country/ region)”). At the presidential election in Argentina, the leftist government which had lasted 12 years was defeated, and a center-right administration took office. Also, the leftist ruling party was defeated at the Diet member election held in Venezuela, and future political movement should be followed closely.

Regional integration organizations also held various high-level consultations including the 3rd Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Summit Meeting in January, the 45th and 46th SICA Summit Meetings in June and December, the 10th Pacific Alliance Summit Meeting in July, the

Regional Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean



36th CARICOM Summit Meeting, and the 48th and 49th MERCOSUR Summit Meetings in July and December.

Also, diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, which had been cut off for more than a half-century, resumed in July, and new embassies were established in both countries. Future developments, between the two countries toward the normalization of diplomatic relation, the subsequent relations between the Latin American states and the United States, and the behavior of Cuba in the international community will draw attention.

(2) Regional economic conditions

The economic growth rate of the entire

region was minus 0.4% in 2015 (estimated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); hereinafter the same), recording the first negative growth since 2009. In particular, due to falling in commodity prices in recent years, as well as disastrous economic policies, countries that economically depend on commodity products such as crude oil or mineral resources, continue to face severe economic circumstances. Specifically, the economic growth of Brazil was minus 3.8% highlighting stagnation in the largest economy in the region.

On the other hand, in Mexico, which has the second largest economy in the region and

functions as a gateway to the American market, the number of companies entering from Japan and other parts of the world is increasing mainly in automobile-related fields. The Peña Nieto administration achieved the major structural reform by August of the previous year. In 2015, the government continues to promote the fundamental changes for areas including telecommunication, energy, education, etc. Although affected by the

decrease of crude oil prices, its GDP growth rate remained around 2.5% throughout the year thanks to the robust industrial exports to the US with the weak currency. Some countries recorded notable economic growth rates such as 6.5% in the Dominican Republic, 5.9% in Panama, 5.2% in St. Christopher and Nevis, and 4.5% in Bolivia. Even in the same region, a difference of policies may influence the economic growth rates.

Major events in 2015 (by country/region)

Mexico (President Pena Nieto)

- The 10th Anniversary of entry into force of the Japan-Mexico Economic Partnership Agreement.
- World Economic Forum on Latin America (May).
- President of the Senate Barbosa visited Japan (July).
- President of the House of Councilors Yamazaki visited Mexico (October).
- Consulate-General in Leon opened (January 2016).

Cuba (President of the Council of State Castro) S

- Foreign Minister Kishida visited Cuba (May).
- Vice-President of Council of Ministers Cabrisas Ruiz visited Japan (March, November).

CARICOM states

- Guyana: General election was held (May). President Granger assumed the office following a change in administration for the first time in 23 years.
- Suriname: General election was held (May). President Bouterse was reelected.
- Dominica: Due to tropical storm Erika, the country suffered damage corresponding to approximately 90 percent of Dominica's GDP (August). Foreign Minister Baron visited Japan (October).
- Trinidad and Tobago: General election was held (September). Prime Minister Rowley took office.
- Jamaica: Prime Minister Abe visited the country for the first time as a Japanese Prime Minister (September).
- Belize: General election was held (November). Prime Minister Barrow was reelected.
- St. Vincent and the Grenadine Islands: General election was held (December). Prime Minister Gonsalves was reelected.

Central America

- The 80th anniversary of diplomatic ties (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) • Honduras President Hernandez visited Japan (July).
 - Costa Rica: FEALAC Foreign Ministers Meeting was held (August).
 - Guatemala: President Perez Molina stepped down and was arrested for a corruption scandal (September). A presidential election was held (September). President Morales assumed office.
- A major landslide occurred in the suburb of the capital, Guatemala City (October).
- Panama: President of the House of Councilors Yamazaki visited Panama (October).
 - Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino visited El Salvador and Honduras on Her Imperial Highness's first official overseas visit (December).

Venezuela (President Maduro)

- The country's opposition party won an overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections (December).

Brazil (President Rousseff)

- The 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil.
- Second administration of President Rousseff was launched (January).
- Foreign Minister Vieira visited Japan (July).
- Official visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino to Brazil (October-November)

Colombia (President Santos)

- Japan-Colombia EPA negotiations (In total, four rounds of negotiations were held in 2015).

Peru (President Humala)

- Annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF were held (October).

Chile (President Bachelet)

- In the northern part of the country, major floods took place following a heavy rainfall (March).
- A magnitude-8.3 earthquake and consequent resulting tsunami occurred off the coast of central Chile (September).
- A Tax Treaty between Japan and Chile is scheduled to be signed (January 2016).

Bolivia (President Morales)

- Third administration of President Morales was launched (January).
- Vice-President Garcia Linera visited Japan (April).

Uruguay (President Vazquez)

- The Investment Agreement between Japan and Uruguay was signed (January).
- President Vazquez took office (March).
- President Vazquez visited Japan (November).

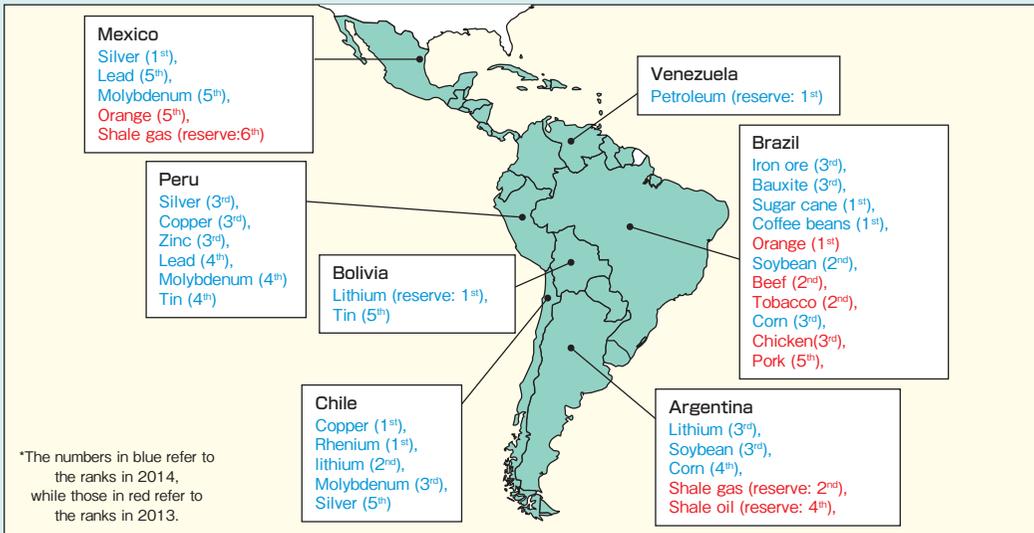
Argentina (President Macri)

- A presidential election was held (November). President Macri took office.

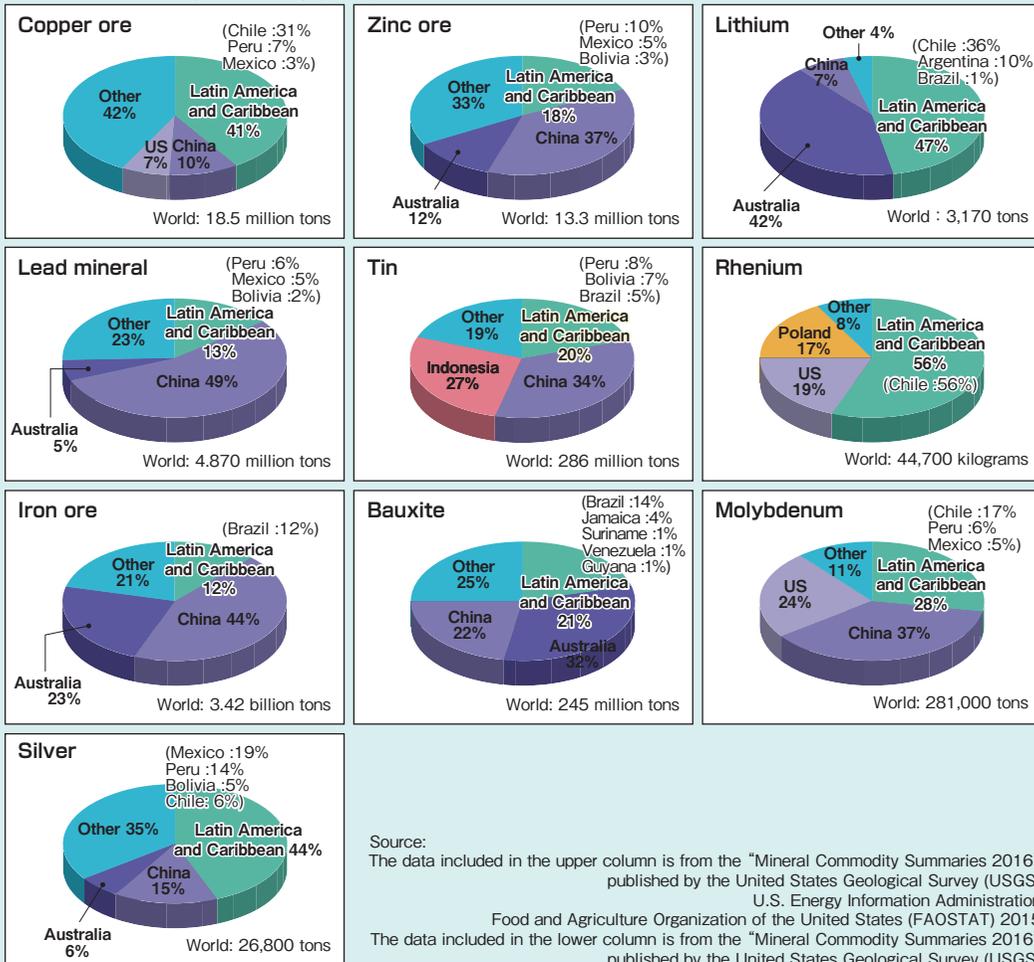
Resources, Energy and Food Production in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Mineral resources, energy and food

(Unless noted specifically, the numbers in the parenthesis refer to global ranks regarding the amount of production or yield)



Mineral Resources (Production) (2014)





Summit Meeting between Uruguay's President Vázquez, and Prime Minister Abe (November 6, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Latin America and the Caribbean region is a major global food supplier area in the world as well as being a supplier of silver, copper, zinc, iron ore, oil and other important resources. The region is a major producer of rare metals such as lithium, the demand for which is expected to increase greatly in the future for such use as in the batteries in electric vehicles. In recent years, Argentina (the world's 2nd largest shale gas possible reserves) and Mexico (the world's 6th largest possible reserves) are attracting attention as the sites of major deposits of shale gas. Although it is not highly likely that the falling commodity prices will recover in the near



Meeting between Brazil's Foreign Minister Vieira and Foreign Minister Kishida (July 29, Tokyo)



Meeting between Dominica's Foreign /CARICOM Minister Baron and Foreign Minister Kishida (October 23, Tokyo)

future, the potential of this region is still high.

The 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil

1. Diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil

In 2015, Japan and Brazil celebrated the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations since the signing of the “Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Brazil” in November 1895. The world’s largest Japanese community is in Brazil. On the occasion of the 120th anniversary, many VIP visits took place to further deepen mutual understanding, as well as a total of 600 commemorative projects were carried out in a variety of fields, such as economy, culture and art.



2. Official visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino to Brazil

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, made an official visit to Brazil from October 28 to November 8 at the invitation of the Brazilian government. Their Imperial Highnesses paid a courtesy call on President Dilma Rousseff, attended the 120th anniversary commemorative ceremony hosted by the National Congress and Brazilian government-sponsored luncheon. In addition, Their Imperial Highnesses visited the Federal District and five states (São Paulo, Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pará, Rio de Janeiro), where they gave an audience to the respective governors and attended events hosted by organizations of Japanese descendants or “Nikkei”.

3. Projects commemorating the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil

In commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Brazil, a variety of projects were carried out. They included the participation of traditional “Tachineputa” floats made by Goshogawara City, Aomori in the São Paulo carnival, “Exhibition of Japan-Brazil joint projects” introducing five joint national projects including Cerrado agricultural development, and the renovation of Japan Pavilion in Ibirapuera Park.

In Sao Paulo, the city with the biggest Japanese population in Brazil, a fireworks festival (Photo) produced by Junko Koshino took place in September, with 4,500 fireworks launched in time to the music. In addition, Ms. Fernanda Takai, a Brazilian singer of the world-popular band “PatoFu”, composed a song commemorating the 120th anniversary of Japan-Brazil friendship titled “LOVE SONG”, jointly with Japanese artist Maki Nomiya. The song was widely played during the commemorative event. Furthermore, at Japan Festivals held in various locations in Brazil, live tour concerts took place with joint performances by Brazilian and Japanese artists, and they were well received.



Fireworks festival in Sao Paulo © Yamato Corporation

4. Japan-Brazil future relations

Relations between Japan and Brazil are not confined to economic exchange, but cover people-to-people exchanges in a variety of areas such as academy, culture and sports. The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, and the Games will be handed over to Tokyo, hopefully leading to a closer relationship between Japan and Brazil in the future.

Column Japan- SICA Friendship Year ~ Blessing long-lasting friendly relations ~

In 2015, Japan and Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica celebrated the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Japan and Central American Integration System (SICA), which is composed of eight countries (above mentioned five countries plus Panama, Belize and the Dominican Republic) defined 2015 as a "Japan-SICA Friendship Year," and implemented commemorative projects in a variety of fields such as politics, economy and culture.

Prior to the Friendship Year, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited Guatemala in October 2014. Furthermore, Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino visited El Salvador and Honduras in December 2015. Her Imperial Highness received a grand welcome from the governments and the peoples of both countries. It was a visit worthy of the ending of the Friendship Year.

In the political and economic areas, an exchange of Friendship Year celebration messages took place between Prime Minister Abe and respective Central American leaders. Also, VIP visits actively took place between Japan and Central America, including the visit by President Hernandez of Honduras to Japan in July. In May, the Japan-SICA Business Forum was held in Guatemala to promote economic exchanges.

In addition, a number of commemorative events were organized in both Japan and Central American countries throughout the year. In Central American countries, approximately 300 commemorative events intended mainly to introduce Japanese culture were also organized, including port calls of the Overseas Training Cruise of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, martial arts demonstrations, concerts, and animation and other pop culture-related events.

In Japan, many events introducing Central American culture took place, including concerts, painting exhibitions and a film festival. Aside from this, friendly matches were held between visiting Costa Rican U22 and U16 National Football Teams and corresponding Japanese teams. All of the events lived up the Friendship Year to a great extent.

As mentioned above, mutual exchange and understanding was promoted in a variety of fields in 2015, which marked an epoch-making year in terms of a deepening of Japan-Central America relations.

We hope to further promote the enhanced friendly relations through the Friendship Year with the Central American countries, as partners continuing to develop together.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama receiving messages from Central American leaders, handed from Ambassadors of each country to Japan (March 20, 2015)



Send-off party for Costa Rica's U22 and U16 National Football Teams (June 18, 2015, residence of Japanese Ambassador to Costa Rica)

Section 4

Europe



Overview

(Importance of Europe)

Europe has considerable influence on international public opinion, underpinned by such factors as language, culture and art, and the presence of major media and think tanks. In addition, Europe has a large economic presence, with the combined GDP of the 28 member states of the European Union (EU) accounting for about 24% of the world. As members of key international frameworks, such as the UN Security Council and G7, major European countries play an important role in establishing norms in the international community. Furthermore, Japan and Europe share fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and are deeply committed to free and open international order. Both parties have collaborated with each other based on the mutual relations with the United States for many years.

Europe is critical for Japan's implementation of foreign policy that "Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map." In addition to maintaining bilateral relations with each European country, it is important that Japan further broadens Japan-Europe relations as a whole by strengthening cooperation with European regional institutions such as the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization for Security

and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and promoting collaboration with European regional frameworks, such as the Visegrad Group plus Japan (V4+Japan), the Nordic-Baltic Eight plus Japan (NB8+Japan) and GUAM countries plus Japan (GUAM + Japan).

(Issues Faced by Europe)

Europe is faced with various challenges, including instability in the Middle East and North Africa, unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants into Europe associated with it, a series of terrorist attacks in Paris and other cities, the Greece debt issue, the EU referendum in the UK, and other problems that have emerged as a result of enlargement and deepening integration of the EU.

(Diplomatic Relations with Europe)

Prime Minister Abe visited Elmau, Germany, in June, to attend the G7 Summit to have talks with other leaders. Also, taking the opportunity, he visited Ukraine for the first time as a Japanese Prime Minister. Following the attendance of the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) Summit Meeting in Paris, France, in November and December, Prime Minister Abe visited Luxembourg for the first time as a Japanese Prime Minister in the context of the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Kishida visited France, Belgium and the UK in mid-January to have meetings with the foreign ministers of those countries. He also held Japan-EU Foreign Ministers'

Meeting and met with the NATO Secretary General. In November, the Foreign Minister visited Luxembourg to attend the 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. As shown in these examples, mutual visits at the leader's and foreign minister's levels took place very actively between Japan and European countries and institutions. These visits not only strengthened the relations between Japan and each country and institution, but also built relationships of trust at the summit and foreign minister's level. Through these opportunities, understanding from European countries and institutions on Japan's stance and efforts was enhanced on a broad range of issues, including security, economic, and global issues, and concrete cooperation between Japan and Europe was advanced. For instance, on the security front, Japan agreed with NATO and the EU respectively, to continue close cooperation. Also, Japan has strengthened cooperation in the area of security and defense with the UK and France. With regard to economy, six rounds of negotiations on the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) were held in 2015. At the Japan-EU summit meeting, which was held on the occasion of the G20 Antalya Summit in November 2015, the two leaders committed to accelerating the negotiations, aiming to reach agreement in principle at the earliest possible time in 2016. At the Summit meeting, the leaders have agreed to cooperate further and work on a range of issues Europe is facing right now, including counter-terrorism and the influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa, which pose problems for the entire global community.

In addition, the Government of Japan launched the "MIRAI Program," to invite students from countries throughout

Europe. Japan is pursuing a broad range of cooperative activities with the EU and countries throughout Europe in such fields as education, culture, as well as science and technology with a view to maintaining a multi-layered and close relationship through communication of Japan's attractiveness and promotion of mutual understanding.

1 Situation of European Region

(1) European Union (EU)

The EU is a political and economic entity consisting of 28 member states with a total population of about 500 million that generates about 24% of the world's GDP. Sharing basic values and principles, the EU is an important partner for Japan in addressing global issues.

A Japan-EU Relations

In 2015, there were major developments toward strengthening Japan-EU relations in a comprehensive manner. In particular, two Japan-EU summit meetings were held during the year, which strengthened the close bonds of trust among the leaders.

In May, the 23rd Japan-EU Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo with the participation of President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and other European Commissioners. At this meeting, both leaders shared the view to further accelerate the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and the Japan-EU/EPA, as well as to strengthen cooperation in diverse areas such as counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, science and technology, oceans and seas, outer space and cyberspace. In November, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with European Commission President Juncker, on the occasion of the G20 Antalya Summit.



The 23rd Japan-EU Summit (joint press conference) (May 29, Tokyo; photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

At this meeting, both leaders confirmed the importance of the SPA and EPA negotiations. Concerning the EPA negotiations, they shared the view to continue to make their utmost efforts to reach agreement in principle on the EPA at the earliest possible time in 2016. In this context, six rounds of Japan-EU EPA negotiations (see 3-3-1) and four rounds of Japan-EU SPA negotiations were held during 2015.

In January Foreign Minister Kishida visited Belgium and had talks with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini and other officials, agreeing to collaborate to further strengthen Japan-EU relations, while forging a relationship with the new leadership. The Foreign Minister also met with High Representative Mogherini at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Lubeck) in April and the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November, where they agreed to closely cooperate on the Iranian nuclear issue and the Ukraine crisis.

B Recent Development of the EU

As a step toward expansion and deepening of European integration, Lithuania became the 19th country to introduce the Euro in

January 2015. On the other hand, the influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe surged, which prompted the EU to take the issue seriously and express their determination to work in solidarity to resolve the situation. In November, an international summit to discuss migration and refugee issues between EU and African leaders took place in November at Valletta, Malta (Valletta Summit for migration), and a Political Declaration and Action Plan for an early solution of the issue were issued. At the EU-Turkey Summit meeting held in Brussels at the end of the month, the leaders committed to continuing humanitarian assistance to Turkey to resolve migration issues. They also agreed to revitalize the Turkey's accession negotiations with the EU, committing to advance the preparation for negotiations starting in the year 2016.

In July, EU High Representative Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif released the final agreement (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) between with EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China, and Russia) and Iran, playing an important role in a solution of the issue. In respect of the Ukraine crisis, the 2nd EU-Ukraine Association Council meeting was held in December. The officials confirmed the significance of cooperation in a solution for the issue and welcomed the progress in the situation.

In the security area, in June, EU High Representative Mogherini's initiative led to the European Council's decision to develop an EU Global Strategy as the EU's comprehensive security strategy.

Regarding the economy, a moderate economic recovery is holding up, supported by the low price of crude oil, a weak Euro, and monetary easing policy throughout the Euro area. In efforts for sustainable growth

by the European Commission, progress took place mainly in policies to stimulate investments, including the establishment of a legal framework for “Investment Plan for Europe,” the selection of investment projects, and the development of action plan for building a Capital Markets Union. Concerning the downside risks to the economy, there was serious concern about impacts of the Greece debt crisis on the European economy from the beginning of the year. The situation, however, has stabilized since the Government of Greece and the EU side reached an agreement on support program in August.

(2) United Kingdom

In the election of the House of Commons held in May, the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister David Cameron won a majority of the seats and his second administration was established as a single-party majority government of the Conservatives. Prime Minister Cameron intends to hold a referendum on June 23, 2016, on whether to remain in the EU or to leave. He aims to accomplish a reform of the EU till then and to remain in the EU. In November, Prime Minister Cameron submitted a plan of the EU reform consisting of the four pillars; “Economic governance (protecting the rights of non-euro members states, etc.),” “Competitiveness (Deregulations, etc.),” “Sovereignty (recognition that reference to “ever closer union” does not apply to the UK, and greater powers for national parliaments),” and “Social benefits and free movement (prevention of abuse of freedom of movement within the EU, restrictions on welfare benefits to immigrants).” Based on this reform plan, the UK hold negotiations with the EU and the European Council and reached an agreement at its meeting in February. Also, deciding



Prince William, communicating with local people in the quake-hit area (February 28, Fukushima; photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

how much power to devolve from the central government to Scotland is an important issue for the administration.

Both Japan and the UK have been strengthening bilateral ties through policy coordination and exchanges at various levels including prime ministers and foreign ministers. Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Cameron held summit meetings on the occasion of the G7 Summit in June and the G20 Summit in November. Foreign Minister Kishida met with UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on the occasion of the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in April. The Fourth Japan-UK Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue was held in August and the Fifth was held in January 2016 respectively in Tokyo. In February 2015, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) visited Japan. The Duke of Cambridge, together with Prime Minister Abe, visited the region affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. He was invited by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress for luncheon, and communicated with many people. In August, Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow visited Japan. He paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe and exchanged views with Speaker of the Houses of Representatives and the President of the House of Councilors.

In recent years, security and defense cooperation has been advanced between Japan and the UK. In November, the UK Government released a new “National Security Strategy (NSS)” and “Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR),” identifying Japan as “ally” and the “closest security partner in Asia.” Following the First UK-Japanese Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting held in London in January 2015, the second Meeting took place in Tokyo in January 2016. In this meeting, both parties confirmed that they would promote negotiations toward an early conclusion of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).

(3) France

With an unemployment rate exceeding 10%, the Hollande administration is working for economic recovery and job creation, aiming at fiscal consolidation, and promoting such measures as the liberalization of economic activities. The Government of France has been strengthening counter-terrorism measures in the wake of terrorist attacks against the office of a newspaper and others in Paris in January, and the simultaneous terror attacks in Paris in November causing 130 casualties. Regarding the issue of refugees coming from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe, the ruling Socialist Party announced that France would provide assistance including intake of 24,000 refugees over the two years. However, the ruling party lost in the prefectural assembly election in March and in the provincial election in December, in which the Front National Party that insists on capping the influx of migrants increased its seats.

On the diplomatic front, the Government of France intensified air raids in Syria due to the involvement of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the terrorist

attacks. Also, France hosted the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) Summit Meeting after the terrorist attacks in November. France demonstrated its leadership in adopting the Paris Agreement and played a significant role in taking measures for climate change.

As for its relations with Japan, Foreign Minister Kishida visited France and had a talk with French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius in January. In March, the second Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting was held in Tokyo. Both sides signed an agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology and confirmed further cooperation in the fields of security and defense. In October, Prime Minister Valls visited Japan, sharing the view to make greater cooperation in such fields as innovation, Africa and nuclear power. Taking this opportunity, the “Japan-France Innovation Year” was launched. In November, Prime Minister Abe visited France to attend the COP21 and held a meeting with President Hollande and Prime Minister Valls. They confirmed cooperation on such areas as counter-terrorism and climate change. Also, Prime Minister Abe laid flowers at the Bataclan theater, which was one of the sites of multiple terrorist attacks in Paris, in order to demonstrate solidarity with France.

(4) Germany

As the chair of the G7 Summit in 2015, Germany held the Elmau Summit in June, leading the discussions about the G7 countries’ response to the Ukraine crisis, situation in the Middle East and other issues. As a member of the Normandy format (Ukraine, Germany, France, and Russia), Germany has been proactively working on stabilization

Other European Regions

Under the a framework of "Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) + Japan," Japan is advancing collaboration in such fields as active participation by women, and innovation, with the aim of strengthening cooperation with Nordic and the Baltic states. Taking the opportunity of " World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW! 2015)" held in Tokyo in August, a "NB8+Japan" Meeting on active participation by women" was held.

Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8)

[Benelux countries]

The Netherlands: In November, PM Mark Rutte visited Japan. PM Abe and PM Rutte agreed to characterize the bilateral relations as a "strategic partnership." They agreed to strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including the consolidation of the rule of law, security, disarmament and non-proliferation, cybersecurity, and agriculture/horticulture. They also issued a joint statement that serves as a guideline for cooperation in the future.

Belgium: In January, FM Kishida visited Belgium and had talks with Deputy PM and FM Renders. In May, PM Michel visited Japan. He had an audience with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, had a meeting with PM Abe, and co-hosted an investment seminar with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which thus promoted bilateral relations between Japan and Belgium. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the two countries decided to celebrate the "150th Anniversary of Japan-Belgium Friendship" from December 2015 through December 2016 and to organize a variety of commemorative events.

Luxembourg: Luxembourg assumed the EU presidency in the latter half of 2015. In July, PM Bettel visited Japan and issued a Joint Statement on Economic Relations at the summit meeting with PM Abe. In line with this Statement, the Japan Business Federation visited Luxembourg in October. In November, the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held, in which FM Kishida also participated and had a meeting with FM Asselborn. In December, PM Abe visited Luxembourg on a bilateral basis for the first time as a Japanese PM, having a summit meeting with PM Bettel and paying a courtesy call on H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri. In the summit meeting, both leaders shared their views to advance cooperation in UN Security Council reform, counter-terrorism measures, and other areas.

In November, the 6th "V4+ Japan" Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Luxembourg. In this Meeting, they exchanged opinions regarding the situations in East Asia, the Middle East, and Ukraine. Both sides highly valued the framework of "V4 + Japan" which has generated particular achievements in fields including ODA and science and technology. They also agreed to promote cooperation further as a framework between partners that share the fundamental values.

Poland: In February President Komorowski visited Japan, having a summit meeting with PM Abe. They released a joint statement to upgrade the bilateral relations to the strategic partnership.

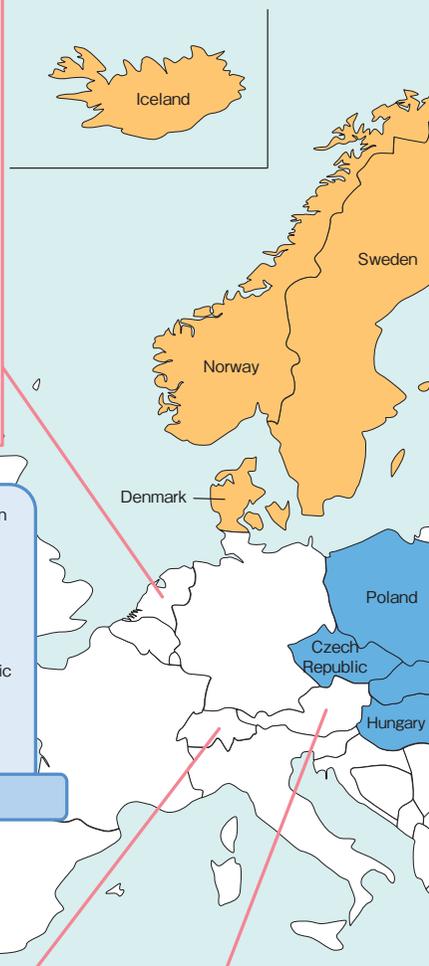
Slovakia: Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Lajcak visited Japan in November, having a meeting with FM Kishida. The two ministers agreed in principle to introduce a working holiday program between the countries.

Visegrad 4 (V4)

Portugal: As a result of the parliamentary election in October, the ruling alliance consisting of the Social Democratic Party and the Popular Party failed to gain a majority. A new administration led by Antonio Costa, the leader of Socialist party, was inaugurated. In relation with Japan, PM Passos Coelho visited Japan for the first time in 25 years as an incumbent prime minister in March, having a summit meeting with PM Abe. They shared views to promote security cooperation, in particular, focusing on maritime affairs.

Switzerland: Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Burkhalter visited Japan to attend the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in March, having talks with FM Kishida. It was a follow-up meeting after Mr. Burkhalter (then concurrently serving as President) visited Japan in 2014.

Austria: The 4th Japan-Austria Committee for Issues of the Future was held in Tokyo in October. The discussion topics covered security, international monetary structures, declining birthrates and graying society.



[Nordic Countries]

Sweden: In June, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado visited Sweden to attend the wedding ceremony between Prince Carl Philip and Sofia Hellqvist. In September, Speaker of the Parliament of Sweden Ahlin and bipartisan parliament members visited Japan and had a courtesy call on PM Abe. Also, active high-level visits at the minister level took place between the countries.

Denmark: In March, Crown Prince Frederik and Princess Mary visited Japan. They attended a lunch with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and a dinner with Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess. The year 2017 will mark the 150th Anniversary since diplomatic relations between Japan and Denmark were established.

[Baltic Countries]

Estonia: High-level visits continued to be seen with Estonia, including visits by Minister of Cabinet Office for Special Missions Yamaguchi in May and Economic Revitalization Minister Amari in October. In December, the second Consultation on Cybersecurity was held.

Latvia: FM Rinkevics visited Japan in October. During the ministerial meeting with FM Kishida, they discussed regional situations including Ukraine and cooperation via the framework of "NBB + Japan".

Lithuania: Commemorating the 75th anniversary since the former Vice Consul to Kaunas Chiune Sugihara issued Japan Transit Visas for Jewish refugees in 1940, memorial plates were set in place in September at two locations in Kaunas, the places associated with the visa issuance.

Belarus: In May State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visited the country. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muto had talks with Foreign Minister Makei at the meetings of OSCE Foreign Ministerial Council.

GUAM

In December, the Japan-GUAM Foreign Ministerial Meeting was held at the OSCE Foreign Ministerial Council in Belgrade, where the "Japan-GUAM Cooperation Program" was signed.

Moldova: Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Sula visited Japan in August, and Special Advisor to the PM Kimura visited Moldova in September. The Embassy of Moldova in Japan has opened in December, while the Embassy of Japan in Moldova has opened in January 2016.

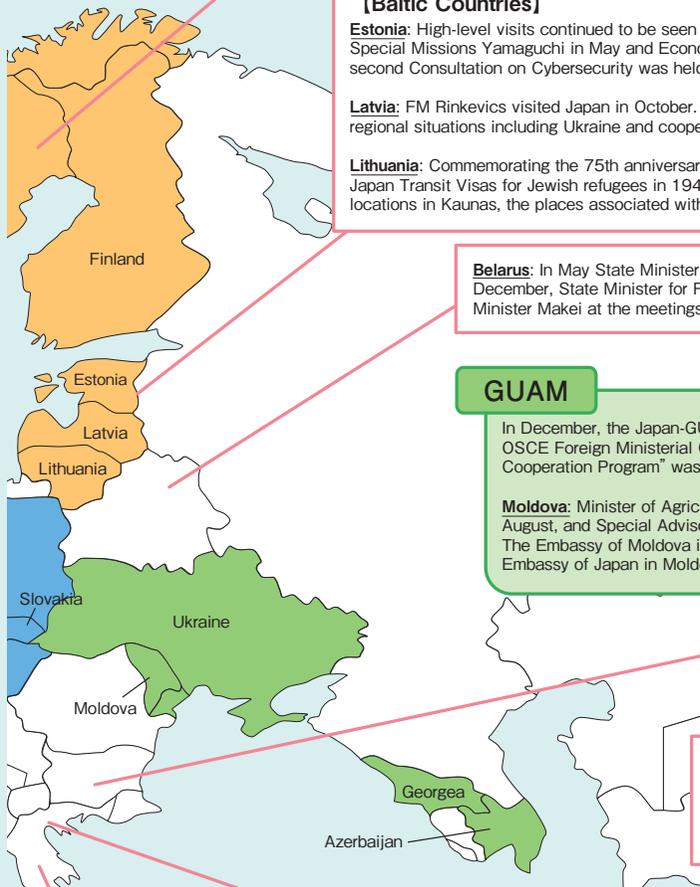
Bulgaria: Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Bulgaria in August, having talks with Vice Prime Minister Kuneva and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Todorova.

Cyprus: Cyprus has been divided between Greek Cypriots in the south and Turkish Cypriots in the north since 1974. A new, pro-unity Turkish Cypriot leader, Akinci was elected in April, 2015. The negotiation for reunification resumed after that and some progress has been made so far.

[West Balkan States]

Japan has a significant interest in the peace and development of the West Balkan region that affects stability in Europe and the world. The year 2015 saw many high-level visits between Japan and West Balkan states. From this region, Albanian FM Bushati (April) and Macedonian FM Poposki (October) visited Japan. At talks with FM Kishida, Japan stated that the country would support and assist the policy of the two countries to join the EU. In June, Croatian PM Milanovic visited Japan. At talks with PM Abe, he stated that he expressed his respect to Croatia, for overcoming the ethnic conflict at the time of independence, and for realizing EU accession in 2013. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in July, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muto visited Slovenia in November and Serbia in December. Discussions were held to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena. Since August 2015, the number of refugees who flowed into Europe from the Middle East and North Africa via the West Balkan region has surged. In these circumstances, Japan has decided to provide urgent humanitarian aid via an international agent amounting to 1.28 million US dollars to Serbia, Macedonia, and other states. The Government of Japan is now implementing aid to those non-members of EU that cannot expect to make use of the EU's safety net.

Greece: The Tsipras Administration, which was established after the general election in January, 2015, called for a re-examination of the austerity measures imposed by the EU, IMF and other creditors as a condition for financial support. This led to a stalemate in the negotiations for bailout and caused a fear of Greek default and exit from the Euro zone. However, Greece and the creditors were able to reach an agreement on the new bailout program in August. The Tsipras Administration has been implementing structural reforms including austerity measures since then, following the previous administration.



of Ukraine situation. In spite of the surging refugees, Chancellor Angela Merkel did not put quotas on the number of refugees entering Germany in 2015. The number continued to rise, totaling about 1.1 million refugees entering Germany throughout the year.

Also, Germany set forth a stance of actively contributing to the peace and stability of the international society. In response to the simultaneous terrorist attacks that took place in Paris in November, the German Bundestag approved deployment of the Federal Armed Forces to support military actions against ISIL in December.

Regarding the economy, Germany maintains a stable economy even after the European debt crisis and functions as a driving force of the European economy. In the area of manufacturing, Germany developed the “Industry 4.0” strategy that aims for more optimized and efficient production by connecting factories and companies, using common software. Germany has been increasing its economic influence in the international society.

As for its relations with Japan, Chancellor Merkel visited Japan in March, met with Prime Minister Abe and agreed to deepen cooperation in the international arena, such as issues on regional situations, Security Council reform, disarmament, and non-proliferation. Also, as the current and next-term chairs of the G7 Summit meetings, the two countries need to maintain close cooperation in dealing with various global issues. To this end, the two sides had multiple summit and foreign ministers’ meetings by utilizing occasions at the international conferences such as G20, after the Elmau Summit, which deepened the trusting relationships and increased the closeness between the two countries.

(5) Italy and Spain

In Italy, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi took office in February 2014, and has been continuously engaged in a series of structural reforms, ranging from revising election laws, revising the Constitution that would allow reforming the Senate, and improving the labor market. In February 2015, President Sergio Mattarella assumed office.

Expo Milano 2015 was held from May to October with the slogan “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life,” attracting 21.5 million visitors. Japan took part in this expo with the theme of “Coexisting Diversity.” The Japanese pavilion proved popular, attracting 2.28 million visitors, and winning the gold award for the best exhibition design.

As for relations with Japan, Prime Minister Renzi and his spouse visited Japan in August. He and his spouse were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and Prime Minister Renzi had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Foreign Minister Kishida had a talk with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni when he attended the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in April. The year 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Italy. Taking this opportunity, both countries will further advance cooperation.

The Rajoy administration of Spain has been working on fiscal and structural reform and its economy is making a gradual recovery. However, the approval ratings for the ruling party, “Partido Popular (People’s Party),” and the largest opposition party, “Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE),” have declined due to the high unemployment rate of young people and allegations of illegal fund operation. In December the Spanish general elections for both houses were held at the expiration

Column

Japan Pavilion won Gold Award at the Expo Milano 2015

teamLab founder ● Toshiyuki Inoko

teamLab took charge of two spaces called “HARMONY” and “DIVERSITY” in the Japan Pavilion at the Expo Milano 2015. “HARMONY” showed four seasons of terraced rice fields through a new immersive experience type visual space. In the “DIVERSITY” space, various pictures of Japanese food floated down in a digital waterfall. The audience was able to download and take home these images and their detailed information via smartphone by touching the floating pictures. By connecting a waterfall, as a symbolic art which could provide experience for the people in the same space simultaneously, to smartphones, we took on a challenge to realize the coexistence of sharing an excitement and convenience of accessing to information.

At the Expo, the Japan Pavilion was awarded Gold Award in the category for “exhibition design” for the first time in history. The harmony between nature and technology was said to be one of the reasons that led us to the Gold Award. Also, in the Pavilion Award, given by an American company EXHIBITOR Magazine, Inc., “HARMONY” was awarded “Best Presentation,” which we think greatly contributed to winning of the Gold Award.

To talk about “HARMONY” a little more, “paddy field” which is the original landscape of Japanese food, and typically represented by terraced rice fields, was developed in places where there is a difference in height, such as middle- and up-stream basins. It was also created by the coexistence of humankind and nature. In order to express that paddy fields were developed in places where there is a “difference in height” and to display “humankind living in coexistence with nature,” we filled the space with many screens representing rice grown at various heights from the level of waist to below knees, thereby creating an interactive visual space where the vision infinitely extends at a height between waist to knees. Images on the screens continue to change in accordance with the position and movement of people. You can experience the four seasons of Japan’s nature by entering the visual space as if you are stepping into a rice field.

Behind the scenes, there is the notion of “Spatial Objects,” which is the art concept proposed by the teamLab. To put it another way, it is a concept that you can go into a three-dimensional object, while still recognizing it as a three-dimensional object, by a new digital representation. Under such a new concept, we wanted people all over the world to experience a completely new feeling of immersion allowing them to go inside a physical work.



Japan Pavilion



“HARMONY”



“DIVERSITY”

of terms of office this period. The ruling People’s Party failed to win a majority of seats. Following the result of elections to the Parliament of Catalonia in September, pro-independence leader, Carles Puigdemont,

assumed office as a newly elected governor. Attention should be continuously paid to the movement of this Province toward independence.

In relations with Japan, there has been

continuous momentum of exchanges which was increased on the occasion of the “400th anniversary of exchanges between Spain and Japan” between 2013 and 2014. The year 2015 saw a more than 25% increase in the number of travelers between two countries at the end of September, compared with the year-earlier period.

(6) Ukraine

In February, the leaders of Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia agreed on a “Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements” including an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all heavy weapons. Although fighting intensified temporarily (in June and August) with sporadic battles after March, violations of the ceasefire decreased on the whole. The ceasefire was generally maintained in September and October. However, the number of ceasefire violation cases again increased from November to December.

In February, in response to Ukrainian economic downturn triggered by protracted conflicts, the IMF approved a support program to contribute approximately 17,500 million US dollars to Ukraine over four years. Donor states/organizations including Japan continued their economic and financial assistance to the country. Supported by the global community, Ukraine has been working for a range of domestic reforms, including anticorruption measures and economic reform.

Regarding diplomacy, Ukraine is paving the way towards European integration with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between the EU and Ukraine entering into force on January 1, 2016. On the other hand, the natural gas issue remains unsolved with Russia. By reversing flows of gas from Europe, Ukraine

is engaging in the diversification of energy supply sources.

Regarding relations with Japan, high-level communications increasingly took place; Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin visited Japan in March, and Prime Minister Abe visited Ukraine in June (the first-ever visit by an incumbent Japanese Prime Minister), and a Japan-Ukraine Summit Meeting was held in September. Bilateral relations also steadily advanced, with the Japan-Ukraine Investment Agreement coming into force in November, and the Third Meeting of the Japan-Ukraine Joint Committee for the Cooperation to Advance Aftermath Response to Accidents at Nuclear Power Stations was held. Regarding Japan's assistance to Ukraine, Japan pledged additional aid of 300 million US dollars in January. In August, the Government of Japan dispatched an expert to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), supporting Ukraine in both financial and personnel aspects.

2 Cooperation with European Regional Organizations

(1) Cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO is a military alliance aimed at collective defense of its 28 member countries. It also works on assistance to Afghanistan, anti-piracy measures off the coast of Somalia and other crisis management, prevention of conflict and stabilization after conflict outside the area in order to eliminate direct threats to the security of the territory and people of the member countries. In Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) retreated by the end of 2014, and the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) program started with an aim to aid capacity building



Foreign Minister Kishida talking with NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg (January 20, Belgium; NATO headquarters)

for the Afghan security forces from January 2015.

Japan and NATO are partners sharing basic values. Japan values cooperation with NATO in the context of practicing “Proactive Contribution to Peace.” In accordance with the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Program (IPCP) that was developed upon Prime Minister Abe’s visit to NATO Headquarters¹ in May 2014, concrete cooperation between Japan and NATO has been promoted. Including the visit by Foreign Minister Kishida to NATO in January 2015, Japan has participated in a range of events, such as the NATO Crisis Management Exercise (CMX), Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) and a cyberspace related exercise as an observer. In September, NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow visited Japan for a Japan-NATO Seminar to talk about the Japan-Europe security environment.

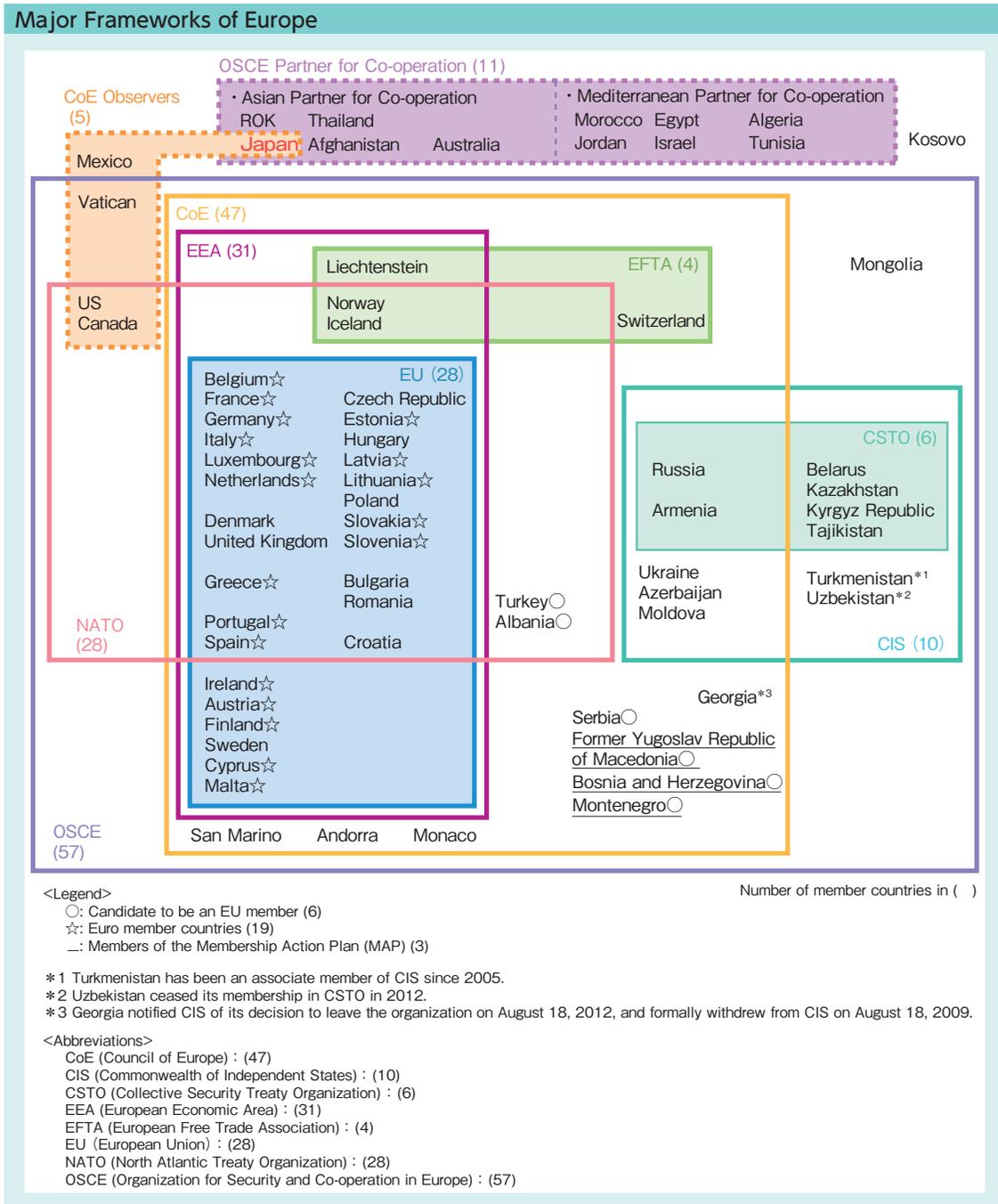
Japan also cooperates with NATO for stabilization of Afghanistan. Specifically, in addition to financial contribution to the development of Afghanistan, Japan supports

activities of healthcare and education for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) through contribution to the NATO ANA Trust Fund. Japan also contributes to disposal of unexploded bomb in Azerbaijan through the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP).

(2) Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE, which has 57 member countries from Europe, Central Asia and North America, is a regional security organization that aims to prevent conflicts and build confidence in the region through a comprehensive approach. Japan has been involved in OSCE activities as an “Asian Partner for Co-operation” since 1992. OSCE has been playing an important role for stabilization of the situation in Ukraine. Japan financially supports the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and has dispatched an expert to the SMM since August 2015. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoji Muto attended the Foreign Ministers’ meeting held in Belgrade (Serbia), where he stated that the security environment of Europe and Asia is indivisible. He also mentioned the importance of compliance with the basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the current situations of Ukraine and the East and South China Seas, and response to them and issued of terrorism, and refugees. Under the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, he expressed a firm determination to work with OSCE and member states for the peace and stability of the international community. Japan also supports other OSCE activities including

¹ In January 2007, Prime Minister Abe visited NATO headquarters for the first time as a Japanese prime minister; this is the second visit by a Japanese prime minister.



terrorism prevention by strengthening border management through contribution to Border

Management Staff College² and support to female entrepreneurs in Central Asia.

² Border Management Staff College (BMSC) provides training and education related to the latest concerns about border management, especially a comprehensive approach to safety, democratization reforms, and measures against trans-border threats to border management staff from OSCE members and partner countries.

(3) Cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE)

CoE is a regional organization of 47 member countries and fulfills an important role in establishing international standards in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As the only observer from Asia, Japan makes active contributions to various activities of CoE. Japan financially supported and dispatched experts “the Octopus

Conference 2015” which aims at promoting international cooperation to respond to cybercrime held in June (in Strasbourg, France). Japan also dispatched an expert to the fourth “World Forum for Democracy” (in Strasbourg) held in November.

Column

Seeking peace

~ A dispatch to the post of reporting officer for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine ~

The reporting officer of OSCE SMM ● Gosuke Horiguchi

A green breadbasket of wheat fields stretching as far as the horizon. Ukraine with such a scenery suddenly became a battlefield. Since April 2014, when the fighting started in the east of Ukraine, more than 9,000 people, including civilians, were killed and more than a million people were driven from their homes. Large-scale conflict was no longer seen after the ceasefire agreement reached in February 2015, but an unpredictable situation still continues with fighting occurring locally and sporadically.

Under such circumstances, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has dispatched approximately 700 civilian monitors to locations all over Ukraine, mainly to the eastern part, to monitor ceasefire regime and verify withdrawal of weapons. The Mission also facilitates adherence to the ceasefire to enable repair to essential infrastructure such as water and power supply facilities destroyed during shelling and demining of mines and unexploded ordnance.

I have been working as a reporting officer for the OSCE SMM since August 2015. The reporting officer compiles the reports from field teams in different regions of Ukraine into one report, which is a condensed version of all the reports. A report includes the status of implementation of the ceasefire agreement such as when and where shooting and shelling occurred and whether weapons has been withdrawn or not, as well as the social, economic and humanitarian situation in the conflict area, including the livelihood of residents. Daily reports, made by reporting officers, are published six times a week and available on the OSCE website. I found my work responsible and rewarding as any mistake is not allowed in my reports touching many people’s eyes.

I am the only Japanese national in the OSCE SMM. An Asian is an extremely rare presence in the OSCE where European and North American countries are participating, but I think I have been able to provide diversity to the world’s largest regional security organization, by presenting a different viewpoint. Furthermore, Japan shares with OSCE commitment such common values as the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In Ukraine, these values on which we had put importance so far were challenged. Such a situation is also present in Asia, where Japan is located. The situation over Ukraine is by no means a problem only in Europe, but presents an extremely important issue for the entire international community, including Asia. From this point of view, Japan is contributing toward the recovery of peace and stability in Ukraine, providing a financial support of two million euros to the OSCE SMM.

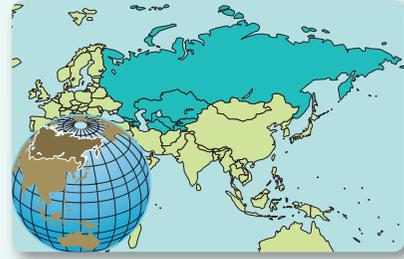
I hope I could do my bit for restoration of peace in the green breadbasket of wheat fields stretching as far as the horizon.



At the office of the OSCE SMM

Section 5

Russia, Central Asia and Caucasasia



Overview

Given the rapidly changing strategic environment of the Asia-Pacific region, developing relations with Russia as Japan's appropriate partner in the region contributes to Japan's national interest and regional peace and prosperity. With such understanding, there were dialogues at various levels in 2015, including two Summit Meetings, and Foreign Minister Kishida's visit to Russia (for the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 11th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues). In the field of security, the discussions were held over regional and international issues. On the economic front, there was progress in cooperation on energy (including energy saving), healthcare, agriculture and urban environment fields. As for the field of culture and human exchange, there was progress in a wide range of areas, including the Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Program and events to introduce Japanese culture.

Regarding the Northern Territories Issue, which is the greatest concern between Japan and Russia, vice-ministerial negotiations for the conclusion of a peace treaty were conducted for the first time in about one year and nine months, where both sides engaged in frank and detailed discussion on a variety of aspects of the issue including historical

and legal ones.

Japan and Russia have confirmed to proceed with preparation on president Putin's visit to Japan at the most appropriate time and continue their summit-level dialogues. While having further political dialogues and promoting overall Japan-Russia cooperation in every related field, Japan will energetically continue negotiations with Russia with a view to concluding a peace treaty, through the resolution of the Northern Territories issue.

Countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus are situated in a strategic geopolitical location that bridges Asia, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East, and have abundant natural resources such as oil, natural gas and minerals. Also, the region remains important in the context of efforts to address key issues the international community faces such as the stability of the whole region, the fight against terrorism, and measures to counter illicit drugs.

In October 2015, Prime Minister Abe visited five countries in Central Asia. The Prime Minister had summit meetings with leaders of the countries, confirming the fundamentally strengthening of bilateral ties, Japan's proactive involvement in the common issues in the Central Asia region, and cooperation in the global arena.

1 Russia

(1) Situation of Russia

A Internal situation in Russia

After the “annexation” of Crimea in March 2014, President Putin won the overwhelming backing of public opinion. President Putin maintained high approval ratings throughout the year 2015 even when the Russian economy was in predicament. However, as a result of the local and regional elections throughout the country, the ruling party “United Russia” had less votes than in the previous election, and some candidates from the “United Russia” were defeated in some constituent entities.

B Russian Economy

In 2015, the economic and financial situation of Russia which depends on natural resources such as oil and natural gas deteriorated due to international slump in crude oil price and also the sanction against Russia by the U.S., the EU and other nations over Ukrainian situation. The ruble which dropped against the US dollar in the latter half of 2014 and slightly improved in the first half of 2015. However, it again weakened due to a slump in the crude oil prices in the latter half of 2015, amounting to around 50% drop from June 2014. Inflation, particularly for food, remains high as well and reached 12.9% in 2015.

In this situation, domestic investment and consumption declined and growth rate was minus 3.7% in 2015. The budget deficit of 2015 swelled to 1.95 trillion rubles (2.6% in the GDP ratio), and the reserve fund which was spent to cover budget deficit also dropped by approximately 40% year-to-date on a dollar basis.

C Russian Diplomacy

By the exchanges of sanctions and countermeasures over the Ukrainian situation, as well as the confrontation in the fields of missile defense, the relation between Russia and Europe/U.S. is regarded as being at the worst level after the Cold War. Although limited cooperation has proceeded in international security field including the Iranian nuclear issue and the situation in Syria, there is no sign of fundamental improvement of the relationship.

On the other hand, regarding China, Russia highlighted close relationship by frequent mutual visits between the leaders (including participation in the war victory ceremonies of both countries). In the field of military, Russia also deepened cooperation with China by conducting joint military exercises two times annually for the first time in 2015 and by concluding the contract of exporting latest weapon. In the international arena, Russia also cooperated with China in multinational frameworks, such as the UN, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Russia established the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in January for promoting economic integration with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which is a top priority area for its foreign policies. At the same time Russia also coordinates to realize association of EAEU and the Silk Road Economic Belt which has been promoted by China in Central Asia.

In the Middle East, Russia launched airstrikes in Syria to response the request from the Assad Administration in September. Although tensions were heightened between Russia and Turkey by crashing a Russian fighter jet, Russia is working together with the U.S. and UN in leading the International Syria Support Group (ISSG).

(2) Japan-Russia Relations

A Japan-Russia Relations in the Asia-Pacific Region

In recent years, Russia places importance on the development of the Russian Far East and the East Siberia and has been proactively enhancing relations with the states in the Asia-Pacific region that is a center of the growth of global economy. The development of the relations with Russia as a partner in the Asia-Pacific region contributes not only to Japan's national interests but also to peace and prosperity of the region. Japan and Russia have developed cooperative relations in various fields including security, economy and human exchange; whereas, the Northern Territories Issue restricts development of Japan-Russia relations. While placing importance on close relations between the leaders and foreign ministers, the Government of Japan is strenuously working to resolve the issue and conclude a peace treaty with Russia.

B The Northern territories and Negotiations for a Peace treaty

The Northern Territories Issue is the greatest concern between Japan and Russia. Japan's position is that the four Northern Islands belong to Japan. The Government of Japan has been energetically continuing negotiations with Russia under its consistent policy of concluding a peace treaty with Russia through the resolution of the issue of the attribution of the four Northern Islands on the basis of the agreements and documents made by the two sides so far, such as the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration of 1956,



Japan-Russia Summit Meeting (November 15, Antalya, Turkey; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the Tokyo Declaration of 1993, the Irkutsk Statement of 2001, and the principles of law and justice.¹

While international situation surrounding Russia has been complicated, negotiations for the conclusion of a peace treaty also face difficulties. In summer of 2015, in addition to Prime Minister Medvedev's visit to Etorofu Island, Russia repeatedly made unilateral actions and comments regarding the Northern Territories Issue, against which the Government of Japan made strong protests at various levels. Russia also continues its activities in the Northern Territories, for example, improving military facilities and updating its equipment. Amidst all of this, Foreign Minister Kishida visited Moscow in September and held the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers Meeting. He provided a clear explanation of Japan's position on the Northern Territories Issue and reiterated the protest against Russian unilateral actions and comments in connection with the Northern Territories. An in-depth discussion took place between the foreign ministers, and the negotiations for the conclusion of a

¹ Way back when the Soviet Union continued denying the presence of a territorial issue itself, Foreign Minister Ohira proposed to refer the Northern Territories Issue to the International Court of Justice in October 1972, which Foreign Minister Gromyko of the Soviet Union turned down. At present, the Russian side admits the necessity to conclude a peace pact through bilateral negotiations with Japan, engaging in negotiations for the solution of the issue.

peace treaty which had been temporarily-suspended, were resumed. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting held during the UN General Assembly session in the same month, the two leaders agreed to advance negotiations. Following these meetings, in October, for the first time in about one year and nine months, vice-ministerial peace treaty negotiations were conducted in Moscow. Both sides engaged in frank and detailed discussion on a variety of aspects of the issue including historical and legal ones. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting which was held during the G20 Summit Meeting in Turkey in November, the leaders had a candid exchange of views toward achieving a solution acceptable to both sides based on the agreement concluded when Prime Minister Abe visited Russia in April 2013. Regarding future political dialogue, they also affirmed that they will advance preparation toward President Putin's visit to Japan at the most appropriate time, and that they will continue to engage in dialogue at the summit level.

Japan is actively working on projects contributing to improvement of atmosphere for resolution of the Northern Territories Issue, such as the four-islands exchange program, free visits and visit to graves. Japan is also promoting cooperation such as disaster prevention and ecosystem conservation in adjacent areas of the two countries including the four Northern Islands.

In spite of approaches by Japan in advance, a law to prohibit driftnet fishery in the waters of Russia came into force on January 1, 2016. Following this, the Government of Japan is approaching the Russian side in order that Japanese fishermen can continue to operate their fishery of salmon using an alternative fishing method.

C Japan-Russia Economic Relations

Japan-Russia trade volume in 2015 amounted to approximately 20.9 billion US dollars, declining for the second straight year since the record high in 2013 (about 34.8 billion dollars) (38.8% decrease over the previous year, according to Japanese statistics). This was because the whole Russian trade volume significantly shrank throughout the year 2015 due to the Russian stagnant economy and the declining prices of oil/natural gas which account for the largest share of its exports (33.0% decrease over the previous year, according to Russian statistics). The volume of Japanese direct investment to Russia also decreased from the record-high 26.33 billion yen in 2013 to 20.26 billion yen in 2014. The Government of Japan intends to promote development of Japan-Russia economic relations in such a way to contribute to the interest of Japanese companies.

In 2015 the 11th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues was held in Moscow in September, and the 5th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Advisory Council on Modernization of the Russian Economy was held in Tokyo in October. Representatives of Japanese companies also participated in them, and the Government of Russia was encouraged to solve problems that those companies face in their business in Russia. The Japan-Russia Business Roundtable meetings were held by business participants from the two countries at the 19th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg in June and the 1st Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September. They had vigorous discussions for the development of Japan-Russia economic relations.

In respect of individual fields, there is a

range of ongoing projects involving Japanese companies. In the energy field, the Sakhalin projects, in which Japanese companies participate, produce oil and natural gas to be exported to Japan. LNG projects involving Japanese companies are also currently in progress in the Russian Far East and the Yamal Peninsula. In Kamchatskiy Krai and the Sakha Republic in Russia, demonstration experiments on small-scale wind electric system projects have been conducted. In the healthcare field, there is a movement to promote Japan's medical technology export. For example a training center equipped with Japan's advanced medical equipment opened in Moscow. In the agricultural field, projects utilizing Japan's agricultural technologies, including the construction of vegetable factories, are in progress. As for the urban environment, the Government of Japan is promoting cooperation for joint projects by Japanese and Russian companies, including urban development, wooden buildings, and waste disposal treatment, through exchange of opinions in government-level working group.

In addition, Japan Centers in six cities in Russia support the business activities of the companies of both countries and inter-regional economic exchanges. They offer training programs, such as management courses, Japanese language classes, and training in Japan for the people who are expected to play a significant role in Japan-Russia economic relations. A total of some 73,000 Russian people have taken the courses and about 4,700 of them have visited Japan for training.

D Cooperation between Japan and Russia in Various Fields

Japan and Russia aim at ensuring communication between authorities in a

range of fields. In 2015, the discussions held between diplomatic authorities from the two countries covered such areas as cyberspace, terrorism, consular services, the Middle East, disarmament and non-proliferation, and the UN. A training project for drug control officers from Afghanistan was also implemented with participation of experts from Japan and Russia. In the security field, Secretary General Yachi of the National Security Secretariat met with Secretary Patrushev of the Security Council in July and September. Cooperation in the security field also continued. For example, a Japan-Russia joint search and rescue exercise by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Russian Navy and a joint exercise by Japan Coast Guard patrol ships and Russian sea rescue authorities. As for human exchange, in the framework of the Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Program, exchange programs were actively conducted at student level, including the Japan-Russia Student Forum 2015, as well as in the field of sports and culture. In September the projects implemented numbered 300, exceeding 5,000 participants in total. From the viewpoint of culture, a lot of events introducing Japanese traditional and contemporary culture were held in many cities in Russia, including tea ceremony demonstration by Urasenke Grand Tea Master, Sen Soshitsu.



Japan-Russia Student Forum 2015 (December 4, Tsukuba University; Photo: Japan Russia Youth Exchange Center)

2 Central Asian and Caucasian Countries

(1) Central Asian Countries

As a part of Japan's foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map, Prime Minister Abe visited five countries in Central Asia from October 22 to 28, 2015. Prime Minister Abe visited Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for the first time in nine years, and the visits to Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan were the first visits ever as a Prime Minister of Japan. The visits included summit meetings with the presidents of the countries, the announcement of joint bilateral statements, and the offering of flowers to the cemetery of Japanese detainees. Through these events, the leaders confirmed the bond between Japan and Central Asia.

To conclude the visits, Prime Minister Abe made a policy speech in Kazakhstan, the last destination, regarding Japan's basic policy on diplomacy towards Central Asia. There, he presented a three-point message as regards Japan's foreign policy toward Central Asia, consisting of (1) strengthening relations dramatically with nations of Central Asia, (2) Japan's active involvement to resolve the challenges faced universally by the Central Asia region, and (3) deepening the partnership between Japan and Central Asia on the global stage. Also, all of the five states welcomed Japan's foreign policy that helps Central Asia achieve an "open, stable, and autonomous development" and contributes to the peace and stability of the region and world. In particular, Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov stated that he highly valued Japan's diplomacy based on Proactive Contribution to Peace.

The private companies and university officials accompanying this visit numbered fifty groups. Business forums took place in

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Total of 87 public and private documents were signed and each of the forums were attended by Prime Minister Abe and his counterparts, thus backing Japanese companies to develop their business in Central Asia.

In March, before the Prime Minister Abe's visit to Central Asia, a symposium titled "Chance and Challenge: Looking for the future in Central Asia" had been held to raise public awareness of Central Asia among Japanese citizens.

Japan's relations with each of the countries in Central Asia have been generally favorable. The following visits were made from Japan to Central Asia; Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (April), Uzbekistan (July) and Turkmenistan (August); State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Daishiro Yamagiwa visited Turkmenistan (June); Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Keisuke Suzuki visited Uzbekistan (September); Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko visited Turkmenistan (December) to attend the 20th anniversary ceremony of the Neutrality of Turkmenistan. From Central Asia, President



Prime Minister Abe giving a policy speech (October 27, Kazakhstan; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of Turkmenistan Berdimuhamedov visited Japan to participate in the meeting of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, March). In addition, there were active high-level visits including the visits to Japan by the following persons: Uzbekistan First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Azimov (January), Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Hojamuhamedov (July), Uzbekistan Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade Minister Ganiev (October), and Turkmenistan Railways and Transportation Minister Anna Meredev (December).

(2) Caucasian countries

The relations with Caucasian countries were further strengthened as well. As for Georgia which shares values of liberty and democracy with Japan and seeks integration with Europe, Japan began to call the country “Georgia” in place of “Gruzia” last April. In May, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Georgia, and formally exchanged verbal notes regarding the measures to exempt diplomatic visas between the two countries. In November, Georgian Defense Minister Tinatin Khidasheli visited Japan.

With abundant natural resources, Azerbaijan leads the economy of the Caucasus area. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi (January), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Taro Aso (May) (attending the general meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)), and Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization Akira Amari (October) visited the country. From



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso's meeting with Azerbaijan President Aliyev (May 4, Azerbaijan; Photo: Finance Ministry)

Azerbaijan, Speaker of the National Assembly Ogtay Asadov (April) and Vice Prime Minister Ali Shamil Oglu Hasanov (August) visited Japan. The bilateral relations were enhanced through these increasingly active high-level mutual visits.

Armenia enjoys rich human resource, particularly in the IT field. In January, at the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Armenia, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visited the country. A variety of related events took place both in Tokyo and Yerevan to commemorate the opening of the Embassy enhancing momentum for bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Caucasian countries are burdened with disputes over territories including South Ossetia and Abkhazia² in Georgia, and the Nagorno-Karabakh Problems³ between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which still cause tensions among the countries involved. Although efforts toward resolution have been made, any progresses are still invisible.

² In August 2008, an armed conflict took place between Georgia and South Ossetia; the latter was aiming for separation and independence from the former. Russia intervened in the dispute, which led to a military conflict between Georgia and Russia. About one week after the conflict occurred, France, which was then EU president, and other states acted as mediators and brought about a ceasefire. Based on the agreement reached at that time, international conferences have been held in Geneva to discuss security and humanitarian issues among parties concerned.

³ Most of the residents living in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh area, who requested belonging to Armenia rather than Azerbaijan. This led to a dispute between the two countries following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Armenia had occupied almost the entire region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding seven areas by 1993. In 1994, the two countries agreed to a ceasefire through the intermediation of Russia and the OSCE; however, conflict with casualties has been repeated until now. Since 1999, an intermediation of the OSCE Minsk group has allowed direct talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan at various levels, including their leaders and foreign ministers.

Section 6

The Middle East and North Africa



Overview

The Middle East and North African region is situated in a geopolitically important location at the intersection of Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia. This region contains a major international maritime route for international commerce, and is also an important supplier of energy resources, including oil and natural gas, to the rest of the world. On the other hand, this area is facing a number of challenges that destabilize the region, such as the expansion of extremists including Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the mass refugee outflows, the crisis in Syria, the worsening situation surrounding Iraq, the Iranian nuclear issue, the Middle East Peace Process, and the conditions in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Libya. Realizing peace and stability in this region that confronts these challenges is of great importance for the international community as a whole, including Japan. The global community is also working on the solution to this issue.

Japan relies on this region for more than 80% of its crude oil imports, and has developed relations with the Middle East and North Africa region countries (hereafter referred to as the “Middle East region countries”) that have been centered on resources and energy. Considering such development, Japan builds a more multi-layered relationship that

encompasses resources and energy, as well as wide-ranging economic cooperation, politics and security, and culture and people-to-people exchanges. Since the inauguration of the second Abe administration in December 2012, Prime Minister Abe visited this region six times. Under the concept of the “running mate of the Middle East,” the Government of Japan has made efforts for strengthening the relations with the region through a number of high-level visits, meetings, and talks.

The expansion of extremists including ISIL has been not only significantly undermining the order in the Middle East region but also posing great concern to the entire global society. In a speech on Japan’s policy regarding the Middle East by Prime Minister Abe in January and on other occasions, Japan has indicated its intention to support the construction of societies that do not generate extremism. With the spirit of “the best way is in the middle,” the Government of Japan has provided humanitarian assistance for the refugees and internally displaced persons, the improvement of infrastructure, and the development of human resources. At the same time, Japan severely criticized the despicable acts of terrorism caused by ISIL and other organizations and expressed support for the fight against terrorism in the international community.

The expansion of ISIL has caused a massive influx of refugees from Syria and Iraq to the

European region. During the General Debate at the UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Abe expressed support of approximately 810 million US dollars to the refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria, Iraq and neighboring countries. In addition, in January 2016, the Government of Japan decided to provide support of about 350 million US dollars for programs including vocational training and food support to Syria, Iraq and neighboring countries.

Regarding the situation in Syria, Japan has repeatedly expressed at international conferences since 2014 that its contribution centers mainly on humanitarian assistance and political dialogue. In 2015, Japan also provided many assistance programs, including yen loans to Turkey and Jordan, which have been affected by the influx of refugees from Syria. The assistance that Japan has provided to Syria, Iraq and their neighboring countries exceeds 1.2 billion US dollars since 2011, when the crisis in Syria took place.

In relation to the Middle East Peace Process, Japan urged the resumption of peace talks on many occasions, including summit meetings held at the time of Prime Minister Abe's visit to Israel and Palestine in January, and at the summit meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris in November. Furthermore, Japan has made steady progress on its unique efforts to support Palestine, including the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative and the Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).

In July, Iran and the EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China, and Russia) announced the final agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. Following the final agreement,

Japan will further strengthen relations with Iran through such means as cooperation to encourage the steady implementation of the final agreement by Iran and the conclusion of the bilateral investment agreement.

In recent years, the Middle East countries have achieved steady economic development with the rapidly growing youth population serving as its driving force and have been increasing their presence as a consumer market and an investment destination. Therefore, Japan has been working on establishing legal frameworks, such as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), Free Trade Agreements (FTA), investment agreements, and social security agreements, which are foundations for strengthening the economic and business relationships with the Middle East countries. Additionally, Japan has been promoting infrastructure projects in the region. When Prime Minister Abe visited the Middle East region, he was accompanied by an economic delegation comprised of companies from various industries and business categories, from large to medium and small enterprises. This delegation actively made a pitch on Japan's strengths to the leaders and the business community of each country.

