

Chapter 1

International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2015



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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"

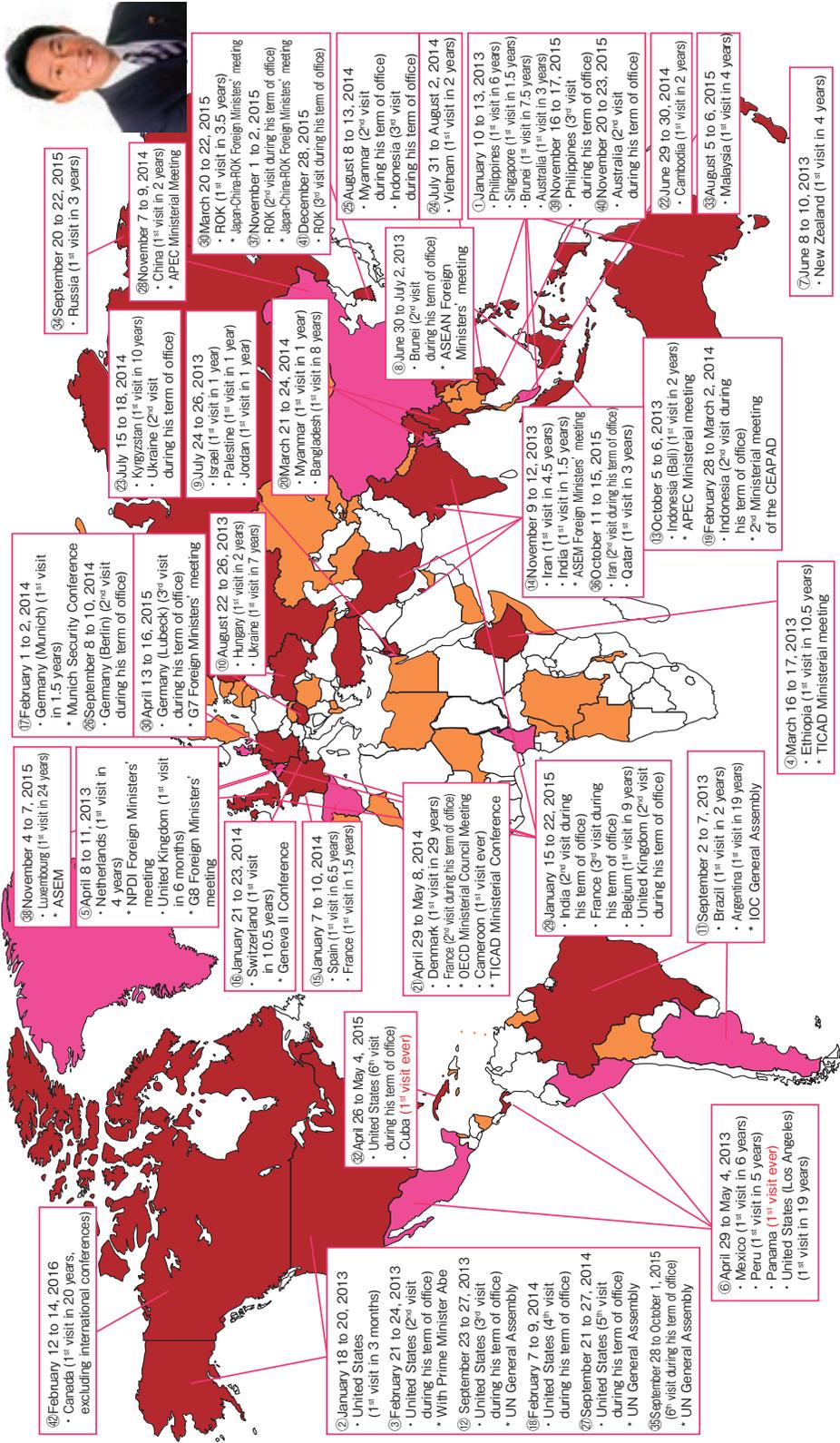
In order to create a stable and predictable international environment, which is desirable for Japan, it is important to build trust and cooperative relationships with countries worldwide and the international community by means of diplomatic efforts, to strengthen the basis for stability and prosperity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

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida's official visits abroad



- Number of overseas trips: 42
- Number of countries/regions visited: 42 (cumulative total: 65)
- Number of countries/regions from which a Foreign Minister visited Japan: 77 (including the EU)
- Foreign Minister Kishida's flight distance: 794,559 km (19.9 times around the globe)

Countries/regions with which mutual visits were made by Foreign Ministers
 Countries/regions to which Foreign Minister Kishida visited
 Countries/regions from which visits to Japan were made by a Foreign Minister

As of 20 February, 20,202016

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 Loeak 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.).

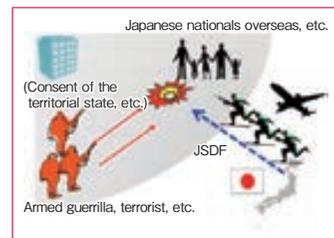
5. Rescue of Japanese nationals overseas

<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.