

## Overview: the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects

- (1) Following the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects was established under the Minister for Foreign Affairs to review the existing safety measures for international cooperation project partners and develop new safety measures. The MOFA and the JICA held five meetings together with many relevant ministries and agencies, with the cooperation of government affiliated agencies, companies, NGOs, and experts on regional situations and crisis management.
- (2) The Council released an Interim Report on August 1, and upon coordinating with the Advisory Council comprising external experts, announced new safety measures (final report) on August 30.

## Main points of the New Safety Measures (Final Report)

- ◆ Based on the recent international situation, recognizing that “safety is no longer free of cost” and that top leaders of organizations need to exercise leadership in taking safety measures, the following concrete measures will be taken to ensure the safety of not only JICA personnel but a wider range of international cooperation project partners and NGOs, including SMEs without sufficient capacity to secure themselves.

Note: The following safety measures generally apply to non-ODA international cooperation projects, as well. The MOFA will work closely with other ministries and agencies to improve overall safety measures.

### 1. Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information

- **Strengthening information collection and analysis capacity of the MOFA and the JICA**
  - ⇒ MOFA: **Strengthening the Counter Terrorism Unit – Japan; offering more extensive training to nurture the MOFA’s regional and foreign language specialists; and increasing the number of personnel**
  - JICA: **Increasing and enhancing specialists on safety measures and regions as well as external experts and advisors on regional situations and crisis management; and developing an information management mechanism**
- **Strengthening information exchanges with other countries and organizations**
  - ⇒ **Strengthening information exchanges through deepening cooperation with local authorities, etc. and providing capacity building assistance; carrying out more active information exchanges with allies, friendly nations, and the United Nations**
- **Developing mechanisms for sharing information with partners**
  - ⇒ Tokyo: **Holding periodical meetings of the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects as a permanent institution**  
(exchanging information among the MOFA, the JICA, relevant ministries and agencies, government affiliated agencies, project partners, NGOs, etc.)
  - Abroad: **Sharing information more closely via ODA Task Forces** hosted by embassies and **Security Consultation and Liaison Committee**; and **developing emergency contact mechanisms** (ensuring that JICA personnel, project partners, and NGOs submit Overseas Residential Registration or “Overseas Travel Registration” (“Tabi-Regi”))  
etc.

### 2. Code of conduct of project partners and NGOs

- **Expanding emergency contact networks** of the MOFA and the JICA (including more project partners and NGOs); and **emergency contact drills** abroad
- Strengthening the implementation of the JICA’s code of conduct by project partners: **Ensuring the execution of the JICA’s code of conduct** by organizations that have contracts with the JICA; and **recommending** organizations without JICA contracts to execute the code of conduct
- Strengthening partnership with NGOs: **Providing information and the JICA’s code of conduct** for NGOs; holding MOFA-NGO consultations specializing on safety measures (about twice a year)  
etc.

### 3. Physical/non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills

- **Strengthening protective measures**
  - ⇒ **Routine inspections by experts on safety measures** (e.g. embassies, JICA overseas offices, project sites); **increasing safety supplies, etc.** at embassies and JICA overseas offices (**e.g. communication equipment, armored vehicles**) (**approx. 1 billion yen** is allocated in FY2016 draft second supplementary budget); **requesting local authorities for enhancing security** and **providing assistance for capacity building on security** (**5.5 billion yen** is allocated in FY2016 draft second supplementary budget)
- **Strengthen training and drills**
  - ⇒ **Developing more extensive JICA training and drills, expanding eligible trainees** (including project partners and NGOs without contracts with the JICA)
- **Mitigating burden of taking safety measures for ODA projects on project partners (esp. SMEs)**
  - ⇒ **ODA loan projects: requesting relevant local authorities to: (1) allocate safety measure costs in loan amount; (2) appropriately evaluate bids taking into account cost for safety measure; and (3) exempt contracted companies from liability if a project is delayed due to the aggravation of the security situation; consider measures through which the JICA provides support for project partners' safety measure cost to the possible extent (esp. for SMEs)**
  - ⇒ **Grant aid projects:** allocating safety measure cost in overall project cost, **encouraging the use of contingency expenses; preparing bilateral documents** to ensure that counterpart governments implement safety measures, etc.
  - ⇒ **Technical cooperation:** Further accelerating negotiations on concluding technical cooperation agreements that include provisions for counterpart governments to implement safety measures
  - ⇒ **NGOs:** Encouraging NGOs receiving funding from the Government ODA budget to allocate safety measure cost etc.

### 4. Post-crisis response

- Supports for people directly affected by incidents/accidents related to JICA projects; and psychological care and other supports for those indirectly affected (e.g. accompanying family members)
- Ensuring that project partners buy necessary insurance
- **A tabletop exercise to prepare for situations similar to the evacuation case from South Sudan (in principle, to be held in 2016)**
- **Consider arrangements where the JICA provides support for project partners' evacuation expenses to the possible extent (esp. for SMEs)** etc.

### 5. Heightening crisis management awareness and improving organizational structure of the MOFA and the JICA

- **Strengthening safety management arrangements of the MOFA and the JICA**
  - ⇒ the MOFA will appoint a Deputy Director General-level official and the JICA will appoint senior personnel **in charge of safety measures**. Organizational structure regarding safety management will also be strengthened.
- **Strengthening capacity of embassies as regional hubs and JICA overseas offices**