1 Iraq

Following the end of the military operation in Iraq in 2003, Iraq has been working on the new nation-building. At the same time, the Government of Iraq put the priority on fighting against terrorism, realizing the national reconciliation among all domestic parties, and handling of financial difficulty due to the drop in oil prices.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has occupied some areas in the northern and western parts of Iraq. The Abadi



administration continued to fight against ISIL and recaptured Tikrit over March and April, while ISIL seized control of Ramadi in May. The fight against ISIL continued a seesaw battle. However, in the latter half of 2015, the Government of Iraq recaptured Baiji at the end of October, and the military units, mainly Peshmerga forces, liberated Sinjar in November. The Government of Iraq has advanced its operations for sweeping ISIL such as regaining control of Ramadi in February 2016.

Prime Minister Abadi intends to work on elimination of the dispute among religious sects and ethnic groups that, in part, triggered ISIL's aggression, hence to promote reconciliation among all domestic parties. Nevertheless, national reconciliation efforts have not delivered a notable achievement at the national level, as indicating the fact that enactment of the important bills such as national guard bill to promote the establishment of so-called Sunni security forces, is postponed. In order to respond to answer the call the Iraqi people and to garner support to the administration, Prime

Minister Abadi issued a Prime Minister's decree in August regarding the reforms in areas such fields as administration and fiscal management. The purpose of this decree is to ensure prosecution and inspection of these personnel involved in corruption, and streamline government function by integrating and abolishing government organizations. However, it will take time for the reforms to be actually implemented.

Iraq is an oil-based economy with approximately 90% of its annual revenue depending on oil. The drop in oil prices and enormous costs of fight against ISIL posed to serious financial difficulties to causing disruptions of its basic administrative services, such as electricity and water. Under the economic structure heavily dependent on oil revenue, however, the government has yet to work out effective counter-measures.

Japan has been maintaining and strengthening a good relationship with Iraq after the end of the military operation in Iraq in 2003. From February to March, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Baghdad, Basra, and Erbil to exchange views with government officials, and explained Japan's unwavering support for Iraq's fight against extremism.

In October, members of the Japan-Iraq Parliamentary Friendship Association (Chairperson Yuriko Koike: member of the House of Representatives) visited Bagdad when they met Iraqi lawmakers and government officials to enhancement of Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries. Furthermore, in November, the 6th Japan-Iraq Knowledge-Sharing Seminar was held with the aim of promoting reconciliation and rehabilitation in Iraq. Six Iraqi parliamentary members who were from different religious sects were invited.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura, visiting a refugee camp at Baharka in the suburbs of Erbil and talking with internally displaced persons (March 15, Iraq)

Japan's experiences of democratization, peace and reconstruction has been shared with the members through the visits to Kyoto and Hiroshima in addition to the talks with government high-level official.

In November, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jafari visited Japan and had a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Kishida. The two ministers candidly exchanged their views regarding the fight against ISIL, Syria and regional affairs. Foreign Minister Kishida stated that Japan will support the Government of Iraq, which stands on the front lines of the fight against terrorism and strives to move steadily toward national reconciliation and domestic reforms. He also expressed that Japan will continue to support Iraq in areas including of humanitarian assistance, nation-building and human resource development.

2 Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic has seen a continued violent conflict among the Syrian Government, the so-called moderate rebels, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL),

Islamic extremist forces including the Nusra Front, and Kurdish forces. Since September 2014, American troops and other forces have engaged in air raids targeting ISIL, etc., in the territory of Syria, while Russia, requested by the Syrian Government, launched air strikes inside the territory of Syria at the end of September 2015.

To stabilize the situation surrounding Syria, Japan believes the issues have to be basically solved politically in line with the "Geneva Communiqué¹." At the same time, Japan also attaches the importance to continuous support to stave off further aggravation of the situation. From this standpoint, following the aggravated situation in Syria, Japan has provided assistance worth more than 1.2 billion US dollars to Syria, Iraq and neighboring countries by 2015. Since assuming the UN Security Council non-permanent member in 2016, Japan has contributed to the discussion regarding the issue at the UN Security Council. Japan intends to continue its efforts for the improvement and stabilization of the situation surrounding Syria, mainly through humanitarian support which is Japan's strength in closely coordination together with other members of UN Security Council and the international community.

Regarding humanitarian assistance, the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria (Kuwait III) was held on March 31, 2015, in Kuwait. At the conference Japan announced additional financial assistance of approximately 509 million US dollars in total. This figure includes the yen loan program of the Government of Japan amounting to about 370 million US dollars which is earmarked to improve the

¹ This document was adopted at the Action Group for Syria ("Geneva 1" meeting) on June 30, 2012. It includes the process of administration transition in Syria, including the establishment of a transitional governing body.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muto, announcing a statement at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference (February 4, 2016, London, UK)

infrastructure of local authorities in Turkey, which has been affected by the influx of Syrian refugees. In May, Japan provided a yen loan program amounting to about 200 million US dollars for the stabilization of the economy and finances of Jordan, which has also been affected by the Syrian refugees. While the number of refugees from Syria exceeded four million as of the middle of July, Japan decided to provide assistance of about 12 million US dollars in total to Syrian refugees, internally displaced people, and the host communities by September mainly through international agencies and NGOs in Japan. Furthermore, at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference held in London in February 2016, Japan made an announcement that it will newly provide assistance amounting to about 350 million US dollars to Syria, Iraq and neighboring states. Amid the prolonged crisis, Japan has provided not only short-term assistance to Syria such as health, hygiene and food, but also mid- to long-term assistance such as education and vocational training for self-reliance of repatriated refugees, improvement of living environment for refugees and host communities and infrastructure development. As Prime Minister Abe stated at the UN

General Assembly at the end of September, Japan will work on the assistance through the collaboration between humanitarian and development actors.

The political process in Syria was halted. In 2015, the necessity of a political solution to the crisis in Syria was recognized again in the wake of the influx of many refugees and immigrants including Syrian refugees into Europe, and Russia's launch of air strikes in Syria. During October and November, several foreign ministers' meetings regarding on Syria were held in Vienna. In the meeting held on November 14, a statement was released by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to ensure political transition led by Syria under the UN. Based on this, an ISSG meeting was held in New York on December 18. On the same day, the UN Security Council resolution 2254, the first resolution regarding a political process after the crisis in Syria, was adopted unanimously. The Resolution requested the Secretary-General to convene representatives from the Syrian Government and the opposition groups to engage in formal negotiation with a target of early January 2016 for the initiation of talks. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the UN Security Council within one month after the adoption of the Resolution regarding options for ceasefire monitoring, verification, and reporting mechanisms. Thus, it called upon the implementation the Syrian-led political process under the UN based on "Geneva Communiqué" of June 2012 and the statement by ISSG on November 14, 2015.

The issue of chemical weapons (CW) is handled in accordance with the decision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in September 2013 and the UN Security Council Resolution 2118 on September 27. The destruction work

was almost complete for the chemical agents and compounds that had been transferred outside Syria by June 2014. The removal work is also close to completion at CW production facilities inside Syria. Chlorine has been used repeatedly as a weapon in Syria. Subject to the UN Security Council Resolution 2235 in August 2015, a UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism was established to identify persons responsible for use of chemical weapons in Syria.

3 Iran

Iran is a major power with a large number of Shia-Muslim population. It has approximately 4.4 times the size of Japan with a population of about 80 million, and is blessed with abundant natural resources. Japan has maintained and strengthened a historically friendly relationship with Iran from the viewpoints of stable supply of crude oil and the stability of the Middle East region. With regard to the Iranian nuclear issue, Japan has been contributing to a peaceful and diplomatic solution of the issue in coordination with the international community from its unique position.

The Rouhani administration, which took office in August 2013 engaged in the negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue with the EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China, and Russia). In November, the Government of Iran released the “Joint Plan of Action,” which consisted of “elements of a first step” and “elements of the final step of a comprehensive solution.” The negotiations aimed at a comprehensive agreement started from February 2014. In April 2015, the parties reached an agreement regarding the main elements which would then serve as a basis for the final agreement. In July,

they have reached an agreement on “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)” in Vienna.

In order to resolve the regional and international issues including the nuclear issue, Japan has been urging Iran to promote confidence-building with international community and the regional countries, and to play a constructive role in stabilizing the region. Also, Japan has been reinforcing traditional relations with Iran through the framework of high-level political exchange and multi-layered dialogue. Japan-Iran Summit Meeting was held on the margin of the Asia-Africa Conference in Jakarta in April 2015. A summit meeting was also held at the UN General Assembly for the fourth time (in New York, US) in September. In October 2015, Foreign Minister Kishida made second visit to Iran for the first time in two years. A joint statement was issued following the (fifth) meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Zarif, in which the ministers confirmed to cooperate in such fields as nuclear safety, to sign and put into force the Japan-Iran Investment Agreement (which reached substantial agreement in the same month) as early as possible, and to establish the Japan-Iran Cooperation Council. At the visit, Foreign Minister Kishida had talks with President Hassan Rouhani, as well as meetings with economy-related ministers with the participation of the business executives from Japan (consisting of the representatives from about 20 companies).

In addition to the existing dialogue, the fields of cooperation has been expanding with active cooperation based on memoranda between health and environment authorities of both countries and with “Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education and Scientific Research” being signed.

There were also active high-level visits from Iran were also actively arranged with a view to further strengthen the bilateral relationship: Minister of Health Seyed Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi in February, Minister of Science, Research and Technology Mohammad Farhadi in October, and Vice-President and Head of Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi in November.

4 Afghanistan

At the end of September 2014, the National Unity Government (NUG) was inaugurated after agreeing a power-sharing arrangement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. The NUG continues to face significant challenges in 2015.

Securing the self-reliance of and stability in Afghanistan is crucially important for the stability of the entire international community including Japan and the prosperity of the region. However, there have been frequent terrorist attacks by the armed insurgencies including Taliban. On September 28, the Taliban conducted intense attacks to Kunduz (the Afghanistan's fifth largest city) in northeastern Afghanistan and temporarily captured the city. There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). At the beginning of 2015, the "Resolute Support Mission (RSM)" started its operations by succeeding the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). RSM provides training and advice to ANDSF with about 13,000 foreign military personnel from NATO member states including the U.S. as well as other partner countries.

The NUG has pursued reconciliation with the Taliban in order to achieve long-term

stability in the country, however, there have not been major achievements. On July 8, a peace talk between the Taliban and the Government of Afghanistan was convened through mediation by Pakistan. On July 29, it was announced that Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Omar had died more than two years ago and this was later confirmed by the Taliban. Confusions after this announcement led to postponing of the second round of the peace talks which were already-scheduled. On December 2, there was a media report saying that the new Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor was reportedly injured in an internal fight. This might suggest a problem in solidarity inside the Taliban.

In terms of the governance, the appointment process of new ministers was delayed after the inauguration of the NUG. The important position of the NUG's defense minister has been vacant because the lower house did not approve the nomination to this day only acting Defense Minister has been appointed. Due to the delay in electoral system reform, the parliamentary election was yet to be held even after the expiration of the term of for the members of the lower house representatives in June.

Contrary to the efforts by the Government of Afghanistan for realizing economic self-reliance by improving security situation and combating corruption, the GDP growth for 2014 slowed down to 1.3% (3.7% for the previous year). Also, the employment situation was not improved. Pervasive frustration in the general public has been clearly observed. For example, a massive anti-government protest took place in the capital, Kabul, on November 11.

In efforts to support Afghanistan's self-reliance and prevent it from slipping back to

a hotbed of terrorism, Japan has provided a total of 5.9 billion US dollars assistance mainly in the fields of security and development since 2001.

5 Middle East Peace Process

(1) Developments in Middle East Peace Process

The U.S. mediation led to direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine from July 2013 to April 2014. However, they faltered in the face of a wide gap in the positions of the two sides, and the negotiations have been discontinued since then.

On December 30, 2014, the UN Security Council rejected the Security Council resolution about the Middle East peace process. Following this, Palestine applied for membership of some international treaties, including the International Criminal Court in January 2015. The Israel side took countermeasures (which were withdrawn later).

Under such circumstances, local security has been worsening in Israel and at the West Bank since around September; murder and injury cases against Israelis by Palestinians and frequent collisions around Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem took place. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has been deteriorating as well.

The international community urged both Israel and Palestine to resume the negotiations at an early date. In particular, France called for forming an “International Support Group” in an attempt to break through the status quo the Middle East faces. Based on this attempt as well, the meeting of the enlarged Middle East Quartet was held at the time of the UN General Assembly in September. Foreign Minister Kishida attended this meeting as a



Dome of the Rock in “Haram al-Sharif”



Agricultural processing complex project in Jericho, Palestine



The Gaza Strip, apparently lagging behind in the pace of rehabilitation

representative of the Government of Japan, stressing that the issue of Middle East peace is one of the top priority issues for this region. He also made clear that Japan will provide new assistance to Palestine in the magnitude of about 12 million US dollars, and that it is necessary to get a range of countries involved

in the peace process.

(2) The Japanese Government's Efforts

In cooperation with the international community, Japan approached Israel and Palestine to achieve a “two-state solution.” Political dialogues were conducted at all levels involving the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and special envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East peace. Japan also endeavored to contribute to confidence-building between Israel and Palestine by inviting relevant people from both sides to Japan.

In January, Prime Minister Abe met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel and President Mahmond Abbas in Palestine, directly urging both leaders to advance the process for a solution to the Middle East issue. In November, Prime Minister Abe further urged Prime Minister Netanyahu to work with the process when he attended COP21 held in Paris. When Foreign Affairs Minister Riad Malki visited Japan in February, Foreign Minister Kishida encouraged his counterpart to deal flexibly with the issue and resume the negotiations at an early date.

Japan's support for Palestine since 1993 amounts to 1.6 billion US dollars, covering humanitarian support, job creation, healthcare, agriculture, and a variety of fields. The “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” initiative is Japan's unique effort to address Palestine's economic self-sustainability specifically in cooperation with Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. A flagship project of this initiative is Jericho Agro-industrial Park, for which the Government of Japan accelerates its efforts and the first company launched full-fledged operation 2015.

Under the framework of the “Cooperation

among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)” aiming to mobilize Asian countries for practical assistance to Palestine, the Government of Japan engages in tripartite cooperation with Asian nations by organizing agriculture training projects and tourism seminars.

6 Countries in the Middle East and North Africa

(1) Turkey

Turkey is a large and geopolitically important country located at the crossroads to Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Caucasia. The country assumed the chairmanship of G20 in December 2014, and its presence in the international community has been increasing.

In the elections held in June, the Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) failed to obtain the majority of seats for the first time since 2002 when the party took over the reign of government. The discussion between the ruling and opposition parties for a coalition administration did not reach an agreement, and President Recep Erdogan decided to hold a re-election. The re-election took place in November, where AKP again obtained 317 seats, more than the majority, and a new administration headed by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu started.

As a member state of NATO, the Government of Turkey basically attaches importance to Europe and U.S. in its diplomacy, including efforts to join EU. The AKP administration proactively promotes multiple diplomacies with states covering Asia and Africa including its efforts to stabilize the neighboring region and strengthen the relationship. On the other hand, in recent years, the relations between Turkey and Syria, particularly under the Assad Administration,



Japan-Turkey Summit Meeting (October 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

have deteriorated. Turkey faces many problems, including the fight against ISIL and terrorists, accepting more than two million Syrian refugees as the largest host country in the world. After the downing of a Russian fighter jet in November 2015, tension with Russia has been increasing.

In respect of the relationship with Japan, the year 2015 marked the 125th anniversary of the Ertugrul Frigate Disaster, which is believed to be a keystone of Japanese-Turkish friendship. The year also marked the 30th anniversary since Japanese hostages in Teheran were rescued. Commemorating these events, many mutual visits and anniversary programs were organized. On the summit-level, President Erdogan visited Japan as a guest on Official Working Visits in October, and Prime Minister Abe visited Istanbul in November and attended the G20 Antalya summit, confirming the high trust between the two leaders.

(2) Jordan and Lebanon

The situation in Jordan is stable in the constantly turbulent Middle East region. Jordan has played an important role in the peace and stability of the region, such as with countermeasures against extremists, its acceptance of a number of Syrian refugees,

and active involvement in the Middle East peace process. The country's role is highly appreciated by the international community.

Prime Minister Abe visited Jordan in January 2015, and had talks during a working lunch at the Asia-Africa Conference (in Jakarta, Indonesia) in April and the UN General Assembly (in New York, U.S.) in September. Traditionally friendly bilateral relations have deepened even further. At each meeting, the leaders shared the view of cooperating for further development of the bilateral relations and stabilization of the Middle East region.

Japan also attaches importance to Jordan, which serves as a cornerstone for the stability of the region. The Government of Japan has been providing assistance for the stability of Jordan through support for refugees and host communities, as well as for developing the industrial base. In 2015, Japan provided a "Fiscal and Public Service Reform Development Policy Loan" (24 billion yen) in loans, as well as non-project grant aid (two billion yen).

Lebanon is a mosaic nation consisting of 18 religions and religious sects, including Christianity and Islam. Due to the confrontation between each sect and political force, no successor to President Michel Suleiman, whose term of office ended in May 2014, has been elected yet (as of December 2015). The tenure of the incumbent parliament members was again extended to June 2017 as well. There is no prospect of an election, either.

In August, demonstrations in the range of a few to ten thousand protesters took place, sparked by a garbage-collection crisis at the central part of the capital Beirut. Many individuals were injured in collisions between demonstrators and the Security Forces, showing the internal instability. In November, a terrorist bombing occurred with

many casualties in the south suburb of Beirut. The deteriorating situation in Syria and the expansion of ISIL are serious problems that could significantly affect the region. Facing these issues, stability in Lebanon is the key to the stability and prosperity of the Middle East. Japan has provided Lebanon with humanitarian aid of 77.95 million US dollars for assistance to Syrian refugees in total.

(3) Egypt

Located at the north-eastern edge of the African continent and facing Europe on the other side of the Mediterranean, Egypt is a large country which plays an important role for the stability of the Middle East and North Africa.

Parliamentary elections were conducted from October to December 2015 as the final stage of the “road map” which had been developed after the political turmoil in 2013.

Prime Minister Abe visited Egypt in January and had talks with Egyptian President Adel Fattah el-Sisi and Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab. They issued a comprehensive joint statement to deepen the bilateral ties in the future. At a Joint Meeting of the Japan-Egypt Business Committee, Prime Minister Abe delivered a policy speech entitled “Moderation is the best policy: Toward a Vigorous and Stable Middle East - Japan and Egypt, Turning a New Page.” On behalf of the Government of Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura attended the Egypt Economic Development Conference in March and the New Canal Inauguration Ceremony in August. Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited Japan in November and had a working lunch meeting with Foreign Minister Kishida. He also paid a courtesy call on visit to Prime Minister Abe. Also, there has been a growing cooperation

in the field of security. Following the first political and security dialogue and defense dialogue which were held in October 2015, ADM Katsutoshi Kawano, Chief of Staff, Joint-Staff of the Japan Self-Defense Force visited Egypt in December and met with Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces Mahmoud Hegazy.

(4) Maghreb

The Maghreb is located at the crossroads to Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and has shared commonality in history, culture and language. Recently it has increasingly attracted attention because of a potential as a region particularly in the area of economy. On the other hand, many people move from the region to Iraq and Syria as ISIL foreign fighters, and the emerging threat of Islamic extremists poses a serious problem.

In Tunisia, a new coalition consisting of secular Islamists and moderate Islamists was formed in February. As a result, the political process to democratization was accomplished after four years. However, terrorist attacks targeting tourists and government officials have been taking place, and security is of urgent priority.

Libya has fallen into a situation of serious conflict among several groups rooted in tribes and has experienced security deterioration. Domestically, west (Tori Bori) and east (Tobruk) factions led to the formation of two governments. ISIL is also active taking advantage of the lack of an integrated national authority. In December, as a result of mediation efforts by the international community centered around the UN over one year, the documents on a political agreement for establishing a united government was signed. Not only for the stability of the country but also for the neighboring region,

the Government of Libya is expected to transform itself into a state where all political forces act as a monolithic entity with support from the international community.

The Government of Algeria has initiated various reforms, including an amendment to the constitution. Morocco has sustained robust economic growth. In cooperation with the UN, the two countries make efforts to contribute to peace and stability of the region by mediating the domestic confrontations in Libya and Mali.

(5) Gulf countries (including Yemen)

A Six Gulf countries (the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain)

While the Middle East faces many security challenges, the Gulf countries which proclaim themselves as moderate and stabilizing forces of the region, have been promoting mutual solidarity to counter the violent extremism and to promote moderate thought. Japan recognizes these countries as important partners from the viewpoints of energy security and diplomacy toward the Middle East. There were frequent mutual visits of dignitaries such as the visit of Emir of the State of Qatar Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to Japan in February 2015.

These states need to review their fiscal policy following a dip in their annual revenue due to sluggish international oil prices since summer 2014. In the long run, they attach importance to such issues as social and economic infrastructure development, industrial diversification, and human resource development with a view to overcoming dependence on oil and to develop the private sector. Japan engages in improving the mutual business and investment environment through various agreements being concluded

with the countries, while continuing to aim to strengthen the “Comprehensive Partnerships” in a range of fields beyond the energy area. Also, Japan and Saudi Arabia held commemorating events since the year 2015 marked the 60th anniversary for the establishments of Japan and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations.

B Yemen

Since January 2015, the Houthi, a Shiite military group, advanced into the capital Sanaa, then Aden, which forced President Hadi to evacuate country. The Government of Yemen with military assistance from the Arab coalition forces led by Saudi Arabia regained control over southern five prefectures, including Aden, by September and this led to President Hadi's return to Aden. In December, the peace talks were held under the UN mediation efforts.

The Government of Japan continued assistance to overcome Yemeni humanitarian crisis through efforts such as providing an emergency assistance to the refugees and internally displaced persons in May, and announcing a new food assistance at the Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen at the UN General Assembly in September. Furthermore, Minister of Information, Nadia Sakkaf visited Japan in August.

Issues regarding Syrian refugees and Japan's efforts

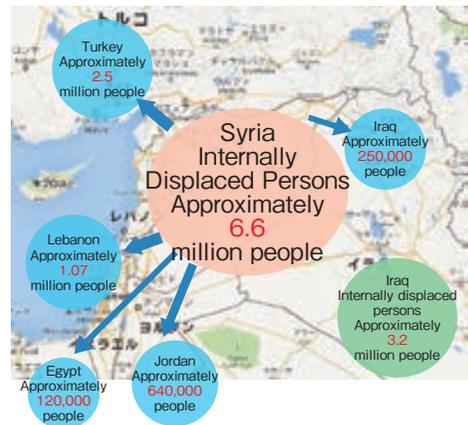
Located in the Fertile Crescent region spreading from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the Nile River, Syria has been an agricultural country since the ancient Orient era. The country also boasts a long history and culture, with world cultural heritage such as the Site of Palmyra, which was a flourishing relay city on the Silk Road.

In March 2011, a crisis struck people living in Syria. Since then, more than 250,000 people have died in Syria, more than 6.6 million people have been internally displaced and more than 4.6 million people fled out to neighboring countries as refugees (as of February 2016, UN statistics), caused by fierce fightings. This situation still continues with no signs of abating. Some Syrian refugees are living in refugee camps, but many of them are living outside the refugee camps. They have been forced to lead a hard life in each of their evacuation destinations.

Amid the prolonged Syria crisis, the countries surrounding Syria (See the figure) have accepted a large number of refugees almost to the limits of their capacity, causing such problems as friction between the refugees and the host communities. Also, the refugees and immigrants entering European countries increased explosively in 2015. Many of them are recognized as refugees from Syria.

At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe in September 2015 committed to implement financial support of about \$810 million for refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria and Iraq. And as part of new assistance in Lebanon, Prime Minister also announced to promote collaboration between humanitarian assistance and development assistance and provide about \$2.5 million in humanitarian aid to countries neighboring the European Union (EU) such as Serbia and Macedonia, which cannot enjoy the EU safety net despite being located on the migration route of refugees and immigrants (in November, Japan announced to provide additional aid of about \$2.7 million for the countries neighboring the EU). As long as the Syria crisis continues, the international community needs to continue assistance for Syrian refugees, internally displaced persons and the host countries. At the same time, to genuinely solve the problems regarding Syrian refugees, political solution for Syria crisis is essential. To this end, it is expected to take a certain amount of time, but while a growing number of Syrian refugees cannot receive enough education due to the protracted crisis. It is important to develop human resources through the support of education and vocational training so that reconstruction can be executed when the Syria crisis ends and Syrian refugees return to their home country in the future. In particular, education for young people helps prevent them from being exposed to extremism. Japan intends to continue implementing support for

the future of Syria, including education and vocational training, in addition to urgently needed assistance, such as health, sanitation, and food assistance, based on the idea of improving the situation by thinking about the root causes of the problem thoroughly so that the refugees can return to Syria in the future and rebuild the country as used to be colored by the grace of rich history and blessed with gifts from the land again.



Sources: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) / Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (As of February 7, 2016; including the number of refugees awaiting registration)

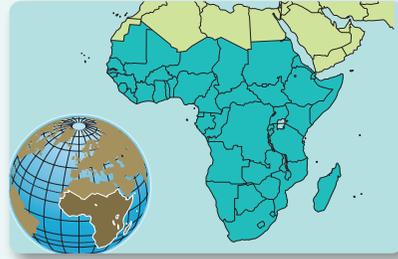
Situation of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons



Refugee registration center in Jordan

Section 7

Sub-Saharan Africa



Overview

Sub-Saharan Africa encompasses a population of about 1 billion in 49 diverse countries, and attracts attention of the international community, owing to its abundant natural resources and high market potential. The influence of Sub-Saharan African countries on consensus building in the international community is growing.

On the other hand, lingering challenges remain to be solved in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as political unrest and severe disparities and poverty, while there have emerged new challenges in recent years, such as the outbreak of Ebola virus disease and violent extremism. Furthermore, their economic growth has slowed down due to the deceleration of emerging economies and the fall in commodity prices.

For the peace and prosperity of Africa as well as the entire international community including Japan, it is vital for Sub-Saharan African countries to overcome these difficulties and achieve stable growth.

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), an international forum launched by Japan in 1993, serves as an important pillar of Japan's diplomacy toward Africa. TICAD has generated steady progress through a wide range of discussion of Africa's development inter alia in Summit meetings

and Ministerial follow up meetings. The 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) to be held in Kenya in August 2016 will be the first TICAD in Africa.

In 2015, cooperation toward TICAD VI was further enhanced among various actors including governments, businesses and civil societies, with the holding of Ministerial Meeting on Economic Strategy for Africa and TICAD VI Public-Private Roundtable Meeting.

Japan has steadily implemented the assistance package for Africa announced at TICAD V in 2013. For instance, in the field of peace and stability, Japan has been carrying out capacity building through the support for peacekeeping (PKO) training centers in African countries and UN sponsored training courses for PKO personnel. Japan has also been implementing PKO activities in South Sudan and anti-piracy activities off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

In order to further strengthen bilateral relations with African countries, the Government of Japan actively holds bilateral meetings during high-level visits and bilateral meeting at the margin of international conferences. In September, Prime Minister Abe hosted the 3rd Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable in New York, the U.S. The leaders confirmed that they would enhance

cooperation at the regional level in Africa. Cooperation with the African Union (AU) has also deepened.

With regard to regional issues, such as the outbreak of Ebola virus disease and Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group, Japan responded in close coordination with partner countries, such as the G7.

1

Enhancement of Japan-Africa relations centered on the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process

(1) The TICAD process as a pillar of Japan's diplomacy toward Africa

TICAD is an international forum for African development, co-organized by the UN, UNDP, the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC) under the leadership of Japan. TICAD was launched in 1993, under the basic philosophy of “ownership (self-help efforts)” of Africa and “partnership” with the international community; including Japan.

The past TICAD Summit meetings were convened in Japan once in every five years,

however, Prime Minister Abe announced in September 2014 that the next TICAD Summit Meeting would be held in Africa, responding to the request from the African side, from the standpoint of focusing on Africa's “ownership,” and that the Summit would be convened alternately in Japan and Africa in the future. It was subsequently decided that TICAD VI would be held in Kenya in August 2016.

TICAD VI, will address challenges and counter-measures such as vulnerability of the health system, expansion of violent extremism and fall in international resource prices, which have emerged after the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013. Furthermore, TICAD VI is expected to further deepen the TICAD process and develop



Prime Minister Abe attending the 3rd Japan-RECs Summit (September 27, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Outline of TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development)

[Basic Principle]

Ownership and Partnership

[Theme]

Supporting Africa through broad support from the international community and expansion of development partnership

[Approach]

South-South Cooperation, human security and respect for distinctiveness, diversity and identity

—History of TICAD Process—

1993: The First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I, Tokyo)

1998: The Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II, Tokyo)

2001: TICAD Ministerial Meeting (Tokyo)

2003: The Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III, Tokyo)

2004: TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC) (Tokyo)

2006: TICAD Conference on Consolidation of Peace (Ethiopia)

2007: TICAD Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development (Kenya)

2008: The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV, Yokohama)

2009-2012: TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting was held every year (Botswana, Tanzania, Senegal and Morocco)

2013: TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting (Ethiopia)

2013: The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V, Yokohama)

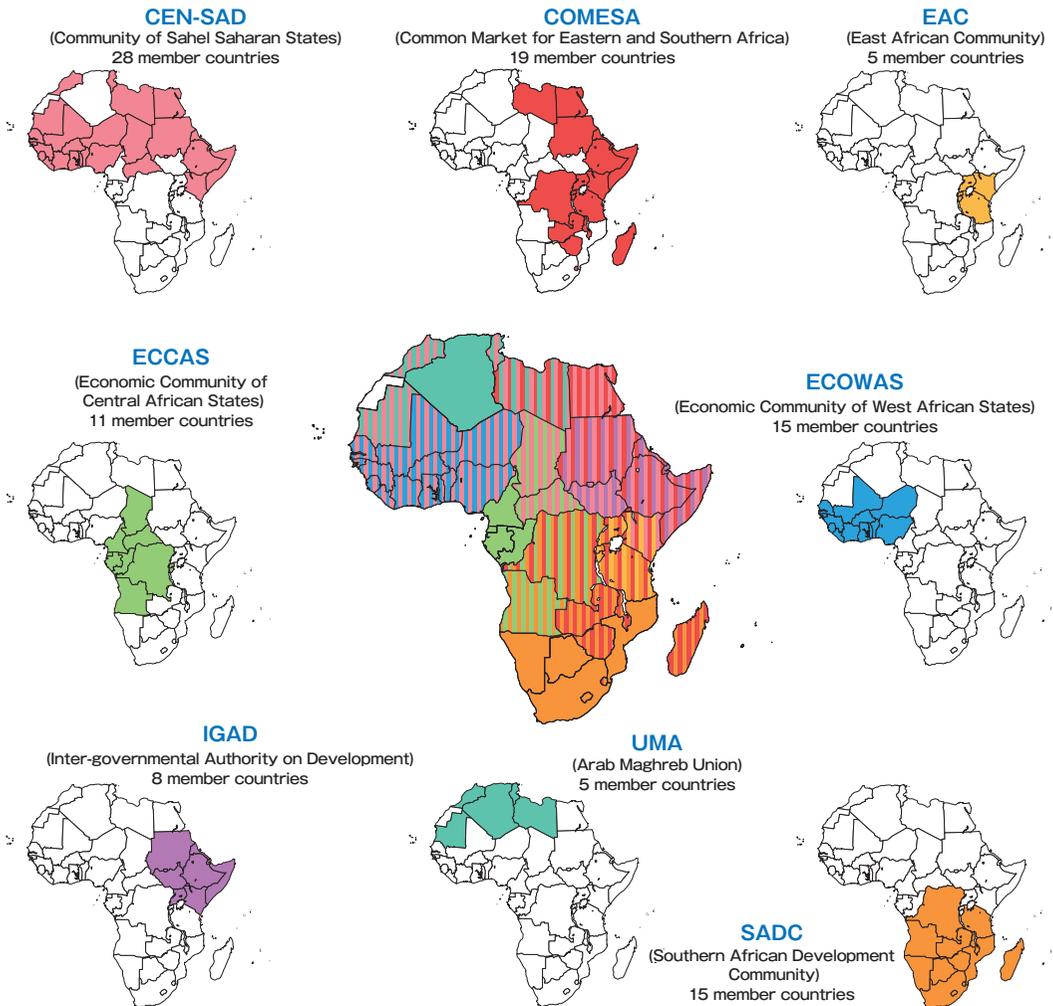
2014: The first TICAD V Ministerial Conference (Cameroon)

2016: The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI, Kenya)



Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Africa is moving toward regional integration. There are eight Regional Economic Communities approved by the African Union (AU)



Japan-Africa relations into a new stage as the first TICAD to be held in Africa.

(2) Enhancement of the Japan-Africa relations through cooperation among various stakeholders

In 2015, the Government of Japan deepened its collaboration with various stakeholders in its preparation for TICAD VI in 2016. In Japan, at the Ministerial Meeting on Economic Strategy for Africa, established under the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

following Prime Minister Abe's visit to Africa in 2014, a whole government examined the way to take specific measures to promote various agenda such as comprehensive regional development in Africa in order to capture Africa's economic growth and use it for Japan's economic growth.

Furthermore, the TICAD VI Public-Private Roundtable Meeting was established between the government and the private sector, for which Foreign Minister Kishida and three representatives from the private sector serve

as co-chairs. The first meeting was held in October. Considering that close cooperation between public and private sectors is required to strengthen the economic relations with Africa, the participants shared information and exchanged views on African business.

In September, Prime Minister Abe hosted the 3rd Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable in New York, U.S. and exchanged views with African countries on expected achievements at TICAD VI and desirable ways of cooperation between TICAD and the RECs. The leaders of African countries expressed their appreciation and gratitude for Japan's steady implementation of its commitments launched at TICAD V.

In October, Prime Minister Manuel Valls of France visited Japan for the first time, and met with Prime Minister Abe. The two leaders took the opportunity to issue a "France-Japanese plan for sustainable development, health and security in Africa," and examined the way to develop effective policies toward Africa in cooperation with third countries, including the enhancement of cooperation between Japan and France in Africa.

2 Situation of Sub-Saharan Africa and Japan's efforts

(1) African Union (AU)

The 24th African Union (AU) Summit was held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in January. At the Summit, the participants had discussions under the theme of "Women's Empowerment," and Zimbabwe was elected as Chair for the Summit in 2015. Furthermore, the "AU Agenda 2063" was adopted, which outlines the agenda for the integration and development of Africa for the next fifty years. The Parliamentary Vice-

Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto attended the AU Summit as a representative of Japan, and met with a number of African dignitaries. He also participated in a stakeholders meeting on Ebola virus disease, organized on the occasion of the AU Summit, and explained Japan's efforts, which African countries highly appreciated.

(2) East Africa



A Uganda

Uganda is one of the major countries in East Africa, where the Museveni administration is governing the country with stability with high potential in trade and investment, including future oil field development.

In September, President Museveni and his spouse paid an Official Working Visit to Japan. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress had a meeting with President Museveni and his spouse, and hosted a Court Luncheon. Prime Minister Abe and President Museveni held a summit meeting and signed a joint statement. President Museveni and his spouse interacted with stakeholders from various circles in Japan, including business-related parties. The visit ended as important

opportunity to further deepen the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Uganda.



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with President Museveni of Uganda at the Japan-Uganda summit meeting (September 10, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

B Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, a general election took place in May. The ruling party won a complete victory, and Prime Minister Hailemariam was reappointed in October. The government worked out the next Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP2) against the backdrop of strong economic growth, and has been advancing the transformation of economic structure for industrialization.

In relationship with Japan, Ethiopian Airlines started its scheduled flight service to Narita International Airport in April. In September, the Africa-Japan Business Investment Forum was held in Addis Ababa. Furthermore, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) decided to establish an office in Addis Ababa, and Prime Minister Abe conveyed this information to Prime Minister Hailemariam on the occasion of the UN General Assembly in September, thereby deepening economic relations. In December, Foreign Minister Tedros visited Japan to attend an international conference entitled “Universal Health Coverage in the New

Development Era: Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems,” and met with Foreign Minister Kishida. The two ministers agreed on strengthening economic relations and cooperating toward TICAD VI.

C Kenya

In Kenya, the Jubilee Coalition between President Kenyatta and Vice President Ruto, under their stable governance, has been promoting domestic reforms toward the achievement of the Vision 2030 as a social development goal. The economy is also performing steadily as a driving force of the East African economy. However, urgent countermeasures are required against terrorism, such as the Garissa University attack incident by the al-Qaida-based Islamic extremist organization “Al-Shabaab (AS)” (April), and other general crimes. The international community including Japan is continuing support for the national reconstruction of Somalia and its peace and stability.

As for the relationship with Japan, a summit meeting between President Kenyatta and Prime Minister Abe was held on the occasions of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March) and the United Nations General Assembly (September). There were also frequent VIP visits between both countries. With TICAD VI to be held in Nairobi in August 2016, the bilateral relations are expected to be further strengthened.

D Djibouti

Djibouti is situated at a strategic point where important sea lanes connect Europe with the Indian Ocean and Asia through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. Furthermore, the country is an important

stable nation, despite being located in the “Horn of Africa” where unstable factors persist.

Japan has been implementing anti-piracy activities off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden since 2009. In 2011, the Self-Defense Force started the operationalization of its installation for an efficient operation of activity troops. The activities of various countries troops including the Self-Defense Force have contributed significantly to reducing the number of piracy incidents in that sea area. Several high-level visits were made from both sides, including a visit to Djibouti by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto (May), a visit to Japan by Djibouti’s National Assembly Chairman Mohamed (May) and a visit to Djibouti by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hitoshi Kikawada (December).



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto visiting the installation of the Self Defense Force in Djibouti (May 3, Djibouti)

E Seychelles

The Seychelles, an island country consisting of 115 islands, is located at a strategic point connecting the African continent with India. At the presidential election held in December, the incumbent President Michel was elected for the third time.

In relation with Japan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visited the Seychelles in August. He exchanged views with high-

ranking government officials including the President, and visited the site of a project that was implemented through Japan’s official development assistance (ODA). This visit ended up being a historic opportunity to further deepen the bilateral relationship.

F Tanzania

Tanzania has attracted attention as a promising trade and investment destination because of its stable government, economic growth and geographical importance as one of the gateways to East Africa. In October, a presidential election took place, and President Magufuli was sworn in.

In relationship with Japan, Prime Minister Pinda visited Japan in March to attend the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and met with Prime Minister Abe. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kihara visited Tanzania to meet with President Magufuri and Foreign Minister Mahiga. Both political and economic relations progressed as illustrated by the 2nd round negotiations for the Japan-Tanzania Investment Treaty held in Tokyo in August.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kihara receiving an explanation at the fish market supported by Japan (December, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

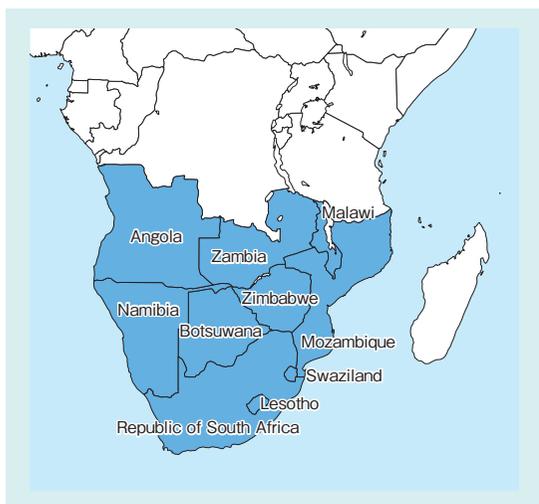
G South Sudan

In South Sudan, as a result of the mediation talks conducted by the Intergovernmental

Authority on Development (IGAD) and others in August, the parties concerned signed an Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, facilitating the efforts for the stabilization of South Sudan.

Japan has dispatched the Self Defense Force to the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to support creating an environment to enable infrastructure development and humanitarian assistance, based on the principle of proactive contribution to peace. Japan also implements ODA projects for infrastructure development, agriculture promotion and human resources development to contribute to medium- and long-term development and the improvement of resilience. In May, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto and Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Ishikawa together met with Vice President Igga to convey concerns about the situation in South Sudan and encourage the promotion of the political process.

(3) Southern Africa



A Angola

Angola is blessed with energy and mineral resources, such as oil and diamonds, and has

been achieving high growth in recent years. Meanwhile, the Government of Angola has set the diversification of the economy as an urgent issue of the country, due to the recent decline of oil prices.

Furthermore, Angola has been serving as a UN Security Council non-permanent member since 2015 for a term of two years. In 2016, Angola serves as a Security Council member together with Japan.

In March, a Japan-Angola business forum was held in Luanda, and 37 companies and about 120 people participated in the form. In July, Japan and Angola signed an Exchange of Note of agreement of approximately 200 million US dollars, the first yen loan for the country. Close relations are being built between the two countries at both public and private levels through the visits to Japan by Finance Minister Manuel (August), Social Welfare and Reintegration Minister Kussumua (November) and Economic Minister Gourgel (December).

B Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe had a sluggish economy since 2000, due to the political and economic turmoil as well as sanctions by the EU and the U.S. However, since 2009, the political and economic situation has calmed down to a certain extent, and is showing signs of improvement, with the scaling down of sanctions by the U.S. and the EU. Japan decided the resumption of bilateral grant aid and technical cooperation in 2010. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) was dispatched in 2011.

On the occasion of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March), a summit meeting was held between President Mugabe and Prime Minister Abe. In September, Parliamentary

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Zimbabwe to pay a courtesy call on President Mugabe. He also met with Foreign Minister Mumbengegwi, leading to a further strengthening of the bilateral relationship. In January, general project grant aid was provided to Zimbabwe for the first time in 15 years.

C Namibia

Namibia celebrated the 25th anniversary of independence in 2015. With rich marine and mineral resources and the geographical advantage which has potential to be a logistic gateway on the Atlantic Ocean side in South Africa, Namibia expects the expansion in trade and investment (in particular in resource development and energy sectors).

The Embassy of Japan in Namibia was opened in January. In March, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Namibia to attend the ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of independence and the inauguration of the new President as a special envoy of the Prime Minister, and met with Vice President Iyanbo.

D Botswana

Since its independence in 1996, Botswana has been politically stable with good governance. Botswana is well known for its diamond output (World No.1) and wild animals and plants in the wetlands. Also, Botswana is the only country that adopted the Japanese system of digital terrestrial television in Africa.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign

Affairs Kikawada visited Botswana in December, and met with high-ranking government officials including Vice President Masi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Moitso, agreeing to further strengthen the relations between the two countries.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kikawada visiting a karate dojo (training hall) in Botswana (December 11, Botswana)

E Republic of South Africa

The Republic of South Africa, despite the slowdown of economic growth in recent years, continues to attract attention from many foreign companies, as a major economic power in Sub-Saharan Africa and as a business development base, allowing access to the region.

Vice President Ramaphosa visited Japan in August to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe. He also attended the luncheon hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso, as well as a roundtable talk with ABE Initiative¹ trainees. The Vice President praised the past contribution by Japan and Japanese companies in facilitating job creation, human resource development

1 ABE Initiative

Announced by Prime Minister Abe in June 2013 as support measures for TICADV. The initiative is intended to invite 1,000 African youths to Japan over five years, and provide them with opportunities for education at Japanese universities and graduate schools and internships at Japanese companies. It is hoped that this initiative will help develop human resources in the industrial field in Africa and create connections and networks between African human resources and Japanese companies, whereby African youths are expected to contribute as African business pilots to Japanese companies entering into the African market.



Prime Minister Abe receiving a courtesy call from Vice President Ramaphosa of Republic of the South Africa (August 24, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and a national development plan, and expressed expectations for further efforts as well.

F Mozambique

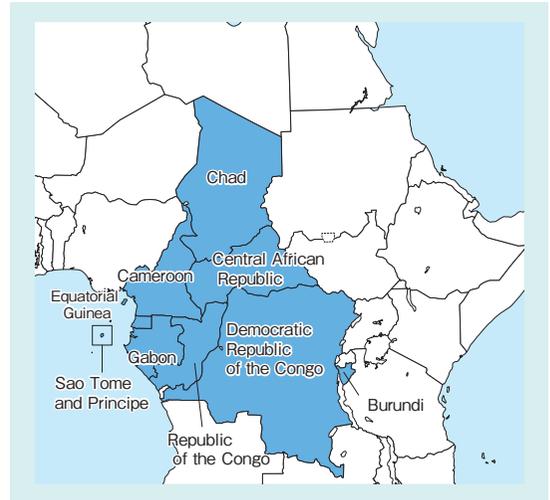
Mozambique has been achieving a high economic growth in recent years, thanks to the discovery of resources such as natural gas and coal, and attracts attention worldwide as a new investment destination.

Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, a member of the House of Representatives (President of Japan-African Union (AU) Parliamentary Friendship League), participated as a special envoy of the Prime Minister in the presidential inauguration of President Nyushi in January, and exchanged views toward the enhancement of relations between the two countries in the meeting with the President.

(4) Central Africa

A Central African Republic

While Central African Republic remained unstable, the interim government advanced a process to return to democracy with the help of the international community. In May, the Bangui Forum for national reconciliation was held successfully, and a number of armed movements agreed to release child soldiers. The election schedule was announced



in June, raising the momentum to restore democracy, but a large-scale unrest occurred in the capital Bangui in September, which forced the elections scheduled for October to be postponed to December. The referendum on the draft Constitution and the first round of the presidential election took place in December in a generally peaceful manner.

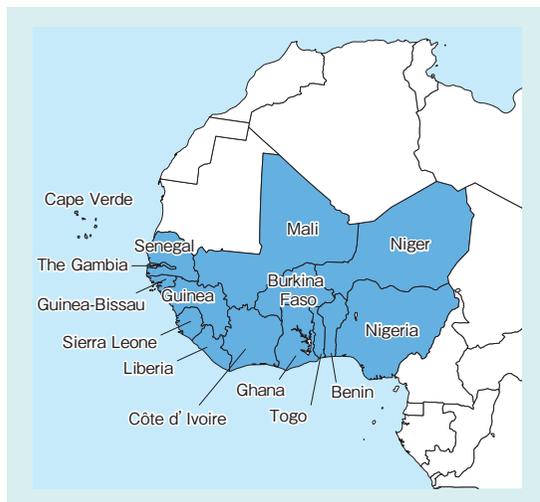
Japan has carried out a variety of support through international organizations to improve the humanitarian situation and ensure the smooth implementation of the process to restore democracy in the Central African Republic.

B Burundi

Since April, clashes occurred mainly in Bujumbura between the demonstrators and the police force over the eligibility of the re-election of President Nkurunziza of Burundi, destabilizing the country. In May, the Constitutional Court decided the constitutionality of the third term of presidency. When the President expressed his candidacy for the election, a riot broke out by the forces opposed to his candidacy. In July, while the opposition parties were boycotting, the presidential election was held in the face of international condemnation, and the President

was elected. Even thereafter, confusion has continued as seen in raids on security forces and murders of citizens in the capital Bujumbura.

(5) West Africa



A Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, national reconciliation and economic reconstruction is in progress under President Ouattara after an era of confusion of about 10 years. The presidential election was carried out in a democratic and peaceful manner in October, and the President was re-elected. This gave an impression that the era of crisis is over in the country. Japan provided equipment and materials such as ballot boxes, contributing to the smooth implementation of the election.

Furthermore, Japan continued its efforts to boost Africa's growth, through such projects as the project for Improvement of the Japan-Ivorian Friendship Intersection and support for the private sector in Africa in coordination with the African Development Bank, whose headquarters is located in Abidjan.

B Senegal

Senegal is a stable country in West Africa, and serves as a United Nations Security

Council non-permanent member together with Japan for a two-year term starting 2016.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hamachi visited Senegal respectively (March/November) to exchange views with President Sall and Foreign Minister Ndiaye. Furthermore, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hamachi attended the 2nd "Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa." At its plenary meeting, he introduced Japan's contribution to peace and stability in Africa including the Sahel region. He also expressed the determination to further contribute to peace and stability in the international community, given Japan's non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council from 2016, the G7 Presidency in 2016 and TICAD VI.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hamachi paying a courtesy call on President Sall of Senegal (November 9, Dakar, Senegal)

C Nigeria

Nigeria has the largest population and economic scale in Africa, with an influential voice in Africa. Following the presidential election in March, President Buhari was sworn in, which was the first change of administration by democratic procedures. Meanwhile, Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group, with repeating acts of terrorism mainly in the northeast of the country, countermeasures against this group have become

a challenge involving neighboring countries.

In May, member of the House of Representatives, Aisawa was dispatched to the presidential inauguration ceremony as a special envoy of the Prime Minister. Although the deterioration of the economy due to a fall in resource prices is a concern, Japanese companies continue to show high interest in Nigeria. In November, an international trade fair was organized in Lagos, the economic capital of Nigeria, and more than 30 Japanese companies participated.

D Niger

In Niger, while a general election is scheduled in 2016, the security situation has deteriorated not only in the north where Islamic extremist militants are rampant, but also in the southeast where Boko Haram repeats cross-border attacks from Nigeria.

In June, President Issoufou made a working visit to Japan, the first visit by a head of state from Niger in 29 years. At the summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe, the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and security measures and in the field of social and economic development, based on the principle of proactive contribution to peace, with Niger, which is located on the



Ceremony by the guard of honor on the occasion of a visit to Japan of President Issoufou of Niger (June 19, Prime Minister's Office, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

node of North Africa and the Sahel region, where an unstable situation continues.

E Benin

Benin is said to be a model country for democracy in West Africa.

In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visited Benin to attend the ceremony commemorating the 55th anniversary of independence, and to pay a courtesy call on President Yayi and Foreign Minister Akadiri.

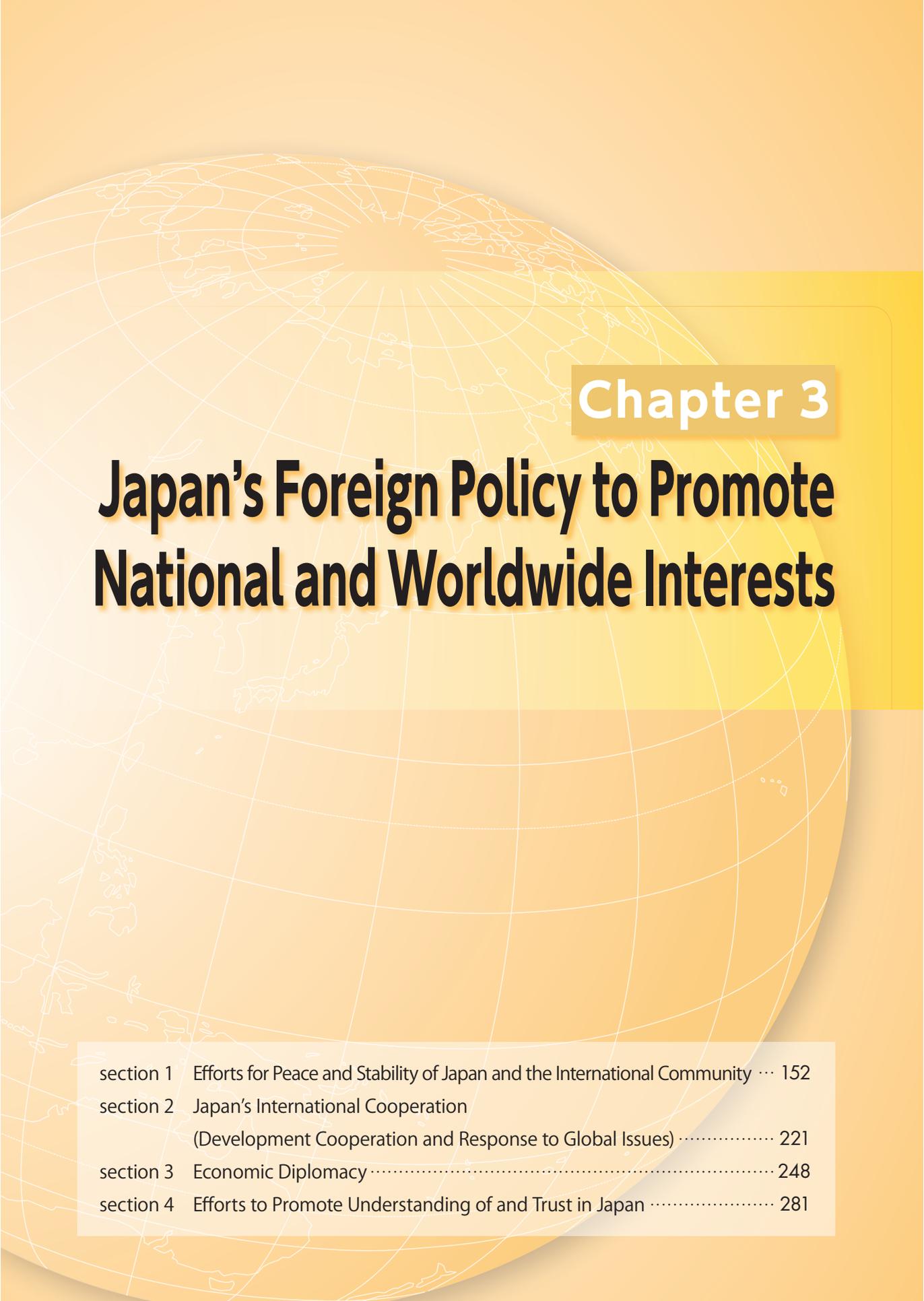
F Liberia

Since the end of the civil war in 2003, which had lasted for approximately 14 years, Liberia has been working on the reconstruction of its national economy and society. The economy was continuing to grow steadily, but the country suffered serious damage again in 2014, this time from the outbreak of Ebola virus disease. The reconstruction plan of the economic and social system is in progress, including the enhancement of the health care system.

President Sirleaf visited Japan in August, and met with Prime Minister Abe. She also gave a keynote speech at "WAW! 2015" (World Assembly for Women). In September, the first Japan-Liberia policy dialogue was held in Monrovia. Visits between the two countries are becoming active, including a visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Addy to Japan in November.



Japan-Liberia summit meeting (August 27, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Chapter 3

Japan's Foreign Policy to Promote National and Worldwide Interests

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Section 1



Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community

Overview

(National Security)

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe in recent years. North Korea's ballistic missile launches and nuclear development, China's military build-up lacking transparency, and its attempt to change the status quo by force or coercion at sea and in the airspace at areas such as the East and South China Seas based on its own claims which are inconsistent with the existing international order, has been concerns of the international community. Furthermore, risks such as the spread and diversification of international terrorism and cyberattack are becoming more serious.

Facing such a security environment, no nation can any longer maintain its own security alone. In order to ensure the security of Japan and the peace and stability of the region, it is important to advance vibrant diplomacy under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. The "Legislation for Peace and Security", which was approved in September (see Special Feature in Chapter 1), further broadened the scope of Japan's international contribution. Based on this, Japan will contribute even more proactively to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

Also, ensuring the forward deployment of

U.S. Forces under the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, and thereby enhancing the deterrence are indispensable not only for the peace and security of Japan but also for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. In order to further enhance the Japan-U.S. Alliance's deterrence and response capabilities, the two countries will expand and strengthen cooperation in various fields such as ballistic missile defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security, including efforts made under the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the New Guidelines) and the Legislation for Peace and Security. With regard to the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, both governments are determined to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, while maintaining deterrence, by steadily implementing the existing agreements between the two governments.

In addition to strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, it is necessary for Japan to build trust and cooperative relations with its partners both inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region, and to create multilayered relationships for security cooperation. Japan also promotes collaboration in the area of security with Korea, Australia, European countries, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India, and other countries with which it shares strategic interests.

In addition, it is also important to

promote the institutionalization of regional cooperation frameworks in the security aspect of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan also advances partnership and cooperation through multilayered regional cooperation frameworks, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and advances partnership and cooperation through trilateral cooperation frameworks such as those involving the Japan-U.S.-ROK, Japan-U.S.-Australia, Japan-U.S.-India and Japan-Australia-India frameworks.

(Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding)

The security and prosperity of Japan cannot be achieved merely by improving the security environment surrounding Japan. It also depends on the peace and stability of the international community. Based on such understanding, Japan has been actively engaged in addressing various issues and challenges that the global society confronts. In particular, Japan addresses peacebuilding, which is essential in order to prevent the recurrence of conflicts and achieve sustainable peace in post-conflict region, as one of its key diplomatic agendas. Such comprehensive efforts include peacekeeping, emergency humanitarian assistance, promotion of peace processes, maintenance of security, and reconstruction and development. For instance, Japan proactively cooperates with United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and is engaged in activities on the ground with Official Development Assistance (ODA), as well as human resource development.

(Threats to Security)

Terrorist attacks by a terrorist group “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)” continued to spread in the year 2015.

Influenced by ISIL’s propaganda, increasing number of foreign fighters have travelled to Syria and Iraq, raising concerns about the possible spread of terrorist threats upon their return to home or third countries.

In response to the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese citizens in Syria in the beginning of the year, Japan made comprehensive diplomatic efforts to (1) Strengthening counter-terrorism measures; (2) Enhancing diplomacy towards stability and prosperity in the Middle East; and (3) Assistance in creating societies resilient to radicalization. Japan closely worked with the international community on areas including counter-violent extremism, measures against foreign terrorist fighters, counter-terrorist financing, and compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions. In cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Japan also has been proceeding with a wide range of international cooperation in such fields as enhancing the capacity of counter-terrorism measures and border management providing legal technical assistance, and strengthening the capacity of organized crime investigations and prosecution in South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Sub-Saharan Africa, and other regions.

(Disarmament and Non-proliferation)

Japan has been proactively promoting initiatives to achieve “a world free of nuclear weapons.” As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, it is a mission for Japan to convey to the world the devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons. It also contributes to improve the security environment of Japan. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In April, the Review Conference of the Parties

to the NPT, which is held every five years, started discussions. The Review Conference ended without being able to adopt the final document. However, the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), which is a group established by Japan and Australia to promote realistic and practical proposals, consisted of 12 non-nuclear-weapon States¹, contributed to discussion, submitting 19 working papers, such as a draft final document, throughout the NPT review process including the three Preparatory Committees. In August, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Group of Eminent Persons were held in Hiroshima. In September, Foreign Minister Kishida co-chaired the 9th Conference on Facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT at the UN General Assembly. The resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which Japan has submitted to the UN General Assembly every year since 1994, was adopted by 166 affirmative votes. With regard to disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan attaches importance to passing on the correct understanding of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons across borders and generations through “the Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons” program, which was launched to support younger generations in conveying the realities of the use of nuclear weapons at international conferences overseas, as well as “the Special Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons” program, which aims at supporting atomic bomb survivors’ activities of telling their testimonies.

As for the regional nuclear non-proliferation

issues, EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China and Russia) have reached a final agreement over Iran’s nuclear issue. On the other hand, North Korea continues to develop its nuclear and missile programs, posing a significant threat not only to East Asia but also to the international community. In order to deal with these issues, Japan has talked about nuclear and non-proliferation issues, contributing to the strengthening of the systems of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and export control. Furthermore, Japan assists developing countries, particularly in Asia, to enhance their capabilities for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems and related materials. In particular, 17 countries², mainly in Asia, participated in the Asian Senior-level talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP), exchanging opinions on various issues on non-proliferation, including North Korean nuclear issue. Japan will continue to offer support towards strengthening nuclear non-proliferation.

(The Oceans and Seas/ Cyberspace / Outer space)

“Open and Stable Seas,” governed by law and rules and not by force, are essential for peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole. From this perspective, Japan is dedicated to ensuring the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight of the high seas through various efforts and cooperation with other countries, including anti-piracy operations. Especially for Japan, a maritime nation surrounded by sea, the international law of the sea, with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the core, is indispensable for

¹ Japan, Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Turkey and Germany

² Japan, ASEAN countries, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada

securing its maritime rights and interests as well as for undertaking maritime activities smoothly.

Regarding cyber issues, to ensure a free, fair and safe cyberspace, Japan contributes proactively to international discussions on cyber security, including the making of international rules in cyberspace. For this purpose, Japan cooperates with a wide range of stakeholders, such as private companies and experts. Furthermore, Japan promotes cooperation and confidence-building with other countries through dialogues and discussions on cyber issues. Also, Japan is proactively providing support for capacity-building in developing countries.

In order to tackle increasing risks to sustainable and stable use of outer space, Japan has been engaged in the international rule-making and conducting dialogue and consultations with other countries on space while promoting international cooperation in the fields of space science and exploration, and supporting overseas business development of the Japanese space industry.

(United Nations)

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary for Japan since it joined the United Nations. On December 18, 1956, the country became the 80th member of the UN. Joining the UN was a symbolic event for Japan marking its return to the international community. This event gave Japan momentum to pursue its post-war principle of international cooperation. Having accomplished postwar reconstruction, Japan has firmly stayed on its path as a peace-loving nation and has contributed to the world as a responsible member of the international community at the UN, a forum of multilateral diplomacy.

There have been drastic changes in the international environment since the

establishment of the UN 70 years ago, including the end of the Cold War. The international community currently faces not only war between nations but also a wide range of trans-border issues, including conflicts and terrorism, poverty, environmental problems, and infectious diseases. Working with the UN, Japan will make further efforts in addressing these global issues, and contributing to the peace and prosperity of the world. In particular, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years starting from 2016, Japan will engage actively in tackling a wide range of issues on international peace and security. Moreover, Japan will continue to make efforts to promote UN reform, especially that of the UN Security Council, so that the UN can more efficiently address the wide range of issues the international community faces.

(Rule of Law)

It is important to establish the rule of law in the international community in order to promote stable relations between states and facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes. Japan considers enhancing the rule of law as one of pillars of its foreign policies. Opposed to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, Japan strives to maintain its territorial integrity, secure its maritime and economic rights and interests, and protect its citizens. Based on this view, Japan promotes rule-making and its implementation in bilateral and multilateral contexts in various fields, including security, economic and social areas, and criminal justice. Furthermore, in order to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and maintain the international legal order, Japan contributes to strengthening of the functions of international judicial organizations, both in terms of personnel and finances, including

the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the International Criminal Court (ICC). In addition, Japan endeavors to enhance the rule of law in the international community, including Asian countries, by providing legal technical assistance and holding events related to international law.

(Human Rights)

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal values. All states have the basic responsibility to protect and promote these values. At the same time, these values are a legitimate concern of the entire international community. It is essential that these values are fully guaranteed in each country in order to ensure peace and prosperity of Japan, and furthermore, to lay the foundations of peace and stability in the international community. Towards this end, Japan is working more actively than ever in the field of human rights. Specifically, Japan makes proactive contributions to improve the human rights situation around the world through dialogue and cooperation, taking into account the cultural and historical backgrounds of each state and region. Japan also continues to be actively engaged in multilateral forums including the UN, and to promote constructive dialogues with human rights mechanisms.

(Women)

The year 2015 marked the 20th anniversary since the 4th World Conference on Women (WCW) was held (“Beijing+20”), and the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Japan has positioned the following three areas as priority fields in order to promote gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment: (1) facilitating women’s participation in society and women’s capacity building;

(2) enhancing Japan’s efforts in the area of women’s health and medical care as a part of its Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy; and (3) supporting women’s participation and protecting their rights in the area of peace and security. The Abe administration leads the international community in its efforts to build “a society where women shine”, with a determination that the 21st century has to be a world with no human rights violations against women.

1 National Security Initiatives

A “Proactive Contribution to Peace” Based on the Principle of International Cooperation

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe. North Korea conducted the fourth nuclear test on January 6, 2016, and launched a ballistic missile on February 7, which it purports to be a “satellite”. North Korea is pursuing the development and deployment of ballistic missiles as well as nuclear development. China has been expanding its military capabilities, and increasing its national defense budgets by approximately 44 times over the past 28 years lacking transparency as it has not provided any detailed breakdown. China has been also continuing its attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion at sea and in the air in the East and South China Seas, based on its own claims, which are inconsistent with the existing international order. These actions are matters of concern of the region and the international community. (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-2 (1), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)). Furthermore, there are widespread and diversified global security issues, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the growing threat of international terrorism, and emerging issues in new domains such as cyberspace and

outer space. In such a security environment, any threats, wherever in the world they occur, could directly affect the security of Japan. In today's world, no nation can any longer maintain its own security alone. A peaceful and stable international environment is essential to Japan's prosperity.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation under the Constitution of Japan, and has proactively contributed to the peace and prosperity of the international community through cooperation with the international community as well as other international organizations including the United Nations. The course that Japan has taken as a peace-loving nation has garnered appreciation and respect from the international community. The international community expects Japan to play a more proactive role for the peace and stability in the world in a way commensurate with its national capabilities.

Continuing to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation, Japan will advance vibrant diplomacy under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and will contribute even more proactively to the peace and security of the international community to meet the request from the international community.

B Enactment of the "Legislation for Peace and Security"

In order to adapt to the changes in the security environment surrounding Japan and to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of its people, it is important to advance vibrant diplomacy to create a stable and predictable international environment. On that basis, it was necessary to develop a domestic legislation to enable seamless responses to



The ballistic missile, launched by North Korea on February 7, 2016 which it purports to be a "satellite".



Maritime structures confirmed to have been installed near the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China.



Undergoing land reclamation at Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea.
Top: January 22, 2006
Bottom: September 3, 2015

Support and welcoming of the Legislation for Peace and Security from foreign countries

The United States		[Japan-US Summit (November 19, 2015)] President Obama: "I would like to congratulate the enactment of the "Legislation for Peace and Security". The legislation improves Japanese defense capabilities, and enables Japan and the U.S. to further broaden the cooperation in the region and the world."
Australia		[Japan-Australia Joint Statement (December 18, 2015)] Australia welcomed and supported Japan's recent approval of the "Legislation for Peace and Security" which enables Japan to contribute even more actively in securing the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world in line with its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace."
Indonesia		[Joint Statement (First Japan-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting) (December 17, 2015)]: The Indonesian side welcomed Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" including the "Legislation for Peace and Security," which is aimed at ensuring Japan's contribution towards securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world.
Malaysia		[Japan-Malaysia Summit Meeting (November 21, 2015)] Malaysian Prime Minister Najib (in response to Prime Minister Abe's explanation): "Prime Minister Abe's explanation has given me a good understanding of Japan's aims in relation to this legislation, and I have no concerns or issues whatsoever in Japan's intent of seeking to contribute to peace through PKOs in particular."
Philippines		[Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting (November 19, 2015)]: President Aquino: "I express my respect for Prime Minister Abe's leadership regarding the "Legislation for Peace and Security," along with my expectation of further contributions by Japan to global peace and stability."
India		[Japan-India Joint Statement (December 12, 2015)]: (in response to the brief made by Prime Minister Abe regarding Japan's efforts including "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and the "Legislation for Peace and Security") Prime Minister Modi welcomed and supported Japan's efforts and desire to enhance its contribution to global peace, stability and prosperity.
France		[Meeting of Prime Minister Abe and French Prime Minister Valls (October 5, 2015)]: (in response to the explanation by Prime Minister Abe) "I welcome that Japan is trying to take a more proactive role in realizing regional and global stability."
Germany		[Japan-Germany Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk (September 25, 2015)]: Foreign Minister Steinmeier: "Regarding Japan's efforts concerning legislation for peace and security, I am pleased by another step of progress Japan had made amid the situation where there are opinions that Japan and Germany should bear larger responsibility in the international community."
United Kingdom		[The Second Japan-UK Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement (January 8, 2016)]: Recognizing Japan as its closest security partner in Asia, the UK welcomed Japan's recent Legislation for Peace and Security, and supported Japan playing a more proactive role in securing global peace, stability and prosperity through its policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

※ Other states that expressed support for Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security include Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Canada, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Jamaica, Paraguay, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, and Kenya. Regional Organizations such as ASEAN and EU expressed their support or welcome as well.

any situations, and to contribute even more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. Against this backdrop, the draft of the "Legislation for Peace and Security" was

submitted to the Diet by the government in May. The bills were approved on September 19, after more than 200 hours in total at the Lower and Upper House of the Diet, gaining support not only from the ruling coalition but also from three opposition parties (The Assembly to Energize Japan, The Party for

Future Generations and New Renaissance Party). (see Special Feature in Chapter 1).

This legislation aims to solidify Japan's orientation as a peace-loving nation, including adherence to its exclusively defense-oriented policy. The legislation strengthens the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhances the deterrence of Japan, and thus enables Japan to prevent conflicts beforehand. Also, the legislation enables Japan to further contribute to the international community.

The Government of Japan has taken advantage of a variety of opportunities to thoroughly explain the "Legislation for Peace and Security" to foreign countries. Not only the U.S. but also a number of countries including Australia, ASEAN and European countries have expressed their understanding and support for this legislation. This is a confirmation that the "Legislation for Peace and Security" is a legislation that contributes to the peace and security of the world.

C Territorial Integrity

Maintaining territorial integrity is a fundamental responsibility of a state. Japan's policy to resolutely protect its land, sea and airspace remains unchanged. Japan will continue to respond firmly but in a calm manner. At the same time, the Government of Japan engages in proactive efforts to promote awareness of Japan's position on territorial integrity among the international community, making use of the contacts and knowledge of our diplomatic missions overseas.

2 Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

(1) Overview of Japan-U.S. Security Relationship

Under the security environment surrounding Japan which is becoming increasingly severe,

it is indispensable to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and to enhance the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance not only for the peace and security of Japan but also for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Based on the robust bilateral relationship confirmed through such meetings as the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2015, Japan and the U.S. are further enhancing their deterrence and response capabilities under the New Guidelines and the Legislation for Peace and Security. Through such efforts, Japan and the United States have been expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including ballistic missiles defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security. Japan and the U.S. have been working closely on the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma and the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam, in order to mitigate impact on local communities, including Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

(2) Japan-U.S. Security and Defense Cooperation in Various Fields

A Revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the "Guidelines")

At the October 2013 meeting of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2"), the two governments agreed to initiate a task of revising the Guidelines. The New Guidelines were announced at the "2+2" in April 2015. Under the security environment surrounding Japan which is becoming increasingly severe, the New Guidelines ensure the review and update of the general framework and policy direction of the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation. On November 3, Japan and the United States agreed at the Subcommittee

for Defense Cooperation (SDC) to establish the Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) and the Bilateral Planning Mechanism (BPM) for enhancing the effectiveness of the New Guidelines. Interpersonal exchange between top-officials is increasingly vigorous, with visits of Admiral Harris, U.S. Pacific Commander to Japan in June 2015 and February 2016, as well as General Dunford of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in November 2015. Through these efforts, Japan will continue to promote security and defense cooperation with the U.S., further enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.

B Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)

Japan has been making steady efforts to develop the BMD system while continuing cooperation with the U.S., including the steady implementation of joint development of the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) Block IIA since 2006. In light of the expectation that Japanese domestic companies' participation in the manufacturing of the Aegis System contributes to strengthening the security and defense cooperation with the United States, in July, the Government of Japan permitted transfer of the components and software for the Aegis Display System to the U.S.

