

# Initiatives of Japan as the G7 Presidency



Leaders participating in the G7 Summit, held in Ise-Shima, Mie Prefecture in May 2016. 2016 marked the sixth G7 presidency of Japan.

Japan intends to continue developing a prosperous and peaceful society by cooperating with the international community to tackle various global challenges in the world and building a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community. In May 2016, Japan held the presidency of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, honestly addressed the development issues and global issues that the world faces, and led the discussions of the international community. In this section we mainly introduce the outcomes of Japan's exercising leadership while holding the G7 presidency to address these challenges and its efforts to overcome them, etc. Furthermore, we would like to look back on the steps taken by Japan in 2016 under the Development Cooperation Charter that was revised for the first time in 12 years in February 2015.

## Section 1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The G7 Ise-Shima Summit was the first summit after the adoption of the SDGs, and the G7 affirmed its commitment to the SDGs as a priority issue in development cooperation. Before this, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) was adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015, as the universal development goals of the entire international community to be achieved by 2030. The 2030 Agenda, unlike its predecessors the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which focused on developing countries, was formulated as a set of development goals to

be undertaken by both developing countries and developed countries together. The SDGs are comprised of 17 goals and 169 targets. The goals in the SDGs are comprehensive and wide-ranging and cover the issues listed in the MDGs such as poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, water and sanitation and new goals in relation to economic growth, infrastructure, and climate change countermeasures that were not clearly included in the MDGs.

In order to lead the G7, Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister and

composed of all ministers in May 2016, and decided to compile Japan's SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles at the first meeting.

The Guiding Principles were prepared in close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings under the auspices of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters were held twice, in September and November 2016. The meetings were attended by a wide range of participants including NGOs/NPOs, academia, private sector, and international organizations. In addition, ideas and suggestions were gathered through public comments from a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, at the second meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held in December the same year, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles were decided.

In the Implementation Guiding Principles, it states "Become a leader towards a future where economic, social and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind" as the vision of Japan. Also, it stipulates five implementation principles and follow-up. The Guiding Principles were prepared in an attempt to capture the SDGs in accordance with the Japanese situation and sets out eight priority issues including "Empowerment of All People" and "Achievement of Good Health and Longevity." The annex of the Guiding Principles states 140 concrete measures

covering actions in Japan and overseas submitted by the relevant government ministries and agencies.

Furthermore, at the second meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, Prime Minister Abe announced specific promotion measures aimed at achieving the SDGs. Regarding global health, he presented a policy of providing assistance with a total value of approximately \$400 million for international health organizations in the areas of infectious disease control, health system strengthening, women's health, and polio eradication. In addition, he stated Japan's intention to provide new financial assistance totaling \$500 million to further expand, both in quantity and quality, efforts to support refugees and countries accepting refugees by actively harnessing our experiences to date and our capabilities. Moreover, for promoting the contribution of women in developing countries, he stated that Japan would steadily proceed with initiatives valued at more than \$3 billion by the year 2018 with emphasis given to promoting women's and girls' rights, creating an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potential, and advancing women's leadership.

In Japan, the relevant government ministries and agencies are working together under the auspices of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles and collaborating with stakeholders in all areas to lead the initiatives of the international community for achieving the SDGs.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



## Section 2 Development and the Reduction of Disparities and Poverty

The objective of the 2030 Agenda, which the G7 Ise-Shima Summit committed to implementing domestically and internationally, reflects the unwavering determination of the international community to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable societies worldwide by 2030 and build a foundation for a more peaceful, stable, inclusive, and prosperous international community, leaving no one behind.

The reduction of disparities and poverty, in particular the eradication of absolute poverty in the world, is the most fundamental challenge in development, and it is essential to realize economic growth towards the self-reliant development of developing countries to address these issues. From this perspective, at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held after the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya from August 27 to 28, 2016, participants emphasized that “quality growth” should be aimed for, in which the fruits of growth benefit the society at large, leaving no one behind.

In response to the request of Africa, TICAD VI was held in Africa for the first time in the more than 20-year history of TICAD. In TICAD VI, discussion was held among Japan, African countries, partner countries, international organizations, private sector participants, and members of civil society such as NGOs on three priority areas, “Promoting structural economic transformation through diversification and industrialization,” “Promoting resilient health systems for quality of life,” and “Promoting social stability for shared prosperity,” in order to respond to the various challenges that had emerged in

Africa since TICAD V in 2013.

The Nairobi Declaration adopted as the outcome document of TICAD VI, and its appendix, the Nairobi Implementation Plan, reaffirmed the two principles characteristic of TICAD, African ownership and international partnership. They also reaffirmed the respect for human security, and effective implementation and follow-up mechanism and announced concrete initiatives in the above mentioned three priority areas, taking into account Africa’s own initiative for development and poverty reduction, Agenda 2063,<sup>1</sup> and the international discussions such as SDGs.