C Cyberspace

The two countries held the third Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo in July 2015. Based on the necessity for whole-of government efforts between Japan and the U.S., participants from both sides had a follow-up discussion on the outcome of the second dialogue held in April 2014. They also discussed a wide range of areas for Japan-U.S., cooperation in cyberspace, including awareness about the situations, protection of critical infrastructure, and cooperation in the

international arena.

D Outer Space

Japan and the U.S. discussed a wide range of cooperation on space, including in the area of security at the Space Security Dialogue (Deputy Director-General level consultation) in February, and at the Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in September. The two countries are undertaking further space security cooperation, including through mutual exchange of information in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA), and efforts to ensure the resiliency of space assets (i.e. capability to maintain the function of facilities or systems under attack).

E Trilateral Cooperation

Japan and the U.S. place importance on security and defense cooperation with allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the two countries are steadily promoting trilateral cooperation with Australia, the ROK and India. At the Japan-ROK Summit Meeting and the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in November as well as the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in December, the leaders affirmed that these trilateral cooperation promote the shared security interests of Japan and the U.S. and that it will contribute to improving the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. Also, following the nuclear test and ballistic missile launch by North Korea in January and February 2016, the importance of trilateral cooperation among Japan, the U.S. and South Korea was reconfirmed at the Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers' Meetings between Japan and the U.S., and Japan and the ROK.

F Information Security

Information security plays a crucial role in advancing cooperation within the context of the Alliance. The two countries are discussing ways to further improve information security systems, including introducing government-wide security clearances and enhancing counterintelligence measures (designed to prevent information leaks through espionage activities).

G Maritime Security

In forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS), Japan and the U.S. stress the importance of solving maritime issues in accordance with international law. The New Guidelines announced in April also provide that Japan and the U.S. will cooperate closely with each other on measures to maintain maritime order in accordance with international law, including the freedom of navigation.

(3) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

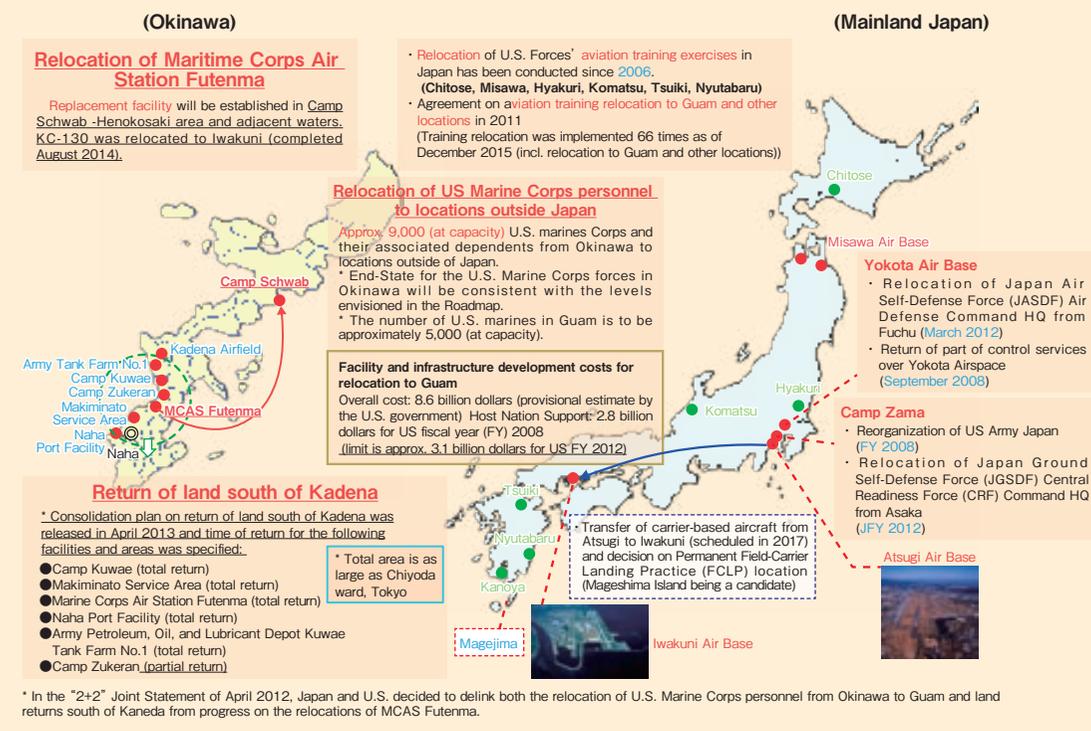
In the April “2+2” Joint Statement, Japan and the United States reaffirmed the two governments’ continued commitment to implement the existing arrangements on the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan as soon as possible, while ensuring operational capability, including training capability, throughout the process. In this joint statement, both governments reaffirmed that the plan to construct the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at the Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution to avoid the continued use of MCAS Futenma. In the Japan-U.S. Summit meetings held in the same month and November, both sides confirmed that the relocation of MCAS Futenma to Henoko is the only solution

and President Obama stated that the U.S. will continue to cooperate on mitigating the impact on Okinawa. In October, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga visited Guam, reviewing the progress of the project that begins the relocation of 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to outside the country, including Guam, in the first half of the 2020s. He confirmed that the project will steadily progress through cooperation with the U.S. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS “Ronald Reagan” arrived in Yokosuka in the same month, and Prime Minister Abe became the first sitting Japanese prime minister to set foot on a U.S. aircraft carrier.

With regard to return of land south of Kadena, the West Futenma Housing Area of Camp Zukeran was returned in March based on the “Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa” in April, 2013. Also, the “Implementation of Bilateral Plans for Consolidating Facilities and Areas in Okinawa” was announced by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and U.S. Ambassador Kennedy in December. To advance the process of U.S. Forces consolidation in Okinawa, which is designed to maintain a force posture capable of responding effectively to future challenges and operational contingencies across the region, while mitigating the impact of U.S. Forces on local communities, the two governments shared the view regarding the following measures on the return or joint use of facilities and areas in Okinawa.

- (1) Futenma Air Station: The two governments confirmed that they would accelerate work on the return of the lands along the eastern side of MCAS Futenma (approximately 4 ha), which was confirmed at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committees in June 1990.
- (2) Industrial Corridor, Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster): The two governments shared the

Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan



views to establish a Joint Use Agreement promptly that will enable Ginowan City to begin construction in JFY 2017 of an elevated road above portions of Camp Zukeran (Camp Foster) to connect Route 58 to the former West Futenma Housing Area. The two governments will support Ginowan City's access to the area for necessary work, including surveys to be started in 2016.

- (3) Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser): The two governments shared the view to commence necessary work promptly to achieve in JFY 2017 return of the land (approximately 3ha) of Makiminato Service Area (Camp Kinser) adjacent to Route 58 for the purpose of widening the Route and reducing traffic congestion.

In addition, the two governments reaffirmed the significance and urgency of the return of a major portion of the Northern Training Area (approximately 3,987 ha) which

was confirmed in the 1996 Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) Final Report. They reconfirmed their commitment to complete the bilaterally agreed conditions necessary to facilitate the Northern Training Area's expeditious return.

The Government of Japan will continue to strive for mitigating impact on Okinawa, while making all efforts to realize the return of MCAS Futenma as soon as possible, advancing its relocation to Henoko in accordance with the law.

(4) Host Nation Support (HNS)

Under the security environment surrounding Japan which is becoming increasingly severe, from the standpoint that it is important to ensure smooth and effective operation of the USFJ, Japan bears the rent for USFJ facilities and areas and the Facility Improvement Program (FIP) funding within the scope

Revision of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (“the Guidelines”)

At the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (“2 + 2”) convened in New York on April 27, 2015, the new Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the new Guidelines) were announced for the first time in 18 years since 1997. The new Guidelines, amid the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan, are intended to review the general framework and policy direction on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.

[Points of the new Guidelines]**Ensuring Japan’s peace and security**

The new Guidelines, while ensuring the consistency with the security legislation (see Special Feature in Chapter 1), are intended to achieve Japan-U.S. cooperation seamlessly from peacetime to contingencies in light of different progresses in operational cooperation (ballistic missile defense, various training and exercises, etc.). Furthermore, the new Guidelines reaffirm the strong commitments by the U.S. under Japan-U.S. Alliance, such as strengthening coordination from peacetime, maintaining extended deterrence to Japan, and using U.S. Forces’ striking power in emergencies.

The “spread” of cooperation in the alliance, such as in regional and global areas and in outer space and cyberspace

The new Guidelines articulate the forms for Japan-U.S. cooperation for regional and global peace and security, as well as coordination with a third country, and reflect the expanded cooperation in new strategic areas such as outer space and cyberspace.

Mechanism to ensure the “effectiveness” of Japan-U.S. cooperation

The new Guidelines articulated the establishment of the Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) in order to facilitate operational coordination of the Self-Defense Forces and the United States Armed Forces, as well as the Bilateral Planning Mechanism (BPM) in order to develop bilateral planning to respond to contingencies relevant to Japan’s peace and security (both announced on November 3, 2015).



In light of the increasingly severe security environment, we intend to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance under the new Guidelines.



Japan-U.S. “2+2” joint press conference



Japan-U.S. “2 + 2” Ministerial Meeting

of the Status of U.S. Forces Agreement. In addition to this, under the special measures agreements, Japan also bears labor costs, utilities costs, and training relocation costs for U.S. Forces in Japan.

Both governments had discussed the Host

Nation Support (HNS) funding for the U.S. Forces in Japan since April 2016, and mainly agreed on the following in December 2015.

(1) In respect of the labor costs, the upper limit of the number of workers funded by Japan working at revenue generating

welfare, recreation and morale facilities will be reduced from 4,408 to 3,893, and the upper limit of the number of workers funded by Japan engaged in the activities such as maintenance of assets and administrative works will be increased from 18,217 to 19,285.

- (2) Utilities charges funded by Japan will be reduced from 72% to 61%, and the upper limit of the annual utilities costs funded by Japan will remain approximately 24.9 billion yen.
- (3) The amount of FIP shall not fall below 20.6 billion yen for each FY.
- (4) As a result, the amount of HNS to be funded by Japan for FY2020 will be approximately 189.9 billion yen.

(5) Various Issues Related to the Presence of U.S. Forces in Japan

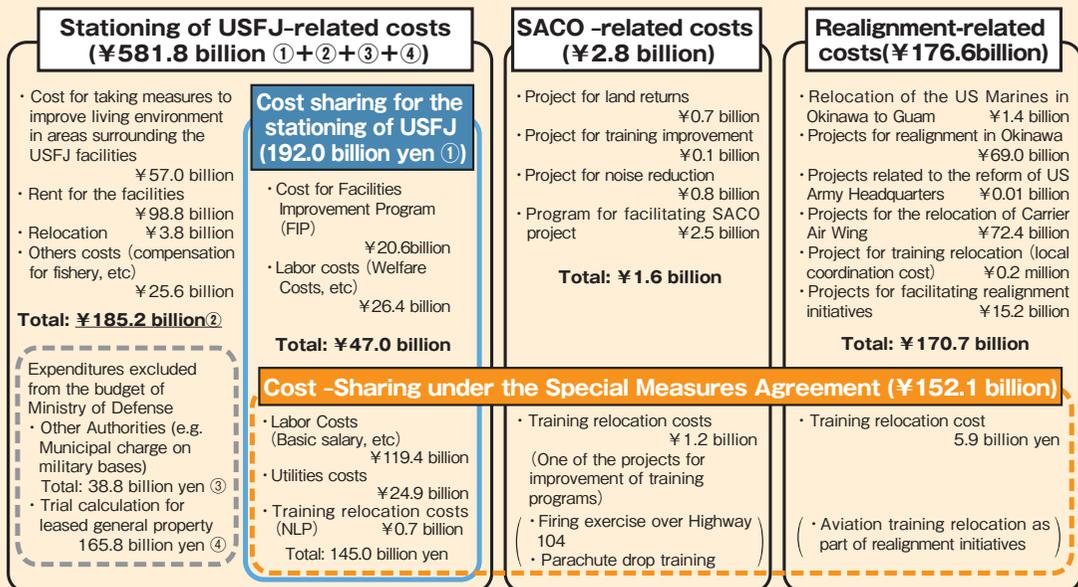
To ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the stable presence of U.S. Forces in Japan as the linchpin of these arrangements, it is important to mitigate the impact of U.S. Forces activities on residents living in the vicinity and to gain their understanding and support regarding the presence of U.S. Forces. In particular, the importance of promoting mitigation of the impact on Okinawa, where U.S. Forces facilities and areas are concentrated, has been confirmed mutually by Japan and the U.S. on numerous occasions, including the Japan-U.S. summits, the “2+2” meetings, and the Japan-U.S. foreign ministerial meetings.

While continuing to work towards the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, Japan has been making its utmost efforts to make improvements in specific issues in light of the requests of local communities such as preventing incidents and accidents involving U.S. Forces, reducing the noise impact

by U.S. Forces aircraft, and dealing with environmental issues at U.S. Forces facilities and areas in Japan.

As the current Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) does not include specific provisions on environment in December 2013, Japan and the U.S. concurred on launching bilateral consultations towards making a bilateral agreement that would supplement SOFA in the field of environment. Nine rounds of director-level negotiations were held since February 2014, and the two governments announced in the Japan-U.S. Joint Press Release in October 2014 that substantial agreement has been achieved on an Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Environmental Stewardship Relating to the United States Armed Forces in Japan, which would supplement SOFA (Environment Supplementary Agreement). The Environment Supplementary Agreement was signed and enacted in September 2015. This Agreement explicitly includes provisions such as (1) the U.S. Government issuing and maintaining environmental governing standards that adopt the more protective of Japanese, U.S., or international agreement standards; (2) establishment and maintenance of procedures for Japanese authorities to have appropriate access following a contemporaneous environmental incident and for site surveys, including cultural asset surveys, associated with land returns. This Agreement is a legally binding international agreement and has a historical significance compared with conventional method of SOFA implementation improvement. Based on this Agreement, the Government of Japan will continue efforts towards achieving results on environmental measures at U.S. Forces facilities and areas.

U.S. Forces in Japan –related Costs borne by Japan (JFY 2016 Budget)



- Notes : 1 Training relocation costs under the Special Measures Agreement extended either into the cost sharing for the stationing of USFJ or the SACO-related costs and the realignment-related costs.
 2 SACO-related costs refer to the costs for implementation of the SACO Final Report to reduce the impact on people in Okinawa and the realignment-related costs refer to the costs relating to measures to reduce the impact on local communities affected by the realignment initiatives. Since the cost-sharing for the stationing of USFJ is Japan's voluntary effort to bear some costs in light of the importance to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, its nature is different from the SACO-related costs and the realignment-related costs, and therefore they are categorized separately.
 3 Figures ③ and ④ areas of JFY 2014 due to lack of JFY2015 figures at this moment.
 4 Accumulated totals may not always add up due to rounding.

(6) United Nations Command (UNC) and U.S. Forces in Japan

As the Korean War broke out in June 1950, UNC was established in July in the same year based on UN Security Council Resolution 83 and Resolution 84. Following the cease-fire agreement concluded in July 1953, UNC Headquarters was relocated to Seoul in July 1957, and UNC (Rear) was established in Japan. UNC (Rear) placed in Yokota Air Base currently has a stationed commander and three other staff and military attaches from eight countries¹ who are stationed at embassies in Tokyo as liaison officers for UNC.

UNC may, based on Article 5 of the Agreement regarding the Status of the United Nations Forces in Japan, use the U.S.

Forces facilities and areas in Japan to the minimum extent required to provide support for military logistics for UNC. At present, UNC is authorized to use the following seven facilities: Camp Zama, U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, U.S. Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Yokota Air Base, Kadena Air Base, Futenma Air Station, and White Beach Area.

3 Global Security

(1) Regional Security

The security environment surrounding the Asia-Pacific region is becoming increasingly severe due to various reasons such as the shift in the global balance of power. Meanwhile, it would be difficult to say that the framework of regional security cooperation is sufficiently

¹ Eight countries, consisting of Australia, UK, Canada, France, Turkey, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand.

institutionalized because of the diversity of political, economic and social systems in the region. At least at the moment, it would be unrealistic to establish a framework for collective defense, in the Asia-Pacific region, which, for instance, is similar to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Europe. It is necessary to realize a regional security environment desirable for Japan, by strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and by combining bilateral and multilateral security cooperation at multiple levels mainly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Based on this recognition, Japan is working to strengthen cooperative relationships in the security field with other countries sharing strategic interests. In relation to Australia, Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations were held (November), and negotiations on making an agreement that would reciprocally improve administrative policy and legal procedures to facilitate joint operations and exercises are underway. In relation to the ROK, the issue of comfort women is resolved finally and irreversibly through a Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in December, 2015. In light of this agreement, Japan will move toward developing a new era of future-oriented Japan-ROK relations including in the security field. Japan is steadily advancing cooperation with ASEAN countries. The security dialogues with ASEAN countries are strengthened: for example, Japan-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting was held for the first time in December. In February 2016, Japan signed the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology with the Philippines, and initiated the negotiations for a similar agreement with Malaysia in May 2015, and with Indonesia in February 2016. Furthermore, Japan supports

the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, etc., in enhancing maritime capabilities through the provision of patrol vessels, etc. Japan is also steadily advancing the cooperation with India, including the eighth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue (January), the Third Vice Ministerial Level 2+2 Dialogue (April), and signing of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology and the Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information.

Furthermore, in addition to strengthening bilateral cooperative relations with countries mentioned above, Japan is also promoting cooperation in the trilateral frameworks, such as the Japan-Australia-India vice-ministerial level talks (June, 2015 and February, 2016), the Senior Directors Officials' Meeting of Japan-U.S.-Australia trilateral Strategic Dialogue (September, 2015), Japan-U.S.-India Foreign Ministerial Meeting (September, 2015) and the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September, 2015), to build a network for the peace and prosperity of the region with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as a linchpin.

For the stability of the security environment surrounding Japan, it is also necessary to promote relationship of trust with China and Russia. Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships, and Japan will further promote "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests". On the other hand, China's rapid move to strengthen its military capabilities in a wide range of areas lacking transparency and its expanded and intensified activities at sea and in the air, are matters of concern for the region. Taking various opportunities, Japan encourages China to

improve the transparency of its defense policy and comply with the international code of conduct. Also, both governments have shared the view that the early implementation of the “Maritime and Air Communication Mechanism between Japan-China defense authorities” is important, and have been working to achieve it. In 2015, Japan promotes political dialogues actively with Russia including two Summit Meetings, and Foreign Minister’s visit to Russia in September, 2015, which marked the resumption of negotiations for the conclusion of a peace treaty.

With respect to the relations with European nations, Japan held the 14th and the 18th Politico-Military Dialogues with the United Kingdom (September, 2015) and with France (September, 2015) respectively. With regard to the countries of the Middle East, Japan had the first Politico-Military Dialogue with Egypt (October, 2015), the first Security Dialogue with Saudi Arabia (March, 2015) and with the United Arab Emirates (December, 2015), and the second Security Dialogue with Bahrain (December, 2015).

In addition, Japan has actively participated in and contributed to multilateral frameworks, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in order to strengthen cooperation in the security area in the region. Among these, ARF aims at improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region through dialogues and cooperation on political and security issues. It is an important forum for promoting security cooperation with a large number of participating countries and regions, including North Korea and the EU. In August, Foreign Minister Kishida attended the ARF Ministerial Meeting, to explain Japan’s efforts under the banner of “Proactive Contribution to Peace,”

and to candidly exchange views, primarily on regional and international affairs including the South China Sea and North Korea. In addition, ARF has not only been evolving as a framework for candid discussion, but also for concrete cooperation on such issues as disaster relief, counter-terrorism, maritime security, and non-proliferation and disarmament. Japan is making a proactive contribution through, for example, taking a leading role as a co-chair in the Inter-Session Meeting (ISM) on maritime security and disaster relief. In addition, Japan hosted the meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy as a co-chair in Tokyo in May, 2015.

Furthermore, in addition to official level dialogues (track 1), Japan actively utilizes frameworks which include the private sector level participants (track 1.5) as forums for exchanges of opinions concerning security issues. Japan participates in various conferences, including the Munich Security Conference (MSC), the Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue), the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD), and the Berlin Foreign Policy Forum, to promote understanding of other countries on Japan’s security policy, and to promote cooperation and confidence-building.

2) Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

A On-the-Ground Initiatives

(a) UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKOs)

Traditionally, UN PKOs are positioned between the parties to a dispute, monitoring ceasefires and the withdrawal of troops in order to help calm the situation or prevent the recurrence of hostilities, with the aim of supporting the settlement of the dispute through dialogue between the parties

involved. However, with the change in the international environment since the end of the Cold War, including an increase in civil wars, UN PKOs have multifaceted mandates in addition to its traditional mandates such as monitoring of ceasefires. These new mandates include support in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, elections, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as the promotion of the political process and the protection of civilians. As of November 2015, 16 UN PKO missions are deployed, primarily in the Middle East and Africa, with a total of over 124,000 military, police and civilian personnel deployed to these missions. In response to the increasing complexity and scale of the mandates and the associated shortages of personnel, equipment and financial resources, discussions on more effective and efficient implementation of UN PKOs are underway in various forums, primarily within the UN.

Japan places a high priority on cooperation with UN PKOs under the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation. Based on the Act on Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act), Japan has dispatched approximately 10,000 personnel on a total of 13 UN PKO missions since 1992. Japanese Staff Officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2011, while Engineering Units have been dispatched there since 2012. The Engineering Units in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, undertake activities such as supporting displaced persons through the provision of water supplies, as well as site preparation. In January 2015, the Cabinet decided to dispatch one more Staff Officer there (Staff Officer - Air Operation). Due in

part to the fact that the situation has become increasingly unstable since December 2013, South Sudan still faces political turmoil and other major issues even now, four years after independence. Accordingly, efforts to promote peace and stability there through the activities of UNMISS continue to be important.

(b) ODA and other cooperation to facilitate peacebuilding

Japan attaches importance to peacebuilding as part of its international cooperation, and it is positioned as one of the priority issues in Japan's Development Cooperation Charter.

As well as prevention of conflict and emergency humanitarian aid, peacebuilding requires seamless manner including support for end of conflict, consolidation of peace, and nation-building. Based on the viewpoint of human security, Japan is providing support for peacebuilding particularly in the following countries and regions.

(1) Afghanistan

One of the most important issues for the peace and security of both the international community and Japan is to support Afghanistan's self-reliance and the stability of the region including Afghanistan, and to prevent Afghanistan from stepping back to a hotbed of terrorism. Since 2001, Japan has provided a total of approximately 6.2 billion US dollars in development assistance in such fields as (1) enhancement of security capabilities; (2) reintegration of ex-combatants including Taliban into society; and (3) education, basic health care, development of agriculture and rural communities, improvement of basic infrastructure, and support for elections.

At the London Conference on Afghanistan in December 2014, the Government of Afghanistan and the international community reaffirmed the commitments that had been

made by both the international community and Afghanistan at the Tokyo Conference in 2012. The first transfer of power through democratic elections was realized in 2014 and, at the London Conference, the new administration clearly demonstrated a strong determination to achieve reform. In light of this, Japan will continue to support Afghanistan's efforts to implement its reform.

(2) Africa

The Islamic militant group, Boko Haram, has been increasingly active in Nigeria and the surrounding countries. At the same time, the threat of transnational organized crime has been increasing as well. Japan has actively provided efforts for the peace and stability in the Africa region.

Specifically, Japan has been providing "Training on Criminal Justice in French-Speaking African Countries" for human resources in the criminal justice system in eight French-speaking African countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania) since 2014. This training aims to improve the investigation capabilities of the states concerned, protection of the rights of suspects, and to deepen knowledge about investigations, legal actions, judiciary, and counter-terrorism. It contributes to

strengthen human resource development and capacity building in the concerned countries. Through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), Japan has provided assistance to seven Sahel countries (Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad), contributing to the development of counter-terrorism laws and the enhancement of law enforcement/execution body capabilities.

In 2015, the Government of Japan provided equipment to Mauritania, Mali, Tunisia and Morocco as a measure to combat the growing threat of terrorism in order to improve their border management capacities and security functions. This support is in line with "Peace and Stability", one of the priority fields included in the TICAD V Yokohama Action Plan. Japan will continue to contribute to this field at TICAD VI in 2016.

B Initiatives within the UN

(1) UN Peacekeeping Operations

Japan gives back to the international community its experience and expertise that it gains from UN PKOs. In order to support UN PKOs, which face myriad challenges, despite its growing importance in maintaining peace and security of the international community, Japan, as in the year before, co-hosted the 2nd PKO Summit meeting (New York, U.S.)



Training scene from the "UN Project for Africa Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC)"

at the end of September 2015. The summit was attended by heads of government, cabinet ministers and representatives from 49 major financial contributing countries, and troop contributing countries as well as four organizations (the UN, NATO, EU and AU), including U.S. President Obama, who had proposed the meeting. Participants engaged in a lively discussion on measures to support UN PKO and issued a joint statement. As one of the co-hosts, Prime Minister Abe announced the following specific contributions: (1) readiness to expand its contribution to the UN PKOs, as the range of activities in which Japan can participate in was broadened, due to the recent revision of the International Peace Cooperation Act; (2) expansion in cooperation with diverse partners, as seen in the case of the “United Nations Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC)”, whose trial training was held in Kenya as a triangular partnership model between Japan, UN and Africa; and (3) support for improvement in the capability of UN PKO personnel through varieties of trainings, and assistance to develop human resources in the areas of peacebuilding, promotion of women’s participation to PKO, and support for the victims of sexual exploitation/abuse.

The High-Level Panel, which was established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, submitted a report in June 2015. This was to provide a strategic review on UN Peace Operations, including PKOs and Special Political Missions (SPM). Based on this report, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented a Secretary-General’s Report to the member states in September. This report pointed out the priority issues for the UN, including strengthening conflict prevention and mediation capability, reinforcing of

partnerships, and capacity building for personnel, as well as an action plan towards implementation of these priorities. With regard to the review of UN PKOs, it is expected to be discussed at such fora as the UN General Assembly, PKO-related committees of the UN Security Council, and the G7 Peacekeeping/Peacebuilding Experts Meeting.

(2) UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

As the majority of regional conflicts and civil wars relapse into conflicts, it is crucial to provide appropriate support in post-conflict period. Based on this understanding, the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established in 2005, with the aim of providing consistent support and advice from conflict resolution through restoration, reintegration, and reconstruction of post-conflict society. Working closely with the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, and other UN institutions, the PBC has provided advice to six countries (Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, the Central African Republic, Liberia, and Guinea) in order to specify the priorities and design their strategies in peacebuilding, as well as offer support for their implementations.

Japan has been a member of the PBC since its establishment, and has contributed to the activities of the Commission through chairing the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) since 2011. In 2015, Japan led discussions concerning institution building, the most important challenges faced by post-conflict countries, which were taken up as one of the topics at the PBC’s session.

In 2015, the review of the UN Peacebuilding architecture, including the PBC, was started. The need to further reinforce cooperation between the UN Security Council and the PBC was emphasized. As from 2016, Japan belongs to both the PBC and UN Security

Council, and is expected to act as a bridge between them and contribute to both organizations.

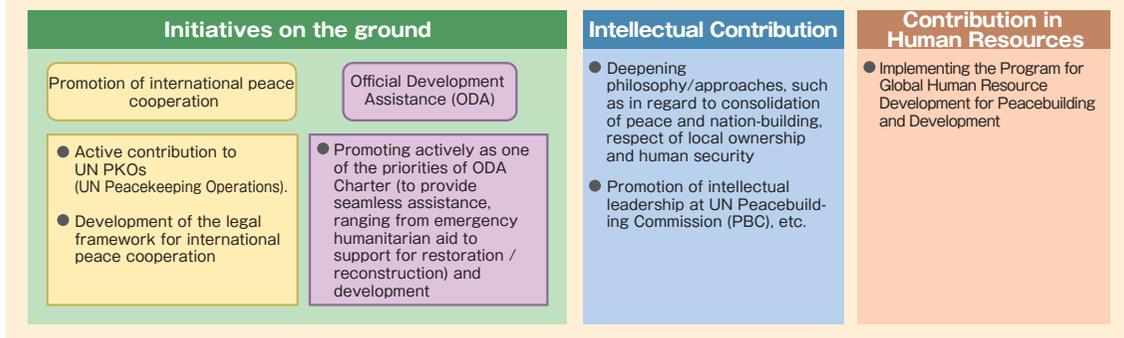
Japan has contributed a total of 42.5 million US dollars to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) established at the same time as the PBC, making it the fund's fifth-largest major donor (as of December 2015).

C Human Resource Development

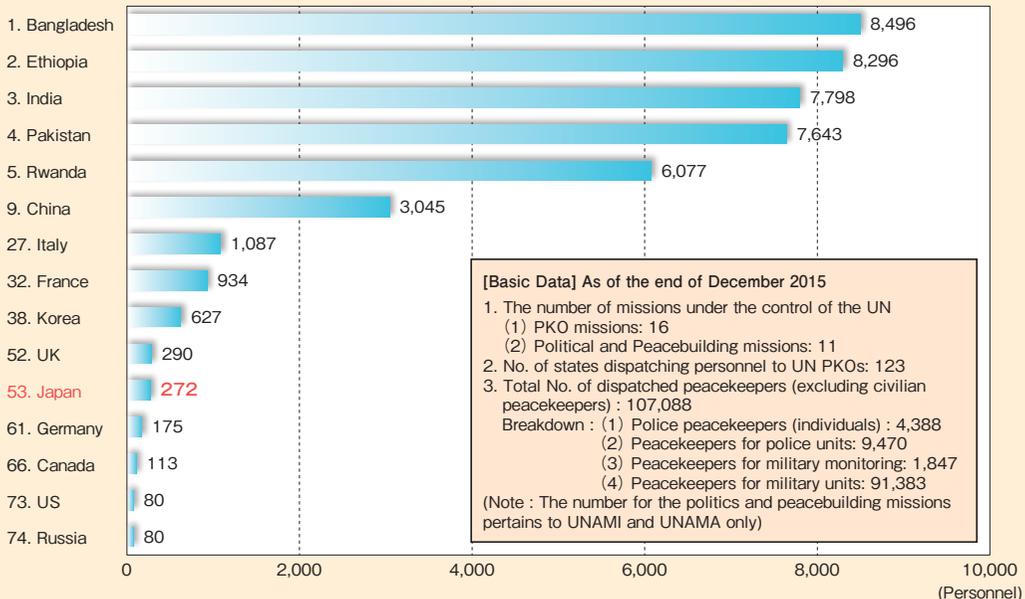
(1) Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding/development

While civilian experts equipped with a high level of skill and expertise have a substantial role to play in post-conflict peacebuilding, the number of those capable of fulfilling that role is inadequate- consequently the development of personnel is a major issue. Japan runs the

Japan's efforts in the field of peacebuilding



Peacekeepers for military and police units under the UN mission



Note : Based on the PKO Law, Japan has been dispatching 353 peacekeepers to UNMISS (South Sudan). However, out of those dispatched from Japan, the number of peacekeepers who are not funded by the UN is not included in the UN statistics data for peacekeepers.

Source : UN websites, etc. (military and police personnel: as of the end of Oct 2015, civilian personnel: as of Nov 2015)

program for human resource development in order to cultivate civilian experts who can play a leading role in peacebuilding and development in the field. As of the end of FY 2015, a total of approximately 540 people has been trained. The trainees who have completed the program have gone on to play an active role in the field worldwide, assisting peacebuilding in such countries as South Sudan and Afghanistan, and have received high acclaim from both the UN and other countries.

At the 2nd PKO Summit held in September, Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to produce more civilian experts. In response to this, the FY 2015 program provided career development support, as well as training courses for younger personnel and for practitioners.

(2) Training for United Nations Peacekeepers

Japan has been supporting UN peacekeepers from various countries participating in UN PKOs to enhance their capabilities. In October, the first training course for instructors for UN PKOs was held in Japan. In addition to financial support, it also engages in dispatching instructors and other personnel to PKO Training Centers in Asia and African nations.



Prime Minister Abe addressing the 2nd PKO Summit (September 28, in New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(3) Initiatives to Combat Security Threats

A Counter-terrorism Measures

The year 2015 turned out to be a year during which the threat of terrorism has extended to the regions including Europe and North America with the shooting terrorism incident on a magazine publisher in Paris, a series of terror attacks in Paris (November), and the shooting terrorism incident in California, U.S. (December). In the Middle East and Africa regions, many ordinary citizens fell victim to terrorist attacks, such as the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese in Syria (January and February), the terrorism shooting incident in Tunisia (March) that claimed Japanese lives as well the shooting attack at a University in Kenya (April), the shooting terrorism incident at a resort in Tunisia (June), and the bomb attack in Ankara, Turkey (October). In addition, the fact that a large number of young people, including those from developed countries, were inspired by ISIL's propaganda through social media, and entered Iraq and Syria as foreign fighters. This remains to be a major issue. Regarding the threat to Japan, ISIL uploaded a video clip which seems to show two Japanese men being killed by ISIL in Syria. Besides, in its bulletin, the terrorist group referred to Japanese diplomatic missions and other organizations as attack targets. Threat of terrorism against Japan is becoming real, as more and more Japanese were embroiled in terrorist attacks, including the shooting terrorism incident in Tunisia. In response to these situations, the Government of Japan has been working on a comprehensive approach after Foreign Minister Kishida announced in February the "3-Pillar Foreign Policy": (1) strengthening counter-terrorism measures including the provision of 15.5

million US dollars for counter-terrorism capacity building assistance in the Middle East and Africa; (2) enhancing diplomacy toward stability and prosperity in the Middle East; and (3) assistance in creating societies resilient to radicalization. More efforts of the international community to counter-terrorism were made at the United Nations and other occasions, which resulted in the adoption of the resolution 2253 in the UN Security Council in December to call for further strengthening counter-terrorist financing measures against ISIL.

The G7 Leaders' Declaration following the Summit in Schloss Elmau in June also stated that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism will have to remain a priority for the whole international community. In particular, under the leadership of the United States, a ministerial meeting in February (in Washington D.C., U.S.), a regional ministerial meeting in June (in Sydney, Australia), and a Summit meeting in September (in New York, U.S.) were held to discuss countering violent extremism. During these meetings, Japan expressed its gratitude to the countries for their cooperation in dealing with the terrorist incident where Japanese hostages had been murdered by terrorists in Syria, and introduced multifaceted efforts related to counter-terrorism measures. New efforts in countering violent extremism were announced in the Sixth Ministerial Plenary Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)¹ in September (New York, U.S.).

With regard to efforts in Asia, the 13th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational

Crime Plus Three (SOMTC+3 (Japan, China and ROK)) were held in June, together with the 12th SOMTC+Japan. In September, the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+3 (Japan, China and ROK)) and the 2nd AMMTC+Japan were held, attended by Eriko Yamatani, Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission. In the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) process, the 13th Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC)² was held in China in May, focusing on the use of Internet for terrorist purposes and the issue of foreign terrorist fighters.

It was reported that ISIL, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other terrorist organizations were still active in North Africa and the Sahel region in 2015. Therefore, Japan engaged in counter-terrorism capacity-building projects by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international organizations, as a part of concrete measures to realize "Strengthening counter-terrorism measures" which is one of the three pillars of Japan's foreign policy in the field of counter-terrorism.

In the area of bilateral and trilateral cooperation, the meetings held include: the Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue in April (in Washington D.C., U.S.), the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations (in Beijing, China), and the Japan-Russia Counter-Terrorism Consultations (in Tokyo) in May, the Japan-U.K. Counter-Terrorism Dialogue in October (in Tokyo), and the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in November (in

¹ Proposed by the U.S., the GCTF was established in September 2011, as a new multilateral framework for anti-terrorism measures. It aims at sharing experience, findings, and best practices (successful cases), and implementing capacity building projects in such fields as "the rule of law," border control and countering violent extremism. It consists of 29 countries (including the G7) and the EU (the United Nations is its partner).

² The meetings are held during the ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) Ministerial Meeting, which is convened every summer as part of ASEAN Related Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Delhi, India). Through these meetings, Japan is strengthening its partnerships with other countries in such areas as the information exchange concerning the terrorism situation and consultations in the international arena.

To prevent developing countries and other nations that do not have adequate capacities for counter-terrorism from becoming a hotbed of terrorism, Japan attaches a high priority to support capacity building of these countries. For example, Japan utilizes Official Development Assistance (ODA) to provide technical assistance and equipment to countries mainly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa in various fields, including: (1) immigration control; (2) aviation security; (3) port and maritime security; (4) customs cooperation; (5) export controls; (6) law enforcement cooperation; (7) countering terrorist financing; (8) counter-terrorism measures focused on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats; and (9) the implementation of the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols³.

In the fight against terrorism, it is essential to stop the flow of funds to terrorists, and limit their movements. Therefore Japan implements freezing of assets of terrorists and their organizations, including restrictions on the money transfer in and out of the country and on the deposit contracts under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and the International Terrorist Asset-Freezing Act. Furthermore, the Government of Japan has taken measures to prevent those with frozen assets from entering or transiting Japan based on the Foreign Exchange Act and the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. These measures are taken

in concert with the efforts made by the international community.

B Criminal Justice Initiatives

The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are the core bodies in shaping policy on crime prevention and criminal justice in the international community. It was decided that Japan will host the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 at the 13th Congress held in Qatar in April. In 2015, in cooperation with the UN Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), Japan supported criminal judicial reform in Myanmar by funding the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund of the UNODC. This program was highly evaluated by the Myanmar Government, and will be continued in 2016. With regard to measures against cybercrime, Japan, the United States, Australia and the UNODC are working together to organize a capacity building workshop for law-enforcement authorities from ASEAN countries.

Furthermore, Japan is undertaking deliberations concerning the conclusion of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols, in order to prevent and encourage cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime by developing an international legal framework to tackle transnational organized crime.

C Anti-corruption measures

In 2015, Japan cooperated in an asset recovery initiative, mainly within the context

³ For more information on the International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols, please refer to the website of MOFA. Japan has concluded the 13 International Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols.

of the G7 framework, seeking to confiscate and repatriate to the country of origin the proceeds of corruption that have found their way overseas. In December, Japan participated in the 4th Arab Forum on Asset Recovery held in Hammamet (Tunisia), and presented its asset recovery efforts. Under the G7 presidency in 2016, Japan will continue its efforts in relation to the Arab Forum. Japan's activities within the G20 framework were mainly focused on the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, developing Japan's Action Plan to implement the G20 High-Level Principle on Beneficial Ownership Transparency. It also joined development of the G20 High Level Principles on Private Sector Transparency and Integrity.

The OECD Working Group on Bribery monitors the "Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials In International Business Transactions" to prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials. Japan also participates in this program.

In addition, Japan is undertaking deliberations concerning the conclusion of the UN Convention against Corruption, which prescribes measures to effectively address such corruption as bribery and embezzlement of property by public officials, as well as international cooperation. In 2015, Japan provided assistance through the UNODC in developing a handbook on international cooperation concerning foreign bribery cases. It also funded a UNODC project worth about one million U.S. dollars in efforts to support Afghanistan to enhance anti-corruption

measures, strengthen the criminal justice system and stabilize security in the country.

D Measures to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

In terms of measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, Financial Action Task Force (FATF)⁴ has been leading global discussions concerning the international standards that countries should implement, as well as examining measures from new perspectives. As a founding member, Japan has actively participated in these discussions. To promote international efforts to stop the flow of funds to terrorists, Japan supported West African nations with capacity building in cooperation with the UNODC.

E Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Japan has strengthened its domestic mechanism to combat trafficking in persons, and also proactively provides assistance to developing countries based on "Japan's 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons". This Action Plan was developed for the first time in five years in order to tackle the increasingly sophisticated and latent methods used for trafficking in persons in recent years. In January, a Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures was dispatched to Thailand. Taking that opportunity, the 5th Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons was held, reaffirming collaboration between the two countries. Continuing in the

⁴ It is an international framework established by the G7 Arche Summit (in France) in 1989 for the purpose of promoting effective measures to combat international money laundering. 34 countries and regions, including the G7, and two international organizations participated. FATF Recommendations are recognized as the international standards that the states shall implement for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF also monitors the progress of its members in implementing measures, and identifies jurisdictions that have deficiencies and risk of money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Column

Training of peacekeeping personnel in Africa via the Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities~ Transferring skills and experience~

On the ground of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKOs), which play an important role in facilitating international peace and stability, it has been revealed that there are big challenges in deploying personnel rapidly and launching missions quickly in recent years when establishing new missions and enlarging existing ones. In many of the proactive troop contributing countries (TCC) for PKOs, often there is a lack of equipment and skills even though personnel are available for dispatch.

The UN, expecting that countries, in particular developed ones with adequate equipment and skills, will carry out capacity building for Engineering Units in African countries and provide heavy equipment needed for UN PKO, launched the Triangular Partnership Project scheme among the UN, African TCCs and countries with specialized skills and the will to make contributions.

Japan has dispatched Engineering Units on a number of missions, beginning with the PKO in Cambodia (UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)) in 1992. In addition, Japan recently has played a leading role in the development of UN Peacekeeping Missions Military Engineer Unit Manual. Accordingly, Japan has enough experience and expertise. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at the request of the UN, expressed support for the Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities at the first PKO Summit held in September 2014. In response to this, a trial training for the project was carried out in Kenya (Nairobi) over a 6-week schedule from September to October 2015. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated financially in organizing the training and heavy engineering equipment to the UN, and the Ministry of Defense dispatched instructors to the training. 11 instructors were dispatched from the Ground Self-Defense Forces, and training was provided to 10 trainees from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, with regard to operation and maintenance of heavy engineering equipment such as bulldozers. As a result of the trial training, all trainees became capable of implementing basic facility work in a safe manner using 4 types of heavy machinery. The trial training was completed successfully. This training was also introduced by Prime Minister Abe in his speech at the 2nd PKO Summit held in September 2015.

Sergeant First Class Takahashi of the Ground Self-Defense Force, who participated in the training as instructor, is proud of the training, saying, "The trial training was a series of trial and error. We held many discussions through the training and I am confident that we have done our very best. In addition, it provided great confidence and encouragement for my future career as a self-defense officer to see the training materials in whose development I was involved will continue to be used in the future UN-led training. I would like to actively take part if another chance of that kind is available. It is my dream to do engineering activities in actual PKO, together with those trainees, when they are qualified enough."

Scaled-up trainings are scheduled for 2016, and Japan continues to contribute.



Instructor from the Ground Self-Defense Force giving a lecture on heavy engineering equipment operation



Instructor from the Ground Self-Defense Force explaining to trainees about the function of graders

year 2015, Japan is assisting the repatriation and social rehabilitation program for foreign victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan, through funding to the International

Organization for Migration (IOM). Japan also funded training programs to law-enforcement authorities in Southeast Asian countries and Nigeria through projects organized by the

UNODC.

F Measures to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is a central policy making body of the UN system on drug-related matters. Japan has continuously been elected as a CND member state. In the election held in April, Japan was elected with the highest vote in the Asia-Pacific group and reassigned for the term 2016-2019. Synthetic drugs such as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and methamphetamine have been spreading worldwide, posing an increasing threat. To tackle this issue, Japan has insisted on strengthening international efforts.

In 2015, Japan assisted the Asia-Pacific countries in analyzing the trend of synthetic drugs problem and conducted a monitoring of illicit poppy cultivation in Myanmar under the cooperation with the UNODC. In West African regions, Japan provided technical assistance to law-enforcement authorities in order to prevent the illicit flow of precursors (which are used for manufacturing synthetic narcotics). As for Afghanistan and neighboring countries (Iran and Central Asia), Japan provided around 3.5 million US dollars to the UNODC, and proactively supported the efforts of these countries, through strengthening border control, supporting cultivation of alternative crops, helping women suffering from drug addiction, and combatting smuggling.

(4) The Oceans and Seas

“Open and Stable Seas” based on maritime order governed by law and rules and not by force, are essential for peace and prosperity not only of Japan, but also of the international community as a whole. It is therefore

necessary to maintain and promote them.

In recent years, there are an increasing number of cases where interests of countries clash with each other from the perspective of securing resources and national security. In particular, maritime disputes have occurred among coastal states in the South China Sea and there is growing concern about unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force.

Against this background, Japan has been making every effort to stabilize and maintain order at sea, and to ensure the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight; for instance, at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2014, Prime Minister Abe advocated the “Three Principles on the Rule of Law at Sea.” Utilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA), Japan assists coastal states in Asia in order to strengthen capacity building on maritime safety by providing patrol vessels and developing human resources for capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies.

A Order at Sea

(a) The importance of order at sea for Japan

Japan is a maritime nation surrounded by the sea and depends on marine transport for almost all of its imports of energy and resources, such as petroleum and minerals. Moreover, for Japan as is an island nation with few natural resources, marine living resources and mineral resources lying on the continental shelf and deep seabed of surrounding waters present economic significance. Thus, it is necessary for Japan to actively contribute to stabilizing and maintaining order at sea.

(b) The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related Japanese initiatives

Also known as the “Constitution for

the Seas,” UNCLOS is the very basis of maritime order governed by law and rules. The Convention comprehensively provides principles governing uses of the sea, including the freedoms of navigation and overflight over the high seas. It also stipulates the rights and obligations under international law on the development of marine resources and so on. Furthermore, this Convention led to the establishment of international organizations such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), and the International Seabed Authority (ISA). This Convention has been ratified by 166 countries (including some not recognized by Japan), including Japan and by the EU.

As a leading maritime state, Japan regards maritime order with the Convention at the core as the cornerstone by ensuring Japan's maritime rights and facilitating maritime activities. As such, Japan actively contributes to discussions at conferences including the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and to the activities by international organizations in order to ensure that the Convention will be even more widely applied and implemented appropriately. Furthermore, Japan has done its utmost to build, maintain, and develop fair order at sea under the Convention, by various means such as holding international symposiums on the law of the sea where eminent Japanese and foreign experts are invited. (see 3-1-6).

(c) A Challenge to the Maritime Order and Response by Japan and International Community (see 1-1(2), 2-1-2(1) and 2-1-6)

a. Situations surrounding the East China Sea

In the East China Sea, Chinese government-owned vessels have continued to intrude into

Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands at the same frequency in 2015 as in the past. Furthermore, Chinese Coast Guard vessels apparently equipped with cannons have repeatedly intruded into Japan's territorial waters since the end of December 2015. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral resource development in Exclusive Economic Zone and on continental shelves in areas pending delimitation. In November 2015, there also occurred an incident where intelligence-gathering vessels had repeatedly navigated outside the southern part of the contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands.

Given that the situation in the East China Sea is deteriorating, Japan continues to respond in a firm but calm manner while making claims that should be made in dealing with China's intrusions into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands and its unilateral resource development in areas pending delimitation.

b. Issues surrounding the South China Sea

In the South China Sea, China has been further conducting unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, and attempts to create faits accomplis. Many countries including Japan have expressed concern over such China's actions. With regards to the dispute over the South China Sea between the Philippines and China, the Philippines started arbitral proceedings in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Arbitral Tribunal decided on the issue of jurisdiction, ruling that it has jurisdiction over a part of the submissions by the Philippines in October. In November, the hearing on the merits was held. However, China continues its non-participation in the



Uotsurishima island, Senkaku islands (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



source : <http://amti.csis.org/new-imagery-release/>, <http://amti.csis.org/airstrips-near-completion/>
<https://medium.com/satellite-image-analysis/satellite-imagery-makes-clear-china-s-runway-work-on-sub-reef-south-china-sea-1cd43588f528> etc.

arbitral proceedings.

Japan has a high interest regarding the issues over the South China Sea as it relies on marine transportation for most of resources and energy, and attaches importance to freedom of navigation and overflight in South China sea, as well as the security of sea lanes of communication. The international community is called upon to cooperate in order to protect open, free and peaceful sea.

B Maritime Security

Japan actively contributes to ensuring safety and freedom of navigation and overflight through anti-piracy measures in Asia and Africa, as well as close partnership and cooperation with other countries.

(a) Anti-piracy measures off the coast of

Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

(Current status of piracy and armed robbery cases)

According to figures released by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the number of piracy and armed robbery cases (hereinafter referred to as the “piracy cases”) off Somalia and the Gulf of Aden was 237 at its peak in 2011, but then dropped to zero in 2015. It is due to maritime law-enforcement activities of respective navies and self-defense measures adopted by merchant ships. However root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia remain unresolved. Thus, the situation could easily revert if the international community were to reduce its involvement.

(Extension of anti-piracy operations and record of escort activities)

Since 2009, Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations by deploying two Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and two P-3C

maritime patrol aircraft to the Gulf of Aden. On July 7, 2015, the Government of Japan decided to continue anti-piracy operations based on the Act on Punishment and Countermeasures against Piracy for another year.

The deployed destroyers protected 147 merchant ships on 78 escort operations between January and December 2015, while the P-3C maritime patrol aircrafts carried out 227 mission flights, in which they conducted surveillance, information gathering and provided information to naval vessels of other countries.

(Promotion of international cooperation in anti-piracy measures)

Japan has been making multi-layered efforts, including support for enhancement of maritime law enforcement capacity of Somalia and neighboring countries as well as for stability of Somalia, in order to solve root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Japan has assisted the establishment of Information Sharing Centers in Yemen, Kenya, and Tanzania, as well as the construction of a training center in Djibouti for capacity building of the region through contributing 14.6 million US dollars to a fund established by the IMO. Moreover, Japan has contributed 4.5 million US dollars to an international trust fund managed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), through which it assists Somalia and neighboring countries in improving courts and training judicial officers, as well as repatriation to Somalia of those found guilty of piracy in the neighboring countries including Seychelles. In December 2015, Japan provided two patrol vessels to the Djibouti Coast Guard, to which the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has extended technical assistance for capacity building.

With a view to promoting stability in Somalia, Japan has provided a total of 371.37 million US dollars since 2007 aimed at improvement of public security, humanitarian aid, employment creation, and support for the police.

(b) Anti-piracy measures in Asia

To encourage regional cooperation in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea, Japan was at the forefront of efforts to formulate the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), which entered into force in 2006. Each of the Contracting Parties provides information regarding piracy and armed robbery at sea and cooperate via the Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP-ISC) established in Singapore under the Agreement. Japan supports the activities of ReCAAP-ISC by sending its Executive Director and an Assistant Director, in addition to the provision of financial support.

Japan's efforts for anti-piracy measures in Asia are highly praised in the international community.

(5) Cyber

Year by year, as cyber space is becoming an essential part of platform for people's socioeconomic activities, the scale and the influence of malicious cyber activities including cyber attacks are expanding. Moreover, it is pointed out that some of sophisticated cyber attacks that are thought to have been carried out for a particular purpose were state-sponsored.

Japan is increasingly exposed to the cyber threats: for instance, in June 2015, the Japan Pension Service suffered cyber attacks, in which approximately 1.25 million cases of pension information were stolen. With the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, and the Tokyo

Olympic and Paralympics Games to be held in 2020, the cybersecurity issue proves to be an urgent priority for Japan.

Cyber attacks are characterized as being highly anonymous, causing a significant impact in a short period of time, being less affected by geographical constraints and easily crossing national borders. It is difficult for a single country to address this issue alone. As such, coordination and cooperation of the international community are essential.

As a result, based on the "National Cyber Security Strategies", which was adopted by the Cabinet in September, 2015, the Government of Japan has advanced efforts, including contributing to the making of international rules, promoting cooperation and confidence-building among other countries, enhancing countermeasures against cybercrimes and supporting capacity building.

In respect of developing international rules, from its standpoint that "existing international law is applicable to cyber activities," the Government of Japan, together with actors in the Japanese private sector, has taken active roles in discussions in the international community through the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UN-GGE) and the Global Conference on Cyberspace held in April at Hague, etc.

Regarding promoting cooperation and confidence-building, Japan has had bilateral dialogues and discussions with the U.S., Australia, the U.K., France, India, Israel, Estonia, Russia, EU, NATO and ASEAN, as well as within the trilateral framework of Japan-China-ROK. Through these talks, Japan exchanges information about cyber-related policies and initiatives, deepens mutual understanding, enhances cooperation and fosters confidence-building with other countries. Japan has been proactively engaging

in the promotion of multilateral cooperation in the field of cyberspace by, for instance, participating in the Workshop on Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace held in October in Singapore within the framework of the ARF.

Regarding countermeasures against cybercrime, as the first member country in Asia of the Convention on Cybercrime, which is the only multilateral treaty on the use of cyberspace, Japan proactively takes part in related dialogues in efforts to increase the number of contracting countries to this Convention. Due to the nature of cyberspace, the lack of incident handling capacity of some countries and regions may pose risk to the entire world. Therefore, capacity-building support for developing countries is important for ensuring Japan's security as well. Japan has been providing support including the capacity-building of CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team)¹ and law enforcement agencies in various countries, mainly, ASEAN member states.

(6) Outer Space

In recent years, outer space has become congested due to the diversified use of outer space and increasing number of countries using space. In addition, by increase of space debris caused by such as Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests, collisions of satellites soon has posed a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

In order to cope with this situation, Japan has been proactively participating in discussions on the international progress in development of international rule-making for outer space, and also promotes dialogues

and consultations on outer space with other countries, to contribute to the efforts to ensure security in outer space.

Amid new technologies and services with regard to space utilization and applications, Japan proactively engages in space science and exploration such as the International Space Station (ISS), the overseas development of Japanese space industry, resolution of global challenges by utilizing space technologies, and support for capacity building in the field of outer space in developing countries.

A International Rule-making for Outer Space

In order to ensure the sustainable and stable use of outer space, it is important to restrict actions that create space debris such as ASAT tests and to formulate rules with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBM) which will promote information exchange on outer space activities between countries. From these points of view, Japan has been proactively contributing to discussions on the development of the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICOC) led by EU. In July, the first multilateral negotiation was held in New York.

At the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), Japan has been proactively contributing to discussions on the peaceful use of outer space, including draft Guideline for “Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities”. In October, the first joint meeting of the 1st and 4th Committees of UN General Assembly on the agenda of outer space was held.

¹ In order to minimize the damage caused by computer security incidents, we collect and analyze incident related information, fragility information and predictive information of any cyberattack, and consider solutions and responses to the incidents.

B International Dialogues and Consultations on Outer Space

Increasing number of various bilateral and multilateral dialogues and consultations on outer space have been held, reflecting a growing interest of the international community concerning outer space. It is worthwhile to share information and promote cooperation among other countries utilizing outer space, from a broader perspective, with regard to sustainable and stable use of outer space. Japan promotes dialogues in the fields of security, science and industry with major space-faring nations and other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Japan conducted dialogues as follows: Japan-U.S. Space Security Dialogue (Tokyo) in February, the Third Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space in September, the Sixth Japan-U.S. Civil Space Dialogue, Civil and Commercial Uses in September (Tokyo), the Fifth Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Space Security Dialogue (in Canberra, Australia) in September, the Third ARF Space Security Workshop (Beijing, China) in November.

C Space Science and Exploration, Overseas Development of Japanese Space Industry and Contribution to Global Challenges

The progress of space exploration and application for peaceful purposes is a common benefit for all humankind, and is also of significant in terms of diplomacy. In particular, the ISS is an epic project in which 15 countries participate, and has become a symbol of international cooperation in the field of outer space. From its point of view,

Japan and the U.S. signed a document on the new Japan-U.S. cooperation in terms of the ISS program in December, and decided the participation in the extended operation of the ISS until 2024.

To acquire internationally increasing demand for satellites and launching services is an important challenge for the Japanese space industry. The Government of Japan has been promoting overseas development of its space industry through top-level sales and diplomatic missions overseas. Furthermore, Japan has been contributing to issues of climate change, disaster risk reduction, forest conservation, resources/energy, and other global issues by utilizing space technologies. Japan also supports developing countries for capacity building in the field of outer space.

4 Disarmament, Non-proliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

(1) General Overview

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan is striving to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation, both to ensure and maintain its own safety and to achieve a safe and peaceful world, based on the principle of pacifism advocated by the Constitution of Japan. Japan's efforts in this area encompass weapons of mass destruction (which generally refers to nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons), conventional weapons, missiles and other means of delivery, and related materials and technology.

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan is engaged in various diplomatic efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons¹. The Treaty on the Non-

¹ For more details about Japan's policy in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, please refer to "Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy" (7th Edition) published in March 2016.

proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. To maintain and strengthen the NPT regime, Japan has partnered with Australia to lead the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), a group consisting of 12 non-nuclear-weapon States², to promote concrete and practical proposals, and has been contributing through, among others, submitting working papers and issuing joint statements to the 2015 NPT Review Conference including the three Preparatory Committees.

Japan's endeavors also focus on achieving stronger, universal conventions targeting weapons of mass destruction, other than nuclear weapons, namely biological and chemical weapons, as well as those targeting conventional weapons.

In addition, Japan is making efforts to begin negotiations on new disarmament treaties, such as a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as well as to strengthen and increase the efficiency of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)³ safeguards⁴.

Japan is also actively involved in various

international export control regimes, the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)⁵, and initiatives aimed at enhancing nuclear security⁶.

Furthermore, Japan is actively engaging in disarmament and non-proliferation diplomacy through bilateral dialogue. Japan is also undertaking wide-ranging activities to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy such as the conclusion of bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements⁷.

(2) Nuclear Disarmament

A The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Following the three Preparatory Committees held annually after 2012, the 2015 NPT Review Conference was held in New York from April 27 to May 22. Despite intensive discussions, it ended without being able to adopt the final document, because of divides among member States on the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. However, it is important to continue to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime for promoting the three pillars of the NPT, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

² Established by Japan and Australia in September 2010, it now has 12 members. The other members are Canada, Chile, Germany, Poland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and Nigeria.

³ The IAEA was established in 1957 to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to prevent it from being diverted from peaceful to military uses. Its secretariat is located in Vienna. Its highest decision-making body is the General Conference, which consists of all member countries and meets once a year. The 35-member Board of Governors carries out the IAEA's functions, subject to its responsibilities to the General Conference. As of December 2015, the IAEA has 167 member countries. Mr. Yukiya Amano has been its Director General since December 2009.

⁴ Verification measures (inspections, checks of each country's material accountancy (management of its inventory of nuclear material) records, etc.) undertaken by the IAEA in accordance with the safeguards agreements concluded by each individual country and IAEA, in order to guarantee that nuclear material is being used solely for peaceful purposes and is not being diverted for use in nuclear weapons or the like. Pursuant to Article 3 of the NPT, the non-nuclear states that are contracting parties to the NPT are required to conclude safeguards agreements with the IAEA and to accept safeguards on all nuclear material within their borders (comprehensive safeguards).

⁵ The PSI is a framework established in May 2003 to prevent the potential proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials, where each country implemented and review possible measures jointly available within the scope of international and domestic laws. As of December 2015, 105 countries take part in PSI activities and cooperation. Japan conducted PSI maritime interdiction exercise twice in 2004 and 2007. In November 2010, it hosted the Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in Tokyo, and in July 2012, it hosted the PSI air interdiction exercise, the first activity conducted in Japan. Japan also proactively participated in the exercises and related meetings organized by other countries. In May 2013, a High-Level Political Meeting was held in Poland with 72 participant states from PSI member countries, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the PSI. As Japan will host the exercise in 2018, Japan proactively participated in the PSI interdiction exercise "MARU2015" hosted by New Zealand, and also joined the Operational Expert Group (OEG) meeting in May of the same year. In January 2016, the Mid-Level Political Meeting was organized by the U.S. to review the status of progress since the High-Level Political Meeting in 2013.

⁶ Measures to prevent terrorists and other criminals from obtaining nuclear materials.

⁷ Providing equipment required for the long-term onshore storage of reactor compartments removed in the process of dismantling nuclear submarines.

B The Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)

Through its concrete and practical proposals, and with the involvement of the foreign ministers of its member states, the NPDI takes a bridging role between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, taking the lead in the international community's initiatives in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In April 2014, Japan hosted the 8th NPDI Ministerial Meeting in Hiroshima, for the first time in Japan. As well as being a chance for participants to witness with their own eyes the reality of atomic bombings, this meeting was a unique opportunity for NPDI member states to undertake more proactive discussions with a view to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Agreement was also reached on concrete and practical measures proposed by Japan, including the reduction of all types of nuclear weapons, urging those not yet engaged in nuclear disarmament efforts to freeze/reduce their arsenals, the development of multilateral negotiations on nuclear weapons reductions and increased transparency. Ahead of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, which was held in April and May 2015, NPDI submitted 18 working documents and a draft outcome document of the NPT Review Conference in order to take the lead in the international community.

C Contributions in the UN

In September, Foreign Minister Kishida attended the UN General Assembly meeting to commemorate the International Day for

Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In December, the resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which Japan has submitted annually since 1994, was co-sponsored by 107 countries and adopted with 166 votes in favor, 3 against, and 16 abstentions.

D Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)⁸

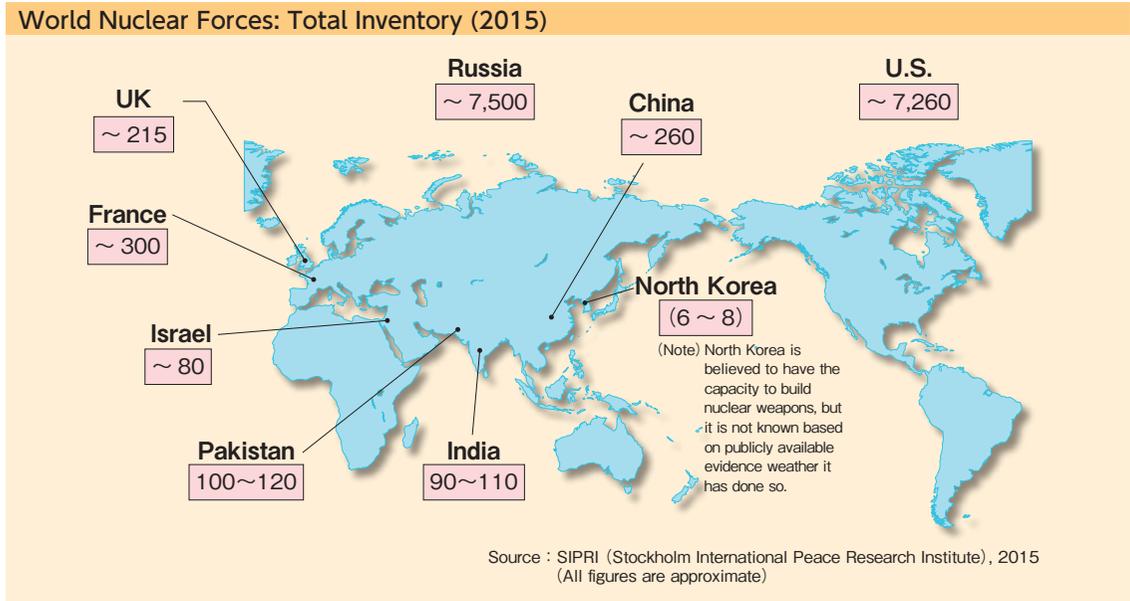
Japan prioritizes the early entry into force of the CTBT, as it is a key pillar of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes based upon the NPT. Japan continues its diplomatic efforts to persuade those countries that have not yet ratified it to do so. In September 2015, 70th year since the atomic bombings, Foreign Minister Kishida co-chaired the 9th Conference on Facilitating the early entry into force of the CTBT, together with the Kazakh Foreign Minister. Japan is going to lead the efforts for the early entry of the Treaty as the co-president of the Conference for two years, until September 2017.

E Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT: Cut-off Treaty)⁹

In light of a situation where negotiations on FMCT have not been started in the CD for years, the UN General Assembly decided to establish a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on an FMCT in 2012. Four GGE meetings were held between 2014 and 2015, and reports including a recommendation on future FMCT negotiations were produced. Former Ambassador of Japan to the

⁸ This prohibits all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions everywhere, whether in outer space, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. Although it was opened for signature in 1996, it had yet entered into force as of December 2015 because among the 44 countries whose ratification is required for the treaty to enter into force, China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the US have yet to ratify it, while India, North Korea and Pakistan have yet to sign it.

⁹ A proposed treaty that seeks to halt the quantitative increase in nuclear weapons by prohibiting the production of fissile material (including highly-enriched uranium and plutonium) for use as raw material in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.



Conference on Disarmament, Akio Suda attended the GGE meetings as Japan's governmental expert and contributed to the discussions.

F Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education

In recent years, the international community has become increasingly aware of the importance of educating citizens about disarmament and non-proliferation, in order to further promote disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. As the only country to have ever suffered the atomic bombings, Japan is actively promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education. Japan has translated testimonies of atomic bomb survivors into other languages, conducted training courses for young diplomats from other countries in atomic bombed cities, and submitted working papers and given speeches on this issue during the NPT review process. In addition, the Government of Japan supports activities aimed at conveying the reality of the devastation caused by the

use of nuclear weapons to people both within Japan and overseas through, among others, commissioning atomic bomb survivors as "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" and having them speak at international conferences. In recent years, with the atomic bomb survivors aging, Japan launched the "Youth Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" program for the younger generation in addition to the existing "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" program. Japan places high priority on initiatives to pass on across borders the current understanding of the realities of the use of atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Government also extends cooperation in organizing the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues and provides assistance for holding atomic bomb exhibition overseas through diplomatic missions overseas, in cooperation with Hiroshima and Nagasaki Cities. In December, an atomic bomb exhibition was launched in Vienna as the third permanent one in the world.

G Other Bilateral Initiatives

Through the Japan-Russia Committee on Cooperation for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in the Former Soviet Union, Japan has provided its cooperation to Russia in dismantling decommissioned nuclear submarines, with the objective of furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as preventing environmental pollution¹⁰. Japan is also engaged in cooperation to enhance nuclear security through committees on cooperation for the elimination of nuclear weapons reduced in Ukraine and Kazakhstan respectively¹¹.

(3) Non-proliferation

A Efforts to Prevent the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Japan is undertaking various diplomatic efforts to enhance non-proliferation regimes. As a member state of the IAEA Board of Governors designated by the Board¹², Japan contributes to its activities in both personnel and financial terms. The IAEA safeguards is a central measure to the international nuclear non-proliferation regimes. Japan encourages other countries to conclude Additional Protocols of the IAEA safeguards¹³ in cooperation with the IAEA in various discussion forums, providing

personnel and financial support for the IAEA's regional seminars.

Export control regimes are frameworks for cooperation among countries which have the ability to supply weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and/or related dual-use goods and technologies, and support appropriate export controls. Japan participates in and contributes to all export control regimes of nuclear weapons, biological and chemical weapons, missiles¹⁴, and conventional weapons. In particular, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna serves as the Point of Contact of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Moreover, as well as placing a high priority on the initiatives of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), Japan is encouraging other countries, primarily those in Asia, to enhance regional efforts through frameworks such as the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)¹⁵ and the Asian Export Control Seminar¹⁶, with the aim of promoting understanding of non-proliferation regimes and enhancing relevant efforts. Furthermore, through the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), Japan is contributing to international scientific cooperation and efforts to prevent the proliferation of

¹⁰ The "Star of Hope" program, for dismantling decommissioned nuclear submarines was implemented as part of the G8 Global Partnership agreed to at the 2002 Kananaskis Summit held in June (Canada) and was completed in December 2009 after dismantling a total of six submarines. Since August 2010, Japan has undertaken cooperation through the construction of facilities for ensuring the safe onshore storage of reactor compartments removed from the dismantled nuclear submarines.

¹¹ In January 2011, Japan undertook efforts to enhance nuclear security at the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology through the Japan-Ukraine Committee on Cooperation for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in Ukraine. In November, Japan also extended assistance for upgrading protective materials and equipment to secure nuclear security in Kazakhstan through the Committee on Cooperation for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in Kazakhstan.

¹² 13 countries designated by the IAEA Board of Governors, Japan and countries such as other G7 members that are advanced in the field of nuclear energy are nominated.

¹³ Protocols concluded by each country with the IAEA, in addition to their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements. The conclusion of Additional Protocol subjects countries to more stringent verification activities, extending the scope of information about nuclear activities that should be reported to the IAEA. As of December 2015, 126 countries have concluded such protocols.

¹⁴ In addition to the export control regimes, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC) has the principles on self-restraint in development and deployment of ballistic missiles. Japan served as the HCOC chair for a year, from May 2013.

¹⁵ ASTOP is a multilateral meeting hosted by Japan to discuss various issues related to strengthening of the non-proliferation apparatus in Asia, with participants consisting of 10 ASEAN states, China, Korea, the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. A recent meeting was held in January 2016.

¹⁶ It is a seminar to exchange views and information, aimed at strengthening export controls in the Asian region by gaining participants, including local export control authorities from various countries and regions of Asia. It has been held annually in Tokyo since 1993; the most recent one was organized in February 2016 with 28 participating countries and regions.

knowledge and skills in the field of weapons of mass destruction. More specifically, scientists from Russia and Central Asia, among others, who were previously involved in research and development focused on weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, are now employed by the ISTC, where they undertake research for peaceful purposes.

B Regional Non-proliferation Issues

North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missile program is a grave threat to the international peace and security; in particular, its nuclear program is a serious challenge to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In October 2002, the nuclear issue once again became more serious when North Korea admitted that it had a uranium enrichment program¹⁷. In July 2006, seven ballistic missiles, including Taepo Dong 2 class, were launched, followed by a nuclear test in October of the same year.

In 2007, "Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement" and "Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement" were adopted at the Six-Party Talks. North Korea, however, soon announced the suspension of the actions prescribed in the two documents.

Furthermore, in November 2010, North Korea showed a "uranium enrichment facility" to Professor Siegfried Hecker of Stanford University, who visited North Korea.

North Korea further proceeded with its third nuclear test in February 2013 and in April, announced its intention to restart its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

The report submitted in March 2015 by the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 stated that the number of ballistic missiles launched by North Korea in 2014 (13 to 15 missiles) was unprecedented. In 2015, North Korea again launched ballistic missiles on several occasions. According to the IAEA Director General's report published in September 2015, North Korea continues its nuclear and missile development with some continuing signs, such as steam discharges associated with the graphite moderated reactor and the expansion and utilization of the suspected facility for uranium enrichment. Furthermore, North Korea conducted the fourth nuclear test in January 2016 and launched a ballistic missile in the following month. In the wake of this situation, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2270, which encompasses strong and comprehensive content, significantly adding to and strengthening the sanctions. While continuing to coordinate closely with the U.S., the ROK and other relevant countries, Japan will strongly urge North Korea to steadily implement steps toward the abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, including immediate cessation of its uranium enrichment activities (see 2-1-1 (1)).

The Iranian nuclear issue is also a serious challenge to global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Since 2003, Iran had continued uranium enrichment-related activities, despite the adoption of a series of resolutions by the IAEA Board of Governors¹⁸ and the

¹⁷ In January 2003, North Korea gave notice of its withdrawal from the NPT, and subsequently re-started its 5 MWe graphite-moderated reactor, which had been frozen under the "Agreed Framework" that the U.S. and North Korea signed in October 1994, resuming the reprocessing of its spent nuclear fuel rods.

¹⁸ Following the resolution of the IAEA Board of Governors in September 2003 and the Teheran Declaration concluded with the EU-3 (UK, France, and Germany) in October, Iran demonstrated a constructive response for a time, committing to suspension of its enrichment-related activities and signing up to corrective measures concerning safeguards as well as signing of an Additional Protocol with the IAEA, but it continued its activities associated with uranium enrichment. Although Iran suspended the activity under the Paris Agreement with the EU3 in November 2004, it resumed the activity in August 2005. Following this, the IAEA Board of Governors found that Iran had violated the safeguards agreement, and adopted a resolution at the IAEA Special Board of Directors in February 2006 to the report Iran nuclear issue to the UN Security Council. Since then, the Iran nuclear issue has also been discussed at the UN Security Council.

UN Security Council resolutions calling for the suspension of such activities¹⁹. However, after the Rouhani administration took office in August 2013, Iran has changed its stand, and, in November 2013, “Joint Plan of Action”²⁰ was agreed. Under the Joint Plan of Action, Iran agreed, among others, that it will not make any further advances of its activity at Arak heavy-water reactor, in return for the partial lifting of the sanctions by the EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China, and Russia). After the negotiations for the comprehensive solution, the EU3 (UK, France, and Germany)

+3 (U.S., China and Russia) and Iran reached a final agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue with “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)”²¹ in July 2015. The JCPOA specified the procedures to lift the sanctions imposed on Iran, with its implementation of designated measures, while constraining Iranian nuclear activities for ensuring the peaceful purposes of its activities. At the same time, with regards to the possible military dimensions²² concerning the Iran’s nuclear program, the IAEA and Iran agreed on a “Road-map for the Clarification of Past and

19 Similar UN Security Council resolutions were adopted regarding the Iranian nuclear issue. However, these resolutions, under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, oblige Iran to provide the IAEA with access or cooperation for discontinuing enrichment and reprocessing related activities, heavy water-related plans, and other pending issues. They also call for a quick conclusion of the additional protocol; Resolution 1835 requires Iran to observe the duties imposed by these four resolutions without delay. Resolutions 1737, 1747 and 1803 include measures against Iran, such as an embargo of nuclear-related materials against Iran, and asset freezing of nuclear and missile-related individuals and organizations in Iran under Article 41, Chapter 7 of the Charter. Resolution 1929, as additional measures against Iran, includes comprehensive measures including the expansion of embargoes on armed forces, control of ballistic missile development, asset freezing, expansion of travel restrictions, financial and commercial fields, and enhanced restrictions on banks, and inspection of cargo.

20 Joint Plan of Action

- It consists of “elements of a first step” taken by representatives in the negotiations for six months, and “elements of the final step of a comprehensive solution. [Elements of a first step]

(Iran’s voluntary measures)

- Suspension of uranium enrichment over 5%
- Dilute the 20% UF₆ to no more than 5% and convert UF₆ enriched
- Suspending the strengthening of enrichment capacity (No new location for the enrichment. No additional centrifuges.)
- Ban on increasing stockpiles of low enriched uranium
- Iran announces that it will not make further advances of its activities at the Arak reactor
- Enhanced monitoring by the IAEA

(EU3+3’s voluntary measures)

- Limited, temporary, targeted, and reversible lifting of sanctions
- Suspension of sanctions on gold and precious metals, and the petrochemical and auto industry
- Suspension of sanctions in the civil aviation sector (supply of repair parts needed for safety reasons)
- Maintenance of imports of crude oil produced in Iran at the current, substantially reduced level
- Postponement for six months of the imposition of new sanctions against the nuclear program
- Facilitation of humanitarian trade and establishment of a financial channel

[Elements of the final step of a comprehensive solution]

- Comprehensive lifting of UN Security Council, multilateral and national nuclear-related sanctions
- A mutually defined enrichment program (mutually agreed parameters consistent with practical-needs, with agreed limits on scope and level of enrichment activities, capacity, where it is carried out, and stocks of enriched uranium, for period to be agreed upon)
- Fully resolve concerns related to the reactor at Arak. No reprocessing or construction of a facility capable of reprocessing
- Fully implement the agreed transparency measures and enhanced monitoring. Ratify and implement the Additional Protocol
- Include international civil nuclear cooperation, including among others, on acquiring modern light water power and research reactors and associated equipment, and the supply of modern nuclear fuel

Following successful implementation of the final step of the comprehensive solution for its full duration, the Iranian nuclear program will be treated in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT

21 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

- The JCPOA specified the procedures to lift the sanctions imposed on Iran, while constraining its nuclear activities for ensuring the peaceful purposes of its activities.

(Main Measures Taken by Iran)

- Restrictions concerning uranium enrichment activities
 - Limit the number of working centrifuges to 5,060 units
 - Limit the uranium enrichment up to 3.67% at the maximum, and the stored amount of enriched uranium to 300 kg
- Restrictions on the heavy-water reactor at Arak and reprocessing
 - Redesign and rebuild the Arak heavy water reactor so that it will not produce weapons grade plutonium, and ship the spent fuels out of Iran.
 - Not conduct research and development on reprocessing or build any facilities capable of reprocessing

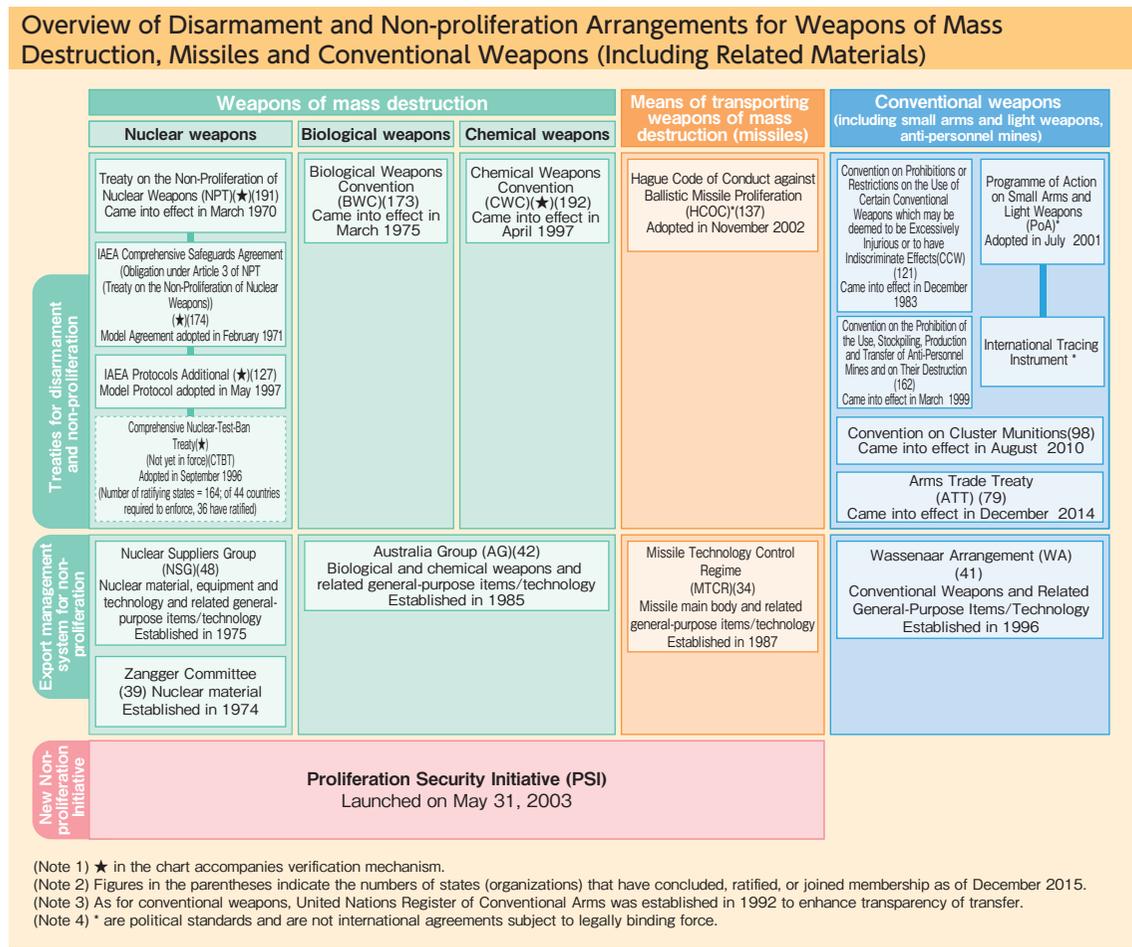
22 PMD (Possible Military Dimensions)

In November 2011, the IAEA pointed out the “possible military dimensions” of Iran’s nuclear activities, consisting of 12 items, in a report from the Director-General of the Secretariat, including signs that nuclear bombs, including devices which can be used to trigger nuclear weapons, are under development. After the report, the PMD had been treated as an important matter at issue for discussions between the IAEA and Iran.

Present Outstanding Issues Regarding Iran's Nuclear Program.” Following this situation, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2231 endorsing the JCPOA and requesting the IAEA to conduct necessary verification and monitoring activities.

As a result of a series of activities and works between Iran and the IAEA based on the “Road-map for the Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues Regarding

Iran's Nuclear Program,” the IAEA Director-General issued a final assessment report²³ in December 2015. The final assessment report stated that although a range of activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device were conducted in Iran prior to the end of 2003 as a coordinated effort, and some activities took place after 2004, the IAEA has no credible indications of activities relevant to the development of a



23 The IAEA Director-General's Final Evaluation Report on the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD) of Iran's Nuclear Issue (Summary)
 The report mentioned the following three points.
 (1) All of the activities included in the “Road-map for the Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues Regarding Iran's Nuclear Program” were implemented as scheduled.
 (2) The IAEA assessed that Iran had conducted the activities relevant to the development of nuclear explosive device in its organizational structure before the end of 2003, and some activities took place after 2003. At the same time, the IAEA assessed that these activities did not advance beyond feasibility and scientific studies, and acquisition of certain relevant technical competences and capabilities. Also, the IAEA has no credible indications of activities in Iran relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device after 2009.
 (3) The IAEA has found no credible indications of the diversion of nuclear material in connection with the possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program.

nuclear explosive device in Iran after 2010.

In January 2016, the IAEA verified that Iran had implemented the part of the measures that the country committed to in the JCPOA. In accordance with the newly adopted UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the part of the sanctions imposed by the previous Security Council resolutions were terminated. However, Iran's nuclear activities and missile transfer activities continue to be subject to the restriction. Henceforward, Iran's steady implementation of the agreement and the monitoring and verification by the IAEA are important. In this process, Prime Minister Abe during the Japan-Iran Summit meeting of September 2015 urged President Rouhani to steadily implement the final agreement and cooperate with the IAEA. During the visit of Foreign Minister Kishida to Iran in October 2015, he expressed his intention to cooperate in the field of nuclear safety and IAEA safeguards and transparency measures within the JCPOA's implementation process after Implementation Day as defined by the JCPOA.

The IAEA board of governors has also been discussing Syria's implementation of the IAEA safeguards since the year 2008. In 2011, the IAEA Board of Governors confirmed that Syria's undeclared construction of a nuclear reactor at Deir ez-Zor constitutes non-compliance with its obligations under its IAEA safeguards agreement. It is of extreme importance for Syria to completely cooperate with the IAEA and to sign, ratify and implement the Additional Protocol to clarify the facts.

C Nuclear Security

International cooperation on "Nuclear Security" to prevent terrorism using nuclear materials or other radioactive materials are

also enhanced through various efforts from the IAEA, UN and member countries. In particular, U.S. President Obama led the Nuclear Security Summit. Its third summit took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, in March 2014, attended by 53 countries and four international organizations. Prime Minister Abe attended this Summit and expressed Japan's efforts in ensuring nuclear security, including the minimization of nuclear materials, proper management of them, and compliance with the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material. The next meeting will be held in Washington D.C., U.S. from March 31 to April 1, 2016.

In February 2015, Japan received the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission consisting of IAEA experts. The mission reviewed the implementation of nuclear security measures. The report presented after the mission suggested recommendations and advice for continuous improvements, as well as best practices, concerning the nuclear security structure in Japan and the facilities the mission visited.

Also, the computer security international conference in the field of atomic energy was held by the IAEA in Vienna in July 2015 with participation of more than 700 people from 17 organizations in 92 countries. Many government officials and experts from Japan participated in the meeting.

(4) Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

A Multilateral Efforts

Along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are considered as one of the three pillars of the NPT. According to the Treaty, it is "inalienable rights" for any country that

meets its obligations to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to develop nuclear research, and production and use for peaceful purposes.

The number of countries that are planning to further develop or newly introduce nuclear power program²⁴ is increasing, due to such factors as growing global energy demand and the need to address global warming. Even after the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (the Fukushima Daiichi accident), nuclear power remains an important energy source for the international community.

On the other hand, the technology, equipment, and nuclear material used for nuclear power generation can be diverted to uses for military purposes. A nuclear accident in one country may have a wide-spread impact on its neighboring countries. For these reasons, with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is vital to ensure the "3S"²⁵: (1) Safeguards (and other non-proliferation measures); (2) Nuclear Safety (measures to ensure safety to prevent a nuclear accident, etc.); and (3) Security (measures against nuclear terrorism). As the country that experienced the Fukushima Daiichi accident, it is Japan's responsibility to share with the rest of the world its experience and lessons learned from the accident and to contribute in strengthening global nuclear safety. In this regard, Japan and the IAEA organized workshops in April and November 2015 at the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC), which was designated in Fukushima

Prefecture, as part of their cooperation. These workshops provided relevant Japanese and foreign participants with training in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

It is important to provide information on the situation at Fukushima Daiichi NPS in a timely and appropriate manner not only to the Japanese public, but also to the international community. From this perspective, Japan issues comprehensive reports via the IAEA, which include information on the progress of the decommissioning and contaminated water management at Fukushima Daiichi NPS, the results of monitorings of the air dose rate and radioactivity concentration in the ocean as well as safety of food. In addition, the Government holds briefing sessions for the foreign diplomatic missions in Tokyo and provides relevant information via Japanese diplomatic missions.

The decommissioning and contaminated water management at Fukushima Daiichi NPS involves a series of difficult and unprecedented tasks in the world. Japan tackles these tasks by gathering technologies and knowledge not only from domestic experts, but also from the international community including the IAEA. To this end, Japan advances cooperation with the international community; IAEA's experts on marine monitoring visited Japan (in September and November 2014, and May and November 2015). In the area of the effects of ionizing radiation, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) held seminars and workshops in Fukushima prefecture and Tokyo (in September and November 2014).

²⁴ According to the IAEA, as of January 2016, 441 nuclear reactors are in operation worldwide and 64 reactors are under construction (see the IAEA website).

²⁵ IAEA's safeguards, typical measures for non-proliferation, and nuclear safety and nuclear security are referred to as the "3Ss" for short.

Stressing the importance of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy especially in developing countries, Japan provides supports to the IAEA through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund and Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). In particular, Japan attaches importance to promotion of applications of nuclear science and technology in the field of non-power generation such as human health and agriculture. Also in the field of electronic power generation, Japan provides assistance such as enhancement of radiation protection. In this way, Japan has been contributing to the socioeconomic development of developing countries by promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the NPT Review Conference held from April to May 2015, Japan announced to contribute a total of 25 million US dollars to the PUI over the next five years. Japan concluded the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) in January 2015, which contributes to prompt and fair remedies for victims, enhancement of compensation in the event of a nuclear accident and improvement of the legal predictability. As a result of Japan's conclusion, the CSC entered into force on April 15, 2015, marking an important step to strengthen the international nuclear liability regime.

B Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements are concluded to secure a legal assurance from the recipient country, when transferring nuclear-related materials and equipment such as nuclear reactors to that country, that the transferred items will be used only for peaceful purposes. The agreements especially aim to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensure non-proliferation.

Moreover, as Japan attaches importance to ensuring the "3S," the recently concluded agreements between Japan and a foreign country include provisions regarding nuclear safety. Through conclusion of such agreements, cooperation in the area of nuclear safety can also be promoted.

High expectation for Japan's nuclear technology has been expressed by numerous countries, even after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. It is Japan's responsibility to share with the rest of the world its experience and lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, in order to make contribution in strengthening international nuclear safety, when promoting bilateral nuclear cooperation. Based on this recognition, in its bilateral nuclear energy cooperation, Japan intends to provide nuclear-related materials, equipment, and technology with highest safety standards, while taking into account the situation in and intention of countries desiring to cooperate with Japan in this field. When considering whether or not to establish a nuclear cooperation agreement framework with a foreign country, Japan considers the overall situation in each individual case, taking into account such factors as non-proliferation, nuclear energy policy in that country, the country's trust in and expectations for Japan, and the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

As of the end of 2015, Japan has concluded nuclear cooperation agreements with Canada, Australia, China, U.S., France, UK, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Kazakhstan, the ROK, Vietnam, Jordan, Russia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

(5) Biological and Chemical Weapons

A Biological Weapons

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)²⁶ is the only multilateral legal framework imposing a comprehensive ban on the development, production, and retention of biological weapons. However, the question of how to enhance the convention is a challenge, as it contains no provision regarding the means of verifying compliance with the BWC.

In the 2015 meeting, there was a discussion on how to deal with a possible outbreak of any infection caused by biological weapons under the framework of the BWC, based on the lessons learned from the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa. Experts from Japan made presentations about the country's assistance to the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, contributing to the discussion on the strengthening of the Convention.

B Chemical Weapons

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)²⁷ imposes a comprehensive ban on the development, production, retention, and use of chemical weapons and stipulates that all existing chemical weapons must be destroyed. Compliance with this groundbreaking international agreement on the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is ensured through the verification system (declaration and inspection). The implementing agency of the CWC is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is based in the Hague, the Netherlands. Along with the

UN, the OPCW has played a key role in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, which has been underway since September 2013, and Japan has provided financial support for these activities. With an aim of identifying responsibility for the repeated use of chlorine gas and other substances in Syria, the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism was established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution in August 2015. There is an ongoing effort to prevent chemical weapons from being used again.

Japan is actively involved in cooperation aimed at increasing the number of States Parties, efforts by States Parties to strengthen measures for national implementation of the convention in order to increase its effectiveness, and international cooperation to this end. The OPCW Director-General Üzümcü visited Japan in February 2015 and held talks with Foreign Minister Kishida, where they confirmed cooperation in tackling the challenges, including the improvement of the effectiveness of the Convention. In September, as part of an OPCW program, Japan accepted two trainees from Sri Lanka and the Philippines at Japanese chemical plants, where they underwent training in plant safety management.

Moreover, under the CWC, Japan has an obligation to destroy chemical weapons of the Imperial Japanese Army left in territory of China, as well as old chemical weapons within Japan. As such, working in cooperation with China, Japan makes its utmost effort to complete the destruction of these weapons as soon as possible.

²⁶ Enacted in March 1975. The contracting states number 173 (as of December 2015).

²⁷ Enacted in April 1997. With the Myanmar newly joined in August 2015, and Angola in October, the contracting states numbered 192 (as of December 2015).

Special
Feature

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

1. What is the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The NPT aims mainly ① to advance nuclear disarmament among the nuclear-weapon States (U.S., Russian, UK, France, and China), ② to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and ③ to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The NPT is the only international treaty that stipulates general nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligation, and there are 191 state Parties to the Treaty. Japan ratified the NPT in 1976, and has contributed to international discussions aimed at maintaining and strengthening the Treaty.

The NPT holds a Review Conference every five years to review the operation of the Treaty. This is an important conference to review progress on the three pillars of the NPT - nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy – in addition to setting next targets. After discussions lasting for four weeks, the Review Conference adopts a final document.

2. Perspective of 2015 NPT Review Conference and Japan's efforts.

The 2015 NPT Review Conference was held in the year which marked the 70th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but under difficult situation. This is because there were many issues which were difficult to attain converging views among state Parties such as the Middle East and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Under such circumstance, Japan emphasized the importance of cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States in advancing practical and concrete measures towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Minister Kishida, in his general statement, stressed the significance of the followings: ① Further transparency of nuclear forces, ② Reduction of all types of nuclear weapons and eventual multilateralization of nuclear weapons reduction negotiations, ③ Unity of the international community through common recognition of humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, ④ Resolving regional nuclear proliferation issues such as North Korea's nuclear and missile developments and ⑤ Visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by political leaders and youth. In addition, Prime Minister Abe, during his visit to the U.S. which coincided with the NPT Review Conference, announced the "Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on the NPT", encouraging the efforts of the international community for maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime aimed at realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) submitted a draft outcome document of the NPT Review Conference and appealed for the understanding and cooperation of countries around the world. A significant portion of the NPDI's proposal was incorporated in the substantial part of the draft of Final Document, by which Japan showed its strong presence.

3. Results of the 2015 NPT Review Conference

Despite such efforts of Japan, the State Parties could not reach consensus on the Final Document. Ms. Taous Feroukhi, (the Chair of the Conference) drafted the Final Document which was meant to be acceptable to the State Parties, and many were ready to accept the draft (or at least not blocking a consensus). However, in the end, a consensus was not attained among the countries concerned on the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, and the Conference regrettably ended without substantial result.



General statement by Foreign Minister Kishida at the 2015 NPT Review Conference (April 28, New York, U.S.)

1) NPT Article 9-3 "For the purpose of this Treaty, a nuclear-weapon State is one which has manufactured and detonated nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices prior to 1 January, 1967."

4. Toward the next Review Conference

As the draft of Final Document was not adopted in the Conference, clear guidelines toward the next Review Conference in 2020 were lost, which negatively affects international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime centered on the NPT to some extent. On the other hand, we cannot stop our step forward on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. After the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Japan strived to continuously maintain international momentum toward the progress of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through among others active discussions at the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Group of Eminent Persons Meeting held in Hiroshima in August 2015. In September, Foreign Minister Kishida served as co-chair of the Conference on Facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT. In December, the resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which Japan has been submitting to the UN General Assembly every year since 1994, was also adopted.

Given that Japan serves as the chair of the G7 in 2016 and co-coordinator state for facilitating entry into force of CTBT in 2015-2017, Japan has determined to promote efforts for maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime toward a world free of nuclear weapons, including through the NPDI.

(6) Conventional Weapons

A Cluster Munitions²⁸

Japan takes the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions very seriously. Therefore, in addition to taking steps to address these weapons by supporting victims and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance, Japan is continuing its efforts to increase the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)²⁹. In addition, Japan is assisting with UXO clearance bomb disposal and victim assistance projects in Laos, Lebanon and other countries that suffer from cluster munitions³⁰.

In September, the first Review Conference of the CCM was held in Croatia, to which Toshio Sano, Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, attended as a representative of Japan. While reviewing the achievements that Japan has made for the assistance of

mine action, the Ambassador expressed the determination to continue the support. Japan's approach for assisting with the handling of unexploded ordnance is for, mainly, the following three fields: the clearance of UXOs, victim assistance, and risk reduction education.

B Small Arms and Light Weapons

Described as "weapons of mass destruction" in terms of the carnage they cause, small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate, due to their ease of operation. The use of small arms and light weapons is believed to result in the deaths of at least half a million people each year. These weapons cause drawing out and escalation of conflict, and hinder the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. In

²⁸ Generally speaking, it refers to a bomb or shell which enables numerous submunitions to be spread over a wide area by opening in the air a large container, which holds those submunitions. It is said that there is high possibility that many of them do not explode on impact, which creates problem of accidental killing or injury of civilian population.

²⁹ Enacted in August 2010, it prohibits the use, possession, or production of cluster munitions, while obliging the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, and the clearance of cluster munitions in contaminated areas. As of December 2015, the number of contracting states is 98, including Japan.

³⁰ See the White Paper on Development Cooperation for specific efforts in international cooperation regarding cluster munition and antipersonnel mine.

Column

Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Messengers "Our ability may be limited, but we are not powerless"
2nd grade of Nagasaki Prefectural Nagasaki-Higashi High School ● Ms. Rina Uchino

2015 marked the 70th year since the atomic bombings.

In this important year, we, 21 members of the 18th high school student Peace Messengers, were appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as "Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" and traveled to Switzerland to pass on our hopes to the world towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and peace.

My grandfather experienced the atomic bombing in Nagasaki when he was 12 years old. Fortunately he survived, but he lost a lot of friends. My grandfather keeps saying, "Mankind must not repeat a tragedy like the atomic bombings." As a youth from the city that suffered an atomic bombing, I would like to pass on the hopes of the atomic bomb survivors.

Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Messengers program was launched from wishes of Nagasaki citizens to have their voices heard over the world when India and Pakistan carried out successive nuclear tests in 1998.

In August 16 – 21, 2015, we, the 18th Peace Messengers, visited the UN Office in Geneva, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Delegation of Mexico to the CD, and offices of 5 NGOs and collected signatures in Bern to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the UN Office in Geneva, one of the Peace Messengers from Hiroshima got a chance to deliver a speech in the plenary session of the Conference. Following that, all of us made speeches at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and submitted a list of 164,176 signatures we had collected over the course of one year. The number of signatures since 1998 has now amounted to 1,337,598. After we submitted the list of signatures, we participated in an event of the 70th year since the atomic bombings hosted by the Delegation of Japan to the CD. In the meeting, we had chances to introduce our activities in front of people from different countries.

In our visit to the Delegation of Mexico to the CD, 3 of us delivered speeches and exchanged views.

The Ambassador of Mexico to the CD told us, "Japan should lead the international efforts in advancing nuclear disarmament as the only country to have ever suffered the atomic bombings."



Group photo at the UN Office in Geneva

During the visit to Switzerland, we met a lot of people who took our voice seriously. We could realize that a lot of people are taking actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and all of them share hopes for peace beyond languages. We also felt that activities and hopes of Japanese youths are spreading around the world. I would like to keep conveying the hopes of the atomic bombing survivors to the world and future generations, believing in a word "our ability may be limited, but not powerless."



The author making a speech at the UN Office in Geneva

addition to contributing to efforts within the UN, such as the annual submission to the UN General Assembly of a resolution on small arms and light weapons, Japan supports various projects to combat small arms and light weapons across the globe, including weapons recovery and disposal programs and training courses.

C Anti-Personnel Mines

Japan promotes comprehensive initiatives focused primarily on the effective prohibition of anti-personnel mines and enhancement of support for mine-affected countries. As well as calling on countries in the Asia-Pacific region to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel

Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty)³¹, Japan has, since 1998, provided support worth over 62 billion yen to 50 countries and regions to assist them in dealing with the consequences of land mines (for example, landmine clearance and support for the victims of landmines).

In addition, Japan has served a term (running from January 2014 until December 2015) as chair of the Mine Action Support Group, which consists of major donor states that support efforts to combat land mines.

D The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

The ATT³² seeks to establish common international standards to regulate international trade in conventional weapons and prevent illegal trade in them. It was adopted at the UN General Assembly in April 2013, and came into force on December 24, 2014. At the first Conference of State Parties held in August 2015, Geneva, Switzerland, was selected as the host city for the Permanent Secretariat of ATT. Mr. Dladla, Director-General of the Conventional Weapons Control Committee of South Africa, was selected as the Interim Director of the ATT-Secretariat. Consistently underlining the need for a treaty that enjoys an effective and wide participation, Japan has played a proactive and constructive role as one of the original co-sponsors of the resolution that initiated the ATT process. In May 2014, Japan deposited the instrument of acceptance, becoming the first States Party in the Asia-Pacific region, and calls on nations that have not yet done so to conclude the Treaty without delay.

5 Japan's efforts at the United Nations (UN)

(1) The United Nations (UN)

A Japan-United Nations (UN) Relationship

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan joining the UN. Since joining the UN in 1956, Japan has proactively contributed to the world peace and prosperity in close cooperation with the UN.

In 2015, the UN marked the 70th anniversary of its foundation. The UN is an international organization with a universal character, in which almost all the countries in the world join (193 countries as of December 2015). It addresses challenges which the international community faces in various areas, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, development, human rights, environment and climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, with information and knowledge gathered from all over the world, the UN is able to present possible solutions to these issues, backed by its high expertise.

With these advantages, the UN is important for Japan to develop peace and stability of the international environment and to realize its sustainable growth while ensuring its national security. Through the UN framework, Japan proactively participates in agenda-setting and rule-making in the international community. By this means, Japan aims to achieve its foreign policy objectives such as response to global issues that cannot be attained by its unilateral efforts.

In September, Prime Minister Abe and

³¹ While banning the use and production of antipersonnel mines, the Convention, which came into force in March 1999, obliges the destruction of stockpiled mines and clearance of buried mines. As of December 2014, the number of contracting states is 162, including Japan.

³² As of December 2015, the number of signatory states to Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is 130, and contracting states is 78.

Foreign Minister Kishida attended the 70th UN General Assembly.

In his address to the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that Japan would further contribute to the world as a “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, highlighting Japan’s orientation as a peace-loving nation and its contributions to the UN and the international community since the end of World War II. He also expressed his willingness to realize Security Council reform in order to make the UN better reflect the realities of the 21st century and to make further efforts for world peace and prosperity as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Prime Minister Abe made a statement at the UN Summit that adopted “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” He declared that Japan would make maximum efforts to implement the Agenda with specific measures to contribute to “quality growth” and “protection and capacity building of people in vulnerable situation.” He also attended the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (Beijing +20), a high-level working lunch on climate change, a side event on health “the Path towards UHC (Universal Health Coverage),” and the second Leaders’ Summit on Peacekeeping. At these occasions, he presented Japan’s proactive contribution to the solutions for global issues.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe attended the G4 (Japan, India, Germany and Brazil) Summit meeting, in which the leaders reaffirmed their cooperation for an early realization of the Security Council reform. He also had a meeting with Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, agreeing to cooperate



UN Headquarters; Photo: UN Photo/Milton Grant

more closely on issues such as Security Council reform, development and climate change to ensure that the current UN General Assembly, which marks the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the UN become a historic session. Prime Minister Abe also held Summit meetings with leaders from the chair countries of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as from the Pacific island countries, and vigorously held summit level meetings with leaders from various countries.

In addition, Prime Minister Abe attended a dialogue with North America’s finance/business community members during his stay in New York to give a lecture and had a round table session. He also made a speech at the Invest Japan Seminar and the Visit Japan Tourism Seminar. A reception of Japanese food and a dinner party for the realization of “a society where women shine” were also hosted. Taking every opportunity, Prime Minister Abe promoted the policies and diverse appealing points of Japan. Prime Minister Abe, together with Foreign Minister Kishida, also attended a social gathering with the UN Japanese staff, providing them with encouragement.

Foreign Minister Kishida co-chaired the



Prime Minister Abe attending the UN General Assembly (September 29, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

9th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and attended six multilateral meetings in total, including the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate and G7-related meetings on humanitarian assistance to refugees. Foreign Minister Kishida held meetings with foreign ministers from three countries. During his attendance at the UN General Assembly, he also strengthened mutual trust with other foreign ministers.

In March 2015, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Japan, attending the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, and the Symposium on the 70th Anniversary of the UN held at the United Nations University. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in his speech that the UN places a high value on partnership with Japan and expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's international contributions. Responding to this, Prime Minister Abe expressed in his speech that Japan sets the two years of 2015, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN, and 2016, the 60th anniversary of Japan's membership to the UN, as the "Years for Concrete Actions." He also stated that Japan would proactively work on a range of



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (March 14, Sendai; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

global issues and stressed the necessity to achieve concrete results in Security Council reform. Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida also held a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and agreed that Japan and the UN would continuously cooperate to solve various issues faced by the international community.

In September, the President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly Lykkesoft visited Japan. He met Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida, and discussed the importance of various agendas such as making progress in Security Council reform, development, climate change, disarmament and non-proliferation, and women-related issues. They confirmed that Japan and the UN would further cooperate in addressing these issues. President Lykkesoft also visited Hiroshima and had a meeting with the mayor of Hiroshima city. He also paid a visit and offered flowers to the Memorial Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

B The Security Council of the United Nations (UN Security Council) and its Reform

(a) The Security Council of the United Nations (UN Security Council)

The UN Security Council holds the primary

responsibility within the UN for maintaining international peace and security. Its activities, including peacekeeping operations based on UN Security Council resolutions, are becoming more diversified and its role is expanding year by year, encompassing the efforts to address new threats such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

In October, Japan was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 11th time, which ranks highest among all UN member states. From January 2016, Japan began its two-year term of non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

(b) Reform of the Security Council of the United Nations

The composition of the UN Security Council basically remains the same 70 years after the foundation of the UN, and there is a shared recognition in the international community that it should be reformed without delay, in order to improve its representativeness, effectiveness and transparency.

Japan is making outreach efforts to other countries aiming at an early realization of Security Council reform and Japan's admission as a permanent member through an expansion of the number of both permanent and non-permanent seats.

(c) Recent activities regarding reform of the Security Council of the UN

The intergovernmental negotiations within the UN General Assembly have been continuing since 2009. In July, the President of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, Sam Kahamba Kutesa, delivered documents to the member states, assembling proposals submitted by the groups and countries representing approximately 120 countries, and serving as the basis for intergovernmental



Prime Minister Abe at the G4 (Japan, India, Germany, and Brazil) Summit for UN Security Council Reform (September 26, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



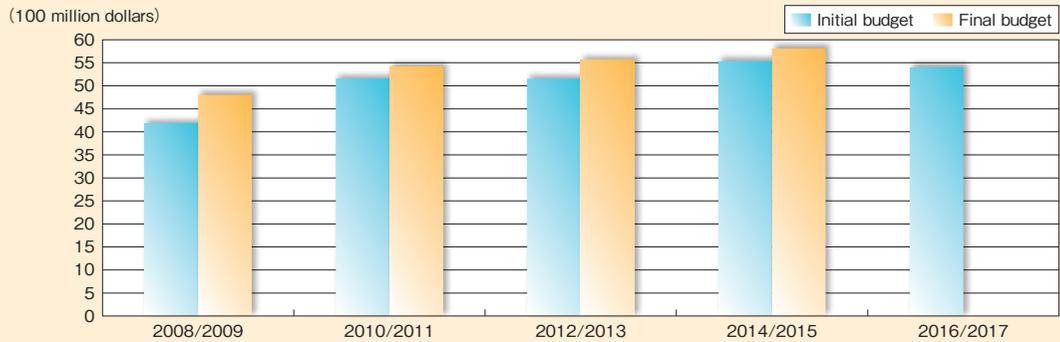
UN Security Council Chamber (Photo: UN Photo/Loey Felipe)

negotiations.

In order to achieve concrete results during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly which marks the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of the UN, Japan further strengthened its efforts as a member of the G4 (Japan, India, Germany, and Brazil) in 2015. At the occasion of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September, Japan held a G4 Summit meeting in New York for the first time in 11 years since 2004. G4 leaders reaffirmed the urgent need to adapt the UN Security Council to the reality of the 21st century. They agreed to closely cooperate for realization of early and meaningful UN Security Council reform and accelerate outreach to reform-oriented members for the reform.

With the aim of realizing Security Council

Changes in UN biennial regular budgets (2008-2017)



(Note) A "final budget" includes an additional demand generated in the course of a biennial budget or an additional budget adjusted for inflation, etc.
Source : UN documents

The ratio of contribution to the UN Regular Budget by major Member States

Ranking**	country	2013-2015	2016-2018	Increase/decrease by points
1	U.S.	22.000%	22.000%	± 0
2	Japan	10.833%	9.680%	- 1.153
3	China	5.148%	7.921%	+ 2.773
4	Germany	7.141%	6.389%	- 0.752
5	France	5.593%	4.859%	- 0.734
6	UK	5.179%	4.463%	- 0.716
7	Brazil	2.934%	3.823%	+ 0.889
8	Italy	4.448%	3.748%	- 0.700
9	Russia	2.438%	3.088%	+ 0.650
10	Canada	2.984%	2.921%	- 0.063

* The numbers refer to rank for 2016-2018.

Source : UN documents

The ratio of contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Budget by major Member States

Ranking**	country	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	U.S.	28.3626%	28.5738%	28.4691%	28.4344%
2	China	6.6368%	10.2879%	10.2502%	10.2377%
3	Japan	10.8330%		9.6800%	
4	Germany	7.1410%		6.3890%	
5	France	7.2105%	6.3109%	6.2878%	6.2801%
6	UK	6.6768%	5.7966%	5.7753%	5.7683%
7	Russia	3.1431%	4.0107%	3.9960%	3.9912%
8	Italy	4.4480%		3.7480%	
9	Canada	2.9840%		2.9210%	
10	Spain	2.9730%		2.4430%	

*The numbers refer to rank for 2016-2018.

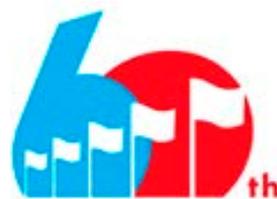
Source : UN documents

Special
FeatureJapan's 60th anniversary of accession to the United Nations (UN)

On December 18, 1956, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu gave the speech at a UN General Assembly hall on the occasion of Japan's accession to the UN. In his speech, Foreign Minister Shigemitsu, quoting the preamble of Japan's Constitution, "The people of Japan today desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationships," declared that the conviction of the Japanese people is in complete accord with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and expressed the resolve

of Japan to sincerely serve the high cause of the UN. For 60 years since accession, Japan has continued to observe this resolve, and has been contributing to the peace and prosperity of the world through the UN.

The UN has been working on new challenges in accordance with the needs of the times. In 2015, under the UN framework, "the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" was adopted in the field of disaster risk reduction, "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was adopted in the field of development and "the Paris Agreement" was adopted in the field of climate change. While contributing to the resolution of these common challenges for all humanity in close cooperation with the UN, Japan intends to take the lead to reform the UN, including the Security Council, thereby enabling the UN to respond more effectively to new challenges.



Official logo of Japan's 60th anniversary of accession to the UN



Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu attending the hoisting of the national flag at the UN Headquarters;
Photo: UN Photo / MB

reform, Japan is making proactive efforts in outreaching states and regions in Africa and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In relations with Africa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto attended the AU General Assembly meetings in January and June, and visited Tunisia and Senegal in March. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kihara visited Tanzania in December, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kikawada visited five countries in Africa. UN reform was also discussed when leaders of African countries visited Japan, such as the visits of South African Vice President Cyril Ramaphosa in August and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in September. In relations with CARICOM, outreach was conducted when State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama attended the Council for Foreign and Community Relations

(COFCOR) in May, and when Prime Minister Abe visited Jamaica in September.

C Administrative and Budgetary Issues of the United Nations

(a) Budget of the United Nations

The UN budget is mainly composed of the regular budget which is the biennial budget for the period from January to December of the next year, and the peacekeeping budget which is the one-year budget for the period from July to the following June.

The regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017 amounting to approximately 5.4 billion US dollars was approved in December 2015. The approved budget is approximately 8% less than the amount of the final budget for the biennium 2014-2015 which is approximately 5.81 billion US dollars. In June 2015, the budgets for peacekeeping operations for the

Special
Feature

2015 election of Non-permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council

In January 2011, Japan announced its candidacy for the election of Non-permanent Members of the UN Security Council (Term of office is 2 years; 5 seats are elected annually). However, Bangladesh had already presented its bid for the one seat assigned to the Asia-Pacific Ocean Group, which Japan also belongs to.

In order to deepen understanding and seek support for the contributions which Japan could make as a member of the Council, Japan continued its efforts by using occasions of high-ranking officials' visits as well as by inviting some Ambassadors Extraordinary and other countries/Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to Japan and arrange occasions such as meetings with Japanese leaders and varieties of visits, so as to deepen their understanding of Japan from broaden perspectives.

Under such circumstances, on the occasion of Prime Minister Abe's visit to Bangladesh in September 2014, following the visit of Foreign Minister Kishida to Bangladesh in March 2014, Prime Minister Hasina expressed that her country will withdraw its bid for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council in favor of Japan and support Japan, taking into consideration of the historically good relationship between the two countries.



Prime Minister Abe receiving a welcome from Prime Minister Hasina (September 6, 2014, Bangladesh; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Foreign Minister Kishida attending the 70th UN General Assembly (September 29, NY, U.S.)

In the election held at the UN General Assembly on October 16, 2015, Japan secured support from an overwhelming majority of the UN Member States, totaling 184 countries, and was elected to be a Non-permanent Member of the Security Council for a record-high 11th time. Japan intends to make further contributions on a wide range of issues raised by the UN Security Council, such as the North Korean issues and peace and stability in the Middle East and Africa, by putting into practice the principle of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, amounting to approximately 8.27 billion US dollars in total, were approved (2.37% down from the final budget for the previous year).

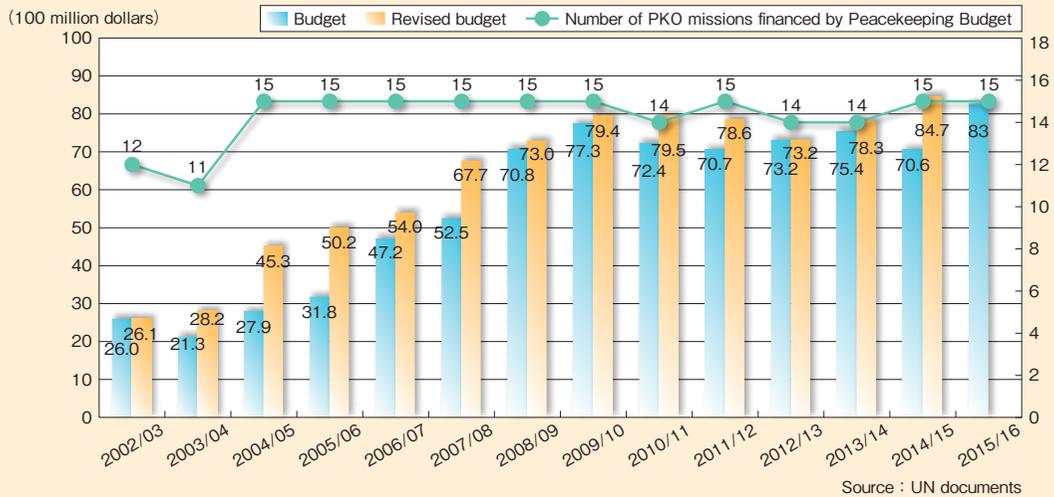
In 2015, the General Assembly approved the scale of assessments, which is reviewed every three years and the current method to calculate the scale of assessments was maintained. As a result, Japan's assessment rate of the regular budget for 2016 to 2018 dropped to 9.680% from 10.833% for 2013-2015 but continues to rank second only to the U.S. (however, in terms of scale of

assessments for the peacekeeping budget, China ranked second and Japan third). While assessment rate of Japan was the biggest drop among all the member states, those of emerging countries, including China, Brazil, and Russia, increased.

(b) Japan's Contribution

The budget, which supports the activities of the UN, is composed of assessed contributions by member states and voluntary contributions made by member states in accordance with their policy needs. With regard to the assessed contributions, Japan

The Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Budget and the number of PKO missions (2002–2016)



contributes approximately 290 million US dollars for the UN regular budget in 2015, and approximately 690 million US dollars to the peacekeeping budget in 2015, ranking second only to the U.S. As a major financial contributor, Japan has been encouraging the UN to make more efficient and effective use of its resources.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has promoted management reform as one of his priorities and Japan supports his initiative. It is expected that such reforms will enhance efficiency of the financial, budgetary, and human resource management. However, it is anticipated that it will take some time to realize benefit from the measures introduced previously. While continuing to bridge differences in their respective views of member states, Japan is actively contributing to the discussion with other member states and the UN Secretariat to ensure concrete progress in the administrative and budgetary reforms.

6 The Rule of Law in the International Community

(1) Strengthening of the Rule of Law for the Diplomacy of Japan

The rule of law is the concept that acknowledges the superiority of the law over all other forms of power; it is the basis of friendly and impartial relations between states as well as being an essential cornerstone of a fair and just domestic society. The rule of law is also an important factor for promoting “Good Governance” in each country, as well as ensuring the peaceful settlement of disputes. Japan regards efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the international community as one of the pillars of its foreign policy and has taken various opportunities to affirm the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law, rather than force or coercion. In addition, Japan has been contributing to the making of new rules in international law and to the strengthening of the rule of law within various countries through legal technical assistance.

A Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

In order to encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes via international judicial institutions, Japan accepts the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)¹ and strives to comply faithfully with international law, while contributing to international courts and tribunals in various ways, such as providing human and financial resources.

Notably, those currently in service include Judge Hisashi Owada at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (President of the ICJ from March 2009 to February 2012), Judge Shunji Yanai at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS; see (2)) (President of the ITLOS from October 2011 to September 2014), and Judge Kuniko Ozaki at the International Criminal Court (ICC; stated later in detail) (Second Vice-President from March 2015 to February 2018). In addition, Japan is the largest financial contributor to the ITLOS and the ICC. Through these contributions, Japan is endeavoring to improve the efficacy and universality of international courts and tribunals.

In April 2015, International Judicial Proceedings Division was established in the International Legal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Division aims at accumulating knowledge on judicial proceedings in the ICJ and other bodies, and further strengthening the structure of the Ministry for dealing with international litigations.

B International Rule-making

International rule-making that responds to issues the global community faces is one of

the important efforts to strengthen the rule of law. In developing these international rules, Japan has actively participated in rule-making process since the planning phase in order to reflect Japan's own principles and opinions and ensure the appropriate development of laws. Specifically, Japan has been actively involved in the rule-making process within various international frameworks including the codification work being undertaken by the International Law Commission (ILC) and the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the preparation of conventions and model laws in the field of private international law at fora such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). In the ILC, Dr. Shinya Murase (Professor Emeritus of Sophia University) serves as Special Rapporteur on the topic "Protection of the Atmosphere" since 2014, and is contributing to the development of international law through deliberations on the draft articles and guidelines prepared by the ILC. Japan also dispatches representatives to various meetings of the HCCH and the UNCITRAL, vigorously participating in discussions. Professor of Law at the University of Tokyo, Hideki Kanda, serves as a board member of the UNIDROIT. Japan also contributes to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), a regional forum on international law, by providing personnel and financial support.

¹ A declaration that the state party to the Statute of the ICJ recognizes as compulsory, ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other states accepting the same obligation, the jurisdiction of the ICJ, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2 of its Statute. Only 72 countries including Japan have deposited such a declaration to date.



International Law Moot Competition “Asia Cup 2015” (August; Photo: Secretariat of Asia Cup Organizing Committee)



International Symposium on the law of the sea (February)

C Domestic legislation and other matters

Not only does Japan take steps to appropriately improve its own national laws so as to comply with international law, but it also actively supports the development of legislation of Asian countries in particular and undertakes international cooperation related to the rule of law, in order to further develop the rule of law within each country. For example, in August 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Society of International Law co-hosted the “Asia Cup” international law moot court competition with the participation of university students from Asian countries. Japan is striving to develop human resources with certain understanding of international law for the next generation and to enhance communication among them, such as through sharing the importance of peaceful settlement of dispute in Asia with participants from Asian countries.

(2) Initiatives for the Rule of Law at Sea

In recent years, there are an increasing number of cases of international friction and tension taking place in the seas of Asia, attracting significant concern from international society. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Abe advocated the “Three

Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea” at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2014, which are (1) making and clarifying claims based on international law, (2) not using force or coercion in trying to drive their claims, and (3) seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) plays an important role in the rule of law at sea. UNCLOS established ITLOS for the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and maintenance and development of the legal order at sea. Japan, promoting the rule of law at sea, attaches importance to the role played by ITLOS. Japan has contributed in personnel to the Tribunal by producing two Japanese judges in succession, and has also been the largest financial contributor ever since the foundation of the ITLOS.

Likewise, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) also play important roles in operation of the system for defining the outer limits of a continental shelf, and management of deep sea-bed mineral resources. Japan continues to contribute to these organizations in both the human and financial resources (see 1-1 (2), 2-1-2 (1), 2-1-6 and 3-1-3 (4)).

Aiming at fostering common understanding

about the rule of law at sea among countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an international symposium on the Law of the Sea in February 2015. Against the backdrop of increasing tension in the seas of Asia, the symposium entitled “The Rule of Law in the Seas of Asia: A Navigational Chart for Peace and Stability” was held, with a vigorous discussion among experts from home and abroad on the issues, including obligations of self-restraint and cooperation of coastal states in maritime areas pending delimitation.

(3) Initiatives in the fields of politics and security

It remains vital to ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, in order to bolster the foundations of Japan's foreign policy and security. The new “Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation” aimed at enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities for Japan-U.S. Alliance was announced in April. With the purpose of promoting cooperation between Japan and the U.S. in the field of environmental stewardship, the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship Supplementary to the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement was concluded in September (see 3-1-2).

In efforts to more proactively promote international cooperation in the field of management of defense equipment, Japan signed Agreements with France in March, and with India in December, concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology. These Agreements aim at establishing a legal framework for defense equipment and technology to be transferred between the countries.

Japan also continues to undertake negotiations towards the conclusion of a

peace treaty with Russia, which is a key issue.

In addition, Japan has been working on establishing a legal framework for information security that may serve as an improved foundation for sharing of classified information related to national security with relevant countries. Following the U.S., NATO, France, Australia and the UK, Japan agreed in principle on the Agreement on the Security of Information with Italy when Prime Minister Renzi visited Japan in August, and signed the Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information with India in December.

In the field of nuclear energy, Japan deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) with the Secretary-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in January, by which the CSC entered into force in April. With regards to the ongoing negotiations of bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements, Japan achieved an agreement with India when Prime Minister Abe visited India in December.

(4) Initiatives in the fields of the economy and society

The conclusion and implementation of international agreements that bring legal discipline to cooperative relationships with other countries in the economic sphere is becoming increasingly important in order to promote the liberalization of trade and investment as well as people-to-people exchanges, and to strengthen the foundations for the overseas activities of Japanese citizens and companies. The agreements that Japan signed or concluded with various countries and regions in 2015 include tax conventions, investment treaties, social security agreements, and air services agreements.

Japan also worked on negotiations with the Asia-Pacific region and Europe for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), actively promoting negotiations on broader regional economic partnership such as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among Japan, China and the ROK, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Japan-EU EPA. Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, the participants reached an agreement in principle on major elements in October and signed the Agreement in February 2016. In the field of bilateral EPAs, the EPA between Japan and Australia came into effect in January, and Japan signed an EPA with Mongolia in February. Under the World Trade Organization (WTO) systems, Japan contributed to further development of the multilateral trade system through the conclusion of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in June. In the field of intellectual property protection, the Patent Law Treaty and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks were approved by the Diet in June, and were concluded in March 2016. In addition, Japan accepted the Agreement Establishing ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in June. With a view to protecting and enhancing the livelihoods and activities of Japanese citizens and companies, Japan is working on the appropriate implementation of existing international agreements as well as utilizing the dispute settlement system of the WTO.

In social fields such as human rights, fisheries, maritime affairs, aviation and labor, which have a major influence on the livelihoods of the people, Japan is actively participating in negotiations to ensure that Japan's stance is reflected in international agreements. For example, with regards to the environmental area, the Minamata

Convention on Mercury was approved by the Diet in May, and was concluded in February 2016. In December 2015, Japan contributed to the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).

(5) Initiatives in the field of criminal justice

The ICC is the first-ever permanent international criminal court for prosecuting and sentencing individuals who have committed the most serious crimes of concern to the international community in accordance with international law. Since becoming a State Party to the ICC Rome Statute in October 2007, Japan has consistently supported the ICC's activities, contributing in various ways.

Financially, Japan is the largest contributor to the ICC, accounting for approximately 17.2% as of 2015. As regards human resources, Japan has consistently produced judges since its accession to the ICC (Judge Kuniko Ozaki currently in service). Furthermore, at the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC Rome Statute held in November 2015, Mr. Hiroshi Fukuda, Member of the Advisory Committee on nominations of judges (ACN), and Mr. Motoo Noguchi, Member of the Board of the Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV), were re-elected to their respective positions. These developments demonstrate Japan's active contribution to the activities of the ICC. As the ICC evolves as a full-fledged international criminal justice institution, it is imperative to secure cooperation with the ICC, establish the principle of complementarity, and to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of its judicial procedures. At the Assembly of States Parties in November 2015, Japan contributed to the

vigorous discussions among States Parties by emphasizing the importance of these issues as it did in previous years.

In the face of an increase in cross-border crime in recent years, Japan is further working on ensuring the submission of required proof from other countries. Japan is also proactive in strengthening international cooperation in the field of criminal justice by improving legal frameworks. Japan has been working on negotiating and concluding such international agreements as the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT)², the Treaty on Extradition³, and the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons⁴.

7 Human Rights

(1) Initiatives within the UN

A UN Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council was established in Geneva, Switzerland, in order to strengthen the UN's ability to address human rights issues, as part of a movement toward mainstreaming human rights in the UN. The Human Rights Council holds sessions throughout the year (three regular sessions per year, lasting at least ten weeks in total), to discuss issues and make recommendations concerning the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto delivered a statement at the High Level Segment of the 28th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in March, in which he referred to various changes in human rights situations around the world

and the Government of Japan's position on these changes. He also outlined Japan's assistance to help improve the human rights situation in countries, including Sri Lanka and Myanmar, as well as its cooperation with the Human Rights Council. At the session, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) that was co-tabled by Japan and the European Union (EU) was adopted by majority vote (for the eighth time for eight consecutive years). This resolution welcomes that the "Situations in the DPRK" was adopted as an agenda item for the first time at the UN Security Council in 2014. It also expects that the UN Security Council will continue to be actively involved in this issue. Furthermore, it welcomed the report presented by Mr. Marzuki Darusman, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, during the session, and decided to hold a panel discussion at the 30th session.

At the 29th session in June, Japan, on behalf of a core-group composed of Brazil, Estonia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Portugal and Romania, submitted the Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members, which was adopted unanimously. The resolution is intended for the Human Rights Council to discuss the issue of leprosy-related discrimination and to investigate effective methods for its elimination in order to protect the human rights of people throughout the world affected by leprosy and their family members who suffer from discrimination. This resolution was submitted for the first

- 2 In the aspects of criminal investigation and procedures, the legal framework that allows more efficient and prompt cooperation with authorities of other countries.
- 3 A legal framework having comprehensive and detailed provisions regarding extradition of criminals, to enable more effective cooperation for repressing crime.
- 4 A legal framework aiming to facilitate the social rehabilitation of foreign prisoners by giving them the possibility of serving their sentences in their own countries.

time in five years and the number of countries which co-sponsored the resolution was the largest (97 states) ever, exceeding that of the relevant resolutions submitted by Japan to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

At the 30th session in September, Japan, as the main sponsor, submitted the resolution to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (delegated authority) on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. The resolution was co-sponsored by 27 countries and adopted unanimously. This resolution intends to ensure continuous assistance for the constructive efforts of the Government of Cambodia to improve the human rights situation in the country, and welcomes the progress made with regard to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Also, the resolution extended by two years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia.

During the session, a “Panel discussion on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, including the issue of international abductions, enforced disappearances and related matters” was held. The representative of the abductees’ families attended the panel discussion as a panelist from Japan. The representative of the Government of Japan also took part in the panel, called upon the DPRK to take concrete actions towards the improvements in the human rights situation in the DPRK, including the early resolution of the abductions issue.

Japan will continue to be actively engaged in discussions to resolve human rights issues in the international community.

B The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly is, along with the Human Rights Council, the UN’s main forum focused on human rights. In October and November, the Committee discusses a wide range of issues, including social development, women, child, racial discrimination, refugees, crime prevention, and criminal justice, as well as the human rights situations in the DPRK, Syria, and Iran, among others. Resolutions adopted by the Third Committee are submitted to a plenary session of the General Assembly, contributing to the development of international norms.

Every year, since 2005, Japan and the EU have tabled the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at the UN General Assembly. In 2015, Japan and the EU again tabled the resolution at the Third Committee of the 70th session of the General Assembly. It was adopted by 119 affirmative votes at plenary session in December, exceeding the number of affirmative votes in the previous year. The resolution is strong in its content for it is based on the last year’s UN General Assembly resolution, which reflected the content of the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK (COI), and on the Human Rights Council resolution of March. Specifically, along with the condemnation of the DPRK’s systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights as last year’s resolution, it encourages the UN Security Council to take appropriate action, including through the consideration of referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) of the situation in the DPRK and the scope for sanctions.

Japan also actively participated in discussions on the human rights situations in

individual countries, such as Syria, Iran, and Myanmar, as well as discussions on various human rights issues (social development and the rights of the child etc.). In addition, as it has done previously, Japan dispatched a female representative of a Japanese NGO to serve as the Alternate Representative of Japan at the Third Committee of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

(2) Initiatives Concerning International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

A International Human Rights Law

On January 20, 2014, Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention provides measures that state parties should undertake in order to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to promote respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities. Following the acceptance of the Convention in 2007, the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities will come into force in April 2016, as part of the enhancement of legal frameworks for persons with disabilities, ahead of the Convention's ratification. It is anticipated that the adoption of the Convention will further strengthen efforts to secure the rights of persons with disabilities in Japan, and furthermore, will promote international cooperation regarding respect for human rights.

The Government's reports on the status of the implementation of the various human rights conventions in Japan are regularly examined, with reference to the provisions of the relevant conventions. In March, the Government of Japan submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights the additional information and

comments regarding the recommendations made in the concluding observations on the third periodic report of Japan, adopted by the Committee in 2013. In August, the Government submitted to the Human Rights Committee the additional information and comments in response to the request of the Committee for relevant information on the implementation of the specific recommendations made in 2014 in the concluding observations of the Committee on the sixth periodic report of Japan.

B International Humanitarian Law

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) dispatched the government delegation to a series of international conferences on International Humanitarian Law in Geneva (Switzerland) in April and December, contributing to the international discussions on strengthening the implementation of International Humanitarian Law. At the international conference in December, Japan and the Japanese Red Cross Society submitted a joint pledge on dissemination of international humanitarian law. Moreover, as part of its efforts to promote awareness and understanding of international humanitarian law, MOFA dispatched a lecturer to the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, held by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

(3) Initiatives Undertaken via Bilateral Dialogue

In addition to initiatives within the UN and other multilateral frameworks, Japan regards bilateral dialogues as a priority, in order to protect and promote human rights. The third Japan-Myanmar human rights dialogue was held in February (in Naypyidaw), the seventh Japan-Cambodia human rights dialogue was

held in August (Phnom Penh), and the 21st Japan-EU human rights dialogue took place in October (as a video conference). In addition to outlining their respective initiatives in the field of human rights, the participants in these dialogues exchanged opinions concerning cooperation in multilateral forums such as the UN.

(4) Contribution to Refugees Issues

Japan started accepting refugees from Myanmar under a resettlement program (which is defined as the selection and transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought protection to a third country that admits them as refugees with a permanent residence status). This is part of a pilot project that was launched in FY2010 (initially intended to run for three years, but extended for another two in 2012), in order to make an international contribution and provide humanitarian aid.

In January 2014, the Cabinet approved the ongoing acceptance of such refugees from FY2015 as a formal program, rather than a pilot project, and agreed to admit Myanmar refugees from Malaysia and reunite families from Thailand, by allowing the resettlement of eligible relatives of



Refugees under the resettlement program transfer to accommodation facilities after arriving at Narita International Airport (September 29; Photo: Refugee Assistance Headquarters)

those already resettled in Japan. To date, 105 people from 24 families have come to Japan under this program, including the pilot project.

Until now, the main destinations for refugees accepted for resettlement were Western countries, and Japan is the first Asian Country to accept resettled refugees. Accordingly, Japan has attracted both high praise and high hopes from the international community in regard to its proactive efforts to address refugee issues. Amid a recent increase in the number of applicants seeking refugee status in Japan, we are continuing our efforts to provide finely tuned support to those who truly need it.

8 Women

Prime Minister Abe has been calling for realizing “a society where all women shine,” and strengthening its efforts to that end.

(1) World Assembly for Women, “WAW! 2015”

Two years in a row, Prime Minister Abe took the initiative to host the second World Assembly for Women “WAW! 2015,” on August 28 and 29 where 145 leaders of various field surrounding women from eight international organizations and 42 countries (nearly double compared to the previous year). The theme of 2015 was “WAW! for All.” Japan sent a message to change their societies together with men and women from diverse backgrounds and generations. Participants discussed and called for a change in current way of working that disturbs women from social participation and in mindset about role sharing between men and women. Hearing the voice of young people as well as women in trouble, participants also discussed disaster



Prime Minister Abe addressing in the opening session of WAW! 2015 (August 28, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

risk reduction, entrepreneurship, education, peace-building, and other global issues surrounding women. This year's proposal was sent out as "WAW! To Do 2015" after the discussions, and distributed as a UN document (A/C.3/70/3) following the 2014 version.

(2) International Cooperation for the Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries

During the General Debate Session at the General Assembly in 2013, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Government also provides official development assistance (ODA) of more than three billion US dollars over three years for three areas with a focus on the empowerment of women: the Government facilitates women's participation in society and women's empowerment; enhances Japan's efforts in the area of women's health care as a part of the Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy; and supports women's participation and protects their rights in the area of peace and security. Japan had implemented the above for the two years until 2014. The Japanese first lady Akie Abe had a talk with US first lady Michelle Obama, when she visited Japan in March 2015, on the current situation surrounding girls' education in developing countries and measures to

address challenges. Also, the fact sheet released by both the Governments of Japan and the US stated that Japan will implement ODA amount to more than 42 billion yen over three years starting 2015 in the field of empowerment of women and girls (capacity building) and gender-sensitive education related areas.

(3) Women Issues in the UN, and Beijing + 20

A. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women (WCW) (Beijing Conference) in 1995, the 59th Commission on the Status of Women was held in March 2015. The Japanese delegation included Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto as Head of Delegation, Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto as Representative of Japan, representatives from ministries and agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and NGOs. At the meeting, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Uto made a statement regarding the efforts promoted in Japan including the 3rd Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the enactment of a bill to promote women's participation and advancement in the workplace, the review of the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the strengthening of cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the assistance for a project to eradicate violence against women in armed conflicts. In December, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Miki Yamada attended the meeting in Istanbul, "Ending violence Against Women," co-hosted by the UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Turkish Government. In her remarks, she



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada attending the meeting “Ending Violence Against Women” and introducing Japan’s efforts; (December 9, Istanbul, Turkey)

introduced Japan’s initiative to promote active engagement of women in society.

- B. In September, Prime Minister Abe attended a meeting at the Global Leaders’ Meeting, “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” at the UN headquarters. This meeting aims at realizing the commitment for the objectives and targets raised in the Beijing Declaration adopted at Beijing Conference and the Platform for Action. He stated that Japan will engage in the efforts to realize commitments under Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, leading the world in the field of women’s active participation in society.
- C. Japan increased its contribution to the UN Women by ten times over the past two years. The UN Women Japan office was established in April. Japan continues to deepen cooperation with the organization in the future.
- D. In September 2014, Japan submitted to the UN its 7th and 8th periodic reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Also, the Government of Japan submitted written answers to the questions prepared in advance, and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Shinsuke Sugiyama and

other officials attended the consideration of the reports by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on February 16, 2016. Answering questions from the Committee members, he gave briefings about facts and findings about the comfort women and other issues as well as the Japanese Government’s efforts for them. Japan has continued to provide members to the Committee since 1987.

(4) Initiatives Focusing on Sexual Violence in Conflict

As Prime Minister Abe stated in his speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2014, sexual violence as weapons of warfare must not be overlooked. To prevent sexual violence as a weapon and to support victims of violence, international discussion and partnerships with international organizations such as UN Action and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict are important. At the same time, Japan is engaging in more proactive efforts in this field, to make the 21st century a world with no human rights violations against women.

- A. Zainab Hawa Bangura, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, visited Japan to attend WAW! in August. In 2015, Japan provided financial assistance to her Representative Office, contributing 2.55 million US dollars in support for enhancing police and judicial capabilities of the states concerned. Furthermore, Japan has made a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Court of Justice, earmarking approximately 450,000 Euros out of about 650,000 euros in total for the project to protect women

from violence. Through such efforts, Japan engages in efforts to support victims of sexual abuse in conflict.

B. As a co-sponsor, Japan also joined the International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' side event held in the UK about sexual abuse and assault in December, striving for cooperation with the international community to prevent sexual violence in conflict.

(5) National Action Plan regarding UN Security Council Resolution 1325

To be more effective in achieving a peaceful society, it is vital to ensure women's participation at all stages in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding, with mainstreaming perspective of gender. To this end, Japan formulated and announced "National Action Plan" on women, peace and security to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions in September.

The Government of Japan enters into the implementing phase of the NAP.

Column

WAW! for All

~ Together with Women and men of diverse backgrounds and generations ~

The Government of Japan hosted World Assembly for Women (WAW!) on August 28-29, 2015. In the 2nd WAW!, a total of 145 leaders active in various fields of women issues gathered from 42 countries and eight international organizations.

WAW! 2015 was held under the theme of “WAW! for All ~ Together with Women and men of diverse backgrounds and generations ~,” and was attended by women and men from a wide range of status and generations. We asked the experts who have supported us to organize WAW! 2015 on how was the discussion they participated and how they utilize the lessons learned at WAW! for their future initiatives and activities. (Interviewees: Ms. Asako Osaki, Director, Gender Action Platform, Ms. Ayako Ota, Leader of “Sales Department Girls Section Association”, Ms. Momoko Shirakawa, journalist specializes on the report of declining birth rate issue, Mr. Tetsuya Honda, Managing Director/ CEO, Blue Current Japan, and Ms. Akiko Yuge, Professor, Faculty of Law, Department of Global Politics Hosei University/ Interviewer: Director, Foreign Policy Bureau, Gender Mainstreaming Division)



—Please tell us what the appeal of WAW! is. Is there any change after your participation in WAW!?

Yuge: WAW! covers a wide range of issues about gender, and a variety of participants discussed these issues that reach beyond their respective sectors. I could see different aspects of gender, which I used to see with the viewpoint of development. I participated in WAW! two years in a row, and found that the participants could speak freely and there was no formal atmosphere - in a good sense, which invigorates the discussion. This is the most attractive aspect of WAW!.



Momoko Shirakawa (journalist specializes on the report of the declining birth rate issue)

Shirakawa: I participated in WAW! 2015 for the first time and found the meeting was very exciting and powerful as many active people in women related field in the world assembled. Also, I realized Japan is in a very difficult position, because while Japan assists developing countries, Japan is also a developing country itself in the context of women’s empowerment. On the other hand, in the discussion on the millennium generation, I learned it was common in the world, whether in the U.S., in Thailand, and elsewhere, that young generations seek a work-life balance in their lives rather than money. After WAW!, I established “Study Group on Working Styles of the Millennium Generation” with women in their twenties.

Osaki: I was a moderator for the session of “Women’s empowerment through sanitation” and it was very interesting experience. Although the diffusion of safe and hygienic bathroom facilities is directly connected to women’s dignity and human rights, it has not been focused on for a long time. On this theme, leaders such as Administrator Clark of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Special Representative Bangura of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ambassador Wadona, Indian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan, and Minister Arimura for Women’s Empowerment of Japan, made presentations and discussed the importance of bathroom facilities in light of their experiences. Ms. Yamagami, who developed anhydrous toilets at LIXIL Corporation, and popularized them in Kenya, presented some concrete solutions. I think this is one of special features of WAW! which has participants from diverse backgrounds. When Prime Minister Abe came by at the session, he asked Ambassador Wadowa if there is anything that he can do to solve the problem in India. She answered, “We want you to export Ms. Yamagami to India!” I am convinced that if the number of female engineers increases in the private sector, the fields in which they can make contributions will expand globally. Let’s increase the number of *Rikejo* (science-oriented women in Japanese)!



Asako Osaki (Director, Gender Action Platform)

Honda: I participated in WAW! as the only male advisor, and had a very valuable experience. At WAW!, I attended the session “Engaging Men in Reforms.” Listening to the stories from Swedish, Australian and other

male participants, I was surprised to learn how deep their understanding on women's empowerment in society is. I realized that I only had fragmented knowledge about gender issues. Taking part in the advisors' meetings prior to WAW!, I was able to deepen my understanding about this issue. Since I found myself changed, I hope that more men will participate in WAW!.

—Were there any words, comments, or suggestions that impressed or encouraged you at WAW!? And, do you have any examples which led to your new activities or initiatives?

Osaki: In the public forum, elite women from the world made presentations. Surprisingly, however, they had a variety of backgrounds such as a single mother, four sisters from rural area, and an immigrant. There was one common thing in their stories—that is, they have grown up being told by their parents: "There are no limits to your potential." When it comes to factors determining the future of girls, I realized how critical they are affected by their parents' view on gender or how they were told. In my future activities, I want to convey such message to Japanese girls.

Interviewer: We heard powerful messages in the public forum. I was greatly impressed by the word of President Sirleaf of Liberia, "The dream is not big enough if it doesn't scare you."

Honda: When I had a talk with Ambassador Melanne Verwee, I was very impressed by her words, "The current system is one established before women became active in society. Further dynamic reform is required." Now I feel that women's empowerment is not a challenge just for women but also a reform to review the social structure itself. I would like to spread this idea more among men. In the session, I said, "We should say 'lifestyle revolution' rather than 'women's empowerment'." More foreign participants, not Japanese participants, agreed with me. I was encouraged to learn that there were people who support my idea in the world, though it is still difficult to get support in Japan.



Tetsuya Honda (President, Blue Current Japan)

—What do you expect from WAW! in the future? Do you have any ideas to make WAW! more meaningful?

Osaki: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formulated last year (2015).

Japan used to be in a position just to support it but now it becomes one of the concerned parties as well. People are watching how Japan will take the lead to tackle the SDGs, including goals on gender. If you take up SDGs including goals on gender at the next WAW!, I think it will make a great impact.



Akiko Yuge (Professor of Department of International Politics, Faculty of Law, Hosei University)

Yuge: In the session I attended, we discussed how to take advantage of the private sector's know-how to solve problems in developing countries. It is becoming absolutely necessary to derive synergy effects through cooperation among businesses, governments and international organizations. In that sense, I suggest to discuss on how women are described in the "media," which involves a variety of stakeholders. Also, since the year 2015 saw a progress in the field of development so that 2016 will be the first year to follow up. "Climate change" should also be discussed as the Paris Agreement was signed. I hope WAW! will become an occasion to deliver messages to the international community.

Shirakawa: I hope we can train people to act for social reform through WAW!. If people living in rural areas, where information is not easily available, participate in WAW!, I think they will get a chance to see at the world. In that sense, how about setting up a "WAW! quota" giving women an opportunity to study abroad?

Ota: Last year, the Sales Department Girls Section Association collaborated with Google. We collected opinions from all over Japan including rural areas and disseminated them. Through the activities, we were able to understand the situation of women in rural areas. We want to utilize the network from last year (2015), and further promote regional activities, such as holding a "mini WAW!" in rural areas.

Honda: "Women's empowerment" is not just an issue relating to the working



Ayako Ota (Representative Director, Women's Team of Sales Division)

population. I think that in Japan, where women do not yet play active role, many products and services lack the feminine perspective. It means that Japan's 'soft power' is weak in the global context. I hope we can also send a message from a new perspective that you never win in the global market without incorporating women's sensibilities.

We will hold WAW! this year. Powerful messages delivered by leaders around the world should encourage each other to further energize their efforts. Furthermore, in Japan, where women's empowerment has not yet achieved to the full extent, we will encourage men and women from local communities to take part, so that movement for a change in lifestyle will be created.



WAW! 2015 subgroup session (Photo: Cabinet Public Relation Office)

Japan's "National Action Plan" on women, peace and security

There are still a variety of issues remaining in the world, such as poverty, violence, conflict and terrorism, as well as social practice that deprive women's social, economic and political opportunities. Under the Abe Administration, Japan is taking a variety of initiatives toward creating "a society where women shine." One of those efforts is the establishment and implementation of the "National Action Plan" (NAP) to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its related resolutions. So what is the Security Council Resolution 1325, which sparked the establishment of the NAP?

[Security Council Resolution 1325, a symbolic resolution on women, peace and security]

Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, is the first resolution to connect women with peace and security issues. The Resolution, while recognizing that women are affected by conflicts, requests the member states to promote women's active participation and protect women's human rights in all stages from conflict prevention and resolution to post-conflict peace-building. The Resolution also seeks to mainstream a gender perspective in all activities related to peace-building.

[Features of Japan's NAP]

There are four elements expected to be included in the course of development of "National Action Plan", which encourage the implementation of the Resolution. These four elements are as follows :

a) Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls during conflict and post-conflict, b) women's participation in decision-making with regards to peace and security at national, regional and international levels, c) promotion of human rights protection of both women and girls during conflict and post-conflict, and d) addressing particular needs of women and girls and capacity building of women in humanitarian and recovery assistance.

To promote women's participation in decision making processes and incorporate women's human rights and a gender perspective into the field of peace and security, Japan's NAP has designated indicators including official development assistance (ODA) and UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) policy under the five pillars of participation, conflict prevention, protection, humanitarian and reconstruction assistance, and monitoring and evaluation. Especially, it is worth noting that Japan's NAP addresses issues both domestic and international as well as not just relating to conflict-zone situations but also natural disasters.

Japan's NAP was established in September 2015. In proceeding to the implementation phase, we intend to play a more significant role in the field of women, peace and security.



The seminar held in Fukuoka in January 2016. In the seminar, Japan's NAP was reported as well as Japan's efforts and the global situation.

Section 2

Japan's International Cooperation (Development Cooperation and Response to Global Issues)

Overview

(Development Cooperation Charter and Strategic use of ODA)

More than sixty years have passed since Japan started its Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954. Japan's development cooperation policy including ODA has greatly contributed to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community and consequently the national interests of Japan for many years.

On the other hand, the international situation with regard to development cooperation is at a major crossroad. The world is facing more diverse and complex challenges. These challenges are increasingly widespread, transcending national borders as the world is increasingly globalized. Furthermore, considering the growing roles of recent non-ODA public/private funds (companies, local governments, NGOs, etc.) and support from emerging countries, it is important to collect the wisdom and actions of developing countries as well as developed countries and various non-governmental resources. In this new era, it is essential for ensuring the national interests that Japan should consider development cooperation as a part of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and strategically use ODA to address development and human rights issues, while

continuing to adhere to the course that Japan has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. The Development Cooperation Charter approved by the Cabinet in February 2015 was established based on this recognition.

For Japan, development cooperation is one of the most important diplomatic tools and is essential for its proactive contribution to peace and stability of the international community, ranging from emergency humanitarian assistance such as measures for refugees in the Middle East and Africa and these against disasters to economic and social development in developing countries such as infrastructure development and human resource development. In addition, it is also an important national interest for Japan to vitalize its economy through the development of developing countries and to grow together with them. As mentioned in the "Japan Revitalization Strategy" and the "Infrastructure System Export Strategy" (both revised in June 2015), Japan must make strategic use of ODA to further promote overseas operations by Japanese companies.

Japan contributes to the international community not only by the implementation of development cooperation but also through its philosophy. For example, "human security" – a concept that pursues the right of individuals to live with happiness and in dignity through their protection and empowerment – is a guiding philosophy Japan has traditionally

promoted. This philosophy is reflected in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by the UN in September, as well.

Such efforts of Japan have won both high praise and trust from the international community. We must continue and strengthen the efforts in the future so that Japan can strongly lead the international community as a major responsible country in the world and ensure an international environment and order in line with Japan's national interests.

(Response to Global Issues)

While globalization has resulted in dramatic economic and social development worldwide, it has also brought about diverse threats to human security. The threats include conflict, terrorism, disasters, global environmental issues such as climate change, global health issues including infectious diseases, human trafficking, refugee issues, labor issues, and economic crises. These global issues cannot be addressed by one country alone. The international community must work together based on the concept of human security. The year 2015 was a “milestone year” because new frameworks for these global issues were formulated.

In September, new global development goals namely “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted, because the year 2015 is the target completion year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the area of disaster risk reduction, which is essential to realize sustainable development, the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March, and the resolution to designate November 5 as “World Tsunami Awareness Day” was

adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in December. Japan promoted the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction through playing a significant role for these adoptions. In the area of health, Universal Health Coverage (UHC)¹, which Japan has been promoting, is incorporated as one of the development goals. Japan decided the “Basic Design for Peace and Health” in September, and held the international conference on UHC in December. Furthermore Prime Minister Abe contributed article to the Lancet, the world's leading medical journal. Through these contributions, Japan has led the global promotion of UHC and the reinforcing the global health architecture to strengthen responses to public health emergencies.

In the area of climate change, the Paris Agreement, a fair and effective framework with participation from all countries, was adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in December. Prime Minister Abe announced “Action for Cool Earth 2.0”: Japan would provide approximately 1.3 trillion yen of public and private climate finance in 2020 to support developing countries, and enhance its innovative technologies. Through the announcement Japan helped create momentum toward the adoption on the Paris Agreement.

The year 2015 was a “milestone year,” while the year 2016 is an “implementation year” for global issues. Japan will continue to promote human security and address global issues even more proactively especially in the areas where Japan has abundant expertise, in partnership with other countries, international organizations, and the civil society such

¹ All people living on Earth receive basic health care services.

as disaster risk reduction, health, women's empowerment, and education under the Global Partnership (GP). In 2016, Japan will take the lead in efforts of the international community through various opportunities including the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and TICAD VI.

Arctic issues are coming up for debate in the international arena, as changes in the Arctic environment caused by global warming have brought about new possibilities such as the use of the Arctic Sea Routes and the development of natural resources, and at the same time it is pointed out that a serious impact on the vulnerable natural environment of the Arctic could also be caused by these changes. Japan adopted "Japan's Arctic Policy" with a view to contribute to the international community as a main player in addressing these issues. With this as a trigger, Japan will participate even more actively in formulation process of international rules concerning the Arctic, through such initiatives as further strengthening its contribution to activities of the AC and demonstrating its view and efforts on Arctic issues at occasion of bilateral and multilateral meetings other than the AC.

(Science and Technology Diplomacy)

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements for peace and prosperity that support socioeconomic development, and play a vital role in security. In this regard, there is a high level of international interest in and expectations for Japan's advanced science and technology. Japan, through cooperation in science and technology, has been contributing to the development of science and technology at home and abroad, the promotion of relations with other countries, the peace and stability of the international community, and the resolution of global challenges. Japan is also

placing emphasis on building a structure to effectively promote "science and technology diplomacy," as evidenced in the appointment of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2015.

1 Development Cooperation (ODA, etc.)

(1) Establishment of the Development Cooperation Charter and the Current Status of ODA

A Establishment of the Development Cooperation Charter and the current status of ODA

In February 2015, Japan's ODA Charter was revised for the first time in 12 years and the new "Development Cooperation Charter" was approved by the Cabinet. Based on the philosophy that has been formed over more than 60 years of Japan's ODA history, the New Charter designates the following three basic policies to be pursued in the future: (1) contributing to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes, (2) promoting human security, and (3) 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. Japan plans to further develop these policies. In line with these basic policies, the following priorities are set out.

(a) "Quality Growth" and poverty eradication through such growth

The achievement of economic growth through self-sustaining development in developing countries and growth in the private sector is essential for poverty eradication. In addition, economic growth should not be merely quantitative in nature but also "Quality Growth." Such growth



Activities of JDR rescue teams in Nepal. (Photo: JICA)



Mothers exchanging information with Maternal and Child Health handbooks distributed by the Government of Japan at the health center waiting room in a refugee camp. (Photo: Imamura Kenshiro, JICA)



Provision of Emergency relief in response to Ebola virus disease outbreak in the West Africa (delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE) transported by a Self-Defense Force Air plane)
(Photo: Ministry of Defense)



Support for Syrian refugees (distribution of daily necessities in Jordan)
(Photo: UNHCR)

is “inclusive” in the sense 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 socioeconomic growth, and addressing global warming. And it is “resilient,” to be able to withstand and recover from economic crisis, natural disasters and other shocks. Therefore, Japan provides necessary support such as industrial foundation development, the introduction of advanced technologies, and human resources development.

(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 that the society is managed equitably and stably. With a view to solidifying the foundations for such achievement, Japan has provided 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.

Securing peace, stability, and safety is a precondition for the creation of a country.



A production site working on *kaizen* (improvement) as one of the engines of high economic growth in Japan that brought positive changes to many production sites. (Photo: Imamura Kenshiro, JICA)



Delhi Metro in India constructed by yen loan. The number of passengers a day is over 2.5 million. The metro contributes to the economic growth and mitigation of traffic congestion in India

From this viewpoint, Japan comprehensively addresses various factors including poverty, conflicts, and instability as well as supporting seamless peace-building, from emergency humanitarian assistance after conflict to recovery, reconstruction, and development.

(c) Building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges

Global issues cannot be settled by only one country. Regions and the international community must work together. Japan takes the lead to address global issues including reflecting Japanese development cooperation philosophy including human security in the



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer working to increase the income of farmers as "Japan's visible assistance" (Photo: Koji Sato, JICA)



Institute of Cambodia of Technology (ICT) implemented joint research with a Cambodian soft drink manufacturer with collaboration from Japanese experts (Photo: Satoshi Takahashi, JICA)

"2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the UN in September, and aims for building a sustainable and resilient society in the entire international community, such as through the promotion of measures against climate change and infectious diseases, UHC¹ and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction.

B Priority Policy for Development Cooperation

Development cooperation is one of the most important diplomatic tools of Japan in dealing with changing circumstances surrounding it and in promoting the principle of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based

¹ The goal of UHC is to ensure that all people obtain the basic health services they need.

Special
Feature

Development Cooperation Charter and public relations

In February 2015, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter was revised, and the Development Cooperation Charter was approved by the Cabinet. In the new Charter, the "Promotion of the understanding of the people and the international community" is included. Amid Japan's severe financial situation, efforts for obtaining the people's understanding and support for ODA are increasingly important.

Initiatives in Japan

We continued to make efforts for disseminating and explaining ODA in 2015, through the website and various media. In particular, Japan's largest international cooperation event, the "Global Festa JAPAN 2015" held in October, is one of the most important opportunities to sensitize the public about the international cooperation. In 2015, under the theme of "Share the Happiness! Expand from Odaiba! A chain of international cooperation full of happiness," participatory-oriented events with exhibitions, stage events, workshops and stamp rallies were organized by 274 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, embassies in Tokyo and business enterprises. As a special project, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also organized a photo exhibition entitled "Let's make the world HAPPY together! From the happiness source." 116 photos were exhibited showing Japanese people and Japanese organizations (NGOs, businesses and public institutions, etc.) involved in activities for international cooperation all over the world, which provided the visitors with an opportunity to know more about international cooperation. Various events and exhibitions were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' booth to deepen the understanding of international cooperation through quizzes and lucky draws.

Further, in order to deepen the people's understanding of development cooperation, a TV program entitled 'Our first step to open up the world' by Osamu Hayashi" was aired through a network of six TV TOKYO-associated stations, in which an easy-to-understand introduction was given on the current situation of development issues around the world, how can individuals get involved and the philosophy of Japan's cooperation, etc.

Initiatives abroad

We are promoting efforts in and outside of Japan. To promote the "visibility" of Japanese development cooperation, we arranged press tours in 15 countries, where local media-related people visited local sites accompanied by the Japanese embassy staff, thereby getting Japan's development cooperation covered by the local media. After the press tour in Mauritania, well known for its exports of octopuses, the media covered a story, for instance, reporting on the relationship between Japan's cooperation and the fisheries sector, which is important for the Mauritanian economy. We also made pamphlets about Japan's cooperation in local languages. The pamphlets, which give an easy-to-understand description of the history and philosophy of bilateral cooperation and individual projects, are distributed to a variety of people, including government officials of the partner countries and the press.

In order to make the most of official development assistance (ODA), which is one of the most important diplomatic means of Japan, we will continue to focus on public relations.



Mr. Osamu Hayashi explaining development cooperation in the TV program entitled "Our first step to open up the world by Osamu Hayashi"



Ambassador Yoshida giving a speech during a press tour in Mauritania

on the principle of international cooperation. For strategically and effectively promoting development cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) placed the following four points as part of the FY2015 priority policy.

(a) Cooperation to share universal values and promote international peace and stability

Japan provides support including the development of legal systems, strengthening governance, as well as gender equality in order to support efforts by countries sharing universal values such as democracy, the rule of law, and human rights and strengthen their relationship with Japan. Moreover, Japan also actively contributes to the peace and stability of the international community through assistance for such as peace-building, counter-terrorism and -organized crime, and enhancing maritime law enforcement capabilities.

(b) Enhancing strategic development cooperation for the economic growth of developing countries and Japan

Japan supports developing countries in achieving “quality growth.” At the same time, Japan supports such areas as the overseas operation of local governments and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), exporting infrastructure system, the improvement of business environments, promoting overseas business regarding medical technologies and services, to contribute to Japan’s economic growth and regional revitalization in Japan.

(c) Promoting human security

Taking into the consideration the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the formulation of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” Japan provides assistance in the areas of disaster risk reduction/disaster recovery,

health, measures against environmental problems and climate change, poverty reduction, education, etc., in collaboration with international organizations. These efforts are based on the philosophy of human security.

(d) Building strategic partnership

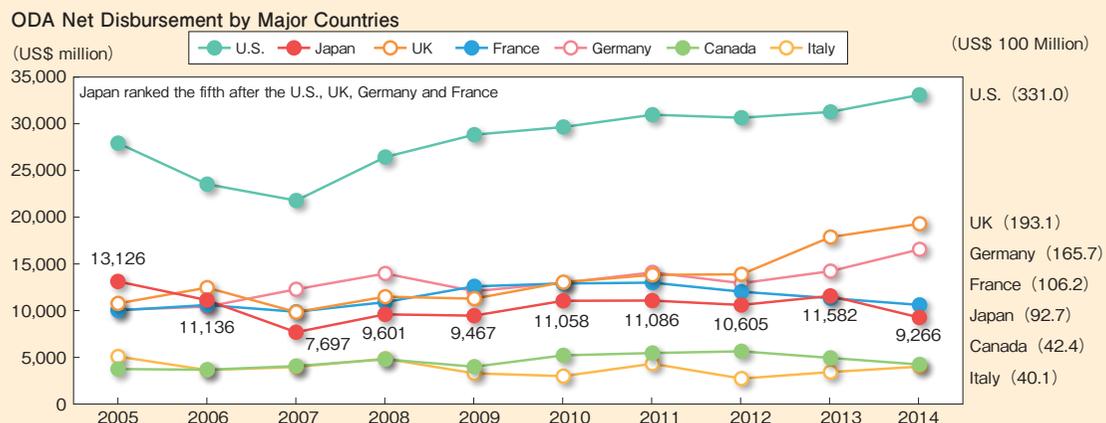
Japan enhances relations with so-called “ODA graduates” including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with particular vulnerabilities and emerging countries, which serve as important investment destinations for Japanese companies, as well as region-wide assistance in collaboration with local organizations, etc. Moreover, Japan enhances the opportunities for public participation through cooperation with NGOs and volunteer programs, etc.

(2) Japan's Development Cooperation Performance and Approaches to Major Regions

A Japan's ODA Performance

Japan has provided a total of about 463.5 billion US dollars in ODA. Japanese major forms of ODA are grant aid, namely, bilateral fund donations; loan aid for development in developing regions; technical cooperation; donation or contribution to international organizations, etc. Loan aid accounts for the largest percentage. Japan has provided loan aid worth approximately 204.8 billion US dollars, which are usually repaid with interest. Japan's ODA performance in 2014 in terms of total disbursements was about 15.71 billion US dollars, down 30.3% from the previous year. Japan ranks fourth among 28 member states of the Organization for the Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), following the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany. In terms of

ODA Net Disbursement by Major Countries



ODA Gross Disbursement by Major Donor Countries



※The numbers in brackets stand for 2014 results

Source : OECD/DAC

net disbursements, which are generally used for international comparison, the amount is about 9.27 billion US dollars, down 20.0 % from the previous year, ranking fifth after the U.S., UK, Germany, and France. The ODA/GNI ratio based on net disbursements was 0.19%, ranking 18th among member states of the DAC.

B Approaches to Major Regions

(a) Asia

The peace, stability, and prosperity in the East Asian region are important to Japan, which has a close relationship with the region. Japan has created momentum toward solutions for various development issues,

including poverty reduction, by promoting economic development and human security in the region and also contributed to its development.

Approximately 58.3% of the total bilateral ODA of Japan went to this region in 2014. Most of it is support for ASEAN countries. Considering that support for infrastructure building and training of industrial human resources to strengthen regional connectivity and industrial foundation development are essential to sustainable growth in the region, Japan announced “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide quality infrastructure investment of approximately

110 billion US dollars to Asia over the next five years in May 2015, and its follow-up measures in November 2015. Japan also announced the “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative” to develop 40,000 industrial human resources over the next three years at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2015. Japan will continue to support Asian sustainable growth covering both “hard” and “soft” aspects. Furthermore, ASEAN countries are extremely important for Japan both politically and economically: they share universal values and have the close economic ties such as advancement of many Japanese companies. The further integration, stability, and prosperity of ASEAN countries are important to the stability and development of Japan and the region. Based on this recognition, Japan securely implements ODA support in many areas, such as enhancement of the rule of law, maritime security, disaster risk reduction, health/medical care, peace-building, etc., aiming at enhanced connectivity and a narrowing of the development gap.

For the Mekong region, the New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation was adopted at the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in July. Japan announced 750 billion yen would be provided through ODA over the next three years. With this support, Japan seeks the realization of “Quality Growth” in inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience in this region.

The economy has developed in South Asia, but many issues such as undeveloped infrastructure and poverty still remain unsolved. While also keeping in mind improving the investment environment for Japanese companies and human security, Japan provides a range of assistance through ODA to assist the region in overcoming these



The Nhat Tan Bridge in Vietnam greatly reduced the time required from the international airport in Hanoi to the urban areas of Hanoi. (Photo: JICA)

challenges.

Especially for India, the largest democratic country in the world, Japan's ODA is expected to contribute to the further promotion of economic and social development there and economic cooperation between the two countries. The Japan-India summit meeting in December confirmed the usage of the Japanese Shinkansen system in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed railway. On the other hand, as India's balanced growth leads to the stability in South Asia, Japan supports Basic Human Needs (BHN) such as health, medical care, education, and agriculture aiming at poverty alleviation and the solution to inequality.

In response to the major earthquake in Nepal in April, Japan dispatched a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams and provided emergency humanitarian assistance and also expressed its commitment to delivering more than 32 billion yen in total of assistance in the area of rebuilding schools, houses, and public facilities for “Build Back Better” of the country at the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction in Nepal's capital Kathmandu in June (see 2-1-4).

(b) Central Asia and the Caucasus

The Central Asia and the Caucasus are geopolitically important areas surrounded by

Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Its stability and development are important for all in the whole Eurasia, including Japan. From this viewpoint, Japan supports the nation building so that universal values such as human rights, democracy, market economy, and the rule of law can take root for long-term stability and sustainable development in this region with broad-based views covering neighboring regions including Afghanistan and Pakistan in mind.

In October, Prime Minister Abe visited five Central Asian countries and announced strengthening of relationships with three pillars: dramatic strengthening of bilateral relations, involvement in regional common issues, and cooperation in the global arena. As for the area of development cooperation, he expressed cooperation not only to the building of economic/social infrastructure such as roads, airports, and medical care, but also to highly skilled industrial human resource development by using Japanese style engineering education such as colleges of technology, and continuous support to young government officials' study in Japan, as well as to Japan Centers. In addition, he confirmed continuous cooperation on major issues of the "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue: border management, counter narcotics, agriculture, and others (see 2-5-2).

(c) The Middle East

Securing peace and stability in the Middle East/North Africa regions, which are geopolitically important and important for energy security, is crucial to the world's stability. From these standpoints, Japan has proactively provided support for these regions to achieve peace and stability. In light of the serious humanitarian crisis in Syria, where the situation is worsening, with 6.5 million internally displaced persons

and over 4.3 million refugees outside Syria, Japan expressed a commitment at the UN General Assembly in September to deliver aid worth approximately 810 million US dollars to Syrian and Iraqi refugees, internally displaced persons, and neighboring countries. In implementing support, consideration in line with the principles of human security has been made in particular to the most vulnerable, such as women and children, in such areas as education, water, and health/sanitation.

As for Iraq, Japan has accomplished the commitment totaling five billion US dollars of assistance for Iraq's reconstruction by May 2012 that had been pledged at the International Donors' Meeting for Reconstruction in Iraq in 2003. By FY2014, Japan had accepted approximately 6,500 Iraqi trainees. Japan will continue to provide support Iraq for the realization of the self-reliant development.

Furthermore, Japan and the international community are providing support to promoting Afghanistan's self-reliance and the stability of the region in order to prevent Afghanistan from stepping back into a hotbed of terrorism. Japan provided a total of about 5.9 billion US dollars from 2001 to December 2015, in development assistance mainly in the three areas of improvement of security capabilities, reintegration of anti-government militias into society, and support for sustainable development.

(d) Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa has achieved remarkable growth against a background of rich natural resources and population growth and attracted expectations and attention of the international community, and increased its presence as the growth center of the world since the 2000s. Under these circumstances,

the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) on the theme of “Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa” was held in June 2013. Japan announced a boost to Africa’s growth through ODA support of approximately 1.4 trillion yen over the next five years under the basic policy of promoting “human security” as well as the promotion of private trade and investment. Japan is now committed to the steady implementation of that support.

In the meanwhile, Sub-Saharan Africa still has problems of poverty, economic disparities, slow development of infrastructure, low agricultural productivity, shortfalls in industrial human resources, and an economic structure centering on primary products. New issues have become visible including through recovery from the unprecedented outbreak of Ebola virus disease and the rise of violent extremists. To solve such issues as these, new efforts have started, such as the adoption of Agenda 2063, the fundamental principle of development/poverty reduction for the next 50 years in Africa at the African Union (AU) Summit in January. Japan held the Third Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Summit Roundtable in New York in September, where Prime Minister Abe expressed the support toward Africa based on these approaches.

Responding to wishes of Africa, at the 2014 UN General Assembly Prime Minister Abe announced the next TICAD would be held in Africa. It was formally decided that TICAD VI would be held in Kenya in August 2016. The next TICAD VI will be a good opportunity to widely inform African people of Japan’s unique contribution. Japan will send a strong message about its intention to vigorously boost Africa’s “quality growth” through efforts that make the most of Japanese strong points

such as human resource development and high-quality infrastructure investment, from the viewpoint of “human security” focusing on each person.

(3) Approaches to appropriate and effective implementation of ODA

In the process of ODA implementation, it is extremely important to actively disclose information to the public and ensure transparency at each stage, from project planning, implementation, and post-implementation evaluation and follow-up so as to make the aid more effective and efficient.

A Approaches to Appropriate Implementation of ODA

Prior to the implementation of research for formulating new projects of grant aid, loan aid and technical cooperation, the Development Project Accountability Committee conducts opinion exchanges regarding the contents of research among external experts and relevant departments of MOFA and JICA to further increase the effectiveness and enhance the transparency of ODA projects.

A fraudulent or dishonest action related to ODA projects would not only impede appropriate and effective implementation of assistance but also damage the trust of the people in ODA projects. This is absolutely intolerable. Regrettably, cases of illegality and corruption associated with ODA occurred in 2014. In response, MOFA and JICA have decided to reinforce the information desk on illegality and strengthen measures against corporations involved in illegal actions.

B Approaches to Effective Implementation of ODA

In order to provide effective and efficient

assistance based on the issues and needs of the recipient country, Japan has formulated individual assistance policies for each country. In principle, these policies shall be developed for all the recipient countries, and policies for 110 countries have been formulated as of December 2015.

Japan is making efforts to enhance its Program Approach to implement effective and concrete ODA projects tailored to specific goals by setting up a goal for the solution of specific development issues through consultation with the recipient country.

In addition to these measures, the introduction of a more systematic numerical target into project-type grant aid from the perspective of enhancing the PDCA cycle² has been selected as one of the Good Practices in project improvement by the Administrative Reform Promotion Council in June 2014.

In the “Global Partnership for Effective Cooperation (GPEDC)”, efforts are made to improve the effects of the development cooperation under the inclusive participation of various main actors such as the civil society and the private sector as well as developed and developing countries. Japan became a GPEDC Steering Committee member in September 2015 and has contributed to improving effects of development cooperation based on its own experience.

C Efforts toward Promotion of ODA Information Disclosure and Improvement of Quality

The understanding and support of the people of Japan is essential for the implementation of ODA and, therefore, efforts are made for effective communication and the improvement of ODA quality to

enhance their understanding of ODA. Various PR events took place aiming to reach out to a wide range of people. Specifically, participatory type events such as “Global Festa JAPAN 2015,” Japan’s largest event for international cooperation, held in Tokyo in October and “One World Festival” in Osaka in February were held. In addition to these, a TV publicity program (“*Osamu Hayashi’s ‘Sekai wo Hiraku Bokura no Ippo* (Our First Step to Open the World)’ ” was broadcasted to present some examples of international cooperation activities conducted by Japan all over the world and explain the meaning of development cooperation for Japan in an easy-to-understand manner presenting the reports on ODA sites in developing countries. Also, efforts are continuously made to deliver information on development cooperation through ODA web site. Furthermore, based on the Development Cooperation Charter, which declares making enhanced efforts to disseminate information abroad, Japan plans site-visit tours to Japan’s development cooperation projects for the local media to provide opportunities for them to address Japan’s cooperation, and prepare PR pamphlets in English and local languages.

In order to raise the quality of ODA, it is necessary to apply the knowledge and know-how obtained from ODA evaluations to subsequent policy planning and project implementation. MOFA carries out evaluations through external experts, and uses and shares the evaluation results among the relevant parties. Also, from the viewpoint of improving transparency of JICA’s projects, the current status and achievements of projects are made available on the “Visible ODA” section of JICA’s website. As of the end

² Cycle of preparation, implementation, evaluation, and improvement

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Photo: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre)

of December 2015, a total of 3,379 projects are listed on this site.

2 Response to Global Issues

(1) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda)” is a set of international development goals by 2030, which was adopted by the UN summit in September 2015 as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MDGs are a set of common development goals by 2015 in development areas with specific numerical targets and with deadlines. There are eight goals and 21 more specific targets under them. The international community witnessed certain progress for 15 years such as the eradication of extreme poverty (Goal 1) and the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (Goal 6), etc. Meanwhile, the goals of education, maternal and child health and sanitation

remained unachieved, and progress toward their achievement is lagging behind in some regions, including sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, over these 15 years, new issues arose such as measures against aggravating environmental pollution and climate change, and responses to frequent natural disasters. In addition, the environment related to international development significantly changed including the diversification of actors working for development issues, such as private companies and NGOs.

The 2030 Agenda listed “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets that are interrelated and closely linked to each other to address these situations. The greatest feature is that while MDGs are goals for developing countries, SDGs are universal goals applicable to all countries, which include issues developed countries must address in their countries such as inequality, sustainable consumption and production, and action to combat climate change. Furthermore, the building of a “Global

Partnership” is incorporated so that various actors such as governments, the general public, and private sectors of developed and developing countries can overcome the old division between north and south, and work together to achieve goals and targets, using various resources including ODA and private funding.

Japan consistently and proactively contributed to discussions and negotiations for the 2030 Agenda even before full-fledged discussions got underway in the international community. Japan has consistently advocated fundamental concepts of “people-centered” and “leave no one behind” as well as the importance of “Global Partnership.” The 2030 Agenda includes individual areas which are focused on by Japan such as health, gender, education, disaster risk reduction, quality growth, and environment. For 2030, Japan will steadily implement this Agenda which integrates and balances the three aspects of environment, economy, and society, domestically and internationally and contribute to the realization of a sustainable world without poverty.

A Human Security

Human security is a concept aiming at creating a community in which individual persons are protected, and at the same time empowering them to solve their own issues and to fully display their own competence. Japan identifies human security as one of its diplomatic pillars and has been working on dissemination and implementation of this notion through discussions at the United Nations, the use of the UN Human Security Trust Fund established by Japan’s initiatives,



The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction with the attendance of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress (Sendai, March 15)

and also Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. The 2030 Agenda is based on philosophies such as “people-centered” and “leave no one behind” and its core reflects the concept of human security.

B Approaches in the Area of Disaster Risk Reduction

Every year, 200 million people are affected by disasters (90% of the victims are citizens of developing countries) and the annual average loss incurred by natural disasters is over 100 billion US dollars. Therefore, disaster risk reduction is essential for realizing poverty eradication and sustainable development. Japan, having suffered from a number of disasters, actively implements international cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction.

The “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,” a guideline for international efforts in disaster risk reduction, was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction¹ held in Sendai in March, and incorporated points emphasized by Japan such as disaster risk reduction investment in advance, “Build Back

¹ A conference organized by the UN for discussing global strategies for disaster risk reduction. The first (1994, Yokohama), second (2005, Kobe), and third (2015, Sendai) conferences were all hosted by Japan.

Special
FeatureThe 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
~ why are there 17 goals set in the 2030 Agenda?~

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) listed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There were a total of eight goals in its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Why did more than twice as many goals come to be set?

One reason is that United Nations (UN) experts took the lead to define the MDGs, whereas the SDGs were set after consideration by all the UN member countries. In the process of two years and a half including the period preceding the formal negotiations of the 2030 Agenda, a number of countries and international organizations raised various issues, so many new elements that had not been included in the MDGs came to be introduced, including sustainable consumption and production, climate change countermeasures and peace and justice.

The underlying factor is a change in the way of thinking with respect to “development” in the international community. To achieve sustainable development, we need to address not only traditional development issues such as poverty eradication in developing countries, but also various emerging issues in an integrated manner, which also requires domestic efforts of developed countries. The fact that explicit agreement on the SDGs was set by leaders at the UN can be said to be a historic event symbolizing a change in their concept on development.

The way of thinking on “development” is expected to continue to change in the future as well. It may be interesting to imagine what the goals that succeed the SDGs after 2030 will be like. The number of goals will be more than 17 or fewer?... Each reader of this Bluebook should check in 2030.



The moment when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was virtually agreed upon in substance

Better,” governance with the participation of various actors, a people-centered approach, and the importance of leadership by women. Prime Minister Abe announced the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” and said Japan would provide cooperation amounting to four billion US dollars over the next four years and develop about 40 thousand human resources in total.

As a follow-up to this conference, at the 70th UN General Assembly, Japan proposed a resolution to designate November 5 as “World Tsunami Awareness Day.” The resolution was a joint-proposal by 142 countries including

Japan and was adopted by consensus.

Japan plans to share the experience and lessons obtained from past disasters with the world and continues to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction to have every country incorporate disaster risk reduction in its policies.

C Approaches in the Area of Education

In the area of education, Japan announced “Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth,” a new strategy of international cooperation on education, in line with the timing for the adoption of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Japanese technology saves lives

~ Cooperation to control infectious diseases between International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Kansai Paint ~

IPPF Headquarters (London) ● Yuri Taniguchi

The IPPF is the world's largest international NGO to achieve sexual and reproductive health for all. IPPF's member associations in 153 countries are actively working in 170 countries and carry out health services including mother and child health, sexually transmitted infections and HIV and the sexual and gender based violence. This includes the provision of relevant information, awareness-raising activities, and policy advocacy activities. The IPPF has a long and close relationship with Japan since one of its founders is a Japanese woman (Shizue Kato) and it has been receiving financial support from Japan's ODA since 1969.

A unique collaboration began in the area of infectious disease control between the IPPF and Kansai Paint Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Kansai Paint") in 2015. The former has a large network in developing countries and the latter is a Japanese paint manufacturer with excellent technology.

Kansai Paint, ranking 8th in terms of world paint-related product sales, conducts research and development on a wide variety of paints useful in people's lives. Among these paints, there is a paint that is said to repel mosquitoes, which transmit infectious diseases that threaten human life, such as malaria and dengue fever. According to Kansai Paint, the above-mentioned paint offers an unrivalled effect in preventing the blood-sucking action of mosquitoes that have come into contact with any painted section. Sales of the products have already started in Malaysia and Indonesia, and it is said that it has received great support from local people.

Kansai Paint, which aims to popularize the innovative paint in malaria-epidemic areas, approached IPPF, which had been looking for a means of raising funds by themselves to provide health care services to people in the poorest and socially vulnerable groups in developing countries.

The IPPF and Kansai Paint, making full use of IPPF's extensive service centers in developing countries, jointly began public relations activities to promote sales of the anti-mosquito paint.

The joint efforts are aimed at forming a social enterprise partnership, wherein the painting technique will be taught to the youth gathering in IPPF clinics and youth centers, thereby providing them with an opportunity to create income with the technique so acquired, and activity funds paid by Kansai Paint will be utilized to save the lives of pregnant women and infants.

So far, IPPF clinics have been test-coated with anti-mosquito paint in Mozambique and in Malaysia. In Zambia, a tie-up will be started to support sales of anti-mosquito paint and painting education. Through this unique cooperation by a private business and an NGO, we intend to expand activities to save the lives of vulnerable groups from infection all over the world by Japanese technology.



Anti-mosquito paint developed by Kansai Paint



The clinic run by IPPF (FRHAM) after painting



Test-painting at the clinic run by IPPF Mozambique (AMODEFA)

Development” in September. The new strategy specifies “educational cooperation to achieve inclusive, equitable and quality learning,” “educational cooperation for industrial, science and technology human resource development and sustainable socio economic development,” and “establishment and expansion of global and regional networks for educational cooperation” as guiding principles, and aims at achieving quality education through mutual learning.

Japan also actively participates in education support conferences, such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Council.

D Approaches in Agricultural Areas

In coordination with the relevant countries, such as G7 or G20 member states and international organizations, Japan has delivered assistance for agriculture and rural development in developing countries. In particular, Japan acted as a joint facilitator for food security, at the G20 Development Working Group with France in 2015 as well as in 2014.

E Approaches in the Area of Water and Sanitation

Japan has continuously been the largest donor in the area of water and sanitation since the 1990's and has implemented high quality assistance utilizing Japan's experiences, expertise, and technologies. Japan proactively participates in discussions in the international community. His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince attended the final session of the “United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)”

held at the UN Headquarters in New York, in November and made a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the UN “Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters.”

(2) Global Health

Overcoming health issues that threaten lives and hinder all kinds of social, cultural and economic activities is a common global challenge directly linked with human security. Japan has advocated human security, which underlines the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” and has taken action in support of that principle. Japan regards health as an indispensable element. Japan has achieved the world's highest life expectancy and is further expected to play a proactive role in the area of health. Japan aims to realize the international community that enhances the people's health as well as ensures the right to health through assisting the area of global health.

Under this principle, Japan has achieved remarkable results in overcoming health issues such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health and nutrition improvements through cooperation with a number of countries and various aid organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), Gavi, Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). However, 3.138 million people still die from three major infectious diseases² every year and many of the 6.3 million infants younger than five years of age³ and about 300,000 pregnant women⁴ die from preventable

² WHO Fact Sheet (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs360/en/>) Number of deaths in 2014, WHO Fact Sheet (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs104/en/>) Number of deaths in 2014, WHO Fact Sheet (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/>) Number of deaths in 2015 (estimate)

³ WHO Fact Sheet No. 178 (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/>) Number of deaths in 2013

and curable diseases. Therefore, there is an urgent need for enhanced efforts. Along with economic development, responding to a new health issue such as non-communicable disease control has become necessary for developing countries.

Following the formulation of the “Development Cooperation Charter” in February, the Government of Japan decided the “Basic Design for Peace and Health” as its global health policy in September. Making full use of Japanese expertise, technology, medical devices and services, the policy aims to (1) build a system resilient to public health emergencies including the Ebola virus and disasters, and (2) provide basic health services throughout the lives of all people (achievement of UHC: Universal Health Coverage). This basic policy also contributes to the implementation of the 2030 agenda. Moreover, the Government of Japan decided the “Basic Guidelines for Strengthening Measures on Emerging Infectious Diseases” in September, indicating the basic direction and priority issues for around the next five years. Prime Minister Abe contributed an article to the *Lancet*, the world’s leading medical journal, in December. He pointed out challenges in global health and expressed his intention to contribute to the resolution of these through the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and TICAD VI chaired by Japan. Furthermore, MOFA and other relevant ministries, together with JICA and the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), co-hosted an international conference to discuss the promotion of UHC in December.

(3) Environmental Issues and Climate Change

A Global Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development

Through multilateral environmental agreements and various fora, Japan deals with the depletion of resources and the destruction of the natural environment, and is actively making its efforts for the realization of sustainable development. Following the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), further progress in international cooperation has been made in the area of environment, based on the Ministerial Outcome Document and resolutions concerning various issues in the area of environment, adopted at the First UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in 2014.

(a) Conservation of Biodiversity

Illegal trade in wildlife, such as elephants and rhinoceros, has become of grave concern in recent years and draws much attention as it reportedly serves as one of the sources of finance for international terrorist organizations. In order for the international community to respond to such threats to biodiversity, Kasane Conference on the



The Ramsar Convention Secretariat awarded certificates of registration to the Japanese local authorities with new registered wetlands as Ramsar Sites. (Punta del Este. Uruguay. June 3)

4 Trends in maternal mortality : 1990 to 2015
Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division P22-23(<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2015/en/>)

Illegal Wildlife Trade was held in Botswana in March and it adopted a political statement, including the necessity of international cooperation to eradicate illegal wildlife trade. Furthermore, a resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife was adopted at the UN General Assembly in July, and Japan was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution.

The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was held in Uruguay in June, and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 was adopted. In addition, four new Japanese wetlands (Hinuma, Yoshigadaira Wetlands, Higashiyoka-higata, and Hizen Kashima-higata) were designated as Ramsar sites and the designated area of one Ramsar Site (Keramashoto Coral Reef) was enhanced.

(b) Conservation of Forests/Combatting of Desertification

Forest reduction and degradation is closely related to such global issues as sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. At the 11th Expert Meeting of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in May and the 51st Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in November, discussions were held on global efforts for sustainable forest management.

In October, the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Turkey and active debate took place including on the definition of “Land Degradation Neutrality.”

(c) International Management of Hazardous Chemicals/Hazardous Waste

As for the Minamata Convention on Mercury (adopted in October 2013), relevant countries continue discussions towards its entry into force (20 countries became Parties as of the end of 2015). In Japan, the 189th Ordinary Session of the Diet approved its conclusion.

In May, Conferences of Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal⁵, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade⁶, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants⁷ were held in Geneva, Switzerland, and issues including cooperation and coordination among the three conventions were discussed. The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) was held in September and issues including the facilitation of activities under the “Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)” were discussed. In November, the 27th Meeting of Parties of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It was decided that future discussions were to continue with regard to the management of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which have the greenhouse effect yet do not deplete the ozone layer.

(d) Protection of the Marine Environment

At the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the London Protocol on Oceans and Seas Dumping, discussions were held

⁵ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

⁶ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

⁷ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

"Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction" and "World Tsunami Awareness Day"

Japan has a wealth of knowledge and technology in disaster risk reduction, which has been accumulated from experience with many disasters. Japan leads the international community, in the field of disaster risk reduction through various initiatives, such as development of disaster risk reduction system, prior investment in disaster risk reduction investment, and practice and support of "build-back-better" where a more resilient society is rebuilt in the process of disaster reconstruction, thereby leading the international community.

Japan has contributed greatly towards mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. In March 2015, the "3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" was held in Sendai, a city affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. As an outcome of the conference, the viewpoint of disaster risk reduction was incorporated firmly into the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the "Paris Agreement in the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As a follow-up to the "3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," the resolution proposed by 142 countries including Japan to designate November 5 as "World Tsunami Awareness Day" was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly.

Tsunami is not a disaster that happens many times every year. However, once it occurs, the damage is enormous and the affected area is also wide-ranging as is the case with the tsunami caused by the Sumatra earthquake (December 2004) and the Great East Japan Earthquake (March 2011). It is also true that there were many casualties because they did not have enough knowledge on tsunamis and procedures to evacuate from a tsunami.

The reason why November 5 was designated comes from a famous anecdote, "the fire from a sheaf of rice." The story goes as follows: when the Ansei Nankai Earthquake occurred on November 5, 1854 (the 1st year of the Ansei era), one of the villagers (Goryo Hamaguchi), sensed the coming of a tsunami from traditional knowledge and set fire to his own sheaf of rice in order to alert the villagers to a tsunami and to make them evacuate to a hill, thereby saving their lives. Goryo Hamaguchi also made efforts to construct an embankment afterwards, thereby protecting the villagers' lives from subsequent tsunami disasters.

This story includes important elements that were confirmed at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: ① Early warning, ② Utilization of traditional knowledge, and ③ Build-back-better.

It is expected that the World Tsunami Awareness Day raises people's awareness about the threat of tsunamis all over the world, and promotes countermeasures. Japan will take the initiative on the "World Tsunami Awareness Day" annually to conduct educational activities and strengthen countermeasures against tsunami in many parts of the world.



Goryo Hamaguchi setting fire to his rice sheaves

- 1) The government of each country is asked to incorporate "disaster risk reduction" into its development policy and plan as a priority policy. As a result, it can be expected that investment will increase in "disaster risk reduction," thereby creating a more resilient society.
- 2) In Japan, November 5 is designated as "Tsunami Preparedness Day," subject to the "Law concerning the Promotion of Counter-tsunami Measures (June 2011)."

Special
FeatureThe 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) ~ Background of Paris Agreement and Japan's contribution ~

COP21 was a historic meeting in which, the Paris Agreement, a framework applicable to both developed and developing countries, was agreed upon for the first time in the history of climate change negotiations. While the Kyoto Protocol imposed the obligation of greenhouse gas emission reduction only on developed countries, the Paris Agreement, replacing the Kyoto Protocol, requires proactive climate change countermeasures in developing countries as well to advance effective emission reduction on the entire planet, wherein all countries are obliged to submit a target for greenhouse gas emission reduction, report their implementation and undergo a review.

In the background of this historic agreement, it is said that France demonstrated excellent ability in serving as the President of COP21. At the beginning of COP21, France invited the world leaders to hold a summit meeting, thereby increasing the political momentum toward the adoption of an agreement. During the course of negotiations for the agreement, France, as the President, listened carefully to each country's opinions and got their proposals reflected in the President's text as much as possible. The role played by the President in adopting the ambitious Paris Agreement was very important. At the same time, a couple of other factors also played a critical role: The entire international community shared the political will that an agreement should be achieved at COP21 to stave off global warming. In addition, movements to seek a compromise and preparations for an agreement were in progress well ahead of COP21 as seen by the agreements between the U.S. and China and the one between France and China.

Japan also greatly contributed to the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Japan, in the negotiations leading up to COP21, served as facilitator for meetings on actions for greenhouse gas emission mitigation and support for addressing climate change countermeasures up to 2020, and also played the role of coordinator in negotiations for capacity building, etc. At COP21, in order to achieve the goals of mobilization of US\$ 100 billion in 2020 from both public and private sectors, Prime Minister Abe announced support of about 1.3 trillion yen to developing countries in 2020, equivalent to 1.3 times the current level, thereby contributing significantly to consensus building. Furthermore, all countries are required to report on efforts for climate change and undergo review under the Paris Agreement and, the number of countries and the amount of emissions are used as prerequisites for the entry into force of the Agreement. The Agreement also incorporates the use of market mechanism and the importance of innovation. All of these elements are those which Japan proposed and claimed during the negotiations.

In the future, detailed rulemaking will be a challenge in steady realization of this Agreement. To make the historic Paris Agreement truly effective, Japan intends to steadily advance domestic measures, and actively participate in rulemaking in cooperation with other countries.



The moment when the "Paris Agreement" was adopted at COP21 (Photo: UNFCCC)

about strategic plans and compliance matters among others.

With regard to the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) established to protect the environment of the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea with the cooperation among Japan, China, ROK and Russia, an Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting was held in Seoul, ROK, in April and the

20th Intergovernmental Meeting was held in Beijing, China in October.

Following the action plan to respond to marine litter issue determined at the G7 Summit 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Germany, an expert workshop on marine litter issue was held in Germany to discuss the implementation of future follow-up.

B Climate Change

(a) Agreement on a new international framework in and after 2020 at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21)

A concerted effort by the entire world is essential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. The Kyoto Protocol adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997 obliged developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, the United States did not join this framework, and the obligation was not imposed on emerging countries and developing countries. At the COP16 in 2010, the “Cancun Agreement” was adopted, which specifies reduction targets for developed countries and reduction actions for developing countries. At COP17 in 2011, an “Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action” was established as a process for negotiating future international framework, and an agreement was reached that a new legal framework to be applicable to all Parties would be agreed upon by the end of 2015 and be brought into force from 2020. With these past agreements as a basis, the Paris Agreement was adopted as a result of tough negotiations at COP21 in Paris in December 2015. This agreement is a fair and effective framework applicable to all Parties for the first time ever.

Japan proactively participated in negotiations at COP21, where this historical agreement was achieved. First of all, on November 30, Prime Minister Abe attended the Leaders Event hosted by President Hollande of France and announced “Actions



Prime Minister Abe made a speech at the COP21 Leaders Event (Paris, France, November 30; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

for Cool Earth 2.0 (ACE2.0)” consisting of two pillars: the implementation of climate-related assistance to developing countries totaling about 1.3 trillion yen from public and private sources in 2020; and innovation enhancement, a key to take actions against climate change while maintaining economic growth. Prime Minister Abe also insisted a new framework should be the one which all countries participate in. In particular, the announcement of climate-related assistance for developing countries engaged in climate change measures clarified a pathway for achieving the goal formulated at COP16 at mobilizing 100 billion US dollars a year by 2020 in order to meet needs of developing countries and considerably helped to establish a consensus on the agreement.

After that, from Japan, Minister of the Environment Tamayo Marukawa, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kihara, and others attended two-week negotiations on the “Paris Agreement” and directly and proactively engaged in negotiations to reflect Japan’s positions in the agreement. As a result, the “Paris Agreement” incorporates many Japanese proposals: communicating or upgrading emission reduction targets every five years by all countries including major emitters; their reporting on implementation

of the targets and undergoing of reviews in a common but flexible manner; and use of market mechanisms, including the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

(b) Approach on the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The GCF is a multilateral fund entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to support measures against climate change in developing countries. Its establishment was decided at COP16, and the GCF was designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the convention at COP 17 in 2011. The GCF became eligible to start supporting developing countries upon the Japan's arrangement to contribute 1.5 billion US dollars to the GCF based on the enactment of its internal law: the "Act on Contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Accompanying Measures" (Act No.24 of 2015) in May 2015. To promote the use of GCF in countries vulnerable to climate change, including island states, Japan invited pacific island leaders and held the "Climate Change and Development Forum" at the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) in May 2015. In addition, as a result of proactive participation in fund management as a GCF board member, Japan's efforts have steadily borne fruit. In November, the GCF board approved the fund for its first eight projects, including two for island states.

(c) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

The JCM is a framework in which technologies, products, systems, services and infrastructure which lead to the reduction of greenhouse gases are disseminated and utilized for climate actions in developing countries. Under the framework, Japan's contribution to the effected emission reductions or removals is evaluated in a

quantitative manner to be used for achieving Japan's emission reduction target. The number of partner countries, which used to be 12 as of December 2014, has increased to 16.

To coincide with COP21 in November 2015, the "3rd JCM Partner Countries' High-Level Meeting" was held in Paris for all 16 signatory countries to the JCM, during which all parties welcomed the progress of JCM and expressed their will to implement JCM through continuing mutual cooperation. Furthermore, Environment Minister Marukawa and Ramon J.P. Paje, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources for the Philippines, signed an aide-memoire for establishing JCM between Japan and the Philippines.

(d) Inter-regional approaches

The "13th and the 14th 'Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change'" were held in Tokyo respectively in January 2015 and in February 2016. Climate change negotiators from both developed and developing countries attended the meetings. Negotiators gathered at the 14th meeting for the first time after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, a new international framework, and actively exchanged opinions for effective implementation of the agreement. Moreover, at COP21, Japan made efforts to show leadership in regional climate change negotiations by implementing the "Fourth East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue" with policy makers from the East Asia Summit (EAS) participants.

(4) Arctic and Antarctic

A Arctic

(a) Current situation in the Arctic and Japan's View

Environmental changes in the Arctic, caused by global warming (melting of sea

ice, permafrost, ice sheet, and glaciers, etc.), have brought about new opportunities to the international community, such as utilization of the Arctic Sea Routes and resource development. On the other hand, it has also posed various challenges, such as the acceleration of global warming, its negative impacts on the vulnerable environment of the Arctic, and potential changes in the international security environment, resulting in mounting attention by the international community.

In dealing with these opportunities and challenges over the Arctic, based on a wide range of international cooperation, we have to work out necessary measures through grasping actual condition of environmental changes in the Arctic and its impact on the global environment, as well as precisely predicting further changes. In addition, it is necessary for us to reach a common understanding on appropriate manners of economic use of the Arctic. As a prerequisite for that, actions based on the rule of law must be ensured, which can be seen in dealing with territorial disputes and maritime delimitation issues in the Arctic.

In October, Japan formulated its first comprehensive Arctic Policy. Based on this policy, Japan will contribute to the international community as a main player in addressing Arctic issues, especially by making full use of Japan's strength in science and technology.

(b) Adoption of "Japan's Arctic Policy"

"Japan's Arctic Policy" defines its strategic initiatives in the fields of diplomacy, national security, environment, resource development, and science and technology, from a multidisciplinary perspective with contributions from industry, academia, and the government. It aims to set Japan as a main

player that contributes to the international community through its initiatives to Arctic issues.

In addition, the policy also spells out the following three specific initiatives that should be taken concerning the Arctic: "research and development," "international cooperation," and "sustainable use." In particular, in the field of "international cooperation", Japan seeks (1) to actively participate in response to global issues regarding the Arctic and in international rule-making process for the Arctic, (2) to further contribute to activities of the Arctic Council (AC: an intergovernmental forum lead by Arctic states), and (3) to expand international and bilateral cooperation with Arctic and other countries.

(c) Active participation in international initiatives concerning the Arctic.

Japan was formally admitted as an observer in AC in May 2013. Since then, Japan has been contributing to activities over the AC through actively participating in discussions by dispatching governmental officials and experts to related meetings such as the Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meeting, working groups and task forces. Japan will further strengthen its contribution to the AC through dispatching even more experts to related meetings and having policy dialogues with the AC chair, Member states and others. Moreover, toward further contribution, Japan will strive to participate actively in discussions on expanding the role of observers.

With a view to demonstrating Japan's efforts on the Arctic, Japan is committed to participating in various international forums on the Arctic and exchanging view with countries concerned including the Arctic states.

At the "Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation,

Engagement and Resilience” (GLACIER), the conference hosted by John Kerry, Secretary of State of the U.S., was held following the U.S. assumption of the AC chair (for two years from April 2015) in August, to exchange views on strengthening cooperation on climate change, global environmental issues and other Arctic-related issues. President Obama also attended the closing ceremony”) Japan introduced initiatives to further strengthen its contributions to the AC and cooperative relations with the U.S.. In addition, at the 3rd “Arctic Circle”¹ Assembly in October, Ms. Kazuko Shiraishi, Japan’s Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs, explained the “Japan’s Arctic Policy” and announced that Japan would further strengthen cooperation with countries concerned and its contribution to the international community in addressing Arctic issues.

B Antarctic

(a) The Antarctic Treaty

The Antarctic Treaty adopted in 1959 sets forth the following three basic principles: (1) the use of the Antarctic for peaceful purposes, (2) freedom of scientific investigations and international cooperation, and (3) a freeze on territorial rights and claims.

(b) The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and environmental protection

The environmental protection in the Antarctic, Antarctic observation, management of the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, and Antarctic tourism are the themes of annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (the meeting was held in Bulgaria in 2015). Particularly in recent years, active

discussions have been held on the impact of tourism activities throughout the year on the environment of the Antarctic zone and the appropriate management of tourism in this area. In addition, environmental protection of the Antarctic has been promoted in accordance with the “Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.”

(c) Japan’s Antarctic observation

Based on the 8th six-year plan of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (2010–2015), Japan is undertaking to reveal the roles and impacts of the Antarctic on the global system of the past, current, and future; particularly through long-term continuous observation for investigating the actual state and mechanism of global warming, as well as through the implementation of various research and observation activities, using large aperture atmospheric radar, etc.

3 Science and Technology Diplomacy

In May, the “Advisory Panel on Science and Technology Diplomacy” submitted a report to Foreign Minister Kishida and presented recommendations on the strategic direction and specific measures of science and technology diplomacy, and the strengthening of the foundation and its human resources toward its effective promotion, etc. Based on one of these recommendations to strengthen the utilization of scientific knowledge in formulating and implementing diplomatic policy, Foreign Minister Kishida appointed Dr. Teruo Kishi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, as Science and

¹ An international conference concerning the Arctic established by President Grimsson of Iceland, aiming at an Arctic version of the “World Economic Forum”



Dr. Kishi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, was appointed by Foreign Minister Kishida as Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, receiving the letter of appointment. (September 24, MOFA, Tokyo)

Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in September. The Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs supports the activities of the Foreign Minister from the perspective of science and technology, and provides advice on the utilization of science and technology in the planning and coordination of various foreign policies to the Minister and relevant divisions, while strengthening partnerships with Japanese and foreign stakeholders in science and technology.

In December, the “Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy” was launched, whose 17 members are comprised of experts from the academic and private sectors in the fields of life-science/medicine, the environment, and information communication technology, in addition to members of the advisory panel mentioned above. The Board was launched as a part of efforts to construct the “Science and Technology Diplomacy Advisory Network” based on the proposal of the advisory panel, supports the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and helps the diplomacy of the Prime Minister and

the Foreign Minister and the planning and coordination of international conferences.

Japan upholds the following four basic concepts for the strategic promotion of science and technology diplomacy: (1) bilateral and multilateral cooperation to promote science and technology and innovation, (2) utilization of science and technology for solving global challenges, (3) promotion of bilateral relations through science and technology cooperation, and (4) promotion of “soft power” as a science and technology-oriented country; and implemented the following measures in 2015:

- (1) Joint committee meetings (governmental dialogues) based on Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements were held² with the following 12 countries / organizations: China, Vietnam, Australia, the United States, Brazil, the Netherlands, Norway, Hungary, Russia, Israel, South Africa and the European Union, and discussed the current status and future direction of cooperation in various areas. In particular, on the occasion of the 14th Joint High-Level Committee (JHLC) meeting in October, in addition to the governmental dialogue, Japan and the U.S. held the third Japan-U.S. Open Forum with the attendance of renowned experts representing government, academia and the industry in Japan and the U.S., and discussed the development of science and technology in high potential areas such as medical- and data area, and how U.S.-Japan cooperation can contribute to the promotion of such development.
- (2) From the perspective of security, Japan contributes to the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass

² Japan has signed or concluded 32 science and technology cooperation agreements, which are applicable to 47 countries and organizations.

destruction by helping former Soviet scientists engage in research for peaceful purposes, through participation in the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), and signed the “Agreement on the Continuation of the ISTC” in December.

- (3) The external dissemination of information on Japan's excellent science and technology, as in those in the area of culture, helps to promote understanding of Japan in other countries and improve its image there. Therefore, MOFA sent Dr. Hiroshi Amano, Professor of Nagoya University, the 2014 Nobel Prize laureate in Physics for the development of Blue LED (light-emitting diodes), to Russia and France, to network with researchers, and to promote Japan's cutting-edge research through lectures at universities and international organizations (UNESCO), and thereby pursued public diplomacy aiming at establishing and reinforcing the international brand image of Japan's advanced science and technology.



Lecture by Dr. Amano of Nagoya University at Technoprom in Russia (June 4, Novosibirsk, Russia)

Section 3



Economic Diplomacy

Overview

(Recognition of the Economic Situation and Japan's Economic Diplomacy)

The world economy as a whole recovered moderately in 2015, despite concerns about the effects of a downfall in crude oil prices and geopolitical risks in the Middle East and other regions, while the U.S. actions toward the normalization of monetary policy and prospects for emerging countries including China drew attention. The Japanese economy is on a moderate recovery, helped by an improvement in corporate performance, which led to an improvement in the employment situation.

Based on this recognition of the economic situation, Japan revised its “Japan Revitalization Strategy” (hereinafter the “Growth Strategy”) in June 2015 to “ensure the movement towards the exit from deflation and reconstruct the basis for development in the future.” The “Growth Strategy” shows a course to incorporate the world's growth into Japan's growth through Japanese companies and citizens proactively entering into overseas markets and attracting the “global flow of people, goods, and money” into Japan.

Strengthening economic diplomacy as means of driving the growth of the Japanese economy is regarded as one of the three pillars of Japan's foreign policy, alongside strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhancing our relations with neighboring

countries. Japan has made earnest efforts to strengthen it. In 2015, while taking into account the “Growth Strategy,” Japan carried out economic diplomacy from three aspects: (1) contributing to the growth of the Japanese economy, (2) building an attractive country where people can have peace of mind in life, and (3) making international rules.

(Contribution to the Growth of the Japanese Economy)

(1) Promotion of Economic Partnerships

The promotion of high-level economic partnerships constitutes one of the pillars of the Growth Strategy, which aims to raise the FTA ratio to 70% by 2018. In October, an agreement in principle was reached on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement and it was signed in February 2016. The TPP Agreement establishes new trade and investment rules among 12 Asia-Pacific countries. When the agreement enters into force, a huge economic zone that accounts for 40% of the world's GDP and 10% of its population will be realized. Furthermore, in 2015, Japan made steady efforts on promoting economic partnerships. For example, the Agreement between Japan and Australia for an Economic Partnership (EPA) entered into force in January, and the Agreement between Japan and Mongolia for an Economic Partnership was signed in February. Based on these achievements, Japan aims to contribute to global rule-making on trade and investment,

by striving to the early entry into force and expansion of participating economies of the TPP Agreement, and carrying out negotiations in parallel, such as the Japan-EU EPA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and the Japan-China-ROK FTA.

(2) Support for Japanese Companies'

Overseas Business Expansion

To translate the signs of recovery of the Japanese economy into steady growth, it is necessary to tap into the growth of other countries, including emerging countries, through promoting the overseas business of Japanese companies. The activities of Japanese companies have been promoted through public-private partnerships, under the command of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Japanese Business Support, headed by Foreign Minister Kishida, at MOFA, and under the leadership of the heads of Japan's diplomatic missions overseas. In September, the "Division for Promotion of Public and Private Partnership" was established to comprehensively handle these tasks.

In addition, to "achieve the government's target of approximately 30 trillion yen in infrastructure exports by 2020" ("Growth Strategy"), Japan has made the most of the opportunities including mutual visits of dignitaries and conducted top-level sales to promote Japan's infrastructure and technology overseas.

Aiming "to accelerate the achievement of the export value target of 1 trillion yen by 2020 ahead of schedule" ("Growth Strategy" and the "Comprehensive TPP-related policy framework"), MOFA has utilized its diplomatic missions overseas and actively promotes the attractive points of Japanese products. After the decision on the "Comprehensive TPP-

related policy framework" in November, MOFA appointed staff in charge of supporting Japanese companies (food industry) at 58 diplomatic missions overseas. The Government of Japan has urged other governments to relax or remove import restrictions put in place due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant as soon as possible based on scientific basis, and also promptly provided correct information.

(Building an Attractive Country Where People can Have Peace of Mind in Life)

As Japan relies heavily on imports of energy, mineral resources and food from other countries, MOFA has been making the following efforts to secure their stable supply and ensure people's peace of mind in life.

(1) Energy, Mineral Resources and Food Security

It continues to be important that Japan takes steps to secure a stable supply of resources at reasonable prices, as Japan relies on other countries for many resources and has increased its dependence on fossil fuels to 90 % since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Utilizing a variety of diplomatic tools, MOFA has been exerting resource diplomacy strategically including through strengthening comprehensive and mutually beneficial ties with resource-rich countries and diversifying its resource-supply countries. In particular, Prime Minister Abe actively engaged in resource diplomacy by visiting major resource-rich countries, including countries in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and Central Asia in 2015. In addition, MOFA has made good use of the inputs from "Special Assistants for Natural Resources" appointed at diplomatic missions overseas since 2013, and continued to strengthen its systematic functions, including information

gathering.

As for food security, in the face of expected world population growth and global food shortages, Japan has been making efforts to contribute to securing stable food supply to Japan through balancing the world's food supply and demand by increasing the world food production.

(2) Sustainable Use of Living Marine

Resources

Japan plays also an active role in proper conservation and management of living marine resources and their sustainable use. "Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean" entered into force in July, and the Secretariat of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) was established in Tokyo based on the Convention. Japan assessed that additional work pointed out by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) had been completed. Therefore, Japan finalized the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A) and decided to implement the plan from 2015.

(International Rule-Making)

To ensure the rule of law in the international economy and the stable development of the world economy, Japan has actively participated in rule-making in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and led international discussions in various fields such as economy and society at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), G7 and G20 Summits, etc.

(1) Multilateral Trade Liberalization (WTO)

While the negotiations for multilateral trade liberalization have remained in deadlock for many years, the multilateral trading system centered on the World Trade Organization

(WTO) plays a key role in creating new rules and implementing existing rules that include dispute settlement. As for creating new rules, conclusion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) expansion negotiations and the agreement on export competition in agriculture including export subsidies at the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10) in December show that WTO's negotiation function is still indeed working and effective. On the other hand, developed and developing countries have failed to converge their opinions about what WTO negotiations should be in the future, including whether to continue the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, the biggest recent WTO issue, and there is no prospect on reaching an agreement. It is necessary to explore a new approach to revitalize and reinforce the WTO's negotiation function, including "up-to-data" issues, which change over time. Japan would actively participate in such discussions. Japan also actively participates in implementing appropriate application of the existing rules.

(2) International Discussions Led by Japan

The G7 summit is a place where leaders of developed countries meet to make discussions for coordination of policy. The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary since the end of World War II and the 40th anniversary since the Rambouillet Summit (the first summit in France). At the G7 summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany, in June, Prime Minister Abe pointed out that the G7 has underpinned the order of the international community, based on the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law and stated that it is the G7 that is capable of reacting from a global perspective, that the responsibility of G7 members is significant, and that the solidarity of the G7 is becoming increasingly important.

At the G20 Antalya Summit held in Turkey in November, the leaders exchanged frank opinions concerning specific initiatives for realizing strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth. The “Antalya Action Plan” was announced, stating the current status and future plans of countries regarding individual macro-economic policies and growth strategies. The leaders strongly condemned the acts of terrorism in Paris, and agreed that the G20 countries will carry out measures against terrorism in a coordinated manner. A “G20 Statement on the Fight against Terrorism” was also issued.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an economic cooperation framework for the participation of 21 countries and regions (economies) in the Asia-Pacific Region. At the APEC Leaders’ Meeting in the Philippines in November, under the general theme of “Inclusive Growth,” vigorous discussions took place focusing on regional economic integration and building sustainable and resilient communities. Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of strengthening the “rule of law in the economic field” and explained a target of realizing a “Society with the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens” and measures supporting women’s empowerment.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is the “world’s largest think tank,” covering a wide range of economic and social issues. The “OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program” was launched at the 2014 Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by Japan. Its first steering group meeting was held in March in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2015. Japan became a co-chair and contributed to strengthen the relations between the Region and the OECD. Moreover, in June 2015, Japan communicated the importance of “quality infrastructure” as

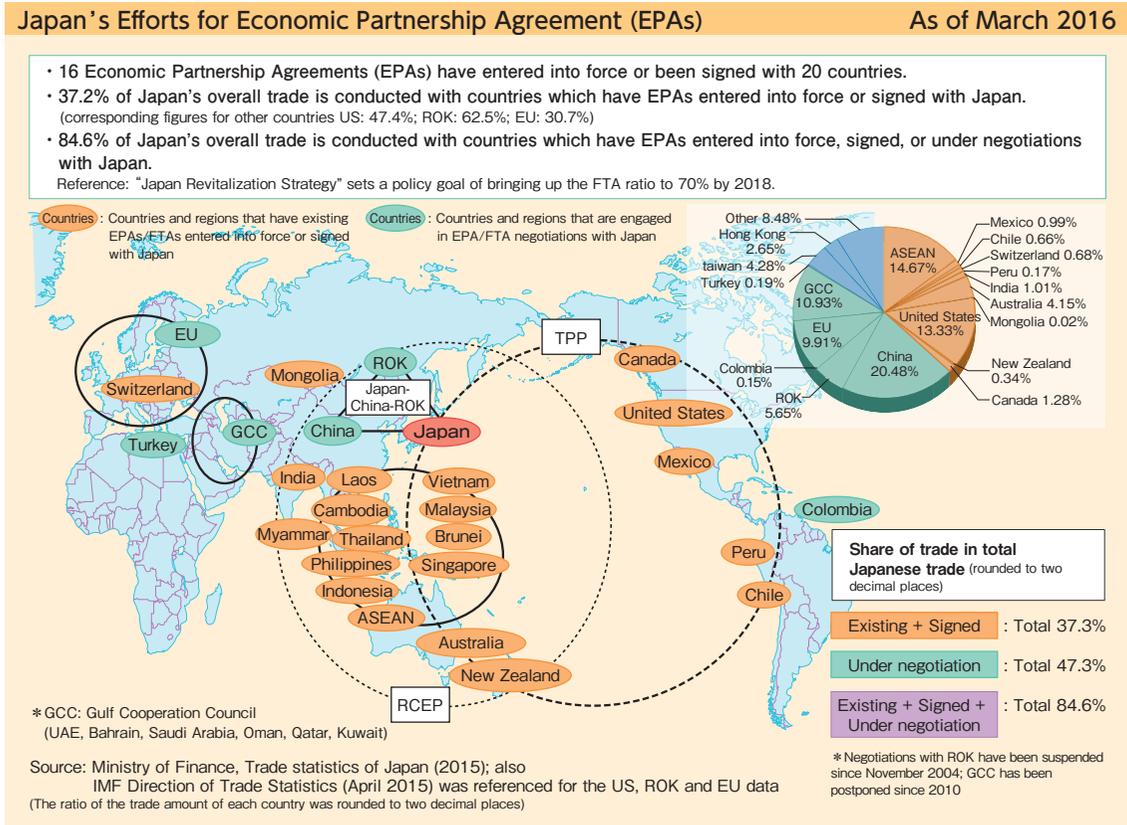
well as Japan’s contribution policy related to climate change at the Ministerial Council Meeting under the theme of “Unlocking Investment for Sustainable Growth and Jobs.”

1 Means of Driving the Growth of the Japanese Economy

(1) Promotion of Economic Partnerships

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) help capture the vitality of growing overseas markets and strengthen the basis of the Japanese economy, through measures such as the reduction or elimination of tariffs on goods as well as trade barriers for services, and through trade and investment rule making. The Government of Japan has concluded 16 EPAs with 20 countries. In order to achieve the goal set out in the “Japan Revitalization Strategy” to increase the FTA ratio in Japan’s trade (the ratio of trade value with countries which have FTAs already signed or entered into force with Japan to the total trade value) to 70% by 2018 from 19% in 2012, Japan is strategically promoting economic partnerships including those with the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.

Under these circumstances, in October 2015, an agreement in principle was reached on the TPP Agreement, and it was signed in February 2016. The new economic order that will be established by the TPP will serve as a basis for creating rules in the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), which is an even broader effort. With the signing of the TPP agreement as a driving force, Japan intends to promote other economic partnership negotiations.



A Multilateral Cooperations (Mega FTAs)

(a) Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement

The TPP Agreement is an effort to establish new trade and investment rules in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific Region. The twelve countries, namely Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Chile, Brunei, the U.S., Australia, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia, Mexico and Canada held negotiations and reached an agreement in principle at the TPP Ministerial Meeting held in Atlanta in October 2015, and the TPP Agreement was signed in February 2016. This Agreement establishes new 21st century rules in a wide range of areas, including customs, services, investments, intellectual property, and state-owned enterprises, and gives Japanese companies an opportunity to be more active in markets overseas, and

will be a large driving force for the economic growth of Japan. Moreover, strengthening the rule of law in the economic field through the TPP Agreement with countries which share fundamental values has a strategic significance and contributes to Japan's security and the stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

The TPP Agreement, which incorporates the Asia-Pacific region's growth into Japan, is the core of the growth strategy of Abenomics. Japan will push for the early entry into force of the TPP agreement and the expansion of participating economies.

(b) European Union (EU)

Japan decided to launch negotiations in March 2013 with the EU, who shares fundamental values with and is a major trade and investment partner for Japan. Since the

first round of negotiations was held in April 2013, fifteen rounds of negotiations were held by February 2016. Japan and the EU discussed a wide range of areas, such as trade in goods, trade in services, intellectual property rights, non-tariff measures, government procurement and investments. At the Japan-EU summit meeting, which was held on the occasion of the G20 Antalya Summit (Turkey) in November 2015, Japan and the EU shared the view to aim to reach an agreement in principle at the earliest possible time in 2016.

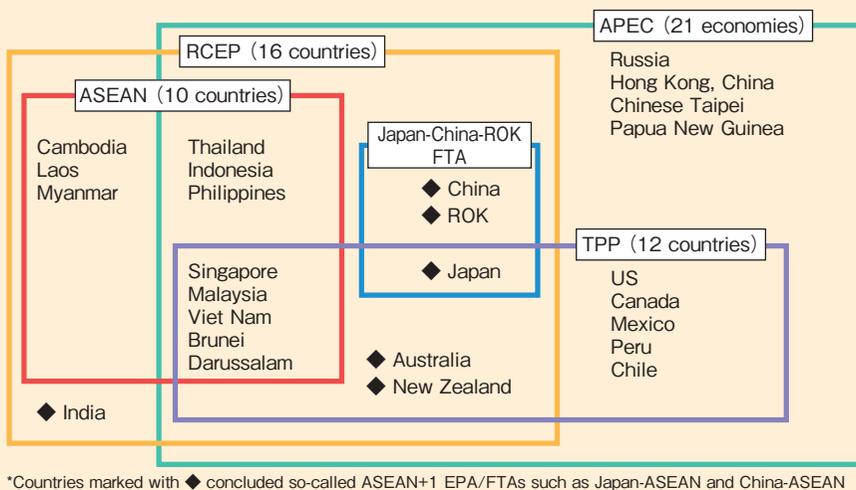
(c) Japan-China-ROK FTA

Japan-China-ROK FTA is a negotiation with Japan's major trade partners: China (1st, about 20 %) and the ROK (3rd, about 6 %). The negotiation was launched in March 2013, and nine rounds of negotiations were held by January 2016. The three countries have held the negotiations over a wide range of fields including trade in goods, investment, trade in services, competition, intellectual property and electronic commerce, with the shared objective of pursuing a comprehensive and high-level FTA.

(d) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

The RCEP negotiations aim at realizing the establishment of a broad economic integration, which covers a population of about 3.4 billion (approximately half of the world population), GDP of about 20 trillion US dollars (approximately 30% of the world GDP), and a total trade amount of about 10 trillion US dollars (approximately 30% of the total value of world trade). Since the launch of negotiations in May 2013, the leaders of ASEAN member states and their FTA partner states (six countries, namely Japan, China, the ROK, Australia, New Zealand and India), have been working together to achieve a comprehensive and high-level agreement in areas such as trade in goods, trade in services, investment, competition and intellectual property. By December 2015, three Ministerial meetings and ten rounds of negotiations had been held. At an ASEAN-related summit meeting in November, a joint statement was announced, saying the leaders welcome the promotion of substantive negotiations in the areas of trade in goods, trade in services and investments.

The progress of the broad regional economic partnership in the Asia-Pacific region



(e) FTAAP Concept

At Yokohama APEC in 2010, “Pathways to FTAAP” were agreed. It was confirmed that FTAAP should be pursued as a comprehensive high-quality free trade agreement by developing and building on ongoing regional undertakings such as ASEAN+3, ASEAN+6¹, and the TPP agreement. In the “Beijing Roadmap for APEC’s Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP” adopted at the 2014 Beijing APEC Leaders’ Meeting, the launch of “collective strategic study on issues related to the realization of the FTAAP” was agreed upon. The study started in 2015 and the final report will be submitted to leaders and ministers by the end of 2016.

B Bilateral Agreements (Arranged in chronological order according to the time at which they start.)

(a) Republic of Korea (ROK)

Japan has a mutually dependent and strong economic relationship including trade and investment with the ROK, which is the most important neighboring country and shares strategic interests. Based on the recognition that an EPA with the ROK will provide both countries with a stable economic framework and bring about mutual benefits for the future, the two countries launched negotiations in 2003. Though the negotiations have been suspended since 2004, both countries have continued working level discussions.

(b) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

GCC² member states are one of the most important regions for Japan as a supplier for oil and gas and a market for infrastructure and others. The Japan-GCC FTA negotiations were launched in 2006 to reinforce economic relations with GCC member countries, but it

has been suspended by the GCC side due to its internal procedures. Japan has been calling for an early resumption of the negotiations with the aim of further strengthening the economic relations with the GCC.

(c) Canada

Japan launched negotiations with Canada, which shares fundamental values and has a mutually complementary economic relationship with Japan, in 2012. By December 2015, seven rounds of negotiation meetings had been held, in order to have the EPA contribute to a stable supply of energy, minerals and food to Japan.

(d) Colombia

Colombia, which is rich in resources and maintains a high economic growth rate, has concluded FTAs with various countries. From the viewpoint of improving the investment environment for Japanese companies, Japan started EPA negotiations with Colombia in 2012, and by December 2015, thirteen rounds of negotiations had been held.

(e) Turkey

With Turkey, which has high economic potential and promotes an open economy, Japan agreed to launch EPA negotiations at a bilateral Summit Meeting between Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and Prime Minister Abe during Prime Minister Erdogan’s visit to Japan in January 2014. Japan and Turkey started EPA negotiations in December 2014. By January 2016, four rounds of negotiations had been held.

C Signed and Existing Bilateral Agreements

(a) Mongolia

Japan launched EPA negotiations in 2012 with Mongolia, where high mid-and-long-term

¹ The current RCEP

² GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council; Consisting of six countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Current Status of EPA/FTA Negotiations, etc. As of February 2016

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP)					The agreement on negotiations on trade in goods was reached.			Start of continuous negotiations on service and investment chapters		March and October: Joint committee meetings	Apr.: Joint committee meeting Oct.: Joint committee meeting Dec.: Substantial agreement on service and investment chapters	March and October: Joint committee meeting	April and October: Joint committee meeting	
Mongolia								Jun.: start of Joint study	Mar.: completion of Joint study	Mar.: Japan-Mongolia summit (agreed to start negotiation) Mar.: Preparatory meeting for negotiation Jun.: 1 st Round of negotiation Dec.: 2 nd Round of negotiation	Apr.: 3 rd Round of negotiation Jul.: 4 th Round of negotiation Dec.: 5 th Round of negotiation	Apr.: 6 th Round of negotiation Jul.: 7 th Round of negotiation Jul.: Agreement in principle	Feb.: Signing	
Canada								Mar.: start of Joint study	Mar.: completion of Joint study Mar.: Japan-Canada summit (agreed to start negotiation) Jul.: preparatory meeting for negotiation Nov.: 1 st Round of negotiation	Apr.: 2 nd Round of negotiation Jul.: 3 rd Round of negotiation Nov.: 4 th Round of negotiation	Mar.: 5 th Round of negotiation Nov.: 6 th Round of negotiation Nov.: 7 th Round of negotiation			
Colombia								Nov.: start of Joint study	Jul.: completion of Joint study Sep.: Japan-Colombia summit (agreed to start negotiation) Dec.: 1 st Round of negotiation	May: 2 nd Round of negotiation Oct - Nov: 3 rd Round of negotiation	Feb.: 4 th Round of negotiation May: 5 th Round of negotiation Jul.: 6 th Round of negotiation Sep.: 7 th Round of negotiation Oct.: 8 th Round of negotiation Dec.: 9 th Round of negotiation	Mar.: 10 th Round of negotiation May: 11 th Round of negotiation Jul.: 12 th Round of negotiation Aug.: 13 th Round of negotiation		
China, Japan and ROK								May: start of Joint study	Dec.: completion of Joint study	Reference: Agreement in principle on Japan-China-ROK Investment Treaty in March May: Japan-China-ROK summit (Agreement on starting negotiation by the end of the year) Nov.: Japan-China-ROK Economic and Trade Ministers' meeting (declaration of starting negotiation)	Feb.: Preparatory meeting for negotiation Mar.: 1 st Round of negotiation Jul-Aug: 2 nd Round of negotiation Nov.: 3 rd Round of negotiation	Mar.: 4 th Round of negotiation Sep.: 5 th Round of negotiation Dec.: 6 th Round of negotiation (Director-General/Deputy Director-General level meeting)	Jan.: 6 th Round of negotiation (Chief-delegates meeting) Apr.: 7 th Round of negotiation (Director-General/Deputy Director-General level meeting) May: 7 th Round of negotiation (Chief-delegates meeting) Jul.: 8 th Round of negotiation (Director-General/Deputy Director-General level meeting) Sep.: 8 th Round of negotiation (Chief-delegates meeting) Dec.: 9 th Round of negotiation (Director-General/Deputy Director-General level meeting)	Jan.: 9 th Round of negotiation (Chief-delegates meeting)
EU								Apr.: start of Joint examination	May: start of the process for negotiation	Jul.: completion of the scoping exercise to decide the outline of the negotiations Nov.: adoption by the Foreign Affairs Council of the mandate of the European commission to negotiate	Mar.: Japan-EU summit telephone conference (decided to start negotiation) Apr.: 1 st Round of negotiations Jun.: 2 nd Round of negotiations Oct.: 3 rd Round of negotiations	Jan.: 4 th Round of negotiations Mar - Apr.: 5 th Round of negotiations Jul.: 6 th Round of negotiations Oct.: 7 th Round of negotiations Dec.: 8 th Round of negotiations	Feb.: 9 th Round of negotiations Apr.: 10 th Round of negotiations Jul.: 11 th Round of negotiations Sep.: 12 th Round of negotiations Oct.: 13 th Round of negotiations Dec.: 14 th Round of negotiations	Feb.: 15 th Round of negotiations
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP*)								Sep.: start of Discussion on CEPEA* and EAFTA* started	Nov.: ASEAN-related summit meeting (adopted RCEP framework based on the proposals of CEPEA and EAFTA)	Nov.: ASEAN-related summit meeting (declared to start negotiation)	Feb.: Preparatory meeting for negotiation May: 1 st Round of negotiation Aug.: 1 st Ministerial meeting Sep.: 2 nd Round of negotiation	Jan.: 3 rd Round of negotiation Mar - Apr.: 4 th Round of negotiation Jun.: 5 th Round of negotiation Aug.: 2 nd Ministerial meeting Dec.: 6 th Round of negotiation	Feb.: 7 th Round of negotiation Jun.: 8 th Round of negotiation Jul.: Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting Aug.: 9 th Round of negotiations and 3 rd Ministerial meeting Oct.: 10 th Round of negotiation	Feb.: 11 th Round of negotiation
TPP									Nov.: declared the intention to start consultation toward participation in the negotiation		Feb.: Japan-US summit (Japan-US joint statement issued) Apr.: Agreement of the Japan-US consultation, TPP ministerial meeting Jul.: 16 th Round of negotiation (with participation of Japan) Aug.: 19 th Round of negotiation Oct.: TPP summit and ministerial meeting December: TPP ministerial meeting	Feb.: TPP ministerial meeting May: TPP ministerial meeting Oct.: TPP ministerial meeting Nov.: TPP summit and ministerial meetings	Jul.: TPP ministerial meeting Oct.: TPP ministerial meeting (Basic agreement reached) Nov.: TPP ministerial meetings	Feb.: TPP ministerial meeting (Signing)
Turkey										Nov.: start of Joint study	Jul.: Completion of Joint study	Jan.: Japan-Turkey summit (agreed to start negotiation) Dec.: 1 st Round of negotiation	Apr.: 2 nd Round of negotiation Sep.: 3 rd Round of negotiation	Jan.: 4 th Round of negotiation
ROK										May: 2 nd director-general level prior consultation Oct.: Japan-ROK summit (both countries agreed on full-fledged practical works which are necessary for resumption of negotiation)				
GCC (※) GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council consisting of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman														

economic growth is expected, aiming at the improvement of the investment environment, including the energy and mineral resource sectors, as well as further expansion of the trade and investment. After seven rounds of negotiations, the two countries reached an agreement in principle in July 2014. At the Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting, H.E. Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, Prime Minister of Mongolia and Prime Minister Abe signed the agreement when the Prime Minister of Mongolia visited Japan in February 2015.

(b) Australia

Japan and Australia are important strategic partners closely collaborating in the Asia-Pacific region and in the international community. They share close relationships not only in the area of the economy as major partners in energy and food trading, but also in the areas of politics and security. The two countries decided to launch bilateral EPA negotiations at the Japan-Australia Summit Telephone Talk in 2006, and held sixteen rounds of negotiations by 2012. As a result, the agreement was signed by the leaders of both countries on the occasion of Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia in July 2014, and entered into force in January 2015.

(c) Existing EPAs

The existing EPAs contain provisions concerning the Joint Committee, which is a body to discuss implementation of the Agreements, and a process to review the agreements after a certain period of time since the entry into force of each Agreement. In addition, a variety of consultations are held in order to utilize the existing EPAs effectively.

E Movement of Persons

In accordance with the EPAs, Japan has



Introducing Japanese Sake and Shochu at the reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor (at the Embassy of Japan in France)

started to accept candidates for nurses and certified care workers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. In 2015, 278 Indonesians (66 nurses and 212 care workers), 293 Filipinos (75 nurses and 218 care workers) and 152 Vietnamese (14 nurses and 138 care workers) entered Japan. In 2015, 26 nurses (11 Indonesians, 14 Filipinos, and 1 Vietnamese) and 78 care workers (47 Indonesians and 31 Filipinos) passed the national examination³. As for nurses and certified care workers candidates from Vietnam, Japan accepted the first group in June 2014 and the second group in May 2015. The total number of candidates is 290.

(2) Support for Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion

A Promotion of Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Accompanying Diplomatic Missions Overseas

The number of Japanese companies holding overseas branches has increased in recent years and reached 68,573⁴ as of October 2014. The ratio of overseas manufacturing production is 22.9 % - a record-high level in 2013⁵. One of

³ The number of Vietnamese passing the national examination was released in March 2015.

⁴ The Statistics on the Japanese Nationals Residing Overseas, MOFA

⁵ The 44th Survey of Overseas Business Activities, METI

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement

On October 5, 2015, the negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) reached an agreement in principle, which was signed in New Zealand on February 4, 2016. In this Feature, we introduce the TPP Agreement, which will become the new standard for trade and investment rules in the 21st century.

1 What is the TPP Agreement?

The TPP Agreement is intended to establish new trade and investment rules in a wide range of areas, such as custom duties, services, investment, intellectual property and state-owned enterprises among the 12 Asia-Pacific countries. When the TPP Agreement enters into force, a huge “single economic zone” will be formed in the area, which can be called the growth center of the world, where people, goods, capital and information have no boundary for its movement. In this market, there live 800 million people, equivalent to about 10% of the world population. The aggregate GDP amounts to 3,100 trillion yen, accounting for approximately 40% of the world GDP. The economic scale in terms of GDP of the TPP-covered area is 1.5 times, 11 times and 6 times as large as European Union (EU), ASEAN and Japan, respectively. It may be called the dawn of a new “Asia-Pacific Century.”



TPP Agreement participating countries

2 Benefits for the Japanese economy

Japanese consumers will have access to better goods from abroad conveniently and more cheaply through the TPP Agreement. Since almost all of the customs duties imposed on Japan’s exports will be ultimately eliminated, Japanese producers should be provided with a chance to promote their high-quality products in foreign markets. Furthermore, in such fields of services and investment as finance and distribution, entry regulations will be eased under the TPP Agreement.

In the same way, the conditions for fair competition will be ensured, with respect to the environment and labor fields, and entry into the infrastructure market pertaining to government procurement will be promoted.

The added value created by Japanese producers will be evaluated correctly by properly developing these trade and investment rules. Thus, the opportunity arises for Japanese businesses, including those small- and medium-sized, to extend its reach over a dynamic market. It would provide a significant driving force for Japan’s economic growth.

3 Strategic significance

The TPP Agreement will deepen the economic interdependence with the United States (U.S.) and other countries that share universal values such as freedom, democracy, fundamental human rights and the rule of law. Thus, the Japan-U.S. Alliance will be further strengthened. It greatly contributes to Japan’s security and the stability of the Asia-Pacific region. The trade and investment rules for the 21st century to be created by the TPP Agreement have a substantial strategic significance that it will enhance the “rule of law” to secure regional and global peace and prosperity.



TPP Agreement Leaders’ meeting (November 18, Manila, Philippines; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

4 Future development of economic partnership policy

In order to bring TPP Agreement-derived benefits into the Japanese economy, we intend to cooperate with other countries toward early entry into force of the TPP Agreement and expansion of the participating countries and regions in the future. Furthermore, with the signing of the TPP Agreement as a driving force, we intend to promote other economic partnership negotiations, such as the Japan EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Japan- China- ROK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), thereby continuing to play a proactive role toward building and expanding new trade and investment rules in the world.

reasons behind this is that a lot of Japanese companies supporting Japanese economic development, have embarked on expansion overseas, aiming at further cultivation of foreign markets. To incorporate vigorous economic growth abroad, mainly in Asia, into the Japanese economy, the support for Japanese companies by the government has become more important.

In light of such a situation, under the leadership of “Headquarters for the Promotion of Japanese Business Support” headed by the Foreign Minister, MOFA has engaged in tandem with the diplomatic missions overseas in supporting Japanese companies in order to promote expanding businesses overseas. In May, the both state ministers for foreign affairs were appointed as deputy chiefs and all parliamentary vice-ministers for foreign affairs as acting chiefs to strengthen the headquarters system, and a “Public-Private-Partnership Taskforce” was launched in MOFA with the deputy minister of foreign affairs (economy) as a head. In September, the Business Support Division, the Office of Infrastructure Overseas Operation Promotion, and the Investment Office, which were in the Economic Affairs Bureau, were consolidated into the Division for Promotion of Public Private Partnership, which has overall responsibility for public-private partnership operations to support Japanese companies’ to expand their businesses overseas.

At the diplomatic missions overseas, all

staff, including those in responsible for Japanese business support, have supplied various pieces of information for Japanese companies and lobbied foreign governments under the leadership of ambassadors and consul-generals. MOFA also has made use of events at the diplomatic missions overseas, such as a reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, exhibited products and technology from Japanese companies through cooperation between the public and private sectors and held PR seminars for Japanese companies’ products and tasting parties, as well as exchanging meetings with local companies co-sponsored by Japanese companies through utilizing facilities of the diplomatic missions overseas.

B Promotion of Overseas Business Expansion of Japanese Infrastructure System

In order to respond to infrastructure demands mainly in emerging countries and promote infrastructure exports by Japanese companies, a “Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation,” consisting of relevant cabinet ministers with the Chief Cabinet Secretary serving as chair, was established within the Cabinet Secretariat in 2013. Since then, a total of 22 meetings by category have been held in accordance with the diplomatic schedule of the prime minister (as of December 2015),

for example, meetings focused on countries or regions such as “Indonesia,” “the Mekong region,” “Central Asia” and “India” or on specific themes such as “public-private partnerships,” “railways” and “partnerships for quality infrastructure.”

The framework to promote the development of overseas business expansion of Japanese infrastructure system is maintained and reinforced. Through the schemes including the promotion of “top-level sales” led by officials including Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida, the reopening of JICA’s overseas investment and loans, the improved system to make use of yen credits more strategically, and the support for Japanese companies through embassies and consulates-general in various nations. MOFA has appointed 129 “Specialists in Infrastructure Projects,” who gather and consolidate information regarding infrastructure projects, in the diplomatic missions overseas in countries of focus (at 63 diplomatic missions overseas in 51 countries as of December 2015).

As concrete results of these efforts, Japanese companies or their group companies received orders for such projects as a coal-fired thermal power plant (Malaysia), a dedicated freight train railroad (India), a bridge construction and existing bridge repair project (Bangladesh), a plant for producing ammonia and urea (Uzbekistan), a metro (Qatar) and a gas-fired power and water distillation plant (Qatar).

C Investment Treaties/Tax Conventions/Agreements on Social Security

(a) Investment Treaties

An investment treaty is an important piece of legal infrastructure to promote investments by stipulating the protection of investors and

investment, enhancement of transparency in rules and expansion of opportunities, etc. In order to promote the improvement of the investment environment overseas and attract foreign investment to the Japanese market, Japan has actively engaged in the conclusion of investment treaties. In 2014, investment treaties with Papua New Guinea, Kuwait, China, the ROK (Japan-China-ROK trilateral investment treaty), Iraq, Myanmar and Mozambique each entered into force. Moreover, in 2015, respective investment treaties with Colombia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine took effect. Furthermore, investment treaties were signed with Uruguay, Oman and Iraq, which brought the total number of signed or concluded investment treaties to 28 (as of February 2016). It is also noteworthy that Japan reached an agreement in principle with Israel. Currently, negotiations of investment treaties with Angola, Algeria, Qatar, the UAE, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco and Tanzania are in progress. Japan has worked on the conclusion of EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements) including rules concerning investment. Eleven out of 14 EPAs, including the Japan-Australia EPA, which entered into force in January 2015, contain independent chapters about investment. In addition, the Japan-Mongolia EPA, which was signed in February, and the TPP agreement, which was signed in February 2016, includes investment-related chapters. Furthermore, Japan is conducting discussions about investments in the ongoing negotiations for the following agreements: the Japan-China-ROK FTA, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the ASEAN-JAPAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), and EPAs with the EU, Canada and Turkey.

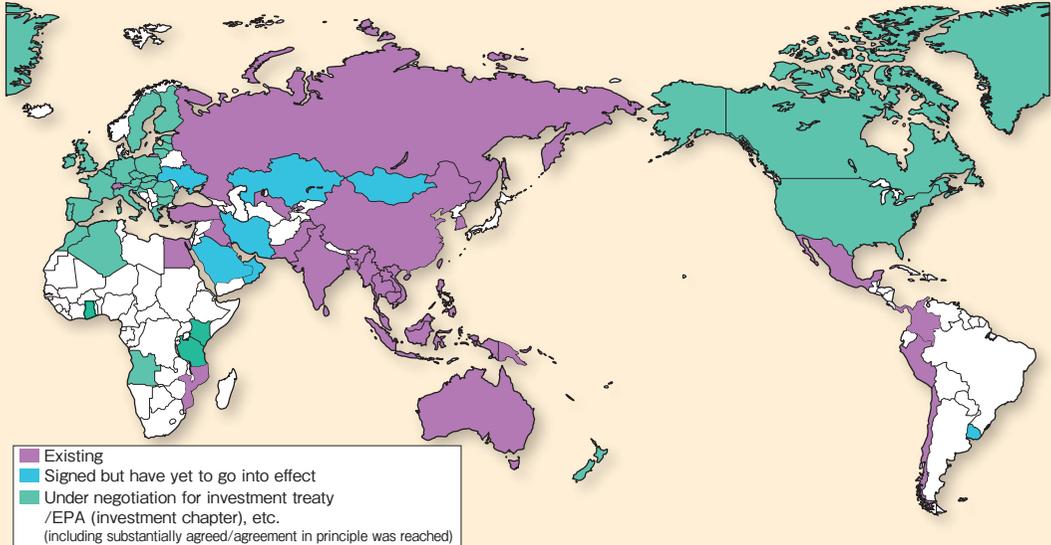
Further, within international frameworks such as the OECD and APEC, Japan has vigorously promoted the creation of multilateral rules for liberalization and

Current Status of Investment Related Treaties (February 2016)

Status of Negotiating Investment Related Treaties (*)

- Existing: 35 (24 investment treaties and 11 EPAs)
- Signed but have yet to go into effect: 6 (4 investment treaties and 2 EPAs)
- Under negotiation: 15 (9 investment treaties and 6 EPAs)

(*) Investment treaties and EPA/FTA including investment chapters



■ Existing
■ Signed but have yet to go into effect
■ Under negotiation for investment treaty /EPA (investment chapter), etc. (including substantially agreed/agreement in principle was reached)

Existing investment treaties *treaties based on liberalization

- 1 Egypt (Entered into force in 1978)
 - 2 Sri Lanka (Entered into force in 1982)
 - 3 China (Entered into force in 1989)
 - 4 Turkey (Entered into force in 1993)
 - 5 Hong Kong (Entered into force in 1997)
 - 6 Pakistan (Entered into force in 2002)
 - 7 Bangladesh (Entered into force in 1999)
 - 8 Russia (Entered into force in 2000)
 - 9 Mongolia (Entered into force in 2002)
 - 10 ROK (Entered into force in 2003)*
 - 11 Vietnam (Entered into force in 2004)*
 - 12 Cambodia (Entered into force in 2008) *
 - 13 Laos (Entered into force in 2008)*
 - 14 Uzbekistan (Entered into force in 2009)*
 - 15 Peru (Entered into force in 2009)*
 - 16 Papua New Guinea (Entered into force in 2014)
 - 17 Kuwait (Entered into force in 2014)*
 - 18 Iraq (Entered into force in 2014)
 - 19 Japan-China-ROK (Entered into force in 2014)
 - 20 Myanmar (Entered into force in 2014)*
 - 21 Mozambique (Entered into force in 2014)*
 - 22 Colombia (Entered into force in September 2015)*
 - 23 Kazakhstan (Entered into force in October 2015)
 - 24 Ukraine (Entered into force in November 2015)
- Note: Japan has a Japan-Taiwan Private Investment arrangement based on liberalization in 2011.

Existing EPAs including investment chapter

- 1 Singapore (Entered into force in 2002)
- 2 Mexico (Entered into force in 2005)
- 3 Malaysia (Entered into force in 2006) *
- 4 Chile (Entered into force in 2007) *
- 5 Thailand (Entered into force in 2007) *
- 6 Brunei (Entered into force in 2008) *
- 7 Indonesia (Entered into force in 2008)*
- 8 The Philippines (Entered into force in 2008)*
- 9 Switzerland (Entered into force in 2009)*
- 10 India (Entered into force in 2011)*
- 11 Australia (Entered into force in 2015)*

Under negotiation (investment treaty)

- 1 Israel (Essentially concluded)
- 2 Angola (Basic agreement reached)
- 3 Algeria (Under negotiation)
- 4 Qatar (Under negotiation)
- 5 The United Arab Emirates (Under negotiation)
- 6 Kenya (Under negotiation)
- 7 Ghana (Under negotiation)
- 8 Morocco (Under negotiation)
- 9 Tanzania (Under negotiation)

Under negotiation (EPA/FTA including investment chapters)

- 1 AJCEP* (The investment chapter is essentially concluded)
- 2 Canada (Under negotiation)
- 3 Japan-China-ROK (Under negotiation)
- 4 EU (Under negotiation)
- 5 RCEP** (Under negotiation)
- 6 Turkey (Under negotiation)
- ROK (Negotiation suspended)
- GCC*** (Negotiation postponed)

*AJCEP: ASEAN-JAPAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership
 **RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
 ***GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council

Signed but have yet to go into effect

- Saudi Arabia (signed in 2013 and approved by the Diet)(investment treaty)
- Uruguay (signed in January 2015 and approved by the Diet)(investment treaty) *
- Mongolia (signed in February 2015 and approved by the Diet)(EPA)*
- Oman (signed in June 2015)(investment treaty)
- TPP(Trans-Pacific Partnership) (signed in February 2016)*
- Iran (signed in February 2016) (investment treaty)

Special
Feature

We support for Japanese companies' overseas expansion! Establishment of Division for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership

The number of Japanese-affiliated companies based abroad increased in recent years to 68,573 as of 2015. The number of business-related consultation cases received by Japanese embassies and consulates-general reached 41,000 as of 2014. Based on these trends, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in September 2015 set up a "Division for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership" in the Economic Affairs Bureau to further support overseas business by Japanese companies.

"Japanese business support officers" are currently posted at 276 diplomatic missions overseas. They are responsible for giving advice on how to do business in accordance with local business practices. "Specialists in Infrastructure Projects" are posted at diplomatic missions overseas in 51 countries, while "Japanese business support officers (in charge of food industry)" are posted at diplomatic missions overseas in 58 countries/regions. The former is responsible for overseas expansion of the area of infrastructure, while the latter is responsible for providing specific consultation services on agriculture, forestry and marine products, food and the food industry. For enquiries on overseas business operation, such as "we have had trouble with our overseas business" or "we want to use the facilities and network of diplomatic missions overseas to sell our products," please contact the Division for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership, MOFA.



Japanese food reception at Japanese Embassy in France (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

● **Contact: Division for Promotion of Public-Private Partnership, Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA**

Phone: 03-3580-3311 (main number); Fax: 03-5501-8325

E-mail address: business-support@mofa.go.jp

Homepage: http://mofa.go.jp/mofaj/annai/zaigai/kigyo/ichiran_i.html

facilitation of investment.

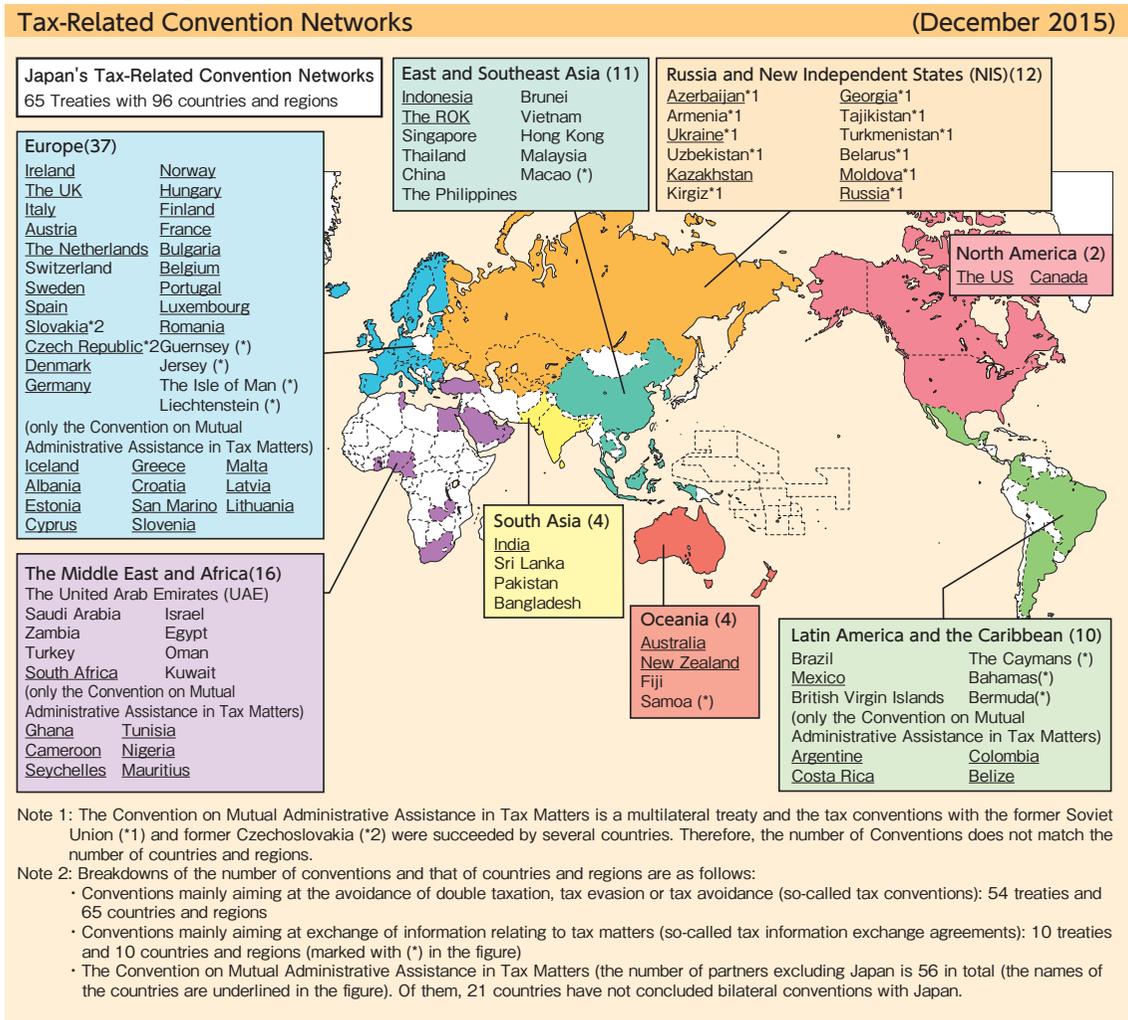
(b) Tax Conventions

Tax conventions provide an important legal basis not only to avoid international double taxation against cross-border economic activities, but also to reduce, or exempt from, taxation in the source-country on investment income (dividends, interest, and royalties), and thus promote investment exchanges. They are also important from the viewpoint of preventing international tax evasion or tax avoidance, given provisions to promote international cooperation between tax authorities through such measures as information exchange in tax matters. Japan has been actively making efforts in promoting the expansion and improvement of tax convention networks. In concrete terms, an convention with Qatar was entered into force

in December, and a new tax convention with Germany and a convention with Chile were agreed in principle in July and October respectively as well as the amending protocol with India was signed in December. As a result, Japan had concluded a total number of 65 tax-related conventions (applicable to 96 countries and regions) as of the end of 2015.

(c) Agreements on Social Security

The purpose of agreements on social security is to resolve the issues of double payment and no refund of social security insurance premiums. It is expected to facilitate people-to-people exchange and strengthen further bilateral relations including economic exchanges, by unloading the burden of Japanese companies and citizens working overseas. Japan signed an agreement with the



Philippines in November, which brought the total number of countries which concluded or signed such agreements on social security to 19 as of the end of 2015. In addition, in 2015, Japan held negotiations with Turkey, China and Slovakia.

D Intellectual Property

Strengthening the protections of intellectual property is extremely important for the promotion of technological innovation,

and eventually for the development of the economy. Japan has actively participated in multilateral consultations, such as APEC, the WTO (TRIPS Council⁶) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In February 2015, Japan deposited an instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs with WIPO. Accordingly, applicants in Japan can utilize the international registration

⁶ The TRIPS Council is assigned to execute the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), in particular, monitor compliance by the member states and discuss issues related to the agreement.

Column

Five years after the Great East Japan Earthquake

~ We express our appreciation to the world and correctly report on the reconstruction under way ~

Counselor in charge of Public Relations and International Affairs, Reconstruction Agency ● Shinya Fujita

News of the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, shot around the world in an instant. At that time I worked at a diplomatic mission overseas, and I heard a preliminary report on my car radio. Since then, it has been a big challenge imposed on Japan to revive the Tohoku area and make Japan a more resilient country than before the earthquake.

After the earthquake, Japan received support from about 160 countries and regions, and about 40 international organizations.

Assistance came also from developing countries, as a token of "gratitude in return for the support given by Japan so far." Large-scale *Tomodachi* (friendship) Operations by U.S. forces made us reaffirm the strength of the ties in the Japan-U.S. Alliance. In October 2015, at the reception held on the occasion of entering the Yokosuka Port of the aircraft carrier "Ronald Reagan" which had been engaged in *Tomodachi* Operation, Reconstruction Minister Wataru Takeshita gave a speech to express gratitude to the U.S.

Japan experienced an actually unprecedented disaster, but five years have passed since then, and now reconstruction is progressing steadily. In order to get such developments communicated to foreign countries properly, I have been explaining how far the reconstruction has proceeded to foreign reporters invited by MOFA and foreign government officials visiting Japan for trainings organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

It is becoming especially important to get rid of the so-called reputation damage. After the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, about 50 countries and regions put restrictions on grocery imports from Japan. Japan patiently explained that only food products that have passed through the most severe level of radioactive substance inspections in the world are delivered onto the market. Subsequently, some of the restrictions have been relaxed or removed. In October, an event that showcases attractive food produced in Fukushima Prefecture was jointly organized by New Zealand's Ambassador to Japan and the Governor of Fukushima. Reconstruction Minister Tsuyoshi Takagi was also present there. Air radiation dose has been getting less. We intend to make further efforts so that the remaining restrictions will be removed.

Grassroots exchanges have also been progressing between the disaster area and other countries. Women in Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture make use of Danish stitches (embroidery) for the reconstruction, through which interaction between the city and Denmark is deepening. Given that Japan hosts the G7 Ise-Shima Summit Meeting in 2016, the eyes of the world are expected to be on Japan. Japan hosts the Rugby World Cup in 2019, and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. Looking ahead to these opportunities, we hope that more people from abroad will visit the Tohoku region and enjoy the local food.



Briefing for a reporter from Kuwait



Briefing for U.S. graduate students

system under the Geneva act according to the Agreement since May 2015. With

regard to EPAs, Japan has aimed to include provisions concerning intellectual property

7 Agreements including provisions of intellectual property were concluded with Australia, ASEAN, Brunei, Chile, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Vietnam and Thailand, and enacted accordingly.

to the greatest extent possible⁷. In addition, Japan has engaged in activities leading to the enforcement of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). Also, in order to contribute to strengthening the protections of intellectual property and enhancing the abilities of government officials in developing countries in such fields as countermeasures against counterfeited or pirated goods, Japan has dispatched experts to those countries through JICA.

Moreover, MOFA has been taking measures to reinforce the protection of intellectual property rights overseas, and countermeasures against counterfeited or pirated goods. For example, for the purpose of rapidly and efficiently providing assistance for Japanese companies that are suffering from counterfeit and pirated goods, Intellectual Property Officers are assigned at almost all of the diplomatic missions overseas, so that they can advise Japanese companies and make inquiries with or suggestions to their counterpart governments.

(3) Promotion of the Export of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Food

The Government of Japan set a goal of expanding the value of the export of Japanese agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food to 1 trillion yen by 2020 in the “Japan Revitalization Strategy,” which was approved at a Cabinet Meeting in June 2013. MOFA, in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies, Japanese companies, local governments etc. and by utilizing the diplomatic missions overseas all over the world, is energetically promoting the attractive points of Japanese products at events held at embassies and consulate generals etc., such as reception to celebrate the birthday of His

Majesty the Emperor.

In addition, after agreement in principle was reached regarding the TPP agreement in October, based on the “Comprehensive TPP-Related policy framework” decided in November, which stipulates “reaching the target figure of 1 trillion yen in the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, and food, ahead of the original target year of 2020” and “developing marketing frontiers to export high-quality Japanese agricultural, forestry and fishery products,” MOFA appointed staff in charge of supporting Japanese companies (food industry) at 58 diplomatic missions overseas in 54 countries and regions. MOFA intends to more actively promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food in a closer collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Though five years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (TEPCO's, Fukushima Daiichi NPS), 37 countries and regions still have kept import restrictions on Japanese agricultural, forestry and fishery products and foods (as of February 2016). MOFA has urged other countries to consider the relaxation or abolition of import regulations as soon as possible by providing each country with timely and accurate information and using WTO frameworks based on scientific evidence in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies to eliminate harmful rumors about agricultural and fishery products, which are the main products of the disaster area (see 2-2-1(2) C).

As a result of these efforts, import restrictions were eliminated by Thailand in May, Bolivia in November 2015 and India

in February 2016. So far, 17 countries have eliminated restrictions (Canada, Myanmar, Serbia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Guinea, New Zealand, Colombia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Vietnam, Iraq, Australia, Thailand, Bolivia, and India). Additionally, as seen in the tendency for reducing the number of areas and items subject to import suspension, restrictions were eased in 2015 by Brunei in February, the U.S. in March, April, May and August, and Russia in July, and in 2016 by the EU in January and the U.S. in January and February (as of February 2016).

MOFA will continue persistent efforts to make requests at leaders' and ministerial levels and collaborate with relevant ministries and agencies to urge countries and regions, which maintain import restrictions, to ease or remove restrictions as soon as possible, through all routes, including bilaterally and through the WTO.

2 Building an Attractive Country Where People can Enjoy Peace of Mind in Life

(1) Securing a Stable Supply of Energy and Mineral Resources at Reasonable Prices

A Current Situation of Energy and Mineral Resources at Home and Abroad

(a) Situation in the World

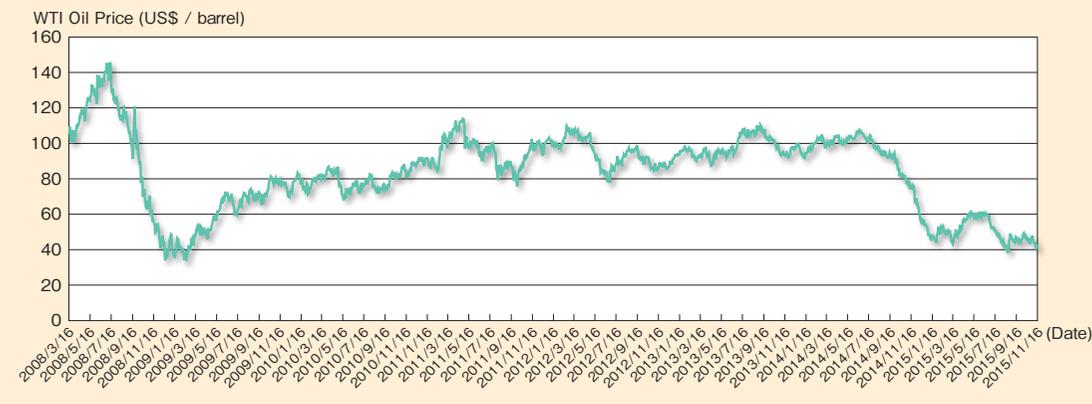
Crude oil prices had remained at high levels in recent years, reflecting factors such as increased energy demand in emerging and other countries, intensifying competition for natural resources, the rise of resource nationalism, and changing situations in the Middle East. The price, however, declined from the latter half of 2014 because of various factors such as a slowdown in oil demand due to economic stagnation in China, and the relaxation of supply and demand caused

by steady increase in oil production by non-OPEC member states, including shale oil production by the U.S. The price dropped below the level of 50 US dollars per barrel in January 2015. After that, prices temporarily increased due to supply disruption from Libya. Meanwhile, steady high-level oil production by both OPEC and non-OPEC member states such as the U.S. and Russia led to a global oversupply of crude oil. In December 2015, crude oil prices dropped down to the level of 30 US dollars per barrel, which is the lowest price level in about seven years. While the decline in oil prices brings benefits to energy consuming countries in the short term, it affects the financial conditions and new investments in oil producing countries. It is important to continue to keep a close observation over its medium- and long-term impact on energy security.

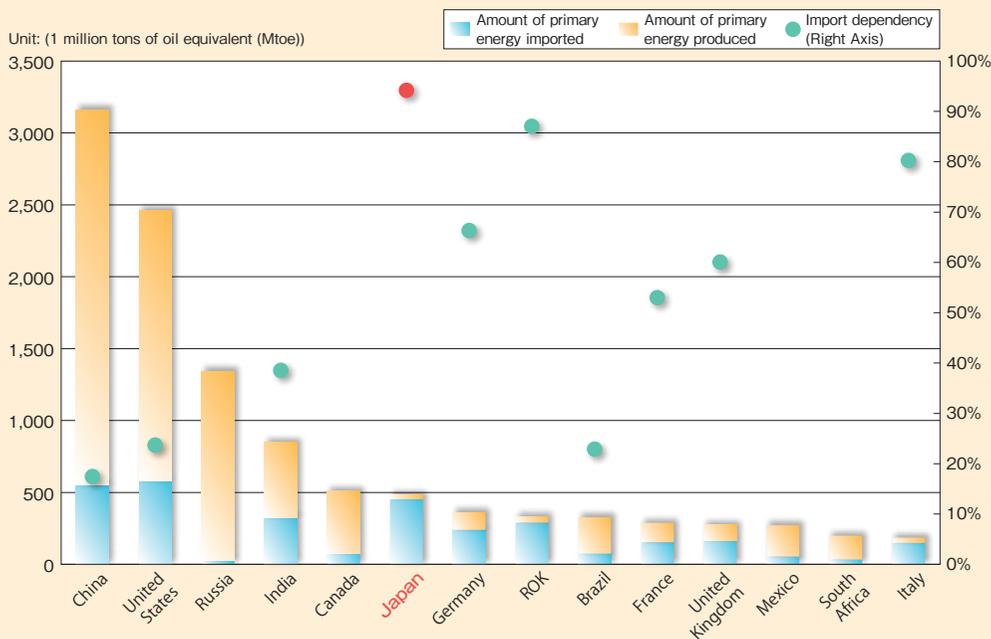
(b) Situation in Japan

The share of fossil fuels in Japan's power generation reached about 90% after the Great East Japan Earthquake, while it had been about 60% before. The "Strategic Energy Plan" was approved by the Cabinet in April 2014 with increasingly serious consideration to secure a stable supply of energy at reasonable prices in a situation where the fuel procurement cost deteriorates the trade balance due to the depreciation of the yen. Moreover in July 2015, the "Long-term Energy Supply and Demand Outlook" based on the Strategic Energy Plan was adopted, which presents an ideal structure of energy supply and demand that can be realized if appropriate measures are taken based on the fundamental direction of energy policies by envisioning policy objectives to be achieved on safety, energy security, economic efficiency and the environmental protection, which are the basic ideas of the policies.

Crude Oil Price Trends



Energy Import Dependency of Major Countries (2013)



Source : AEnergy Balance of OECD Countries (2015)
IEA Energy Balance of Non-OECD Countries (2015)

B Diplomatic Efforts to Secure a Stable Supply of Energy and Mineral Resources at Reasonable Prices

Securing a stable supply of energy and mineral resources at reasonable prices forms the foundation for the vital economy of Japan and the livelihoods of its people. Japan has been strengthening diplomatic efforts, focusing on following activities:

(a) Strengthening Comprehensive and Mutually-Beneficial Ties with Resource-Rich Countries

In order to secure a stable supply of energy and mineral resources, Japan has been making efforts to strengthen comprehensive and mutually-beneficial ties with resource-rich countries by working on at the summit and the ministerial levels and thorough

cooperation utilizing its ODA, including technical cooperation and human resources development in the resource sector. In particular, since the inauguration of the Abe Administration, Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Kishida, and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hayashi visited major resource-rich countries in North America, the Middle East and Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, and engaged in proactive resource energy diplomacy. In 2015, for example, Prime Minister Abe visited Ukraine, the Central Asian countries (including Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan) and Mongolia and worked on these countries to seek cooperation in the resource sector.

(b) Ensuring Security of Transportation

Routes

There have been threats posed by piracy along the sea lane stretching from the Middle East to Japan, through which approximately 80% of the total oil imports to Japan passes, and along other internationally important sea lanes such as those off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. With this in mind, Japan has supported the coastal countries through such measures as enhancing capacities to police piracy, cooperating on information sharing among countries concerned, and developing navigation facilities. Japan has also been dispatching units of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Japanese Coast Guard officers to the areas off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden to be engaged in escort operations for any country's commercial ships (see 3-1-3(4)).

(c) Gathering and Analysis of Resource-Related Information at the Diplomatic Missions Overseas

With a view to strengthening the function of the diplomatic missions overseas, “Special

Assistants for Natural Resources” have been assigned to 55 diplomatic missions overseas in 50 countries to work intensively for the acquisition and stable supply of energy and mineral resources. Furthermore, MOFA holds a “Strategy Meeting on Natural Resources” by gathering officials who are assigned to the diplomatic missions overseas in countries which are important in terms of ensuring a stable supply of energy and mineral resources. The meetings involve active discussions concerning current situations and the future direction of Japan's efforts for securing resources.

(d) Utilization of International Fora and Rules for Market Stabilization, Emergency Response and Others

Japan has actively participated in various International Energy Agency (IEA) activities for international collaboration and cooperation to maintain a stable supply of energy. Japan endeavors to strengthen its capability to respond to emergencies such as disruptions in oil supply, while working for a quick and accurate grasp of such information as the trends in the global energy markets, the medium- and long-term outlooks for supply and demand, and the trends in resource-producing countries. With regard to LNG prices, Japan held the “LNG Producer-Consumer Conference 2015” (hosted by METI and the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APEREC)) in September 2015 following on the last year's Conference. The conference is an international meeting gathering public and private sectors from countries producing and consuming LNG. At the conference, participants shared awareness about the latest trends concerning both producers and consumers in LNG markets, and held discussions toward the development of LNG markets premised on ensuring stability,

competition, and flexibility. In addition, Japan has been supporting the “Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI),” on the appropriate development and use of finite energy and mineral resources. Furthermore, Japan is advancing international cooperation in implementing the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which provides for the promotion of free trade and transit of energy materials and products as well as the promotion and protection of investments. In December, the 27th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference was held in Georgia and Japan was approved to become the host country for the conference in 2016.

C Oceans and Seas (continental shelves and deep seabed)

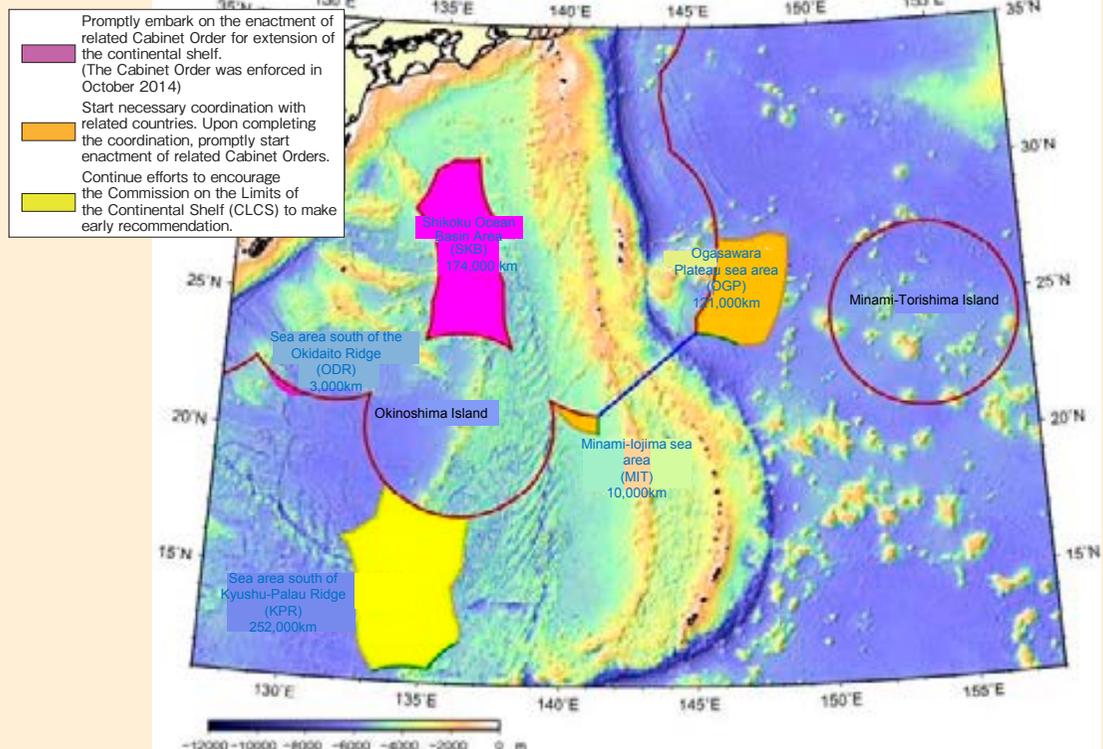
As Japan is not abundant in energy and

mineral resources on its land, marine living resources and natural resources in the continental shelf and the sea-bed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) in the surrounding waters are important, from the perspective of securing stable supply sources and ensuring the sound development of the economy. Japan is proceeding with necessary measures to secure its interests at sea based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Toward the establishment of its outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, Japan received the recommendations from the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in April 2012 in which four out of seven regions that Japan made its submission to the CLCS, were

Extension of the Continental Shelf of Japan

Extension of the Continental Shelf of Japan
(Future policy initiative: decision by the Headquarters for Ocean Policy in July 2014)



recognized and following this, in October 2014, Japan established extended continental shelves in two regions in accordance with the “Future Policy for Extending the Continental Shelf” decided by the Headquarters for Ocean Policy in July of the same year. Japan is also coordinating with a state concerned regarding another two regions and is making continuous efforts for early recommendations of the remaining one region, on which recommendations were deferred (see 3-1-6).

With regard to the Area, two Japanese contractors conducted contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and gained the exclusive rights to explore for deep-sea mineral resources in a certain exploration area and are exploring manganese nodules⁸ and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts⁹.

D Efforts toward Green Growth and a Low Carbon Society

Through the use of renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydraulic, the use of oceans, etc.) and promotion of energy-efficiency, Japan has been making contributions toward the realization of green growth and the promotion of a low-carbon society in the international community, including in developing countries (through human resources development and providing know-how and expertise through international frameworks, for example).

With a view to disseminating and promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy, Japan has actively been engaged in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and served as President of the Assembly in January 2015. Japan

invited parties related to IRENA and held an international seminar on Energy Security in the Pacific Island Countries in June, as a part of its support.

(2) Ensuring Food Security

According to the latest UN report, the world population is estimated to increase to approximately 9.7 billion people by 2050. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) estimates that by 2050, global food production should be about 60 percent higher than in 2005/2007. Since Japan imports most of its food from abroad, ensuring global food security contributes to securing of stable food supply for Japan as well. While increasing domestic food production, it is necessary to promote global food production and establish stable markets of agricultural products and trade systems.

According to the “State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015” (SOFI2015) issued by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), about 795 million people are undernourished around the world. However, the number of undernourished people has decreased by more than 100 million in the past 10 years, particularly by more than 200 million people since the 1990–1992 period. A target under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to “Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015” has almost been achieved in developing regions. International grain prices, however, remain at a high level amid the situation where the prices may fluctuate subject to the weather and

⁸ Spherical or elliptical nodules about 2-15 cm in diameter, which are half-buried on relatively flat ocean floors at depths between 4,000 - 6,000 m. Containing useful metals such as nickel, copper, and cobalt as well as manganese.

⁹ A layer deposited on the flanks or summits of seamounts at depths between 800-2,400 m with a thickness of several to several tens of centimeters, similar to asphalt.

The percentage of cobalt is higher than that of manganese nodules.

Japan's diplomatic efforts for Food Security

[Background]

Japan's situation

- 60% (in terms of calorie supply) or 40% (in terms of production value) of food supply are imported
- Challenges for production increase include decrease in farmland area and aging of farmers



World's situation'

- Increase of the world population
- Changes in diet caused by economic development of emerging countries
- Increase in bioenergy generation
- Climate change and frequent abnormal weather
- Only a few countries have export capacity
- Expanding volatility in food prices; agricultural products made into financial products

[Diplomatic efforts]

Enhance global food production

- **Promote investment:**
Promotion of responsible agricultural investment through promoting the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and supporting research studies by FAO, the World Bank and others; establishment of food value chains by public-private partnership through holding bilateral dialogues and public-private missions..
- **Promoting agricultural/rural development, Research and Development and technology dissemination**
Example: Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), etc.
- **Response to climate change:**
Construction of prevention and early warning systems for droughts and other natural disasters

Form a stable market and trade system of agricultural products

- **Efforts to maintain and strengthen the free trade system and surveillance of market functions:**
Ban on export restrictions in principle under the WTO; stricter discipline on export restrictions in economic partnership agreements; monitoring price trends (the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), etc.); measures against price volatility, etc.

Support and safety net for the vulnerable

- **Food aid:**
Provision of grains, etc.
- **Support for building of social safety net:**
provision of means of livelihood to the poorest
- **Nutritional support:**
Nutrition guidance, provision of supplements

Constructing a structure for emergencies and food crisis

- **International framework for cooperation:**
ASEAN + 3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), G20 Rapid Response Forum (RRF)
(*There are Emergency Food Security Guidelines for domestic system development)

Source: FAO

other factors. The international community, including Japan, has a responsibility to contribute to achieving the goal on food security (Goal 2) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to alleviate this appalling situation of people in developing countries suffering from food insecurity and to end hunger.

A Efforts in the International Frameworks Concerning Food Security

At the G7 Elmau Summit held in Germany in June 2015, Japan actively contributed

to formulating an aim to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 and the “Broad Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach.” Based on the “New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition” (New Alliance) announced at the G8 Camp David Summit held in the U.S. in 2012, Japan has been working on the agenda as a joint leading country together with the U.S.¹⁰ to support Mozambique. In the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in 2013, Japan expressed

¹⁰ Countries leading the development and execution of the cooperative framework together with recipient countries in order to accelerate the cooperation framework by country covered by the New Alliance.

commitments including the continuing implementation of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), expansion of the countries eligible for the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Unit Project (SHEP) Approach, support to develop food value chains and the promotion of responsible agricultural investment.

Furthermore, at the G20 Antalya Summit in November 2015 held in Turkey, Japan contributed to the endorsement of the “G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems,” aiming at promoting responsible investment in food systems, increasing incomes and quality jobs, and fostering sustainable productivity growth to increase food supply.

In May and October, the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was held in the Philippines, and members discussed international efforts toward lasting food security in the APEC region based on the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020.

In addition, at the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abe mentioned that Japan provided rice assistance to the Philippines and Cambodia based on the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR Agreement), which entered into force in 2012, and that Japan intended to further expand public-private partnerships to establish food value chains, which are promoted by Japan. He also asked for relaxing and lifting of the import restrictions that some countries have placed on Japanese food products regarding the nuclear accident.

B Japan’s Efforts to Promote “Responsible Agricultural Investment”

While promoting international agricultural investments aimed at increasing global food

production, large-scale “land grabbing” in developing countries has been a concern. Thus Japan advocated the concept of “Responsible Agricultural Investment” at the G8 L’quila Summit held in Italy in 2009, so that investments should be promoted in a manner to create a triple win situation for recipient countries, local communities including small-holders, and investors. In April 2010, four international organizations (FAO, IFAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Bank (WB)) adopted the “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI). Taking the PRAI into account, the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems” was adopted at the general assembly of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2014. In order to reflect case studies in discussions as well as to utilize them in application of the principles in the future, Japan has been contributing proactively to global efforts through such measures as providing a financial assistance to the “Forward-looking Research and Analysis Programme for Responsible Agricultural Investment,” which has been operated by the four international organizations since 2013.

C Fisheries (Including Tuna Fishing and Whaling Issues)

Japan is one of the major fishing and consuming countries of marine production in the world and plays an active role in proper conservation and management of living marine resources and their sustainable use. “Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean” entered into force in July, and the first meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), which

was established based on the Convention, was held in September. In addition, the Secretariat of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFCC) was established in Tokyo.

With regard to tuna, Japan, as the largest tuna-consuming country, has joined all regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) for tuna, and leads discussions to strengthen measures for conservation and management of resources. Japan promoted efforts against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing operations, such as the Resolution for a Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port and establishment of the Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System for the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). As regards Pacific bluefin tuna, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) decided, by the initiative of Japan, to develop in 2016 an emergency rule which will be taken when drastic drops of recruitment are detected.

With regard to the Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*), which is designated as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Japan had discussion with China, the ROK and Taiwan, which produce and export the Japanese eel, about the establishment of a framework on conservation and management of eel species and restrictions on eel farming volumes.

Japan's basic whaling policy is to pursue the resumption of commercial whaling, by conducting whale research programs, based upon international law and scientific

evidence in order to gather scientific data that is essential for the management of whale resources. Under this policy, with regard to whale research in the Antarctic Ocean, Japan developed the "New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A)" taking account of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in March 2014 and submitted the proposed plan to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in November 2014. The proposed plan was reviewed at the Scientific Committee in May-June 2015. As a result of the discussions, the Scientific Committee pointed out that it would be necessary for Japan to undertake additional work. As a result of additional work by Japanese scientists, the Government of Japan assessed that all of the items pointed out by the Scientific Committee that needed to be conducted prior to the start of NEWREP-A had been completed. Therefore, Japan finalized the plan and decided to implement NEWREP-A (the special permit issued on December 7). All of the results of additional work and analyses will be reported to the IWC Scientific Committee in June 2016.

(3) Globalization of the Japanese Market and Human Resources (Inward Direct Investments)

In the Strategy of Global Outreach addressed in the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised in 2015)," which was approved at a Cabinet Meeting in June 2015, Japan set a target to double foreign companies' direct investment in Japan to 35 trillion yen by 2020 (23.3 trillion yen as of the end of 2014) as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI). With the "Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan," which has been held since 2014,

acting as a control tower to promote activities for discovering and attracting investments, while gathering opinions directly from foreign company managers in collaboration with organizations such as the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, the Council for Industrial Competitiveness, and the Council for Regulatory Reform, Japan continuously makes further progress in taking additional measures such as institutional reforms contributing to the improvement of the investment environment in Japan, responding to the needs of foreign companies, and supporting measures to expand investment effectively.

In March, the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan adopted “Five Promises for Attracting Foreign Businesses to Japan” to improve convenience in matters in business and life in Japan in response to requests from foreign companies. These five promises are (1) promotion of multilingualization at retail stores, restaurants, hospitals public transportation facilities, etc., (2) promotion of the development of free public wireless LAN around cities and simplification of procedures to use it, (3) creation of an environment in which all regional airports receive business jets with short advance notice, (4) support of international students in finding jobs at Japanese companies, and (5) implementation of an “Investment Advisor Assignment System” with State Ministers, etc., acting as advisors for businesses having made important investments in Japan from overseas. At present, relevant ministries are steadily implementing the measures they are in charge of.

In implementing the measures listed in the “Five Promises for Attracting Foreign Businesses to Japan,” MOFA, in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization

(JETRO) and local governments, makes use of international conferences and diplomatic missions overseas, including embassies and consulates-general, in order to appeal to foreign companies’ executives and conduct publicizing and dissemination (active PR activities on the websites of its diplomatic missions overseas, etc.), through which such activities as locating potential investors to Japan are strengthened. With regard to the promotion of individual cases, Japan is strengthening the one-stop support functions of JETRO in collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies and creating opportunities for investment or alliance between Japanese small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and foreign companies. Furthermore, Japan has strategically conducted “top-level sales” by the Prime Minister and other ministers in collaboration with relevant organizations and forward-looking local governments, as shown by the “Investment Japan Seminar” by JETRO during Prime Minister Abe’s visit to the U.S. in September.

3 Participation in Making International Rules

(1) G7 and G20 Summits

G7 and G20 Summits continue to play an essential role in providing an opportunity to show Japan’s own efforts to the international community and to form a global economic order desirable for Japan.

At the G7 Elmau Summit (in Germany) in June, G7 leaders shared views to uphold freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary since the end of World War II and the 40th anniversary since the first Rambouillet Summit (in France). Prime Minister Abe pointed

out the following; the G7 has underpinned the order of the international community, based on the fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; the G7 is capable of reacting to challenges from a global perspective, and its responsibility is significant; the solidarity of the G7 is becoming more important. At the summit, leaders had a frank exchange of views on foreign policy centering on Ukraine and Russia, East Asia, and the Middle East as well as the world economy, energy and climate change, and development. Prime Minister Abe mentioned that Abenomics is producing steady results and explained Japan's future initiatives on the economic and fiscal fronts. Prime Minister Abe also mentioned the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" that he had announced in May, and explained Japan's contributions toward promoting "quality infrastructure investment" worldwide.

As for the situation in East Asia, Prime Minister Abe discussed developments in the rising tensions in the East China Sea and South China Sea such as large scale land reclamation, and pointed out that unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo in the seas must not be overlooked. Additionally, Prime Minister Abe explained that the continuation of North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs poses a serious threat to both the region and the international community, and sought the cooperation of other countries on the abductions issue, which is a universal issue, as a violation of fundamental human rights.

At the G20 Antalya Summit held in Turkey in November, the leaders exchanged frank opinions concerning specific initiatives for realizing strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth. The "Antalya Action Plan"



Prime Minister Abe attended the summit
(Photo: Office of the Cabinet Public Relations, Cabinet Secretariat)

was announced, stating the current status and future plans of countries regarding individual macro-economic policies and growth strategies. The leaders strongly condemned the acts of terrorism in Paris, and agreed that the G20 countries will carry out measures against terrorism in a coordinated manner. A "G20 Statement on the Fight against Terrorism" was also issued. With regard to climate change, the leaders shared the view that they will promote the adoption of a new framework "applicable to all parties" at COP21.

Prime Minister Abe commented that the G20 countries need to implement comprehensive growth strategies and strengthen initiatives for structural reform, introduced the progress of Abenomics, including promotion of women's participation in society, and the newly announced "Second Stage" initiatives in particular, and stated his determination to contribute to the growth of the global economy. Furthermore, he mentioned that the TPP agreement, which was agreed to in principle, was at the core of growth strategies, and that he expected that this would lead to growth for Japan by boosting productivity and vitalizing industries, etc. Then, he briefly introduced the progress of the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure," and explained that Japan would continue to promote quality

infrastructure investments.

(2) World Trade Organization (WTO)

A History of WTO and Doha Development Agenda Negotiations

The development of the Japanese economy has been largely benefited from the multilateral trading system led by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Though EPA/FTA negotiations are vigorously conducted, maintaining and enhancing the system is a central pillar of Japanese trade policy toward the revitalization of the Japanese economy, and trade liberalization through WTO negotiations and rule making remain important. However, for more than decades, not all negotiations have made smooth progress. In the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations¹¹ launched in 2001, the single undertaking of the eight areas (agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, rules, trade facilitation, development, environment and intellectual property rights) had been pursued. However, since 2008, negotiations have remained deadlocked due to confrontation between emerging and developed countries. At the WTO's 9th Ministerial Conference (MC9) in December 2013, the "Bali Package," consisting of the three areas of (i) trade facilitation, (ii) agriculture, and (iii) development, was concluded as a partial agreement of the DDA. While there was some progress, the confrontation between emerging and developed countries remained still deeply and showed that conclusion of DDA negotiations was still long way to achieve.

B The 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10)

At the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10) held in December, members concluded the ITA expansion negotiations led by Japan as the chair. Though it was the plurilateral agreement, eliminating tariffs on 201 items by 53 countries was expected to bring benefits to all WTO members. With regard to DDA, after the 14 years of negotiations, WTO members agreed on export competition in agriculture including export subsidies etc., which had not been agreed on for many years. These agreements show the WTO's negotiation function is indeed still working and effective.

Considering the future WTO negotiation function, including whether to continue DDA, was the biggest issues concerned before the conference, however, no concrete decision has been made due to the confrontation among members. The each of eight areas including development covered by DDA remain important, however, it is also necessary to explore new approaches including "up-to-date" issues, in order to revitalize and reinforce the WTO's negotiation function. Starting in 2016, it is necessary to analyze the reason for not being able to reach an agreement by members and constructively hold discussions.

C Plurilateral Negotiations

Since the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2011, while the DDA negotiations encountered difficulties, the following negotiations have been made by plurilaterally.

(a) The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Expansion Negotiations

While implementing the Information

¹¹ DDA stands for Doha Development Agenda

Technology Agreement (ITA)¹² since 1997, the ITA expansion negotiations were conducted since 2012 with the aim of including newly-developed products¹³ reflecting technological innovations to the coverage. In July 2015, 201 IT-related products were newly agreed, and the ITA expansion negotiations were concluded in December through the negotiation of the tariff elimination period. (As of the end of December, 53 countries and regions¹⁴ joined the expanded ITA). It is expected that the expansion of product coverage will promote IT trade and enforce economic growth and boosting of productivity through IT.

(b) Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) Negotiations

In order to contribute to further liberalization of services trade, full-scale negotiations on the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) have been underway among 50 voluntary countries and regions¹⁵ including the U.S., the EU (28 nations), and Australia (as of the end of 2015) since the summer of 2013. The participating countries and regions in the negotiations agree on such points that it should not have a priori exclusion of any sector from the subject of negotiations, and it attempts to upgrade the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), enhancing disciplines to meet the demands through the times. Japan actively participates in the negotiations.

(c) Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) Negotiation

In July 2014, the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) negotiations started. These negotiations are aimed at eliminating tariffs on environmental goods in accordance with the list of environmental goods endorsed by the APEC Leaders in 2012 as well as the commitment made in APEC Leaders' Declaration in 2013. 45 countries and regions¹⁶ have been participating and conducted 11 negotiations. Through these negotiations, it is expected to expand the trade of environmental goods, and to contribute on achieving sustainable development. Japan has actively participated in the negotiations since the launch.

D Dispute Settlement (DS)

The WTO dispute settlement system is a quasi-judicial system among the WTO members to resolve trade disputes regarding the WTO Agreements in accordance with the dispute settlement procedures. As a pillar to stabilize and secure predictability in the WTO system, it is functioning effectively. The number of dispute cases from the inauguration of WTO in 1995 to the end of 2015 (the number of requests for consultation) is 501. In recent years, an increasing number of dispute cases and more complex cases increased the burden on the dispute settlement system, and

¹² Plurilateral framework to eliminate tariffs on IT products (semiconductors, computers, cellular phones, printers, fax, digital still image cameras) ("Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products"). Agreed to in 1996 and executed from 1997. Currently, 82 members including Japan, the U.S., the EU (28 countries), China and Russia are participating.

¹³ Digital audiovisual equipment (camcorders, DVD/HD/BD players), digital multifunction machines and printers, medical equipment (electronic endoscopes, etc.), semiconductor manufacturing equipment, etc.

¹⁴ Japan, the U.S., the EU, Australia, Canada, China, the ROK, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Israel, Turkey, Colombia, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Montenegro, Guatemala, Iceland, and Albania (53 members including 28 EU members).

¹⁵ Japan, the U.S., the EU, Australia, Canada, the ROK, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Pakistan, Israel, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Columbia, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein (50 members including EU members).

¹⁶ Japan, the U.S., the EU, Australia, Canada, China, the ROK, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, and Iceland (46 members including 28 EU members).

an effective response to this is a big issue.¹⁷ Recent cases, in which Japan was involved, are as follows:

- Argentina's import restrictions¹⁸: In January 2015, followed by the Appellate Body report, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body recognized measures by Argentina as inconsistent with the WTO Agreements, and recommended Argentina abide by the WTO Agreement.
- China's measures imposing anti-dumping duties on high-performance stainless steel seamless tubes from Japan¹⁹: In February, a panel report was released to all Members, but some of Japan's claims were rejected. In May, Japan appealed to the Appellate Body. In October, followed by the Appellate Body Report, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body recognized measures by China as inconsistent with the WTO Agreements, and recommended China abide by the WTO Agreement.
- The ROK's import bans, testing and certification requirements for radionuclides²⁰: A panel was established in September. The panel procedures are currently in progress.
- Brazil's measures concerning taxation²¹: A panel was established in September. The panel procedures are currently in progress. Japan has contributed significantly

toward further improvements to the dispute settlement system, including the clarification of the procedures through DSU²² review negotiations, which are being conducted as part of DDA.

E Efforts toward the Elimination and Correction of Protectionism

Since 2008, against the backdrop of such occurrences as the failure of Lehman Brothers and the European debt crisis, an increasing number of countries have introduced protectionist measures. In G7, G20 and APEC, leaders of the participating countries and regions have agreed to continue their efforts to restrain protectionism, and express political commitments accordingly. The WTO has also committed to rolling back protectionist measures through the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and dispute settlement procedures. Japan actively engages in resisting and fighting protectionism.

(3) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

A Features

The OECD is the "world's largest think tank" covering a wide range of economic and social fields such as macro economy, agriculture, industry, environment, science

¹⁷ WTO members that believe that they are suffering disadvantages because of WTO-inconsistent measures by other members, may request consultations between the parties concerned. If a dispute is not resolved through consultations, the member states may refer the issue to a panel and contest the consistency of the measures concerned with the WTO Agreements. A party dissatisfied with a legal finding by the panel may appeal to the Appellate Body, the final adjudicator, to contest the findings. From the establishment of WTO in 1995 until the end of 2015, Japan was involved as a party (either as complainant or respondent) in 36 out of 501 disputes (the number of cases for which requests for consultation were made). The Appellate Body is composed of seven members and the term of members is four years (may be reappointed once). Japan has produced three members since the establishment of the WTO in 1995.

¹⁸ Japan requested the establishment of a panel in December 2012, concurrently with the EU and the U.S. regarding the case of the requirement for the Advance Sworn Import Declaration, non-automatic import license, and the trade balancing requirements.

¹⁹ In cases where the export price is lower than the normal value, a product is to be deemed as being dumped and the duty will be imposed up to the dumping margin. Japan requested the establishment of a panel in May 2013. Regarding the case of high-performance stainless steel seamless tubes used in superheaters and reheaters of supercritical and ultra-supercritical boilers in coal-fired power plants.

²⁰ The case of import bans, testing and certification requirements for radionuclides introduced by the ROK after the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in March 2011 and reinforced in September 2013.

²¹ The case of the tax advantage scheme that treats domestic products and exporting countries favorably in the automotive and information and communication technology sectors.

²² Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes

and technology. The OECD makes policy recommendations and forms international norms through discussions among members at committees and working groups. Japan acceded to the OECD as the first non-European and non-American country, in 1964 the same year it hosted the summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. Since then Japan has been actively engaged in the OECD through discussions at committees and working groups as well as through contributions in terms of financial and human resources.

B Strengthening the Relationship with Asia

In view of the increasing importance of Southeast Asia as a world economic growth center, the OECD is focusing on strengthening the relationship with that region. At the Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by Japan and attended by Prime Minister Abe in 2014, which marked the 50th anniversary of Japan's accession to the OECD, the "Southeast Asia Regional Programme" was launched. Additionally, Japan actively continues to act as a bridge and to contribute to strengthening the relationship between the OECD and Southeast Asia, including by holding the first steering group meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2015 and becoming a co-chair with Indonesia, a representative of ASEAN.



Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary General, OECD visiting Prime Minister Abe (April 15, Photo: Office of the Cabinet Public Relations, Cabinet Secretariat)

C The 2015 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting

The OECD Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by the Netherlands was held in June 2015 under the theme of "Unlocking Investment for Sustainable Growth and Jobs." With COP21 and the UN summits concerning the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" in mind, Japan pointed out the importance of "quality infrastructure investment" in development while underlining the contributions by Japan related to climate change again. In addition, many countries expressed support for the promotion of the "Southeast Asia Regional Programme." At the 2016 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by Chile, Japan will serve as a vice chairman with Hungary and Finland.

D Initiatives in Various Sectors

In recent years, multinational companies, which are engaged in taxable economic activities, reduce their tax burdens by exploiting international tax loopholes. This problem has become evident. To resolve this, OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs (CFA), led by a Japanese chairman, launched the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project in 2012 and the "BEPS Action Plan" in 2013. The final report was released as a result of this action plan in October 2015. Japan actively participates in discussions in fora such as the OECD, and leads international efforts on taxation.

E Contributions in Terms of Financial and Human Resources

Japan was the second biggest financial contributor to the OECD after the U.S. in 2015, covering 11.92 % of the OECD's mandatory contributions (Part I Budget). Moreover, Japanese nationals have successively served as the Deputy Secretary General,

the number 2 post of the OECD Secretariat. Japan has supported the OECD through such contributions in terms of financial and human resources.

(4) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC is a forum that aims at sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region on a voluntary basis by each individual 21 economies²³ in order to promote regional economic integration and cooperation. APEC consists of 21 countries and regions (economies) in the Asia-Pacific region, which is a “world growth center” with about 40% of the world population, about 60% of the world GDP, and 50% of the trade volume. Regional trade accounts for about two-thirds of the total trade, being comparable with the EU in terms of establishing a close regional economy. Strengthening economic cooperation and trust relationships in the APEC region is extremely important in pursuing Japan’s further development. APEC Economic Leaders’ Meetings and Ministerial Meetings provide the member economies with significant opportunities to exchange frank views among leaders and ministers regarding major interests in the international community, specifically

focused on various economic issues.

At the APEC Philippines 2015 hosted by the Philippines, under the theme of “Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World,” the following four priorities were established: (1) “promoting the regional economic integration agenda,” (2) “fostering SME participation in regional & global markets,” (3) “investing in human capital development,” and (4) “building sustainable and resilient communities.” At the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting held in Manila in November, vigorous discussions took place under the themes of “Inclusive Growth through Regional Economic Integration” and “Inclusive Growth through Sustainable and Resilient Communities.” As outcomes of the meeting, the “APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration – Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World: A Vision for an Asia-Pacific Community,” and as its annexes, “APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth” and “APEC Services Cooperation Framework” were adopted, and “Statement on Supporting the Multilateral Trading System and the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10)” was released.

At the session on “Inclusive Growth through Regional Economic Integration,” Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of “strengthening the rule of law in the economic field” for high quality growth and prosperity. He also explained Japan’s specific efforts inside and outside of APEC such as to support for the multilateral trading system, TPP and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), improvement of the investment climate, enhancement of regional connectivity including maritime connectivity and quality infrastructure investment.



APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in the Philippines (November 18-19, Manila, the Philippines, Photo: Office of the Cabinet Public Relations, Cabinet Secretariat)

²³ APEC participating units including Hong Kong China and Taiwan

Outcomes of the 2015 APEC Summit Meeting in the Philippines

		The points made by Prime Minister Abe	Points of the Leaders' Declaration
Inclusive Growth through Regional Economic Integration	Support for the multilateral trading system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for the multilateral trading system, leaders should continue to show strong resolution to resist protectionism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to strengthening the rules-based, transparent, nondiscriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system. To further reinforce our commitment on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the WTO, we have decided to issue a separate statement supporting the multilateral trading system and the 10th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.
	FTAAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New economic order that will be created as a result of the TPP will serve as the foundation of the FTAAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmed our commitment to advance the process in a comprehensive and systematic manner towards the eventual realization of the FTAAP as a major instrument to further APEC's regional economic integration agenda. Commended the progress made by our officials on the work on the implementation of the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP. Looked forward to receiving the findings and accompanying recommendations of the Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAAP when we meet again next year.
	"Infrastructure investment/ connectivity"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" that he announced in May 2015 was outlined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed progress implementing the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025 under the pillars of physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. Emphasize the importance of investment quality infrastructure and connectivity to realize our vision for an Asia-Pacific community
	"Improving the investment climate"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The engagement of Japan in improving the investment climate in the region was introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the progress that has been made under the work streams of the APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chain Development and Cooperation and instructed officials to further develop this work.
	"Growth strategy/ services"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan would support the growth strategy discussions in the service sector led by the Philippines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth that will prioritize institution building, social cohesion, and environmental impact to give further focus to our efforts to pursue quality growth, building upon the commitments in the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy Endorsed the APEC Services Cooperation Framework to ensure that all our citizens can benefit from and contribute to high quality growth. We instruct our officials to develop a strategic and long-term Services Competitiveness Roadmap in 2016 with the adoption of a concerted set of actions and mutually agreed targets to be achieved by 2025. We appreciate services-related initiatives such as manufacturing-related services.
Inclusive Growth through Sustainable and Resilient Communities	"Women's empowerment"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of laws relating to women's active participation and efforts to increase the rate of women in management positions in APEC was introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remained committed to advancing women's full participation in the economy in concrete, actionable, and measurable ways, including through enhancement of women's representation in leadership.
	Disaster risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan will pursue efforts in line with the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" to support better recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed and adopted the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework to facilitate collective work in building adaptive and disaster-resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development. Noted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
	Counter-terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrorism is a threat to economic activities and must be resolutely condemned. Japan welcomes APEC's specific efforts on counter-terrorism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the efforts and activities that APEC members have undertaken to counter terrorism, including capacity-building initiatives to combat terrorist financing, and to prevent foreign terrorist fighter travel through advance passenger risk analysis and other measures.

Additionally, at the session on "Inclusive Growth through Sustainable and Resilient Communities," he explained the initiatives that Japan emphasizes in pursuing economic growth and quality growth at the second stage of Abenomics, such as the "Society with the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens" and women's empowerment and expressed the intention to actively contribute to emergency

measures, enhancing the quality of electric power infrastructure and counter-terrorism.

Peru will be the host country in 2016.

Section 4



Efforts to Promote Understanding of and Trust in Japan

Overview

(Strategic Communication in 2015)

The year 2015 was a milestone year marking the 70th anniversary since the end of World War II. It was communicated that, based on Japan's deep remorse over the war, Japan has been consistently following the path of a peace-loving nation in the international community, believing in fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights, and contributing greatly to the peace and development of the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

Especially since FY2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has been working to convey Japan's views, share Japan's rich and varied appeal and cultivate understanding and support for Japan while strengthening the system of the diplomatic missions overseas, which provide information directly to the public overseas. Additional 50 billion yen was allocated for the FY2014 supplementary budget and the FY2015 initial budget to strengthen the strategic communication including the approaches above.

To convey Japan's views, in addition to direct communication from the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and heads of the diplomatic missions overseas, MOFA promptly provided information to the media, offered assistance for press coverage and actively engaged in communicating with

public through invitation of experts and media related persons and in collaboration with think tanks.

To share Japan's rich and varied appeal, MOFA held big cultural events in major cities in the world including Washington D.C (U.S.), and Beijing (China), introduced Washoku, the traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese to the world, and introduced Japanese broadcasting contents including animations and T.V. dramas in developing countries. MOFA also prepared establishment of the Japan House in London (UK), Los Angeles (U.S.), and Sao Paulo (Brazil). The opening of the Japan House is scheduled in 2017.

To cultivate understanding and support for Japan, MOFA drastically expanded centers for Japanese-language education, promoted the exchange of young people from Asia, the U.S., Europe, and Latin America, and enhanced Japanese studies at universities in major countries including the U.S.

(Cultural Diplomacy)

In a world in which diverse cultures coexist, respect for cultural diversity and promotion of mutual understanding will lead to laying and strengthening the foundation for peace and prosperity.

From this perspective, Japan has engaged in the efforts to deepen understanding towards its traditional and popular cultures, promote people-to-people and intellectual exchanges, and support Japanese language education.

In addition, in order to contribute to the success of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan will promote its “Sport for Tomorrow” programme for making international contributions through sports. Japan will also continue to work with relevant persons in and out of the country to enhance the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the world, Japan will promote safeguarding of the cultural heritage in Japan through the inscription on the World Heritage List and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. **(Strategic Communication in 2016)**

The year 2016 is an important year for Japanese diplomacy from the perspective of strategic communication as well. Japan is hosting the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, and is serving a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) starting from January 2016. Japan also has many precious opportunities to lead discussions in the international community, such as being chair of the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit and TICAD VI to be held for the first time in Africa. MOFA is expected to seize these opportunities and work out a new approach for providing information.

(Budget for Strategic communication Overseas)

To implement these approaches strategically and effectively, MOFA prepared a FY2016 budget for the strategic communication with maintaining the size of the previous fiscal year (FY2015), which had increased significantly compared to the last fiscal year (FY2014). MOFA is determined to effectively use the budget, continue to enhance Japan's strategic communication by communicating Japan's views in a strong manner while cultivating understanding and support for Japan through sharing its rich and varied appeal.

1 Strategic Communications

(1) Overview

The Government of Japan has long taken an active stance in explaining Japan's stance on policy issues on the occasions of daily press conferences, interviews, contributions to the media, speeches at official visits to foreign countries and international conferences by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, other Ministers, and government officials. When media report includes factual errors on Japan's fundamental stance or views on a range of issues including the recognition of history or maintenance of territorial integrity, the diplomatic missions overseas, centered on ambassadors or consulate generals, explain to the media by, for example, sending rebuttal pieces based on facts. Japan also actively engages in communications with public via social media and websites as well as creates publicity materials including policy related videos and so forth.

In order to make Japan's fundamental stance on policy issues understood, it is also important for enhancing coordination efforts with the ministry, experts and think tanks. Based on this recognition, MOFA invites influential experts and media personnel from around the world, providing them with opportunities to exchange opinions with government officials and others and to visit various places of Japan. Furthermore, Japan sends Japanese experts abroad while providing and bolstering support for holding Japan related seminars.

Moreover, in order to attract the broader audience including those who have not had much interest in Japan, the following actions are important: (1) providing information on the diverse attractiveness of Japan through all-Japan efforts of the government, private

sectors and local governments; (2) promoting outreach that reflects needs of the local communities, utilizing expertise of experts from both inside and outside Japan; and (3) catering “one-stop-service” where all information related to Japan can be obtained. With this in mind, communication hubs are to be established in London (UK), Sao Paulo (Brazil), and Los Angeles (U.S.), to implement aforementioned actions.

(2) Reports by Foreign Media on Japan and Communications through Foreign Media

The year 2015 marked the 70th anniversary since the end of World War II, and the foreign media paid much attention to Japan’s policies and issues including diplomacy, security policies, economy, society, and its contributions to the world. Also, active visits by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida to foreign countries in line with Japan’s “diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map” captured further media attention.

Amidst increasing interest in Japan, MOFA actively provides information and offers assistance for press coverage to the foreign media in order to gain understanding and support from the international community about Japan’s positions and its activities. MOFA makes efforts to achieve the strategic and effective communications by providing information to appropriate media outlets at an appropriate time in accordance with theme and content.

As for communications through the foreign media, MOFA conducts regular press conference including by Foreign Minister Kishida and provide information to correspondents in Japan via press releases and other materials. MOFA arranges interviews,

press conference, and Op-Ed article contributions with the foreign media on the occasions of foreign visits by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida and their participation in international conferences such as G7/G20 Summit meetings and the UN General Assembly. In 2015, the Prime Minister took 26 interviews or contribution of articles, while the Foreign Minister took ten interviews or contribution of articles. The Prime Minister Abe also conducted four international press conferences.

For example, prior to a visit to the U.S. in April, Prime Minister Abe directly conveyed his messages to the U.S. and the world through interviews with The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal and his contribution of article to The Bloomberg View, an online media. In August on the occasion of the 70th year from the atomic bombings, Foreign Minister Kishida contributed an article to CNN to explain Japan’s effort to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. When world leaders gathered in New York (U.S.) for the UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Abe contributed an article to CNN to outline about Japan’s path as a peace country for 70 years since the end of World War II and its consistent contributions to the world.

In addition, MOFA invited 124 journalists from abroad, particularly those media that have no correspondent in Japan, to provide opportunities to help enhance their understanding of Japan’s priority policies and position. On the occasion of the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in May, MOFA invited nine journalists from the Pacific countries, who reported on achievements of Japan’s supports for the Pacific countries and on the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. MOFA also has been

making efforts in the diverse attractiveness of Japan, particularly on local attractiveness. One example is a visit by journalists from ten ASEAN countries to Mie Prefecture, the venue for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, as well as to Hiroshima Prefecture, the venue for the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2016.

In some cases where reports on Japan by the foreign media include factual errors, MOFA explained to the media or sent letters to the editor to help them make reports based on accurate facts and understanding.

2 Cultural Diplomacy

(1) Overview

MOFA and the Japan Foundation (JF) operate various projects to promote positive images of Japan in foreign countries, boost brand images of the entire Japan, enhance the understanding of Japan, and foster pro-Japanese individuals and groups for the future. For example, the “cultural projects of the diplomatic missions overseas” introduce a wide range of Japanese cultures from traditional to contemporary, animation, manga, fashion, architecture, and design. MOFA is implementing the “Japan Brand Program” to promote diverse attractiveness of Japan from craftsmanship aiming at a fusion of tradition and present-day to advanced technologies, through lectures and workshops by specialists dispatched from Japan. This program is meant to pave the way for international exchanges.

In addition, in order to cultivate understanding and support for Japan and to promote better understanding of Japan through Japan studies MOFA implements the following activities: provision of information on studies in Japan through Japan's diplomatic missions overseas; building alumni

networks of former foreign students in Japan; collaboration with the “JET Programme” which invites young people from abroad to local governments in Japan, exchange programs for young people and adults from Asia, North America and Europe; sending visiting professors to universities and research institutions overseas; and grant program for research activities.

Promoting Japanese language education overseas helps foster future leaders who will build a bridge between Japan and overseas, deepen understanding towards Japan, and lay a foundation for friendship with other countries. Therefore, MOFA engages in sending Japanese language specialists overseas, providing trainings for foreign Japanese language teachers in Japan, and developing Japanese language teaching materials, with the Japan Foundation.

It is also important to enhance the presence of Japan in the area of sports for the successful delivery of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. As a part of the “Sport for Tomorrow” program, MOFA implements the following activities: various sport exchange/contribution projects in many countries; the dispatch and invitation of sport athletes/instructors by MOFA, by JICA volunteers or by the Japan Foundation; and the provision of sports equipment and the improvement facilities.

In addition to these, using the budget allocated to strategic communications, MOFA intends to enhance support for researchers of Japan studies, expand personal exchange and sports exchange programs and further promote Japanese language education.

In cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), earnest efforts are being made to preserve the world's tangible and intangible

cultural heritage (see (7) for details). In 2015, the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

(2) Culture Program

It helps maintain and improve Japan’s presence in the international community to boost understanding towards Japan among foreign nationals who form the foundation of public opinion and policy making as well as to make Japan’s image even more positive. With this importance in mind, MOFA engages in promoting diverse attractiveness of Japan through diplomatic missions overseas and the Japan Foundation.

The Japan Foundation Asia Center



NIHONGO Partners to be dispatched to Thailand and Vietnam (June, training before dispatch at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai)

steadily implements “WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony” announced by Prime Minister Abe in December 2013 with two main pillars of support for Japanese language education and interactive arts and cultural exchange projects. Through the “NIHONGO (Japanese language) Partners” program, which is the core to support Japanese language education, 100 teaching assistants in total were dispatched to secondary education institutions in five countries of the Southeast Asia, and implemented the exchange program through the introduction of Japanese culture as well as Japanese language education in FY2014. As a result, about 98% of officials of schools, where the “NIHONGO Partners” were dispatched, highly evaluated the



Dance groups of Japan and the Southeast Asia give performance as a part of “Dance Dance Asia” in Tokyo (October, Tokyo)

Winners of the 9th International MANGA Award

Gold Award	 <p>Title of Work : The Divine Artist, nationality, etc. Asaf Hanuka & Tomer Hanuka Boaz Lavie (Israel)</p>	Silver Award	 <p>Title of Work : DEMO # 1 vol.1 Artist, nationality, etc. Mr. ROCKAT (Taiwan)</p>
Silver Award	 <p>Title of Work : Holy Dragon Emperor (Dragon Emperor) Artist, nationality, etc. Nguyen Thanh Phong Nguyen Khanh Duong (Vietnam)</p>	Silver Award	 <p>Title of Work : Ichthyophobia Artist, nationality, etc. Mr. Li Lung-chieh (Taiwan)</p>

program, saying its activities contributed to the increased motivation for studies of students. In FY2015, the NIHONGO Partners program is planned to expand to eight countries in the Southeast Asia, with more than 200 partners to be sent. In the end, more than 3,000 persons are expected to be sent to ten Southeast Asian countries by 2020.

As part of the interactive arts and cultural exchange program, the Japan Foundation Asia Center implemented “Time of Others,” which introduced works by about 20 artists, mainly young ones, in Asia Oceania, and “Dance Dance Asia,” which aimed to connect Asian countries through street dances. The Japan Foundation also introduced Asian movies to Japan in collaboration with the Tokyo International Film Festival and held the Japanese Film Festival in Cambodia. In addition, in the field of sports, exchange project in football with the Southeast Asian countries were implemented in cooperation with J League as a part of “Sport for Tomorrow.” Japan tries to expand the program to various fields.

The International Manga Award was launched in 2007 by MOFA with the aim of rewarding manga creators who contributed to the spread of manga culture overseas. The 9th International Manga Award of 2015 received 259 entries from 46 countries and regions, and the Gold Award went to the work of an Israeli applicant. This is the first time for the Israeli to be awarded and indicates the world-wide spread every year of Japanese pop culture such as animation and manga.

MOFA conducts large-scale and comprehensive programs in commemorative years celebrating diplomatic events in cooperation with governmental and private organizations through mutual visits of dignitaries, various conferences and public

relations/cultural projects, aiming for effective promotion of the understanding of Japan. 2015 was the as Japan-SICA Friendship Year the following commemorative events took place: Ishimi Kagura performance was conducted in Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala; Ocarina performances in Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. These led to promoting a variety of Japanese culture by highlighting Japan's local attractiveness.

(3) People-to-People Exchange and Exchange in the Area of Education

MOFA carries out a number of invitation projects to build personal relations and promote the understanding of Japan by foreign nationals who have a great influence on shaping public opinion and policy making process and who are expected to play a leading role in the future. Also in the area of education and sports, MOFA is in charge of various activities to promote exchanges between wide ranges of people. These projects not only promote mutual understanding and friendly relationships, but also increase Japan's presence in the international community and as a rather significant consequence bring diplomatic benefits adding to the national interest of Japan.

A Exchange with foreign students

MOFA actively introduces the attractiveness of studying in Japan to foreign students and opportunities to study in Japan through diplomatic missions overseas. It also implements application and selection procedures to accept competent students from around the world as the Government of Japan (MEXT) Scholarship students. Furthermore, it is making efforts to maintain relations with

former foreign students who have returned to their home countries through “Japan Alumni Associations” and to foster pro-Japanese individuals and groups.

B JET Programme (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme)

The “JET Programme” was launched in 1987 to improve foreign language educations and promote international exchanges in local areas. The Programme received 4,786 participants from 43 countries including 1,958 new participants and dispatched them all over Japan in FY2015. In this program managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, MOFA, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, local



Iwami Kagura performance (program: Ebisu) (June 1-2, Guatemala)



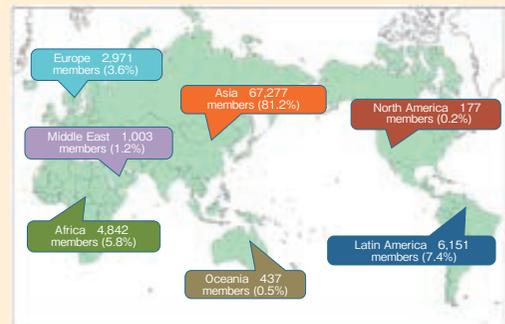
Iwami Kagura (shinto music and dance performance) Lecture (May 30, El Salvador)

governments invite young foreign nationals to Japan and appoint them to a post in the local governments and schools. MOFA is responsible for the application and selection process at diplomatic missions overseas, pre-departure orientation and support for the activities of the JET Alumni Association (JETAA, which has about 28,000 members). JETAA introduces Japan in their countries, and many former JET participants are successful in various fields as pro-Japanese in different parts of the world. Former JET participants are valuable human/diplomatic assets for Japan.

C Sport exchange

Sport enables communications beyond language and can be an effective tool

Number of International Students' Alumni Associations Members by Region (as of August 2015)



Symposium on Monozukuri held by Association of Indonesian Alumni from Japan (PERSADA) (December, Dharma Persada University, co-hosted by ASJA and ASCOJA)

for promoting friendly relations and the understanding of Japan. As a host country of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan is attracting much interest from foreign countries. The Government of Japan implements “Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)” program as an international cooperation through sport in January 2014. This program includes various sport exchange/contribution, promotional support, and human resource development projects in different countries, with the aim of spreading the value of sport by 2020, targeting over 10 million people in more than 100 countries. From FY2015, MOFA carries out the “Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement” which enables dispatch and invitation of athletes and sports instructors, provision of equipment,

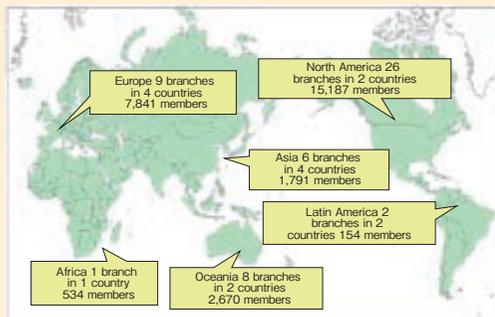
promotion of sport diplomacy, and other exchanges through sports in a more prompt and effective manner in response to requests from governments and sports associations. These SFT projects have enhanced presence of Japanese sports organizations in the international sport community.

(4) Exchange in the Intellectual Realm

A Japanese studies

MOFA comprehensively supports a range of overseas research activities related to Japan's politics, economy, society and culture. In FY2015, MOFA provided various forms of support through the Japan Foundation. These included sending visiting scholars, enhancing the collection of books on Japan and providing research grants to 65 institutions of Japanese studies in 26 countries and regions, such as universities and research institutions which are considered as Japanese studies hubs. Also, fellowship status was granted to 182 researchers in Japanese studies from 44 countries/regions, including those who were granted in the previous year. This helped the researchers conduct research and study activities in Japan (including the scheduled one in the 4th quarter of FY2015). MOFA also helps academic societies to promote network building among researchers and

Number of Branches of JET Alumni Association and Their Members (as of December 2015)



JET Programme participants just before departure (July 31, San Francisco)



Invitation of Vietnamese physically handicapped athletes (November)

research institutions on Japan in different countries and regions. In addition, MOFA made contribution to American universities which are core centers on Japanese studies in order to establish professorships specializing in Japanese politics and foreign policy.

B Intellectual Exchanges

MOFA implements intellectual exchange projects, putting emphasis on cooperative work and exchange with other countries. Specifically, MOFA implemented seminars and symposia on common international agenda, and programs to deepen the understanding of modern Japan at major universities overseas through the Japan Foundation. MOFA planned and supported exchange programs to strengthen relationships and deepen mutual understanding through holding conventions in various fields and at various levels in cooperation with NPOs and other institutions.

C U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)

CULCON is a public-private binational advisory panel comprised of experts from Japan and the U.S. to discuss issues on educational and cultural exchanges between both countries. With a view to achieving the goal of “doubling two-way student exchanges by the year 2020,” which was set by CULCON and mentioned in the Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan Summit Meeting in April 2014, the CULCON Educational-Exchange Review Committee was established. In September 2015, CULCON Special Seminar was held in Washington DC (U.S.) with the attendance of U.S. Congressman Mr. Joaquín Castro, co-Chair of the U.S.-Japan Caucus, to have discussions on topics such as the diversity in the U.S.-Japan exchanges. In addition,

CULCON has actively discussing how to further enhance the bilateral exchanges and launched Ad-hoc Steering Operations Committee and Japanese Language Education Committee.

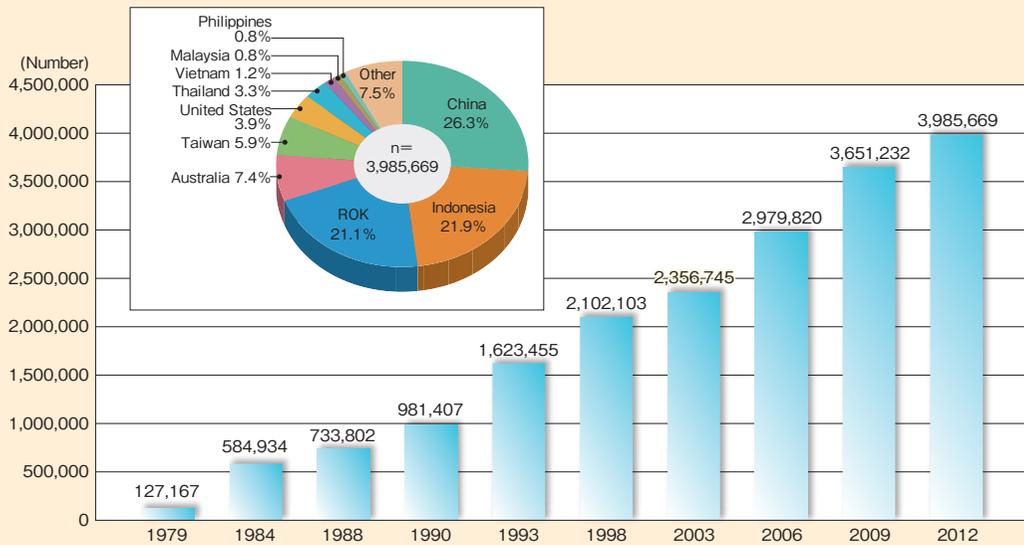
D Cooperation with the UN University (UNU)

The Government of Japan invited UNU, which contributes to the international community through study and research on global issues and human resources development, to locate its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan and has provided various cooperation and support for 40 years. UNU, in collaboration with Japanese universities and research institutions, is engaged in international issues, on which Japan focuses, such as peace, development, and environment, and contributes to dissemination of the policies of the Government of Japan. UNU established Master’s and Doctoral Programmes in 2010 and 2012, respectively, to improve its global human resources development programs.

(5) Promotion of Japanese Language Education

The interest in Japanese language has been increasing among people, especially the youth overseas as Japanese companies have been expanding their operations overseas and Japanese pop culture is getting more familiar worldwide along with the globalization of Japanese economic structure. Further promotion of the Japanese language overseas leads to creating a favorable international environment for Japanese people and companies. Currently, about 3.99 million people in 136 countries and regions overseas are learning the Japanese language (“Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2012” by the Japan Foundation).

Percentage and number of Japanese language learners by country/region



The inauguration ceremony of the Cambodia-Japan Traditional Martial Arts Center in Phnom Penh constructed by Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (December 12)

The number of learners has been steadily increasing since the first survey in 1979 by more than 30 times. In 2015, approximately 750,000 examinees (the number of applicants, including tests conducted in Japan) took the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test of the Japan Foundation in 264 cities of 69 countries and regions worldwide.

MOFA engages in accommodating various needs of Japanese-language educational institutions through the Japan Foundation (JF): Specifically through dispatching of

Japanese language specialists overseas, providing trainings in Japan for Japanese teachers and foreign diplomats overseas, developing teaching materials and promoting the “JF Japanese Language Education Standard.” Moreover, the JF aims to further increase the number of Japanese language learners overseas through further utilization of audio-visual teaching materials, such as learning aid websites which use animation and manga, and through directly managed Japanese language courses.

The JF has also been making efforts to create and expand the “JF Nihongo Network (aka; Sakura Network),” mainly at the JF overseas offices and universities where Japanese language specialists are dispatched since FY2007, in order to develop programs for Japanese language education responding to various needs of each country/region and to enhance partnerships among relevant institutions. In 2015, universities and Japanese language teachers associations, which are cores in implementing Japanese language education, are registered as new

network members. The JF strives to further increase the number of network participating members from the previous status of 127, to about 280 and enhance assistance to these members.

(6) Cultural Grant Aid

The Government of Japan provides Cultural Grant Assistance, as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to promote culture and higher education in developing countries thereby enhancing mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and developing countries. The activities implemented in 2015 include nine General Cultural Grant Assistance Projects (total of 530 million yen) and 22 Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (total of 210 million yen). In 2015, General Cultural Grant Assistance put emphasis on the preservation of the cultural heritage and the promotion of broadcasting programs, with Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects putting emphasis on the fields of sports and the Japanese language.

(7) Cooperation through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Japan is actively involved in various projects of UNESCO in the areas of education, science and culture, etc. UNESCO is the first international organization of which postwar Japan became a Member State in 1951. Since then, UNESCO has been cooperating with Japan in the support for education, science, and culture, etc. in developing countries.

In the field of culture, Japan offers active cooperation for safeguarding and promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the world, and support in the field of human resources development as the pillars. At the

same time, Japan actively participates in the international framework for safeguarding of cultural heritage. As part of such activities, Japan established two Japanese Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO, aiming for the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Through the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage, and with Japanese experts playing a leading role, Japan supports many projects for conservation and restoration of sites such as the Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi in Uganda, while contributing to the development of human resources so that local people can protect their cultural heritage by themselves in the future. Especially, Japan continuously supports the preservation and restoration of the Angkor Wat in Cambodia, which started in 1994, with the fourth phase started in 2012. Through the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the following projects have been implemented; handing down of traditional performing arts such as music and dance, and traditional crafts in developing countries to the next generation; development of domestic institutions and capacity building of relevant parties to enhance countries' ability to protect intangible cultural heritage by themselves.

In the area of education, Japan sets up the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Capacity-building of Human Resources, which aims to develop human resources in developing countries, and provides support for human resources development mainly in the area of education, through promoting "Education for All (EFA)" led by UNESCO, etc. As for "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD)," Japan provided various support to develop the "Aichi Nagoya Declaration"

adopted in the “UNESCO World Conference on ESD,” co-hosted with UNESCO, in Okayama and Nagoya in November 2014. Moreover, in September 2015, the prize winners of the newly established UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD were awarded for the first time and the ceremony was held at the General Assembly of UNESCO in November 2015.

In addition, Japan contributed a total amount of 5 million US dollars to UNESCO: in March 2015, 4.5 million US dollars to the “emergency assistance to Secondary Schooling for Girls of IDP Communities,” which UNESCO implements in Iraq, and 500 thousand US dollars to the “Urgent Capacity Development for Managing Natural Disaster Risks of Flash Floods in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen.”

A World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention aims to protect cultural and natural heritage, which is regarded as the heritage of all mankind. Japan became a party to the Convention in 1992 (As of December 2015, the number of parties to the Convention is 191). The ones listed



Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces)

on the “World Heritage List” are so-called “World Heritage” sites. The sites are classified into “Cultural Heritage” (monuments and remains), “Natural Heritage” (natural areas) and “Mixed Heritage” (having elements of both cultural and natural). As of December 2015, a total of 1,031 World Heritage sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List. At the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bonn, Germany in 2015, it was decided to inscribe the “Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” on the World Heritage List. It has raised the number of the World Heritage sites in Japan to 19: 15 Cultural Heritage and 4 Natural Heritage. Japan served as a member of the World Heritage Committee from 2011 to 2015.

B Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage aims to develop an international system for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional performing arts and traditional craftsmanship techniques (As of December 2015, the number of parties to the convention is 163). Japan, which has rich experience in safeguarding intangible cultural properties, has provided active contributions playing the role of engine for developing the Convention by taking initiative to form the major sections of the operational guidelines for the implementation of the Convention. The total of 22 elements of intangible cultural heritage in Japan are inscribed on the “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” established in accordance with the Convention. It includes: “Nôgaku theatre”, “Ningyo Johruri Bunraku puppet-theatre” and “Kabuki theatre,” which have been proclaimed

by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.” Currently, the nomination file of “Yama, Hoko, Yatai, float festivals in Japan,” which was submitted by Japan is under the evaluation process; this is the extension of “Yamahoko, the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival” and “Hitachi Fuyumono,” which were inscribed in the list in 2009, incorporating similar festivals existing all over Japan.

C UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme was established in 1992 to preserve and promote valuable historical materials. As of December 2015, 348 items have been inscribed. The “Archives of Toji temple contained in one-hundred boxes” and the “Return to Maizuru Port—Documents Related to the Internment and Repatriation Experiences of Japanese (1945-1956),” which were submitted for the inclusion by Japan, were inscribed in October 2015. The number of registered Japanese items is five in total. At the same time, it was announced that documents relating to the “Nanjing Incident” that had been submitted by organizations in China were also inscribed. It is clear that Japan and China have different views regarding the issues related to the submitted documents. It is extremely regrettable that those documents were submitted for the inclusion and inscribed based on China’s unilateral assertions.

Japan, has been making its utmost effort to improve the system so that the programme become more harmonized with the spirit of UNESCO.

Column

Diplomacy taking advantage of the power of sport ~ Strengthening exchange with the Philippines through sailing ~ (Sport for Tomorrow)

What do you think is the relation between sport and diplomacy?

Sport is a very effective "tool" for promoting international contributions and exchanges as it is familiar to everyone and it has the power to leave an impression on many people. Toward the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) launched "Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement" in FY2015 to steadily implement the measures entitled "Sport for Tomorrow" to make international contributions in the area of sport. In the project, MOFA has been inviting and dispatching athletes and coaches, as well as providing assistance with the transportation of sports equipment to developing countries. By placing sport as an important element of diplomatic relations, the scope of diplomacy is broadened, and synergy effects of further recognizing the value of sports can be expected. Here is an example of an invitation project- a sailing team from the Philippines was invited.

Facilitating international exchange in Enoshima and Hayama, with a sailing team from the Philippines!

Given the sports-related budget size and the lack of sailing population in the Philippines, such opportunities for its athletes to take part in competitions abroad to compete with a large number of athletes and improve their skills are invaluable. Therefore, MOFA invited five sailing athletes and a coach from the Philippines to a training course in August 2015, as a part of the Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement in cooperation with the Japan Sailing Federation. A joint training was conducted for the athletes together with the Japanese university students. They learned practical skills and participated in a competition held at Enoshima. They also deepened friendships with the Japanese students and staff through the training and competition. On the final day, one of the athletes said, "I was glad they were very kind to us (despite not knowing us well). The opportunity turned out to be a long lasting memory for both parties from the Philippines and Japan. It can be said that the event was an opportunity to deepen the Japan-Philippines relations through sport, which is a relatively new viewpoint.



In the "2015 Kanto 470 Championship," 5th place was achieved among the total of 85 competing boats.
Photo: Kazushige Nakajima/ DailySailing.com

Toward the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

It is possible to spread the values of sport in the international community through such initiatives, thereby conveying Japan's efforts and enthusiasm toward the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Each of the exchanges is low profile, but the accumulated efforts lead to a positive image of Japan, serving as the foundation to support diplomacy.

Aside from the above, MOFA made the following international contributions globally: Invitation of a baseball team from Czech Republic, a table tennis team from India, and a gymnastics team from Senegal and a para-swimming and para-powerlifting team composed of the disabled athletes from Vietnam, dispatch of judo leaders to China and Papua New Guinea, as well as the assistance with the football equipment transport to the Middle East and Asian countries. If these efforts continue, it would not be a dream for these individuals so trained and supported by Japan to become top athletes in their respective countries and to come to Japan in 2020 for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Photo: Kazushige Nakajima/ DailySailing.com

Column

Japanese players' remarkable performance at the Rugby World Cup 2015

● Interview with Mr. Michael Leitch (Captain of the Japanese National team and Member of New Zealand Chiefs)

—Did you feel a deepening of understanding between countries or people through international sports activities? Do you know of any good cases of international exchange and cooperation? What do you think is necessary for Japanese people to perform well in the world?

Mr. Leitch : I felt that Japanese and New Zealanders are alike in personality and their way of thinking, and therefore can understand each other to some extent. From the viewpoint of sports exchange, I think Japanese teams should have more games with foreign teams to accumulate experience and gain confidence. In order to perform well in the world, I think it is very important that Japanese people behave in a flexible manner without sticking to a pattern. Speaking of rugby, I think Japanese players should go abroad to accumulate various experience. I think there is not that much of a difference in the level of rugby between Japan and New Zealand, so I feel Japanese players should have more confidence. I think the strengths unique to Japanese players are patience and tenacity, as well as enthusiasm at training. In addition, Japanese players have excellent technique. As you saw in last year's Rugby World Cup, the Japanese team became a very strong team, thanks to the technique of Japanese players mixed with the power of foreign players.

—The Rugby World Cup 2019 is to be held in Japan. What do you expect foreign visitors to see in Japan? What do you like about Japan, Mr. Leitch?

Mr. Leitch : I think hospitality in Japan is amazing, so I would like them to have a taste of that hospitality. In addition, since each of the cities providing venues for the Rugby World Cup is attractive, I do not think foreign visitors or players will get bored with staying there. I think attractive points shown by Japanese people are kindness, good manners, politeness and effort not to bother others.

—What difficulties did you experience while you were playing for high school and university teams in Japan?

Mr. Leitch : I had difficulties in the relationship between seniors and juniors. Depending on the situation, I could sometimes accept the hierarchical relationship, but sometimes not. There were some times when I felt that my seniors were not right.

—What do you want to say to people thinking of visiting Japan in the future?

Mr. Leitch : I want them to enjoy Japan. In particular, local food and drinks such as *shochu* are delicious in Japan, so I want them to try them for themselves.



● **Message from Mr. Ayumu Goromaru (Vice captain of the Japanese National Team and Member of the Queensland Reds, Australia) ~ One for all, All for one, and Challenge to be the World's Best ~**

In rugby, the expected roles and gameplay varies greatly depending on the player in each position. You cannot achieve victory if you are lacking in any position.

Big players form a scrum to get the ball. The ball is then passed backward by a small player. When a fast-running player who has received the ball is tackled, a big player runs full speed behind him. In this way, when each player performs his role, the team can achieve victory.

The ability to read the other player's intentions and react accordingly. The sense of victory or the disappointment of defeat can be felt more strongly than in any other sport. This is the good thing about rugby. All players work hard together toward one goal, taking advantage of their individual skill set, allowing for personal growth.

I've experienced these situations many times in rugby. In particular, I was able to share in the ultimate joy with my teammates when our Japanese national team beat South Africa, Samoa and the U.S. teams respectively, in the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

I am very grateful to all the people who have helped support these victories by cheering me on. These include the head coach, coaches and team staff, supporters, sponsors and my family. I believe it is my mission to inform the world of the enjoyment of rugby and sports, to inspire the next generation who take over to aim higher while still holding on to that feeling of gratitude.

Since February 2016, I have been playing for the Queensland Reds, in Brisbane, Australia. Despite the change in the country and the team I play for, the rugby spirit of playing together with other team members is exactly the same. I am experiencing the international nature of the sport of rugby. Playing abroad is a new challenge, but I want to continue to perform well without being influenced by the environment, whether in or outside of Japan. These are the values I carry with me into each match.



● Interview with Mr. Fumiaki Tanaka (Member of the Japanese National team and the Highlanders, New Zealand)

—A growing number of Japanese athletes go abroad to play. What do you think is necessary for Japanese to perform well in the world? Do you have any message you want to convey to Japanese children?

Mr. Tanaka : “English” and “confidence in yourself.”

English is an important tool for communication. In order to do well overseas, I think it is important to communicate in English to tap into your own potential. As I had a very hard time with English, I want the Japanese children shouldering Japan’s future to study English aggressively.

To demonstrate good performance on the world stage, I think it is very important that you should have “confidence” in playing without worrying about hierarchical relationships and what others think.

The strength of Japanese athletes is that they can withstand hardship. The practice roster prepared by our head coach Eddie Jones was a very severe one, but we were able to endure it because we were Japanese (laughter). Thanks to his severe training, we greatly developed our ability.

—During the Rugby World Cup 2019 to be held in Japan, what do you want foreigners visiting Japan to see?

Mr. Tanaka: Japanese culture is popular overseas. I would like them to feel the wonders of Japan such as Japan’s unique culture including traditional buildings and Japanese food culture. I recommend they try the delicious food culture, such as a wide range of Japanese and international cuisines including Japanese barbecue “Yakiniku”, sushi and cheap-and-fast foods. I also encourage them to come to the rugby venues (12 cities) and discover the beauty of local cities in Japan.

I would like Japanese people to communicate actively with foreign visitors. When you see those visitors losing their way or getting puzzled on the street, I would like you to demonstrate the hospitality of *omotenashi* - without pretending not to see them - and let them go back to their countries with a good impression.

—What troubles did you have and what efforts did you make to overcome them in your career as a player (including in your school days)?

Mr. Tanaka : I am rather short, so I was likely to be seen as an easy target because of that. I made continued efforts in training myself to overcome that handicap. I had a mortifying time being excluded from matches, but I made efforts not to waste a variety of experiences to build on for the next step. It was very tough at the time, but I was able to play without losing myself. I think that it was good to have stayed true to myself without going astray.

—Any words for those who are thinking of visiting Japan?

Mr. Tanaka : I would like them to talk to and communicate with many Japanese people, because I think that mutual understanding can be deepened by talking to each other.



Column

From the site of international exchanges for introducing Japan in Southeast Asia ~ "NIHONGO (Japanese language) Partners" ~

"NIHONGO Partners", Batch 2 to Thailand, Faculty of International Political Economics, Aoyama Gakuin University ● Ruri Nomura

Located in seven-hour drive to the north from Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. I am teaching at an integrated middle and high school in Uttaradit Province. There are thousands of durians in this town, but hardly seen any Japanese. Still, when I go to school for teaching, I hear the students cheerfully say "Good morning" in Japanese.

For the students, "NIHONGO Partner" is the first Japanese to meet. Some of them were too shy to make eye contact. But while we were spending time together through learning in class, having a meal and preparing for events, we got closer and built mutual trust. They now run towards me joyfully as soon as they find me.

I have one unforgettable memory. One day after school, one of the second-year high school students came to the teachers' room. She asked me, "Please teach me calligraphy." She told me that she would like to participate in and win a Japanese culture contest scheduled for the following month. I wondered what I should teach to a beginner who could not tell the difference of the front and back sides of Japanese paper for calligraphy in such a short term. Challenging days began for both of us. As she worked hard, she made remarkable progress day by day, through severe practice. When she handled the brush to form well-balanced strokes, we could not help but jump for joy.

But the reality was not so easy. At the contest that she tried with a confidence, she did not even get a prize, much less win it. I still remember clearly the moment when we embraced each other with a sense of disappointment. However, I was moved from the bottom of my heart to see her teaching calligraphy to younger students somewhat proudly. Having learned the pleasure of writing beautifully, she now fills her notebooks with beautiful letters.

Most of students associate Japan with animation, cartoons, cherry blossoms and Japanese food. They get information on the Internet, but it is a little biased. I thought that there was a kind of Japanese culture that could only be introduced by Japanese people, so I also worked on a plan for homestays to provide the students an opportunity to meet with more Japanese, in collaboration with Japanese university students studying in Thailand.

More recently, the students are increasingly motivated to learn Japanese language, saying "I want to make more efforts to study. The number of students who challenge the Japanese Language Proficiency Test is increasing two to three times. Some students got prizes in the national Japanese language contest, and now they are further working hard for the contest in the next year.

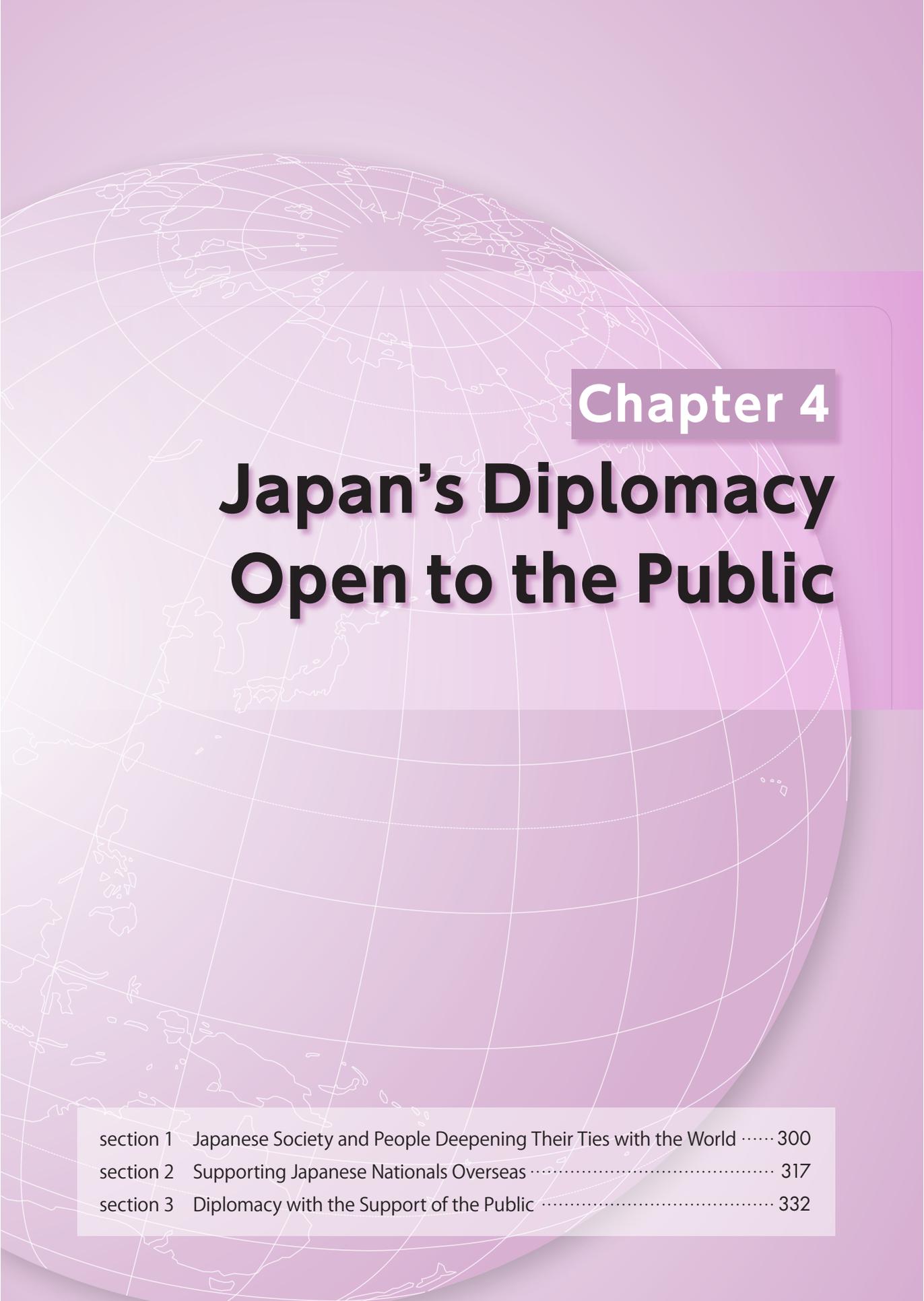
I hope that even just a little memory with Japanese people will remain in the minds of the students who will create the future! That is all I wish.



Japanese language class



Together with the teachers and second-year high school students in the classroom



Chapter 4

Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public

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Section 1

Japanese Society and People Deepening Their Ties with the World

Overview

(Tapping the Power of Foreign Nationals for the Growth of Japan)

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

The Government of Japan attaches importance to promoting Japan as a tourism-oriented country and to regional revitalization inside Japan, and MOFA has engaged in efforts to relax visa requirements. With the continuous trend of yen depreciation and various other factors, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached around 19.74 million in 2015. The target of 20 million in 2020 may be achieved earlier than anticipated. MOFA strives to contribute to the increase of foreign visitors while continuing to ensure that “Japan remains the safest country in the world,” and to a tourism-oriented country both in quantity and quality by attracting the wealthy class, repeaters, and the young generation.

In order to further vitalize the Japanese economy and increase Japan's competitiveness, it is critical to secure capable human resources irrespective of their nationality. In the “Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised

in 2015),” a policy is set forth whereby the government promotes further participation of foreign human resources. To reach such target, MOFA works with relevant ministries and agencies to ensure the system and measures for accepting foreign human resources to be effective and in line with the principle of human rights. Moreover, MOFA encourages national debate on the challenges arising from the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japanese society, as well as appropriate measures to be taken.

(International Organizations and Japanese Nationals)

At international organizations, staff from all over the world capitalizes on their respective skills and traits to carry out activities for addressing global issues.

Japan has been providing personnel contributions as well as financial and intellectual contributions to international organizations. If more Japanese nationals play active roles in international organizations, Japan's presence in the international community will be enhanced and the human resources of Japan will also be enriched.

MOFA carries out programs to recruit, train, support, and provide information to competent Japanese nationals who can play active roles in international organizations and contribute to them. The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's accession to the UN. Seizing this opportunity, MOFA will

strengthen its efforts to create an environment where outstanding Japanese nationals can play active roles on the global stage.

(NGOs and Volunteers)

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

Participants in the volunteer programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers (SV), are crucial actors in international cooperation. In the countries and regions where they are dispatched, JICA volunteers see the development challenges from the same perspective as local people and work hard together to tackle them. Such programs are highly appreciated by local people including government officials in various countries and earn their gratitude, as symbols of the “Visibility of Japanese Aid.” In addition, the programs play a substantial role not only in local economic and social development, but also in fostering mutual understanding, friendship, and goodwill

between Japan and these countries and regions. Furthermore, these programs are also significant from the viewpoint that JICA volunteers bring back their volunteer experiences to help contribute to Japanese society in the end. The volunteers use their volunteer experience and stay active at home and abroad upon their return.

(Cooperation with Local Governments)

Regional revitalization is one of top priority tasks for the cabinet. MOFA is implementing all-ministry initiatives to promote regional revitalization in collaboration with local governments. At home, MOFA, jointly with municipalities, carried out “Regional Promotion Seminars,” “Diplomats’ Study Tours,” etc., to showcase regions’ attractiveness for the diplomatic corps in Tokyo and started a new project to support regional revitalization, using Iikura Guest House, the Ministry’s facility. As measures to support Japan’s local governments in promoting their attractiveness and in developing local industries and regional economies, “Regional Promotion Projects” have been conducted, using Japan’s diplomatic facilities overseas. Moreover, MOFA conducted promotional activities with local governments through local promotion projects in Asia, which were launched in 2015 to assist in recovering reputational damages caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition, MOFA actively promoted alcohol beverages produced in various regions of Japan at its overseas missions and supported overseas operations of local governments and local SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) by making use of ODA.

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

(1) Growth Strategy and Relaxation of Visa Requirements

In 2015, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached around 19.74 million, almost doubling the score after having reached 10 million two years ago. The target of 20 million by 2020 may be achieved earlier than anticipated. In such prospect, MOFA introduced further relaxation of visa requirements in 2015 for countries from which Japan expects many visitors, following the visa relaxation measures realized in 2013 and 2014 for ASEAN countries, in order to promote Japan as a tourism-oriented country and support regional revitalization, as well as to contribute to further promoting people-to-people exchange. Specifically, MOFA relaxed the requirements for the multiple visas for visitors from China on January 19, and introduced multiple visas for Brazil on June 15 and for Mongolia on August 10. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe announced, during his visit to India in December, that Japan would substantially relax from January 11 2016, the requirements for the multiple visa for visitors

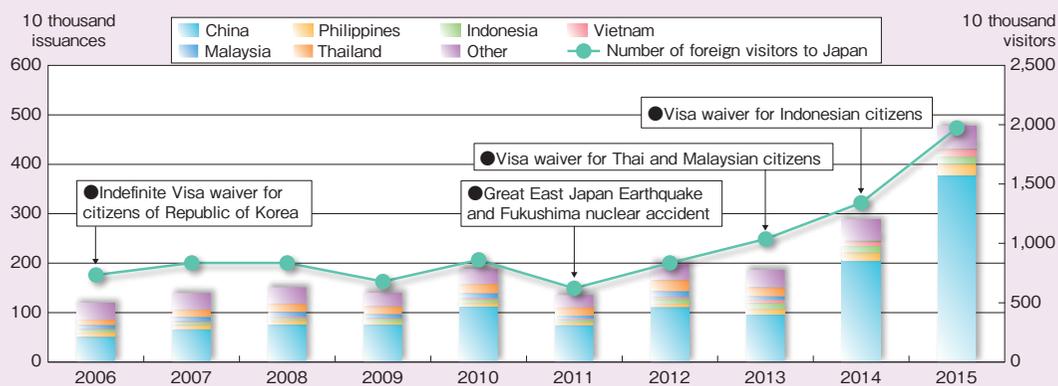
from India introduced in 2014.

As such, further expansion of visa requirement relaxation is expected due to the effect it has on promoting people-to-people exchange and Japan's economic growth. At the same time, the Government intensifies visa control as a part of border measures to prevent the entry of criminals and foreign visitors with intension of illegal labor, as well as those who could become victims of human trafficking. MOFA is determined to continue working on the relaxation of visa requirements, aiming at increasing the number of visitors to Japan while ensuring that "Japan remains the safest country in the world," and contributing to achieve a tourism-oriented country both in quantity and quality by attracting the wealthy class, repeaters, and the young generation. MOFA intends to conduct such relaxation after taking into account all the factors such as the bilateral relations and their diplomatic significance.

(2) Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and their Social Integration

Since the Lehman Shock in 2008, the number of long-term foreign residents in Japan kept decreasing until 2012 when the trend turned

Changes in The Number of Visa Issuances and Foreign Visitors to Japan



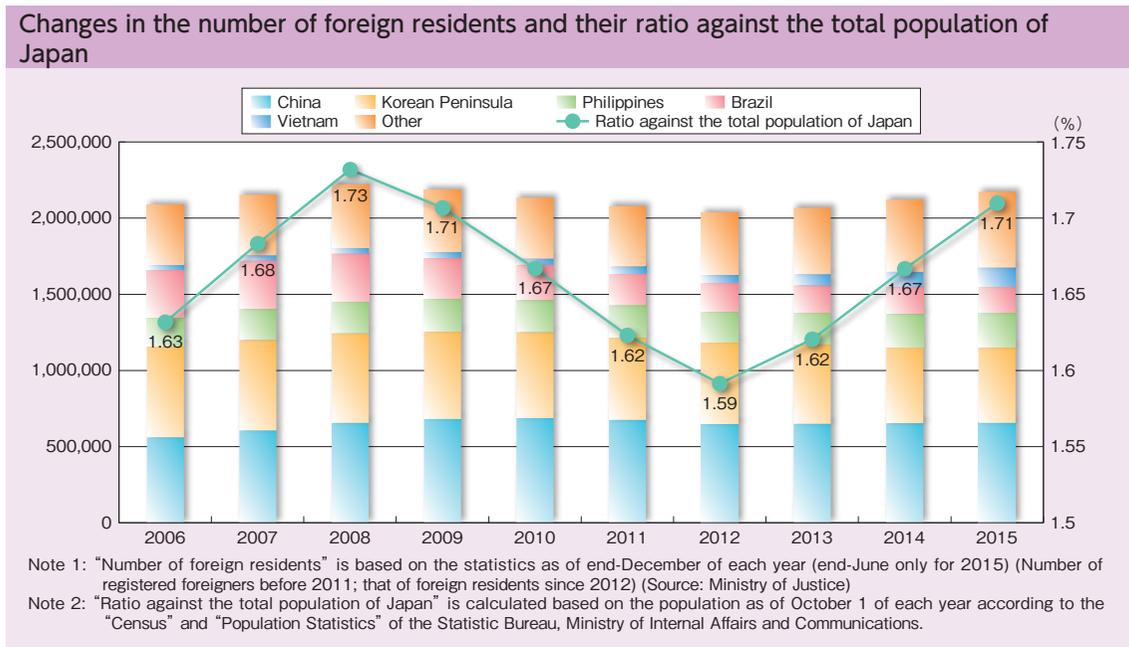
Note 1: The number of foreign visitors to Japan is based on Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) statistics
 Note 2: The number of visa issuances in 2015 is provisional value

upward. While the aging of the population continues with low birth rate resulting in the decrease of the population, it is important for Japan to secure capable human resources, irrespective of their nationality, in order to further vitalize Japan's economy and improve its competitiveness. The "2015 Revised Japan Revitalization Strategy" specifically aims at promoting active participation of foreign human resources and the number of competent foreign nationals living in Japan is expected to further increase in the future.

MOFA cooperates with the relevant ministries and agencies to assure the series of measures to be coherent with the principle of human rights of the foreign nationals. MOFA also hosts international workshops on the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japan, aiming to encourage debate among the people by providing opportunities to discuss concrete challenges and measures. In February, MOFA co-hosted a workshop with Katsushika City, and the International Organization for Migration

(IOM), under the theme of "Foreign Nationals and Foreign Human Resources in the Field of Medical Care: Beyond Language and Cultural Barriers." The participants mainly discussed the way of desirable medical care in an era of globalization in terms of medical interpreters and further participation of foreign human resources in the medical sector.

During Disaster Prevention Week in September, MOFA organized "Seminar on Disaster Prevention Measures for the Diplomatic Corps," based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake. With the participation of local governments, their relevant organizations and private institutions, as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the Japan Tourist Agency, the seminar introduced the efforts using IT of the relevant organizations such as on the development of a smartphone application for the safety confirmation of missing foreign nationals in Japan and information provision.



2 Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Community

(1) Japanese Taking Active Roles in International organizations

International organizations are founded to solve a variety of global issues; for instance, poverty reduction, climate change, human rights and humanitarian affairs, food, energy, refugee protection, conflict prevention / peace-building, health, education, employment and women empowerment. People of various nationalities join these international organizations and draw on their skills and traits to create an environment where people of the world can enjoy peace, security and prosperity.

Competent individuals with specialized knowledge, passion and capabilities to contribute to the world beyond the framework of nation states are needed so that international organizations can competently perform their duties and fully fulfill the roles expected of them. In addition to financial contributions for international organizations to deal with their tasks through regular budget and voluntary contributions, Japan also makes contributions in terms of intellectual and human resources through the active roles of Japanese staff.

However, the number of Japanese staff working in international organizations is still low compared to other major countries. Taking the UN Secretariat as an example, the number of Japanese employees remains at around one-third of the “desirable number of employees” set by the UN according to each country’s population and share of the body’s budget.

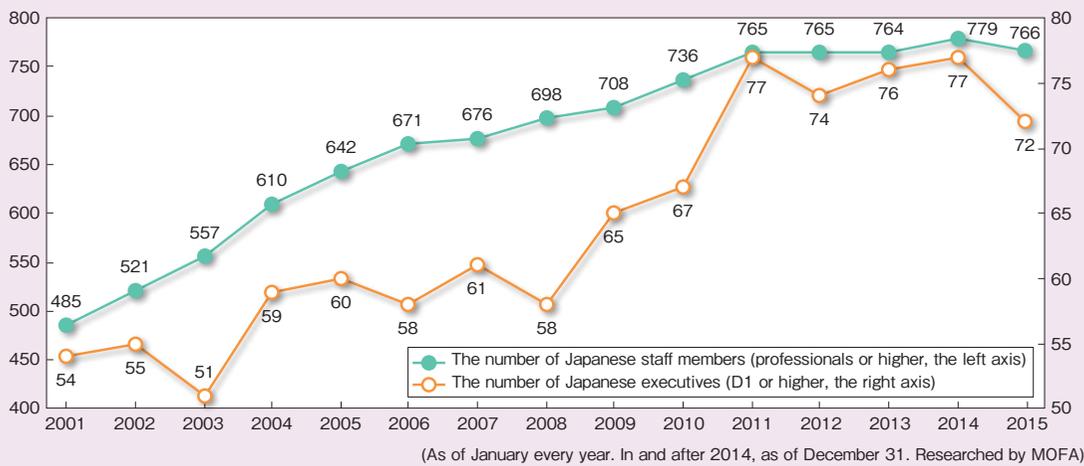
More Japanese people taking active roles in international organizations are expected to lead to the enhanced presence of Japan as one of Japan’s contributions in the

international community. It will also show the world that Japan is truly committed to the promotion of peace and prosperity of the world and actively working for it. In addition, Japanese staff of international organizations is expected to play the role of a “bridge” between the international organization and their home country. For example, Japan and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) co-host the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) led by Japan. Japanese UN staff members, who are able to understand the work process of both Japan and partner organizations and differences in the way of thinking between them, prove essential in advancing projects and policy issues in a smooth, prompt and efficient manner and their roles are highly appreciated by the international organizations. The presence of Japanese staff in international organization has vital significance also from the perspective of promotion of Japan’s diplomatic priorities.

Moreover, increase in the number of Japanese people with various international experiences will in turn lead to enrichment of human resources of Japan, contributing to the development of Japan as a whole.

Based on this position, MOFA actively recruits, trains, supports, and provides information to human resources competent of working and contributing in the international arena, with the aim of increasing the number of Japanese nationals working in international organizations. In 2015, it organized 74 guidance sessions to provide information on the process of recruitment by international organizations. It also hosted Outreach Missions by human resource staff from international organizations at five universities in the Kanto area, which were attended by a total of about 800 participants.

Changes in the number of Japanese staff members at UN-related agencies (professionals or higher)



Preferred Number of UN Secretariat Staff Members by Nationality

(As of June 30, 2015)

Ranking	Country	Number of staff (Female staff)	Range of preferred number of staff members			Ratio (%)
			Lower limit	(Mean)	Upper limit	
1	United States	366 (199)	373 ~	(439) ~	504	12.20
2	United Kingdom	151 (60)	92 ~	(109) ~	125	5.03
3	France	146 (71)	99 ~	(117) ~	134	4.87
4	Italy	133 (65)	80 ~	(94) ~	108	4.43
5	Germany	132 (73)	125 ~	(147) ~	169	4.40
6	Canada	89 (39)	56 ~	(66) ~	75	2.97
7	Japan	81 (51)	186 ~	(219) ~	252	2.70
8	China	77 (38)	119 ~	(140) ~	161	2.57
13	Russia	50 (11)	49 ~	(58) ~	66	1.67
14	ROK	46 (24)	40 ~	(47) ~	54	1.53
	Other	Other (729)				
	Total	Total (1,360)				

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

Source: UN material (A/70/605)

Furthermore, MOFA also supports young people dispatched to international organizations under the Junior Professional Officer Program (a system of sending young Japanese nationals who aspire to work in international organizations as regular employees for two years in principle to give them opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and experience in international organizations and to aim for regular

employment after their dispatch). MOFA is also committed to coordination with human resource sections of major international organizations, gathering information, providing vacancy information, and supporting application procedures, etc. for the promotion and employment of Japanese staff.

The year 2016 is a "milestone year" of the 60th anniversary of Japan's accession

Japanese Working on a Global Scale

I hold discussions with my colleagues with a strong commitment and belief in resolving global issues such as peace building and poverty reduction. My NGO and JPO experiences are very valuable to me.



Discussing with colleagues to support the reconstruction in Iraq.

Ms. Azusa Chiba

Partnerships Officer: UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Denmark (headquarters)

One of the attractive points of my job is contributing through the coordination of organizations such as various national governments and NGOs under a common target of supporting victims.



Establishing a Reception Departure Centre at an airport to respond to the earthquake in Nepal.

Mr. Yosuke Okita

Humanitarian Affairs Officer: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Geneva (headquarters)

to the UN. Japan assumed non-permanent membership on the UN Security Council for a record-high 11th time among UN member state, and will serve a two-year term starting from January 1, 2016. For 60 years, Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation and contributed to the international community in terms of finance, policy initiatives and human resources. MOFA, with its knowledge and experience, will continue to work actively so that excellent Japanese nationals, who understand the roles and responsibility of international organizations and have high aspiration and passion to contribute to solving the issues faced by the international community, can take part in international organizations.

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

A Development Assistance

It is estimated that in Japan there are over 400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in international cooperation activities. Most of them are familiar with local

needs at the grassroots level and provide flexible and detailed support in developing countries / regions with various challenges such as poverty, natural disaster, and conflicts and their importance in development cooperation is increasing.

MOFA provides financial cooperation in the form of grant assistance for economic and social development projects implemented by Japanese NGOs in developing countries/regions (the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) and actively provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) through NGOs. In the FY 2015 (as of end-December), 30 Japanese NGOs implemented 41 Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects in 19 countries and one region in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, etc. The projects cover a wide range of assistance, including, health/medical/hygienic care (maternal and child health, countermeasures for tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS, water/hygiene, etc.), rural development (environmental development/technological improvement for agriculture), support for the people with disabilities

Column

The Voices of Those Who Have Supported the United Nations

Diverse Role of UN Staff

Former Regional Director for Asia, World Food Programme ● Kenro Oshidari

When I entered the United Nations system 35 years ago, our profession “International Civil Service” was not so known in Japan. When I mentioned that I work for the UN back then, people often asked me if I was a translator for those big UN conferences.

Certainly, the UN continues to host numerous meetings seeking political solution to the conflicts of the world that still lingers in the 21st century. However, my UN career was quite different from the scenes in New York as I spent most of my professional life in developing countries, and places requiring urgent humanitarian assistance either because of conflicts or natural disasters. I worked in countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kosovo, Sudan and North Korea providing food assistance through the World Food Programme-WFP. At times, I worked in dangerous environments, but it was always truly rewarding to work with colleagues who share the same passion but coming from variety of countries and regions.

Just in the development and humanitarian field, UN agencies are seeking specialists in areas like health, sanitation, environment, education and disaster preparedness. Furthermore, as in any public or private sector, UN also requires people who have skills in IT, finance, human resource management, procurement and logistics to administratively run the various agencies. There are many opportunities in the UN for people to use their different skills to collectively tackle the global challenges and also to seek their own adventure in the international world.



“Deep-rooted terrorism” and “value of the United Nations”

Senior Legal Officer, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) ● Sue Takasu

Terrorism continues to remain a huge threat to international peace and security. More than one and a half years have passed since the declaration of the establishment of Islamic State in Syria and Levant (ISIL) in June 2014. It was reported that more than 30,000 foreign terrorist fighters, mostly youth, have been fighting with ISIL in 2015. What makes youth to fight with ISIL which conducts appalling atrocities, and what are mechanisms to cause terrorism? There are so many complicated social factors involved in fermenting conditions conducive to terrorism, and it is not simple to find effective solutions. However, at least, we came to understand that conventional approach such as taken by law enforcement agencies is not enough to suppress terrorism, and we have to pay due attention to holistic and preventive approach such as: promoting understanding and respect of civilization and diversity; enhancing tolerance; securing a chance of self-realization in society; taking appropriate measures against unemployment and poverty; eliminating corruptions; and implementing fair treatment.

Such needs have been affecting the stance of the United Nations. Generally speaking, each UN agency is highly specialized in specific areas with its own mandate and expertise, and works very independently. However, recent terrorism phenomenon requires a holistic approach by almost all UN agencies to bring together all relevant expertise in close coordination and cooperation. This must be an added value of the United Nations, and I believe that dynamism is a beauty of working with the United Nations.



(vocational training/employment assistance, provision of wheelchairs for children, etc.), education (building schools, etc.), disaster risk reduction, and the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO), etc.

The Japan Platform (JPF) was established in 2000, with the aim of conducting emergency humanitarian assistance effectively and promptly through cooperation and partnership among the government, NGOs and business communities at the time of refugee crises/large-scale natural disasters. As of end-December, 47 NGOs are members of JPF. In 2015, besides launches of aid to central Nepal earthquake victims and the program for humanitarian crisis in Yemen, JPF continuously provided assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria, Iraq, and their neighboring nations. Humanitarian assistance was also provided



A program to strengthen the ability of disaster risk reduction in the community (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects: Sri Lanka) (Photo: Civic Force, registered not-for-profit organization)



The "general meeting" of NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting (FY 2015)

to Palestine/Gaza, Afghanistan, Pakistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar, etc.

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

As seen thus far, NGOs assume important roles in the area of development cooperation. Identifying such NGOs as partners in development cooperation, MOFA and JICA provide indirect support for NGO activities through various policy measures with the aim of enhancing their capacity, enhancing their expertise and developing human resources so that NGOs can strengthen the foundation for their activities and perform further tasks. In 2015, MOFA implemented four projects, namely "NGO Study Group," "NGO Overseas Study Program," "NGO Intern Program" and "NGO Consultant Scheme."

Moreover, the general meeting of the "NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting" was held in June in order to promote dialogue/coordination with NGOs. Also the ODA Policy Council to discuss overall ODA and the Partnership Promotion Committee to discuss support for NGOs and cooperation measures were held. In addition, MOFA has been working on global-scale issues in the development and humanitarian areas, including the process to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, exchanging opinions with NGOs.

B Partnership in Other Major Diplomatic Areas

MOFA also cooperates with NGOs in areas other than development cooperation. For instance, at the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March 2015, Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto (professor emeritus of Jumonji University and principal of Jumonji Junior/Senior High School) represented Japan, and NGO representatives actively participated in discussions as members of the Japanese delegation. At the 70th UN General Assembly, Ms. Arino Yaguchi (professor of Tokyo Women's Medical University) attended the Third Committee, which deals with a range of social and human rights issues, as an advisor to the representatives of the Government of Japan. In addition, the Government of Japan has initiated dialogues with civil society including NGO representatives and experts on matters related to government reports to be submitted based on various conventions on human rights, third country resettlement projects, and the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security based on the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 and related resolutions.

Japanese NGOs are also increasing their presence in the area of disarmament and MOFA actively promotes cooperation with NGOs. MOFA officials participated in seminars on conventional weapons hosted by NGOs. Cooperation with NGOs is also taken place in the areas of clearance of mines and unexploded ordnances and risk reduction education projects in Afghanistan and other countries.

Furthermore, in the area of nuclear disarmament, MOFA has been conducting dialogues with various NGOs and experts. The Government supports NGOs' activities

to convey atomic bomb survivors' testimonies on the devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons to the international community through the commissioned projects called "the Special Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons" and "the Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons." As of December 2015, a total of 252 Special Communicators and a total of 107 Youth Communicators have been dispatched to the world through this commission programs.

As for the measures against transnational organized crime, especially in the area of trafficking in persons, coordination with civil society including NGOs is essential. With this in mind, the government actively exchanges opinions with NGOs and other stakeholders to identify recent trends of trafficking in persons and to consult appropriate measures to address them.

(3) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Celebrating its 50th Anniversary and Senior Volunteers (SV)

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program aimed at cooperation/assistance for the economic and social development at the communities of the developing countries while young skilled people aged 20 to 39 live and work together with local people in these countries and fostering mutual understanding. As of end-November 2015, 40,977 JOCVs had been dispatched to 88 countries in total. Dispatched members have been engaged in about 200 types of work in nine areas: planning administration, commercial/tourism, public utility works, human resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, health/medical care, mining, social welfare and energy.

On November 17, 2015, JICA held a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of JOCV, which was established in 1965. The ceremony was attended by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. The ceremony included a video message from Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and a congratulatory message from His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan. Related events were held in recipient countries. The JOCV program is highly evaluated by developing countries as the "Visibility of Japanese Aid." Moreover, from October 4 to 7, 2015, JICA hosted the Conference of International Volunteer Cooperation Organization, which was attended by international organizations, volunteer groups, NGOs, universities and companies involved in volunteers from all around the world.

In 2015, in addition to countries where JOCVs had been dispatched, Japan concluded with Swaziland an agreement concerning the dispatch of volunteers under the JOCV program and resumed the dispatch of JOCVs to Madagascar.

The Senior Volunteers (SV) program is a program to dispatch middle aged persons from 40 to 69 years of age who have



A volunteer from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) giving a lecture on environmental education in Costa Rica (Photo: Kenshiro Imamura/JICA)

wide-ranging skills and rich experiences to developing countries. The program has been expanding every year since its foundation in 1990 and by the end of November 2014, a total of 5,833 volunteers had been dispatched to 73 countries, and cooperation in nine areas, the same as the JOCV program, had been implemented. The SV program has drawn increasing interest in recent years from the perspective of supporting to start a new life after retirement and utilizing the rich experiences and expertise of retired senior citizens.

JOVC and SV programs are supported by the high aspirations of people who are keen to provide cooperation for the sake of economic and social development and reconstruction of developing countries. MOFA actively promotes these programs, considering them as a core of participatory international cooperation by citizens. As of end-November 2015, 2,114 JOCVs and 442 SVs are working around the world (71 countries and 59 countries, respectively). The volunteer participants who have returned to Japan contribute their experience to Japanese society by sharing their experiences in educational and local activity settings and private companies. These unique participatory activities of Japan are highly



A member from the Senior Volunteers (SV) working as nurses at a maternal and child health center in Zambia (Photo: Atsushi Shibuya/ JICA)

appreciated and expected both domestically and internationally, including in recipient countries.

Experiences gained from JOCV/SV programs can lead to personal development of their participants as human resources who will make a positive impact on the global arena. Thus, the government is working with companies, municipal governments and universities which need such opportunities to develop human resources, in order to expand the participants through the dispatch of their employees, teachers and students to developing countries. For instance, as a program responding to the needs of private companies, such as small-and medium-sized enterprises, aiming for international development of their businesses, the government launched the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer” program in FY2012. Furthermore, the government is committed to developing an environment for the feedback of the experience of the returned JOCVs and SVs to society, for example, by providing career support to them. Returned volunteers are active in many fields inside and outside Japan. Some have been hired by the Reconstruction Agency to work as additional personnel for disaster-stricken local governments, utilizing their own specialties and experience gained in JOCV/SV programs. Others keep supporting the countries they were dispatched with other returned volunteers, or work for international organizations.

3 Cooperation with Local Governments

Regional revitalization is one of the priority issues of the Cabinet. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is a member of the Headquarters

for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan. MOFA implements all-ministry initiatives to promote regional revitalization. In addition, MOFA, through the efforts of the entire nation to enhance diplomatic capacity of Japan as a whole, engages in various collaborative activities with local governments.

Within the country, a new scheme to support regional revitalization started in 2015, using Iikura Guest House, the Ministry’s facility, with the initiative of Foreign Minister Kishida. This is a measure to promote various attractions of Japanese local areas, reaching out to embassies in Tokyo and Japanese and foreign media by inviting ambassadors residing in Japan to seminars and receptions at the Iikura Guest House, co-hosted by the Foreign Minister and chiefs of local municipalities. The first project was jointly implemented with Kyoto City (February), the second with Fukushima Prefecture (March), the third with Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima City (July), the fourth with Mie Prefecture (October) and the fifth with Aomori Prefecture (November). Chiefs of local governments held seminars to directly introduce sightseeing spots and local products and showed local performing arts. The projects had news coverages both nationally and internationally. Participating local governments and municipalities highly evaluate the public relations effects of the projects as those municipal organizations can promote their attractiveness to many ambassadors posted to Tokyo at one time by co-hosting the events with Foreign Minister. Furthermore, to support the international initiatives of cities and special wards (of Tokyo), a “Reception Hosted by Foreign Minister on the Occasion of the General Meeting of the Japan Association of City

Mayors” was held in June.

Besides, “Regional Promotion Seminars” and “Diplomats’ Study Tours” were also organized for the diplomatic corps in Tokyo. In July, MOFA co-hosted the 18th “Regional Promotion Seminar” together with Matsudo City and Chiba Prefecture, Sagami-hara City and Kanagawa Prefecture, Saitama City, Toyota City (Aichi Prefecture), and Mitake Town (Gifu Prefecture) to promote their respective attractions and invited 75 people from diplomatic corps in Tokyo and other organizations. At the seminars, participating local governmental units introduced their latest information and products to the diplomatic corps, exchanged opinions and interacted with one another, over food and



Kagami-Biraki, opening a cask of Japanese sake (Reception co-hosted with Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and Mayor of Hiroshima, July 23)



Diplomats’ Study Tour (Matsudo City): in the Pear Garden

drinks produced in each area. “Diplomats’ Study Tours” (Matsudo City in September, Kanagawa Prefecture in October, Saitama City, Toyota City and Mitake Town in November) also took place with about 20-50 participants per each tour from diplomatic corps in Tokyo. The diplomatic corps inspected facilities in local municipalities as well as exchanged opinions with local administrative chiefs, and conducted exchanges with various local organizations and students.

Furthermore, MOFA actively provides local governments with opportunities to explain things such as Japan’s current diplomatic policies, etc., and exchange views. As a part of such activities, a “Local Partnership



Booths at the reception venue (Reception co-hosted with Governor of Mie Prefecture, October 27)



Diplomats’ Study Tour (Kanagawa Prefecture): at Shonan Robocare Center

Cooperation Forum” was held in January. Part 1 of the forum was the foreign policy briefing session, where MOFA explained how to transmit information strategically outside the country. In Part 2 of the forum, participants exchanged views in four sectional meetings titled “information transmission to the world by municipalities making use of foreign media”, “regional vitalization and showcasing local attractions by attracting foreign tourists, in particular, from ASEAN and Muslim nations,” “promoting cultural exchanges,” and “assistance for overseas business expansion of Japanese companies and local public entities through public-private partnerships.” About 130 people, mainly local government officials, attended the forum.



Diplomats' Study Tour (Saitama City): at the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama

Outside Japan, a new scheme was launched in 2015 to assist in recovering reputational damages. This is a comprehensive PR project to support the recovery and regional revitalization of disaster-stricken areas by countering unfounded rumors circulated worldwide following the Great East Japan Earthquake and by showcasing regional attractions as well as providing accurate information on food safety and other concerns through the cooperation and participation of local governments, plagued by unfounded rumors and import restrictions imposed on food produced in certain prefectures in Japan. First of all, in August in Hong Kong, the Japanese Booth “Delicacies of Eastern Japan” exhibition was set up at Hong Kong Food Expo



Study Tour (Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture and Mitake Town, Gifu Prefecture): Trial cooking class of a regional cuisine, Mitake Hana Sushi



The local promotion project in Hong Kong, launched to recover reputational damages



The local promotion project in Shanghai, launched to recover reputational damages

2015. With the participation of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Chiba, and Niigata Prefectures, MOFA promoted Eastern Japan's foods and tourism by offering food and drink tastings at booths of each prefecture, and by doing stage performances. About 470,000 people visited the Expo. Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, participated in the Japanese Booth. Support Ambassadors of the project, AKB48 Team 8, an idol girl unit, and Funassy, a mascot character, appeared at the opening event, and enlivened the venue, providing excellent publicity. Subsequently, in November in Shanghai, "Visit Eastern Japan and Experience All of Its Charms!" projects were deployed in cooperation with Aomori, Miyagi, Fukushima, Yamagata, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, and Niigata Prefectures and MOFA showcased the attraction of cuisine and tourist spots of each prefecture through booths and stage performances, etc. Prior to the on-site events, bloggers, food and drink connoisseurs and people from tourism industry in Shanghai and other areas were invited to Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Akita, Yamagata, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Chiba, and Niigata Prefectures from mid-September to mid-October. They were divided into five groups and made a travel along each themed itinerary such as tourism/meal attraction and food safety. These invited bloggers and others promoted the charms of Eastern Japan in their own media like blogs and directly talked about their experiences at talk shows in promotion events in Shanghai. At the opening ceremony, Vice President of Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and members of SNH48, an idol girl group based in Shanghai, attended as guests. In total, about 15,000 people came to the three-day event and those

residents living in the vicinity of Shanghai had a chance to know firsthand the charms of Eastern Japan.

In addition, 15 "Regional Promotion Projects" were conducted in Asia, North America, and Europe as measures to support local governments in promoting the attractiveness of each region and in developing local industries and regional economies by making use of Japan's diplomatic facilities overseas. For example, in July, Abashiri City (Hokkaido) and the Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver co-hosted a promotional event aimed at importers at the official residence of Consul-General in order to promote the expansion of sales channels for such local specialty products as Japanese yam. After the event the City side conducted business negotiations with business operators who were highly interested in the yam produced in Abashiri.

In addition, MOFA supports sister-city exchanges between Japanese local bodies and their counterparts abroad through various initiatives. Specifically, to support the international initiatives of local governments and communities, Japanese diplomats visit sister cities of Japanese municipalities and share each other's opinions with officials responsible for international/economic exchanges. Also, heads of the diplomatic missions overseas visit local cities in Japan to have dialogues and deliver lectures on sister-city exchanges prior to leaving for new posts or when they temporarily return to Japan. In addition, if a foreign local governmental body wants to establish a sister-city relationship with a Japanese one, MOFA indirectly supports such a move by providing prefectures and 20 major cities with relevant information and posting it on the "'Glocal" (global and local) Diplomatic Network" on the website

of MOFA.¹ As part of efforts to promote diverse Japan's local attractions overseas, the diplomatic missions overseas actively promote alcoholic beverages (Japanese sake and wine, etc.) produced in various parts of Japan. Specifically, the diplomatic missions overseas create opportunities to introduce Japanese alcoholic beverages, by way of offering them at lunch/dinner with government leaders of the assigned countries or diplomatic corps of other countries, and making a toast with Japanese sake at grand-scale events such as the Emperor's birthday receptions. As a result, participants in these wining and dining or receptions organized around the world have given positive feedback and evaluations on Japanese alcoholic beverages. The opportunities have increased their understanding and initiated their interest in Japanese alcoholic drinks.

MOFA also works on supporting local companies. With the rapid economic development, the demand for water treatment, waste disposal, urban transportation, and anti-pollution measures, etc., have sharply increased in developing countries. In cooperation with Japanese local authorities and by making use of ODA, MOFA supports the overseas business expansion of local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have accumulated knowledge on countermeasures against such problems, and increases development cooperation. This contributes not only to the global outreach of local companies, development of globally competent human resources, and Japanese style of infrastructure export but also to vitalizing the economy of whole Japan as well as some local areas.

¹ Currently (as of February 29, 2016), the countries with large number of Japan's sister and partnership cities (including municipalities such as prefectures, wards and towns) are, in descending order, U.S. (446), China (362), ROK (160), Australia (108), and Canada (70). (Calculated by the Council of Local Authorities for Internal Relations; See its website: <http://www.clair.or.jp/j/exchange/>)

People responsible for cooperation with local governments

Director, Local Partnership Cooperation Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 ● Hiroki Tokunaga

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is implementing ministry-wide initiatives to realize regional revitalization, which is one of the priority issues addressed by the Abe Cabinet. In this Column, we focus on “people” responsible for cooperation with local governments at MOFA, and introduce their efforts.

In August 2006, the Local Partnership Cooperation Division was established within MOFA. Currently, about 14 people, including some local officials dispatched to MOFA, receive enquiries and consultation from local governments as a point of contact for the cooperation, and carry out a variety of local revitalization support programs in cooperation with such municipal organizations.

Under the “personnel support system for regional revitalization (FY2015)” intended to dispatch personnel such as national public officials to municipalities eager to actively address regional revitalization, as the mayors’ assistants, Mr. Naoki Sasahara is sent from the MOFA to Iki City, Nagasaki and currently serving as deputy mayor. Mr. Sasahara, immediately after returning home in late August 2015 from Cuba, his former post, went to Iki City for his new post with his family members – five in all. Taking advantage of his work experience overseas as well as at MOFA, he is working hard for revitalization of Iki City, right in the very forefront.

Furthermore, MOFA accepts municipal employees as seconded staff, as part of a staff exchange with municipalities. The scheme is expected to help municipalities to develop globally competent human resources, through 2-year work experience at MOFA headquarters, followed by serving at diplomatic missions overseas for another 2 years. After being posted overseas, they return to their municipalities, and continue to play active roles in the international relations and other departments. As of December 2015, 57 seconded staff from local authorities are working at MOFA headquarters and diplomatic missions overseas. We have a track record of accepting approximately 400 such trainees so far. MOFA also dispatches its personnel, mainly senior officials, to municipalities. Currently, five such officials in total are sent out to Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Yokohama City, etc.

In addition to the above, there is an Osaka Liaison Office set up in Kansai (Osaka) as a major domestic base for MOFA. The resident ambassador in charge of Kansai is posted to serve as a contact for facilitating cooperation with the region.

Furthermore, local partnership cooperation officers are assigned, in all diplomatic missions overseas, to serve as a direct point of contact for enquiries from foreigners, and to gather information about interests and needs for Japanese local areas.



Deputy Mayor of Iki City, Sasahara, participating in the Nagasaki Destination Campaign. Together with a so-called *Yuruchara* (costumed mascot character), *jinmenishi-kun* (stone face character) who came to promote Iki City (November, Hotel New Nagasaki)



The author greeting at the closing ceremony of Local Promotion project for recovering reputational damages overseas (Shanghai)

Section 2



Supporting Japanese Nationals Overseas

Overview

(Risks and Safety of Japanese Nationals abroad)

Approximately 16.21 million Japanese nationals traveled abroad in 2015, while approximately 1.29 million Japanese nationals were living overseas as of October 2014. As more Japanese nationals travel and live overseas, the risk of Japanese nationals being involved in incidents or accidents, or facing terrorism, riots, or natural disasters abroad has been increasing. The safety for Japanese nationals overseas is one of the important missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

In 2015, terrorist incidents occurred where Japanese nationals were victims, including the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese in Syria and the terrorist gun attack in Tunisia. Moreover, ISIL listed Japanese people and interests as target of terrorist attack in its bulletin. Furthermore, Islamic extremist groups and individuals motivated by opinions of such groups have committed terrorism not only in the Middle East and North Africa but also in various places all over the world, including a series of terror attacks in Paris. The threat of terrorism against Japan is real.

Under these circumstances, it is a crucial task for the Government of Japan to make every possible effort to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals, companies

and other interests overseas. In May, following the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese in Syria, the “Task Force on Bolstering Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Overseas” published recommendations. The recommendations show the basic recognition that (1) Japanese nationals will not only be involved in terrorist attack but also be a target of such attack, (2) not only Japanese nationals living abroad but also Japanese travelers abroad can encounter terrorist attacks, and (3) terrorism occurs not only in the Middle East and North Africa but also anywhere in the world including developed countries. The Government of Japan works on the enhancement of safety measures focusing on the improvement of consular structure, the safety of the Japanese Schools and gathering and disseminating of information.

As part of such efforts, MOFA launched the MOFA “Overseas Travel Registration” (“Tabi-Regi”) on July 1, 2014 and is calling for registration. The “Overseas Travel Registration” is one of the important measures to assure the safety of Japanese Travelers. This new service aims to provide registered users with the latest travel safety information of their place of stay, and confirm their safety in the event of an emergency. For this purpose, short-stay (less than three months) travelers, who are not required to submit an Overseas Residential Registration, such as tourists and

business travelers, are invited to register their travel itineraries, including their place of stay and contact number through the system.

In 2015, the end of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in West Africa was declared, but in the Middle East, human infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) continues, and Zika virus is spreading in Latin America and other areas. In addition, large-scale natural disasters such as the major earthquake in Nepal in April 2015 occurred. Furthermore, the security situation outside Japan is not as good as inside Japan. Japanese nationals may be victims of various crimes such as theft and other trouble. Japanese nationals overseas must be careful, collect the safety information and take measures for assuring their safety in advance.

(Smooth Implementation of Consular Service)

Furthermore, MOFA endeavors to protect the safety of Japanese nationals and further their interests. Efforts to this end include issuing passports and various types of certificates, as well as accepting notifications concerning nationality and family registers, and handling overseas voting.

MOFA, as the “Central Authority” for the implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Hague Convention), provides assistance to realize the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully removed across borders, and/or to realize visitation or contact with children across borders.

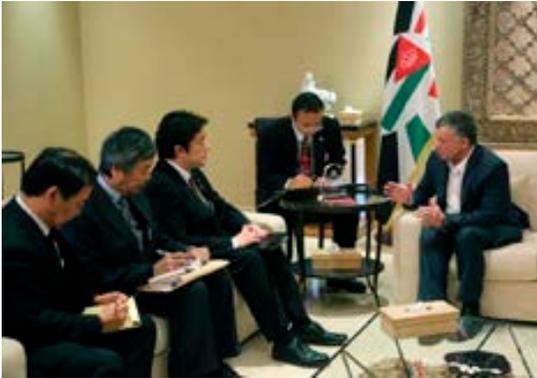
1 Overseas Risks and Safety of Japanese Nationals

(1) Incidents and Accidents in 2015 and Countermeasures

As more Japanese nationals have been traveling overseas in recent years, there is a greater risk for them to become involved in atrocious incidents and contingent events (see 3-1-3-(3)). In 2015, Japanese became victims in the terrorist incident regarding the murder of Japanese in Syria at the beginning of the year, the terrorist gun attack in Tunisia in March, the bombing incident in Bangkok in August, and the murder of Japanese in Bangladesh in October.

A series of terrorist attacks and kidnappings occurred mainly in the Middle East and African regions; examples of terrorist attacks include attacks on government facilities, such as security authorities, indiscriminate terrorism targeting citizens in places where many people congregate, such as public transportation facilities, religious facilities and markets, and the capturing/killing of hostages perpetrated by Islamic extremist groups, such as ISIL, al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The lone-wolf type of terrorism committed by individuals who seem to be motivated by Islamic extremism occurred also in the Western countries. For example, the shooting incident in the international high-speed train traveling in France in August, a series of terror attacks in Paris (France) in November, and the shooting incident in California (U.S.) in December, occurred. Individuals motivated by Islamic extremism have been arrested for terrorist plots all over the world. More attention is required in the future. Moreover, kidnappings of foreign nationals occurred around the world.

Other murder incidents involving Japanese



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama asking His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan for cooperation (January 21, Amman, Jordan; Photo: the Jordan Government)

nationals occurred in several countries such as the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Brazil.

Incidents involving Japanese nationals were a traffic accident in Sanliurfa (Turkey) in January, a shark attack on a Japanese surfer at Shelly Beach (Australia) in February, the German-wings crash in the southern France in March, and a bus collision in Seattle, Washington (U.S.), in September.

As for large-scale natural disasters, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake occurred with its epicenter 80 km to the northwest of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal in April. The earthquake and aftershocks killed over 8,000 people and injured more than 20,000. One Japanese national was killed and one injured.

As a case of a serious deterioration of security caused by political instability, in Yemen, armed forces of Saudi Arabia launched a military campaign against Houthi rebels in March and local security situation changed dramatically. While there was no serious damage suffered by Japanese nationals, MOFA confirmed the safety of Japanese nationals staying in Yemen and helped their evacuation.

In Europe, the rapid increase of refugees who came to Europe from instable regions in the Middle East and North Africa by sea and

land caused social unrest such as confusion in transportation systems and clashes among the refugee groups. MOFA provided necessary information to Japanese nationals living there.

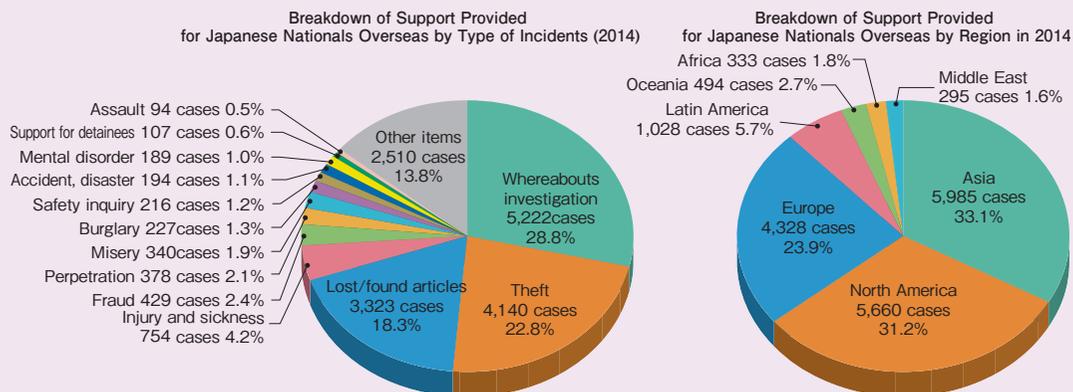
In addition, the tension between Israelis and Palestinians mounted in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including the Old City of Jerusalem, since the end of September. Many people including tourists were injured in heated demonstrations and confrontations.

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

As for infectious diseases, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, mainly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, had a global impact since 2014 and the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)”. However in 2015, the end of the outbreak in all of these three countries was declared.

Cases of infection with the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) mainly in the Middle East and human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) in China were reported respectively. In addition to Dengue fever and malaria, other mosquito-borne infectious diseases such as Zika virus also continued to spread throughout the world. Moreover, people’s concern is growing on the influence of air pollution over their health in China, India and Southeast Asia.

Breakdown of Support Provided for Japanese Nationals Overseas by Type of Incidents and Region (2014)



MOFA issues “travel advice and warning,” “spot safety information” or “region-wide safety information” on infectious disease to provide Japanese nationals traveling and living overseas with information on the current outbreak situation and prevention measures as well as with relevant warnings.

(Tips for Traveling and Living Abroad)

As described in the earlier sections, emergency situations posing threats to the safety of Japanese nationals are continuously occurring all around the world. When traveling and living abroad, in addition to “Overseas Travel Registration (“Tabi-Regi”)” or submission of Overseas Residential Registration, the following actions are important: (1) to check overseas safety information before their traveling on the Overseas Safety Website or through media reports, etc., (2) to take full safety measures and risk aversion actions to prepare for emergency situations while abroad, and (3) in an emergency, to contact the Japanese diplomatic missions overseas nearby, such as the embassy/consulate-general, and family

members in Japan. Expensive medical fees may be incurred abroad due to diseases and accidents, and it may be difficult to pay the medical cost or to receive proper medical care without travel insurance. It is extremely important for each individual traveler to purchase travel insurance with sufficient coverage.

(2) Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Abroad

As Japanese nationals expand their roles in the international community, the number of Japanese nationals supported or protected by the diplomatic missions overseas and the Interchange Association were continually kept at a high level. It increased in 2014 to 20,724 and the number of cases to 18,123¹.

Therefore MOFA is enhancing and improving the contents of the Overseas Safety Website for the provision of safety information and as well as revising the functions and design of the website to enhance its usability.

The Consular Service Center of MOFA

¹ The Statistics on Assistance for Japanese Involved in Accidents and Other Incidents is an annual report on the number of Japanese nationals involved in any kind of troubles overseas, such as incidents/accidents, acts of committing crimes, and falling victim to crime or disaster, and have received assistance provided by the diplomatic missions overseas and/or the Japan Foundation and was published in 1986 for the first time.

Top 20 Diplomatic Missions Overseas in Terms of the Number of Cases of Assistance Provided (2014)

Ranking	Diplomatic missions overseas	Cases	Ranking	Diplomatic missions overseas	Cases
1	Embassy of Japan in Thailand	1,157	11	Embassy of Japan in Italy	317
2	Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai (China)	963	12	Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong (China)	272
3	Embassy of Japan in the Philippines	720	13	Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle (U.S.)	271
4	Embassy of Japan in France	710	14	Interchange Association (Japan), (Taipei Office)	264
5	Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles (U.S.)	643	15	Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver (Canada)	261
6	Consulate-General of Japan in New York (U.S.)	639	16	Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco (U.S.)	258
7	Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom	634	17	Consulate-General of Japan in Hagatna (U.S.)	254
8	Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu (U.S.)	466	17	Consulate-General of Japan in Houston (U.S.)	254
9	Consulate-General of Japan in Barcelona (Spain)	407	19	Consulate-General of Japan in Boston (U.S.)	247
10	Embassy of Japan in Republic of Korea	390	20	Consulate-General of Japan in Chiang Mai (Thailand)	235



Overseas safety website (<http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/>)



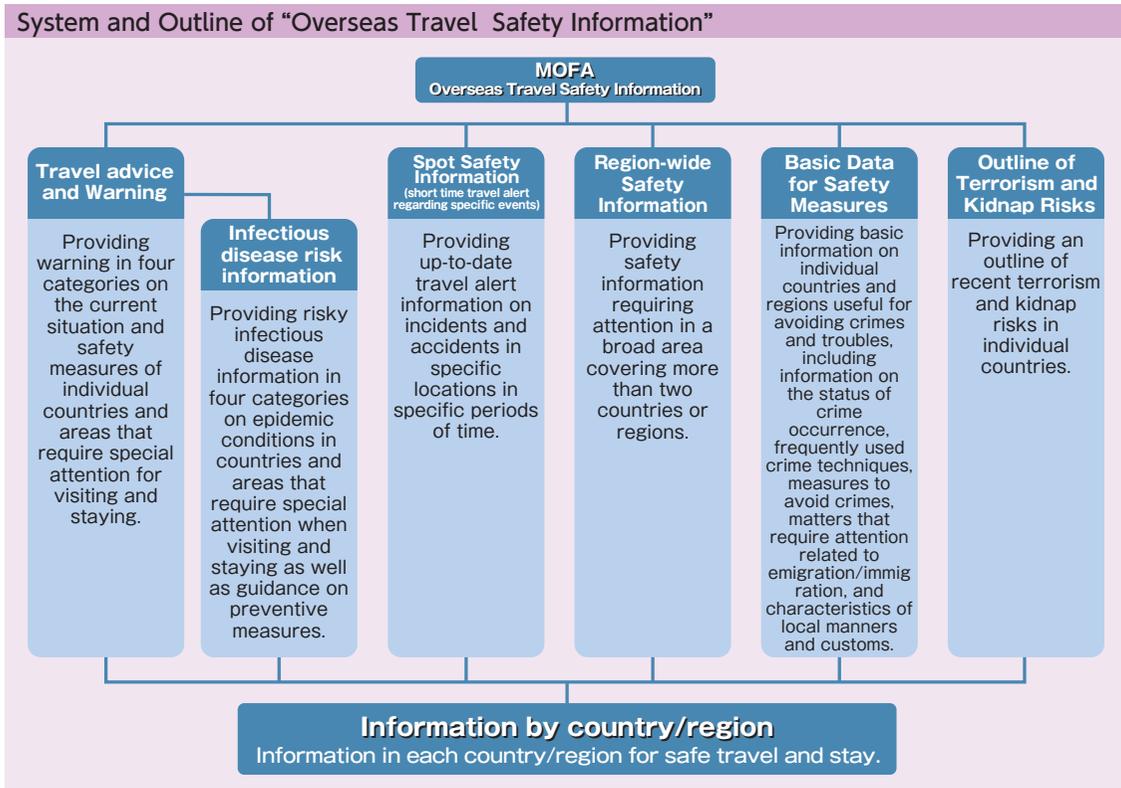
provides advice on safety issues abroad. In order to provide detailed response to the activities of Japanese nationals abroad, the center distributes a booklet titled “Kaigai Anzen Toranomaki” (“Essential Safety Tips for Overseas Travel”) which contains comprehensive safety measures, as well as pamphlets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

The threat of terrorism has increased all over the world, including sightseeing spots which were thought to be relatively safe,

such as Paris where a series of terror attacks occurred in November 2015. The risk of short-stay travelers becoming involved in emergency situations increased remarkably.

Under these circumstances, to improve the level of recognition of the MOFA “Overseas Travel Registration (“Tabi-Regi”),” which was launched on July 1, 2014, MOFA works on advertisement through various media and promotes registration through collaborations with travel agency. In the event of an emergency, “Overseas Travel Registration (“Tabi-Regi”)” enables the diplomatic missions overseas to provide registered individuals with safety information in Japanese, and also

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



MOFA “Overseas Travel Registration (“Tabi-Regi”)” (<https://www.ezairyu.mofa.go.jp/tabireg/>)



Download is available from MOFA Safety Application in Overseas Safety website “Kaigai Anzen Apuri no Haishin ni Tsuite (Overseas Safety Application Distribution)” (http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/c_info/oshirase_kaian_app.html)

March, emergency simultaneous notification to Japanese nationals abroad via short message services (SMS) on mobile phones² started in ten countries and one region where many Japanese nationals live (ROK, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, China including Hong Kong, Taiwan, and U.S.).

Moreover, MOFA promotes the strengthening of public-private partnerships to enhance the overseas safety of Japanese nationals. In Japan, MOFA held a “Seminar on Safety in Japan” in Tokyo (July), Nagoya (August), and Osaka (September) for companies operating overseas to improve their safety measures and risk management. Hands-on training for responding to terrorism and kidnapping in October and November was participated in by both public and private sectors in order to further effectuate the

to confirm their safety at critical moments. In

private-public collaboration in responding to emergency situations. Moreover, the meetings of the “Liaison Committee of Government and non-Government for Overseas Security” were held periodically to exchange information and views and to consult and discuss the common issues between Japanese private companies/organizations engaged in overseas activities and MOFA.

The diplomatic missions overseas have regular meetings of “Security Consultation and Liaison Committee” with local Japanese organizations and private representatives to enhance opinion exchange and information sharing regarding safety measures. MOFA is engaged in efforts to strengthen the safety measures for Japanese nationals abroad. For example, “Seminars on Overseas Safety Measures” were held to enhance knowledge and ability concerning safety measures and risk management for Japanese nationals abroad at 27 places in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

2 Consular Service and Assistance for Living Overseas

(1) Improving Consular Service

Aiming at providing good consular services to Japanese nationals overseas, MOFA conducts a questionnaire survey every year on consular services such as employees’ attitudes in over-the-counter services and telephone responses, information provision, and Visiting Consular Service (of which survey is only conducted by the missions offering it.) to reflect the voices of Japanese nationals overseas in order to improve consular services

by the diplomatic missions overseas. In 2015, the surveys were conducted by 149 diplomatic missions overseas and received about 15,000 responses. The results showed generally high grade of satisfaction with regard to the consular services provided by the diplomatic missions overseas in general as well as over-the-counter services and phone responses. At the same time, there were negative answers, although few in number. MOFA intends to continue its efforts for improvements listening to the voices of the users so as to provide consular services at the diplomatic missions overseas in line with user needs.

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

Approximately 3.25 million passports were issued in Japan in 2015. As of the end of December 2015, approximately 30.58 million passports are valid, and the number of ePassports³ accounts for about 99% of all the valid Japanese passports.

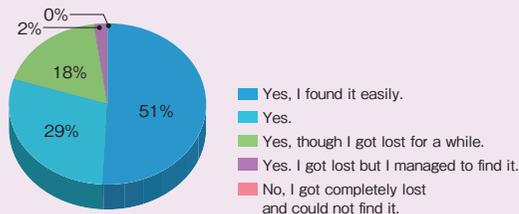
The issuance of ePassports is effective for deterring illicit use of passports such as forged or altered passports. However, there continue to be cases of illicit acquisition of passports by means of impersonation⁴. There were cases where Japanese nationals or illegal foreign residents left and entered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

³ An Electronic Passport or ePassport is a passport embedded with an integrated circuit (IC) chip which contains a digitized facial image (biometric information) and other information of the passport holder to prevent passport forgery and illicit use of passports by a third party. It was first issued in 2006.

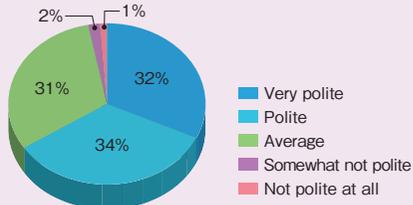
⁴ The number of illegal acquisitions of passports through identity theft discovered: 43 in 2011, 26 in 2012, 13 in 2013, 12 in 2014, and 10 in 2015.

Results of Survey on the Consular Service (2015)

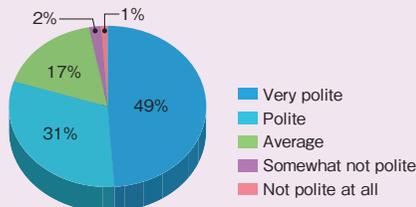
Did you find the diplomatic mission overseas easily?



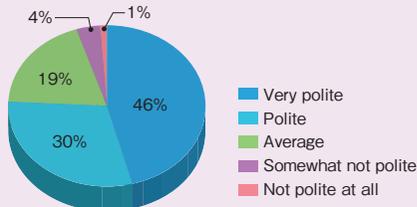
Reception at the time of visit



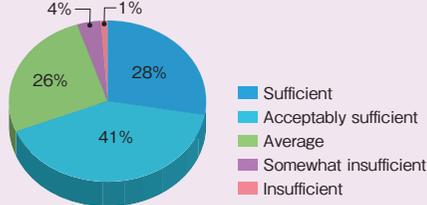
Consular counter response



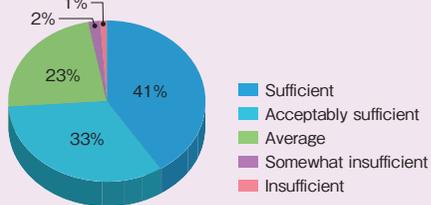
Telephone support



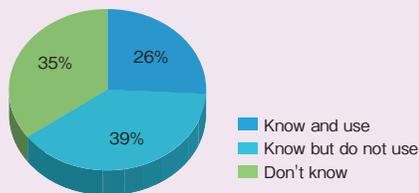
Contents of the website



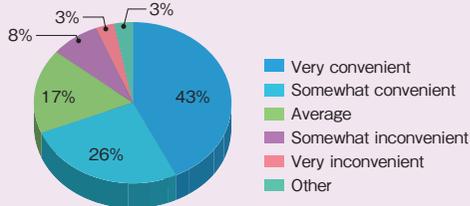
Contents of announcements and information provided



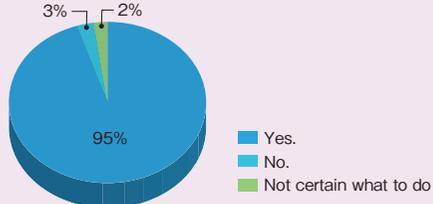
Do you know and use the visiting consular services? (*)



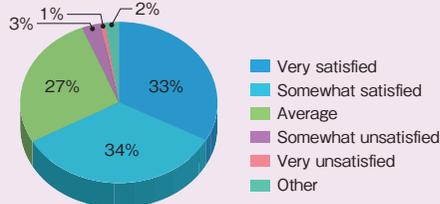
How convenient is the visiting consular services? (*)



Submission of overseas residential registration



Satisfaction with administrative service

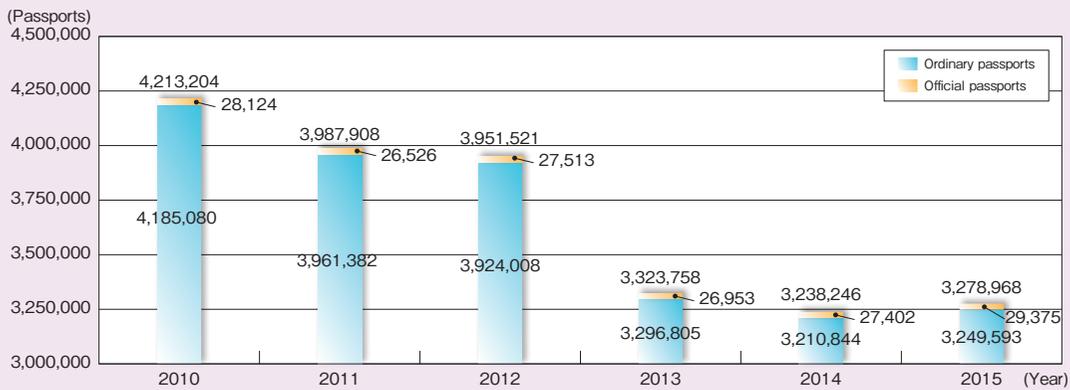


*The results above are based on research conducted only by diplomatic missions overseas offering visiting services

phone services without the real passport holders knowing it. In order to prevent illicit acquisition of passports that may nurture these secondary or tertiary crimes, MOFA has been making further effort to enhance strict

identity examination in issuing a passport, for example, by such means as designating a stringent examination period against illicit acquisition of passports through identity theft at passport offices located in each prefecture.

Changes in the Number of Issued Passports in Japan



Note 1: Official passports include diplomatic passports.

Source: The graph was created based on the Passport Statistics February 2016 Edition (Passport Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

In the meantime, Machine Readable Passports (MRP) are issued in most countries of the world, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The ICAO determined the deadline for the termination of non-MRP circulation is November 24, 2015. Moreover, as ePassports improved with security, using biometric information such as fingerprints in addition to digitized facial images contained in its integrated circuit (IC) chip, have become widespread, possibilities for more effective use of IC chip are under consideration at the ICAO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Consignment of passport-related work from the prefectural governments to city/town offices has been possible since 2006, such as application and delivery, and 798 cities/towns had started passport service by the end of 2015. They make up about 40% of all the cities/towns in Japan.

(3) Overseas Voting

The overseas voting system allows Japanese voters living overseas to vote in national elections. In the elections after June 2007, it

was made possible to vote overseas for the small electoral district election of the House of Representatives and the electoral district election of the House of Councillors (including by-election and recall election), in addition to voting for the proportional representation segment of elections of the both House. In December 2014, the 47th election for the House of Representatives was conducted. In summer of 2016, the 24th regular election for the House of Councillors will be conducted. A referendum concerning the constitutional amendment can also be voted in the same manner.

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

a Voting at diplomatic missions overseas

Voters registered on an overseas voting list can vote by presenting their registered certificate and ID such as passport at a diplomatic mission (period and time for voting vary depending on the mission)



b Voting by mail

A voting slip can be requested by sending voter's registered certificate and written request for a voting slip to the chair of the election administration committee of the domestic municipality where the voter is registered. Completed voting slip needs to arrive at the voting venue before the end of voting time (20:00 Japan time) of the domestic voting day in Japan.



c Voting in Japan

If overseas voters are temporarily staying in Japan during the election time, or in case voters are not yet registered on a domestic voter's list often their permanent return in Japan, the voter may vote in the same way as other domestic voters with their registered certificate for overseas voting. (early voting, absentee voting and voting on the election day).

living in remote areas.

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

A Japanese Schools and Supplementary Education Schools

Education for children is one of the major concerns for Japanese nationals living abroad. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education,

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

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

B Medical/Health Measures

In order to provide health advices through consultations to Japanese nationals residing in countries where the medical situation is poor, MOFA dispatches medical teams with the support of domestic medical institutions (one country, seven cities in FY2015). MOFA also dispatches medical specialists to regions, where infectious diseases or air pollution become serious, and organizes health and safety lectures (11 countries, 18 cities in FY2015).

In addition, MOFA collects information on infectious diseases outbreak overseas and provides them publicly through the Overseas Safety Website and the websites of diplomatic missions overseas.

C Other Needs

In order to eliminate the complexity of various procedures for Japanese nationals living overseas (including converting Japanese driving licenses to one of the country of residence and obtaining residence/work permits) and to make living abroad more comfortable, MOFA continues talks with foreign governments.

When converting driving licenses issued in foreign countries to Japanese driving licenses in Japan, all persons with driving licenses

issued in a foreign country can obtain Japanese driving licenses without taking certain examinations (written examination and skill examination) if it is checked and recognized that they should have no problem operating vehicles.

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

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

3 Cooperation with Emigrants and Japanese Descendants, Nikkei

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of 147 years as of 2015. There are estimated 3.60 million overseas Japanese, Nikkei, with especially large numbers residing in the North, Central and South America. They make positive and great contributions to the development of the countries in various fields, including politics, economy, academics and culture, and at the same time, they act as a bridge between Japan and these countries in developing close relations.

Together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MOFA provides cooperation in Central and South America where estimated 2.13 million Japanese descendants live. Various forms of assistance are offered, including welfare support for aging emigrants, training in Japan for Japanese descendants, and dispatch of volunteers to

the local Nikkei communities.

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

The 56th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad was successfully held by the

Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad in Tokyo in October, participated in by about 180 emigrants and their descendants from 17 countries/regions. The welcome party was attended by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, and as for MOFA, Foreign Minister Kishida held a welcome reception to deepen exchange with emigrants and their descendants.

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

Column

Welcoming the 80th anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Paraguay, "Another Japan on the other side of the earth"

~ a story about Japanese culture covered in the special issue of local newspapers ~

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Paraguay ● Yoshihisa Ueda

The Republic of Paraguay located in South America is a landlocked country, not blessed with major natural resources, tourism resources or a consumer market. The country is not well known to the Japanese people because it takes more than 30 hours to fly there from Japan, but the country consists of vast plains and hills blessed with rich rivers and greens where an open and peaceful atmosphere drifts brightly. What visitors to this country feel is that, in spite of the country being located the farthest from Japan on the other side of the earth, the presence of Japan is larger than imagined. This is because Japanese immigrants have greatly contributed to the country's economic development in agriculture and other various fields. Besides, a variety of tangible and intangible assets of official assistance by Japan have accumulated everywhere in Paraguay. Japanese emigration to Paraguay that began in 1936 marks its 80th anniversary in 2016.

Japanese immigrants developed a settler-oriented land from nothing, which previously had been covered with forest. They cultivated soybeans, vegetables and fruits, and have ultimately developed agriculture to a main industry in this country, where no industry other than animal husbandry existed previously. The efforts must have been extraordinary. The Japanese immigrants who transformed the unpopulated forest into nice farms and towns in this short period have earned the trust and respect of the local society for their sincerity, diligence and perseverance. Now Japanese immigrants and descendants living in urban areas play an active role in various fields as important members of Paraguay society, while they maintain their community, language and culture as Japanese without any contradiction. The trust and respect for the Japanese in local communities as well as the bicultural nature as mentioned above creates a unique presence of a Japanese society.



Photo 1: UH paper May issue "Gift from the Empire"



Photo 1: ABC paper July issue "Japanese cuisine"



Photo 2: UH paper July issue "Diplomacy of taste"



Photo 3: UH paper August issue "The Oriental force"

In 2015, two major newspapers of this country issued a supplement one after another, in which there were carried special features describing remarkable activities of Japanese descendants. The special features consisted of articles of several pages long each, with focus on the following subjects: People "History of immigrants' 80-year development" (Photo 1), Culture "The tea room and Japanese food at Japanese Ambassador's official residence" (Photo 2: Cover photograph shows the Japanese Ambassador and his wife in the Japanese garden and tea house within the compound of the official residence), "The charm of *kaiseki* cuisine" (Photo 3), and Sports "South America Sumo Championships commemorating the 55th anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Pirapo, Paraguay" (Photo 4). The articles recognized again the locus of Japanese immigrants, and the values and culture they had brought to this country.

What can be read from these articles is the respect for Japanese immigrants in Paraguay society, and a great deal of interest in Japanese culture from traditional aspects, such as tea ceremony to youth culture including *manga* (comics) and animation. I feel this country is "another Japan on the other side of the earth" embracing a unique sense of intimacy, which you cannot express just as a pro-Japan country.

Detailed information about the articles is available in the Japanese Embassy in Paraguay's HP "Paraguay news (only in Japanese)." You will see how a total of less than 10,000 Japanese immigrants and their descendants are recognized and how they demonstrate their presence in this country, despite their small population in both absolute and relative terms.

4

The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Hague Convention) and its Implementation

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

that Contracting States should cooperate for realization of parent-child access.

This convention came into force in Japan on April 1, 2014. On the same date, the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was enforced. As of now, 93 countries including Japan are party to the convention.

A governmental agency designated as the Central Authority provides assistance to fulfill the obligations under this Convention. In Japan, MOFA assumes the role of the Central Authority by assembling experts in

various fields, communicating/cooperating with foreign Central Authorities to implement the Convention, and providing assistance to the parties such as locating whereabouts of the child and arranging mediation services towards amicable resolutions. In the 21 months from the entry into force of the Convention to end-December 2015, MOFA received a total number of 168 applications: 76 applications for assistance in return of the child and 92 applications for assistance in access to the child.

During the same period, seven children returned from another country to Japan and 13 from Japan to another country. These numbers include three returns of children to their country of habitual residence where assistance in access to the child by the Central Authority eventually led to the agreement between the parties to return the child.

Furthermore, MOFA has been taking steps to promote amicable settlements and smooth realization of visitation or contacts such as the

introduction of “Online *Mimamori* Contact System” which provides parents and children living apart online meeting sessions with assistance from an expert from the Visitation or Contact Supporting Institution, the Japan-Australia joint training for mediators from alternative dispute resolution (ADR) institutions, and so on. In addition, MOFA made efforts to enhance the support that can be provided to Japanese nationals living abroad at diplomatic missions overseas, such as collecting and organizing information in order to introduce organizations supporting domestic violence (DV) victims, lawyers, interpreters/translators, mediation institutes, and visitation or contact supporting institutions.

In addition, MOFA puts effort into public informative activities because it is expected that promoting public awareness of the Convention will lead to the prevention of unlawful transnational abduction of children.

Reference: Number of Applications for Assistance Received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Based on the Implementation Act of the Hague Convention (as of end-December 2015)

	Application for assistance in child's return	Application for assistance in visitation or contact with child
Application concerning a child (children) in Japan	40	69
Application concerning a child (children) outside Japan	36	23

Column

Participating in the “Australia-Japan joint mediation training for Hague Convention cases”

Lawyer ● Tomoko Takase

I had an opportunity to participate in the “Australia-Japan joint mediation training for Hague Convention cases” held in Yokohama for a five-day period of September 7-11, 2015, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Mediation means an attempt to find a resolution by promoting dialogue between the concerned parties. In cases related to the Hague Convention, parents of different nationalities often become the involved parties. In order to promote dialogue between such parties for a resolution, it is important for a mediator who actually advances dialogue between the concerned parties to understand the culture, law, and society of each party’s country. This is why the training was organized. This training was attended by a total of ten lawyers and family court conciliators from Japan and a total of 14 lawyers, judges and family court staff from Australia. Aiming at understanding each other’s laws as well as culture and customs through direct contact, we spent five days working hard together from morning to, in some cases, as late as 9 o’clock in the evening.

In this training, a unique approach was employed: two German mediators well-experienced in mediation related to the Hague Convention served as trainers, and tried to make both Japanese and Australian participants better understand each other. Instead of either Japanese or Australian participants teaching the other, a third party took the initiative to lead the training, which I think created a feeling of solidarity among the entire participants.

The content of the training ranged from an introduction of each party’s family values and the social environment surrounding divorced families to practical matters such as methods for realizing an agreement or its content used at mediation, as well as language problems. All elements needed to resolve the cases spanning between the two countries were touched on. Furthermore, a role play was conducted on efforts to resolve a model case, with joint mediators comprising one Japanese participant and one Australian participant. Given that it is only a few years since Japan concluded the Hague Convention, I think the training, packed with necessary know-how for Japan, turned out to be very significant.

I hope that if a dispute involving the Hague Convention between a Japanese and Australian couple actually occurs, mediators if possible from each of the two countries discuss the case on the basis of this training to accumulate the experiences and, in the long future, more Japanese mediators will be able to resolve such cases jointly with mediators from other countries. I would be happy if I could help in this regard.



Section 3



Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

Overview

(Proactive communications to the Public)

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

To provide information in a timely fashion, regular press conferences are conducted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, or the Press Secretary, while extraordinary press conferences are held as necessary. MOFA releases statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Press Secretary announcing the stance of the Government of Japan on specific issues, and issues press releases that provide information on MOFA's activities. In addition, the Minister, State Ministers, and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public through appearances on TV and by means of other media. MOFA also assists in facilitating reporting activities of the diplomatic events.

MOFA's official website swiftly distributes information about diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister,

and provides the latest and basic information on Japan's foreign policy and international affairs. MOFA also communicates through various social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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

(The Declassification of Diplomatic Records)

To further enhance the public understanding of and confidence in Japan's foreign policy, MOFA established the "Committee for the Promotion of the Declassification of the Diplomatic Records" actively engaging itself in the smooth transfer of records and in their declassification. In addition, MOFA has been engaged in efforts to facilitate the public of the diplomatic documents in accordance with the Public Records and Archives Management Act.

(Strengthening Foreign Policy Implementation Structure)

Amid rising number of the diverse diplomatic challenges, it is vital to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure, which is the basis of diplomacy. MOFA is continuing its efforts to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure, while allocating its limited resources to high priority areas in order to promote flexible diplomacy that can respond appropriately to the changes in both domestic and international situations.

With regard to the diplomatic missions overseas, which are overseas bases for Japanese diplomacy, MOFA established Embassies in the following six countries in January 2016: the Maldives, the Solomon Islands, Barbados, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Moldova. MOFA also established as well as Consulate-Generals in the following two cities in January 2016: León (Mexico) and Hamburg (Germany). However, the number of the diplomatic missions overseas remains smaller than those of other major countries. MOFA is therefore committed to strategically improving this situation.

The number of staff members at MOFA is relatively small compared to that of other major countries. In order to better respond to the complex diplomatic challenges and make international contributions comparable to other major countries, it is necessary to increase the number of staff members. At the same time, the training system should be strengthened to improve ethics and expertise, foreign language ability as well as public relations and intelligence skills of each individual diplomat. MOFA continues its efforts to ensure the necessary foreign policy implementation structure while further streamlining said structure.

MOFA included 685.4 billion yen in the

budget for FY2015 to support the foreign policy implementation structure as well as promote diplomacy from the view point of Proactive Contribution to Peace at the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

(Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy)

As is referred to in the National Security Strategy (approved by the Cabinet in December 2013), expanding the intellectual base for Japan's diplomacy and security and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people will lead to a strengthening of Japan's diplomatic power in the middle-to long-term. Therefore, MOFA will deepen collaboration with domestic think tanks in the diplomacy and security fields, strengthen their development and reinforce support, and actively make use of the insights of private sector intellectuals.

1 Proactive Communications to the Public

(1) Information Provision through Domestic Media

MOFA has committed itself to appropriate information provision through various media, such as newspapers, television and the Internet in order to gain the understanding and support of Japanese nationals for Japan's foreign policy. In particular, the press conferences of the Foreign Minister are open to various media including Internet media and the records and videos of the press conferences are posted on the website of MOFA. On the occasion of overseas visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, information is sent from the visited countries so that the people can easily trace and understand the processes and outcomes. In addition, MOFA carries out information provision and cooperation for media coverage



A regular press conference by Foreign Minister (MOFA, Tokyo)

Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	110 times
State Minister for Foreign Affairs	5 times
Press Secretary	23 times
Total	138 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2015 Text on MOFA web site

Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	27 times
Statements by Press Secretary	56 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,353 times
Total	1,436 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2015 Researched by MOFA

in various forms, which include transmission of information on foreign policy using email newsletters, provision of information on foreign policy to local media, and interviews of high-level officials of MOFA by newspapers of their hometown.

When factual errors and insufficient information are reported by the media, MOFA will submit an appeal for correction when it is deemed necessary and will contribute its views or post its views on the website of MOFA upon announcement at a press conference. These are all efforts to gain an accurate understanding of Japan's approach and stance domestically and internationally.

(2) Information Provision through the Internet

MOFA actively works on provision of information through the Internet using websites and social media in order to garner understanding and support for Japan's foreign policy from Japanese nationals and from the international community.

MOFA's Japanese website swiftly distributes information about diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and provides the latest news on such as Japan's foreign policy and international affairs. Furthermore, MOFA posts a wide range of contents including "Easy Ways to Understand International Situations," which explains international situations in an understandable manner, and "MOFA for Kids" for the students of elementary and junior/senior-high schools.

Regarding MOFA's English website as an important tool for public diplomacy, MOFA has enhanced the function of sending messages in English pertaining to Japan's foreign policies and Japan's positions on international affairs. Information is also available through the websites of Japanese embassies and consulates-general overseas in local languages.

With regard to social media, in addition to Facebook and Twitter, MOFA uses YouTube for providing videos (in 10 languages) on Japan's foreign policy.

(3) Dialogue with Japanese nationals

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

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



MOFA's website



Official Facebook of MOFA



MOFA for Kids



Video concerning Japan's foreign policy

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

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

Japan's ODA policies and specific measures are introduced to the public through various symposiums, lectures and “ODA Delivery

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

Lecture on the International Situations	20 times
Diplomatic Talk	74 times
Talk for High school	122 times
Visits by elementary and junior and senior-high school students to the Ministry	81 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2015)



Lecture on the International Situation (September 10, Makuhari Public Hall, Chiba City)



Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA (May 14)

Lectures” in which the officials from MOFA are dispatched to schools (52 lectures in 2015).

MOFA issues the journal “Diplomacy” with the aim of raising people’s interest in diplomacy through active discussions on foreign policies from a wide range of opinion leaders, including scholars, journalists and NGOs.



Journal on foreign affairs titled “Diplomacy”

In 2015, its main theme was the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The journal featured and highlighted various diplomatic issues, such as the Development Cooperation Charter and security, and published a number of papers by prominent experts from around the world.

Moreover, in order to promote further understanding on the organizational structure and foreign policies of MOFA, pamphlets that explain them in an understandable manner were released (in Japanese only). Such pamphlets include “Japan & United Nations,”

“Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” “To Make Women Shine,” and “The Job of Diplomacy - We, Living on the Earth (for elementary and junior high school students).” ※English titles are provisional.

In addition to the above, MOFA surveys public opinion through various forms of media, including the website of MOFA, the website of Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet, and the electronic governmental Public Comment Procedure (“e-Gov”), as well as through telephone calls, fax messages and letters. Opinions and comments gathered from the public are shared throughout MOFA and used as a reference in policy making and planning.

Number of Public Opinion Communications

By e-mail	101,882 times
By phone	8,267 times
By fax / letter	9,064 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2015)

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

MOFA has voluntarily declassified its diplomatic records at the Diplomatic Archives since 1976. The Rules on the Declassification of Diplomatic Records, which were established in May 2010, stipulates: (1) declassification of diplomatic documents created more than 30 years ago in principle and (2) the establishment of the “Committee for the Promotion of the Declassification of the Diplomatic Records” which is chaired by parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as attended by external experts, to further promote the declassification of diplomatic records and improve its transparency. The number of files which has been transferred to the Diplomatic Archives and made public more since May 2010 reached approximately 25,000 by the end of 2015.

Furthermore, MOFA discloses information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs while giving considerations to the national security, the relationship of mutual trust with other countries, the impacts on diplomatic negotiations, and the protection of personal information. In 2015, MOFA received 599 requests for disclosure, and the documents totaling 112,143 pages were disclosed.

2 Strengthening Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

While the security environment surrounding Japan is increasingly severe, and diplomatic challenges are diversifying, Japan's foreign policy implementation structure is less sufficient than that of other major countries. As the host country of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is necessary to enhance the foreign policy implementation structure so that it will be equivalent to that of major countries. In view of this, MOFA is devoted to enhancing its foreign policy implementation structure by reforming the personnel structure and diplomatic missions overseas.

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

In January 2016, Japan established Embassies in six countries: the Maldives, the Solomon Islands, Barbados, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Moldova. The establishment of Embassies in these six countries is significant for Japan in terms of the following viewpoints.

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

The Solomon Islands are bestowed with marine resources such as tuna, as well as mineral resources. In addition, it is necessary for Japan to further strengthen the implementation structure for the Recovery and Repatriation of the Remains of Japanese War Dead.

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

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

Turkmenistan is a resource-rich country with the world's fourth-largest reserves of natural gas. Japanese companies participate in a development project with a total investment of 18 billion US dollars. It is also important for regional stability since the country shares borders with Afghanistan and Iran.

Moldova is located at a point of strategic

importance between the EU and Russia, and has been working on democratization and market-oriented economic reform. The country is also important from the perspective of keeping a close watch on the regional situation.

Since the need for supporting Japanese companies is increasing rapidly and provision of information to the public overseas in other cities in addition to capitals is needed, Japan established Consulate-Generals in León (Mexico) and Hamburg (Germany) in January 2016. The Consulate-General in León has jurisdiction over the Bajío region, where many Japanese companies mainly in the automobile industry have started business and the number of Japanese nationals has been increasing rapidly in recent years. In Hamburg, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which plays increasingly important role for the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes in recent years, has its seat. Also, some of German prominent media companies have the headquarters in Hamburg.

As of FY2015, the number of the diplomatic missions overseas is 215 (145 Embassies, 62 Consulate-Generals and 8 Permanent Missions). The number is still fewer than that

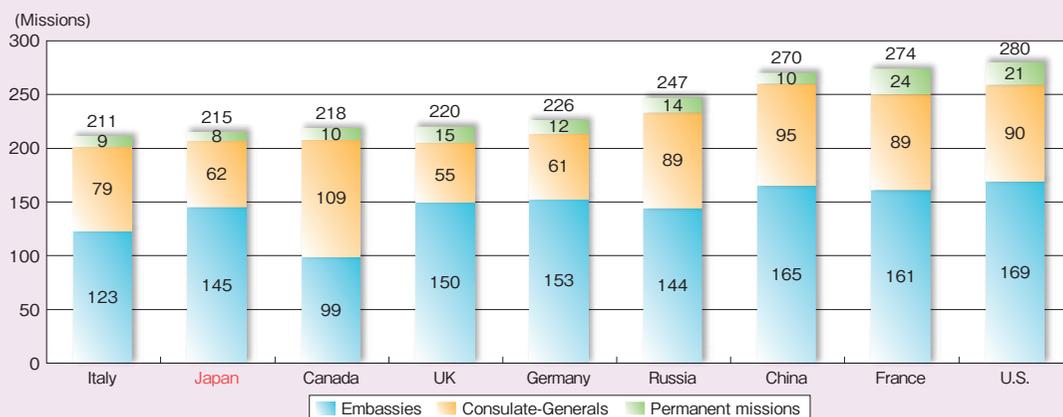
of other major countries such as the U.S. (280) and China (270).

In FY2016, based on the idea that it is essential to further strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure, Japan will establish Embassies in four countries: Samoa, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Mauritius.

Samoa has the largest population in the Polynesian region and is one of the major countries in the region. Samoa has secretariats or regional offices for international organizations: the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Samoa is important as the center of information gathering and disseminating communication in the region and for its sea-lane location.

Albania is the base for Albanians, who widely live in the southern part of the West Balkans (The total population of Albanians in the region is about 6 million). Albania has an important role on the stability and development of the region. The strong impact of Albanian immigrants (about 3.5

Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries



Note 1: Situation as of January 1, 2016.

Note 2: Figures for Japanese missions are scheduled to be 149 Embassies, 63 Consulate-Generals and eight Permanent Missions, 220 in total, as of the end of FY 2016.

million) on Europe and the U.S. and rich mineral resources also give significance to the country.

After independence, the FYROM continues reform efforts, aiming at joining the EU and the NATO. Strengthening the relationship with the FYROM is important for Japan in order to strengthen relations with EU and NATO and information gathering on the EU and the Balkan regions, etc. Japan is one of the biggest donor countries to the FYROM.

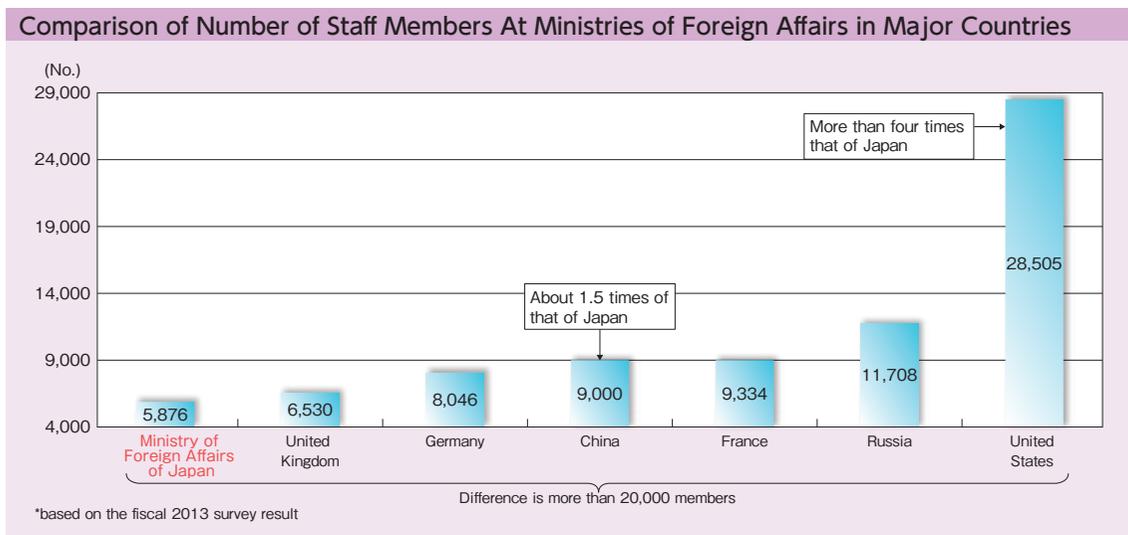
Mauritius is a stable democratic country with a good business environment. In the future, it is assumed that the country will attract information and people from abroad as a relay point for investments in Africa. There is a potential for Japanese economic activities.

Japan also plans to establish a Consulate-General in Bengaluru, which is a center for the rapidly growing IT industry in India. The number of Japanese nationals and companies in the city has sharply increased.

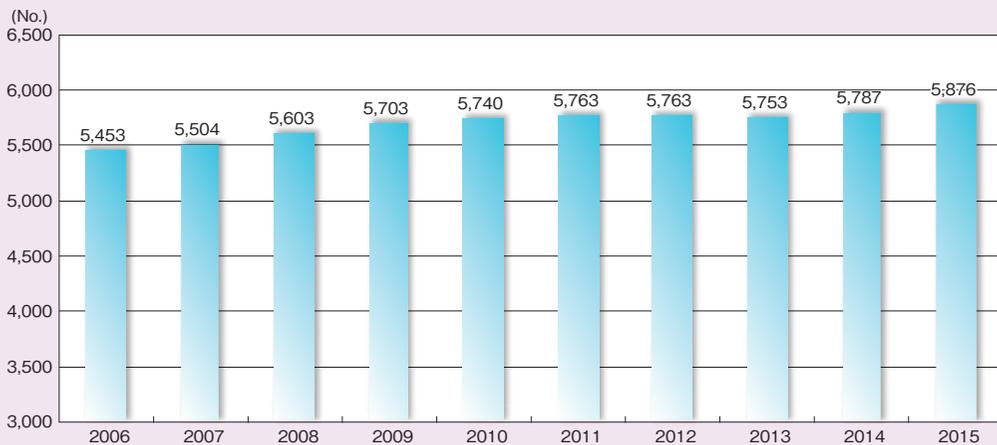
The current terrorism-related situation is very severe. In recent years, Japanese became victims of terrorism in Syria and Tunisia, etc. ISIL named Japan as one of its targets. Meanwhile, the November 2015 Paris attacks also occurred.

Based on a fact that the threat of terrorism against Japan is real, a “Counter Terrorism Unit - Japan” was launched in December 2015 so that the Government of Japan, as a team with the Prime Minister’s Office as headquarters, can promote efforts to strengthen international counter-terrorism measures, including information gathering.

As for the number of staff members, given the government’s policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses across all ministries in the light of the current severe budget situation, MOFA set the number of staff members to be 5,876 in consideration of the importance of strengthening the foreign policy implementation structure including the implementation of “Japan’s foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map” and the promotion of economic diplomacy. This number, however, is still insufficient when compared to that of other major countries. MOFA continues efforts to build a structure suitable for our national power and diplomatic policy. In the meantime, based on the understanding that enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure remains necessary in FY2016, MOFA plans



Number of Staff Members at MOFA

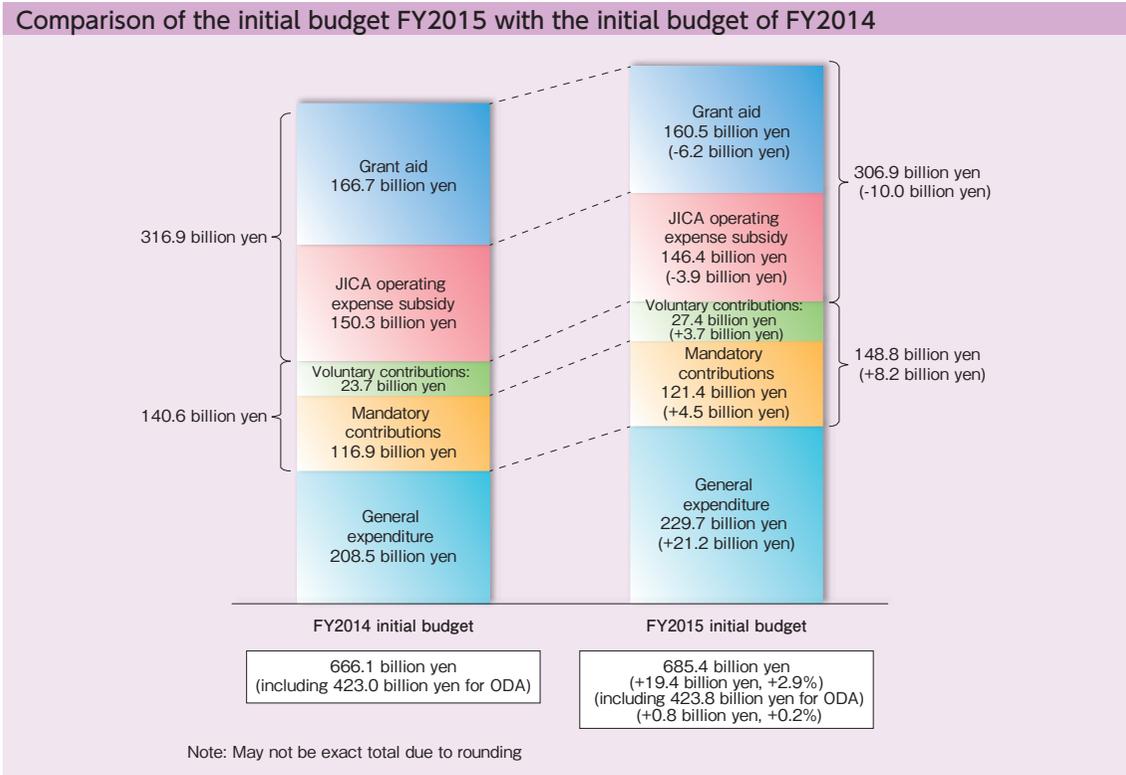


to increase its staff members by 90 persons in order to address important issues such as bolstering safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas and strengthening the functions for gathering terror-related information, further expansion of the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” initiative, and promotion of economic diplomacy and supporting the overseas activities of Japanese nationals, as well as strategic provision of information.

MOFA appropriated a budget of 685.4 billion yen in the budget for FY2015 (an increase of 2.9% from FY2014) to support the foreign policy implementation structure and further strengthen the “Japan’s foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map” under “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation. The total amount of MOFA’s FY2015 supplementary budget was 209.5 billion yen. The budget totaling 186.6 billion yen was allocated as additional financial demand for humanitarian/ counter-terrorism/ society stabilization assistance, including measures to solve refugee issues, and support for responses to global issues including natural disasters and wide-area infections. In addition, a total of

22.9 billion yen is allocated for TPP related measures such as developing the system for the international economic dispute resolution and extending support for overseas operation of Japanese companies and local governments through the use of ODA. By identifying the following key issues and to significantly strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure and dramatically expand ODA to undertake such issues, MOFA’s FY2016 initial government budget proposal appropriated 714 billion yen (an increase of 4.2% from FY2015): (1) bolstering safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas/ strengthening information gathering functions, (2) strategic communication, (3) contribution to global issues based on the policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace,” and (4) economic diplomacy/ regional vitalization.

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



3 Role of Intellectuals, etc. in Diplomacy

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

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

This tendency is increasing and there is an increasing importance for human resource

development for think tanks (study and research institutions) and the cooperation of experts from such organizations and universities, so that Japan is able to take part in the discussion arenas of major countries.

Based on the understanding that expanding and strengthening the intellectual base on Japan's diplomacy and security and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people will lead to strengthening Japan's diplomatic power in the middle- to long-term, MOFA launched a subsidy scheme for study/ research on foreign policy and security in FY2013 which aims to improve the abilities of think tanks to collect/ analyze/ send information and to recommend policies. The outcomes of the study and research have been used for planning and developing foreign policies. The subsidy scheme continued with its scale expanded in FY2015.