At the Opening Session of TICAD IV, Prime Minister Abe announced that, for a period of three years from 2016 to 2018, Japan will invest approximately \$30 billion under the public-private partnership (PPP) for the future of Africa through human resources development to 10 million people (“Empowerment”) by making use of the strength of Japan (“Quality”) and also by developing quality infrastructure, building health systems and laying the foundations for peace and stability, in accordance with the three priority areas of the Nairobi Declaration. These initiatives are the first step towards the realization of the outcomes of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit (related to quality infrastructure investment, health and women). In order to make the most of the excellent science, technologies and innovation of Japan and steadily achieve the outcomes, we will thoroughly implement the measures for the development of Africa announced at TICAD IV including through ministerial meetings in the TICAD process.



The closing session of TICAD VI held for two days starting from August 27, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe co-chaired with President Kenyatta of Kenya (host country), and President Deby Itno of Chad (AU Chair of 2016). (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Note 1: This is a charter established based on the Declaration of OAU/AU 50th Anniversary, for the integration and development of Africa over the next 50 years. It is the document that is the driving force for the continuation of Pan-Africanism aimed at the self-determination, growth, and freedom of Africa, and it was adopted at the Ordinary Assembly of the AU in January 2015.



## Section 3 Humanitarian Assistance Including Refugee and Migrant Issues

Due to the impact of conflicts and natural disasters, acute poverty, climate change, etc., humanitarian crises have been becoming more complex, larger-scale, and more prolonged. As of 2016, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) forced to evacuate due to conflicts had reached its highest level since World War II.

In May 2016, immediately before the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, the World Humanitarian Summit was held for the first time in response to the call by then Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, and former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda attended as the Representative of the Government of Japan. Approximately 9,000 participants, including the heads of State and Government of 55 countries, the heads of international organizations including then Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, and representatives from NGOs, the private sector, and academic institutions, attended this summit. The participants discussed effective responses to intensifying humanitarian crises, such as the refugee issue in the Middle East region, and expressed their will to take concrete actions.



The Representative of the Government of Japan, Yasuo Fukuda delivers his speech at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

Representative Fukuda announced Japan's assistance to realize social stability and growth to bring benefits to all people in the Middle East and North Africa, to empower people suffering under severe humanitarian conditions around the world so that they can build their own country's future with their own hands. Examples include assistance totaling approximately \$6 billion in the three years between 2016 and 2018, including human resources development for 20,000 people, the wider acceptance of Syrian students to Japan, and deployment of the "Japan Team for Refugees and Communities (J-TRaC)" consisting of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other experts.

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, Japan, which held the presidency, stated that the issues of refugees and migration

need to be recognized as global issues, and emphasized the importance of the basic philosophy of the 2030 Agenda that "no one will be left behind" when addressing those issues. In addition, Japan expressed its support for the United Nations-led initiatives on humanitarian crises and welcomed the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants (discussed below), and the Leaders' Summit on Refugees hosted by then US President Barack Obama (discussed below). As the country holding the presidency of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, Japan stated that it is indispensable to resolve the root causes of the instability in the Middle East from a medium- and long-term perspective, through supporting recovery and development of the region by such means as tackling poverty, disparity and youth unemployment in addition to extending humanitarian assistance, and announced that under Prime Minister Abe's philosophy of "The Best Way is to Go in the Middle," the Government of Japan committed to providing the aforementioned assistance package in order to prevent the expansion of violent extremism and build a "tolerant and stable society" in the region.

In light of the major impact on the international community due to the movement of refugees and migrants, two summits addressing refugees and migration were held in September 2016 during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week. Prime Minister Abe attended both summits and delivered messages on Japan's efforts in addressing the refugee issues.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers a speech at the "United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants" held in September 2016. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

On September 19, the "United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants" was held in response to the call by then United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. It was the first summit level meeting held with a specific focus on refugees and migrants and was attended by many United Nations member states and organizations. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan provides assistance



Children displaced by the flood in Myanmar in 2015 (Photo: WFP)

taking into account the “humanitarian-development nexus,” a concept in which both humanitarian assistance to refugees and development cooperation for them and hosting countries and communities are implemented in parallel. Prime Minister Abe also announced that Japan would provide \$2.8 billion in total during the three years from 2016 for humanitarian and self-reliance assistance to refugees and migrants as well as support to host countries and communities.

On September 20, the “Leaders' Summit on Refugees” was held in response to the call by then US President Barack Obama, attended by representatives of about 50 states and organizations including Japan. To better address the global refugee crises, then President Obama called on the participating states to increase the funds for humanitarian assistance, accept more refugees, and support the self-reliance of refugees.

Prime Minister Abe, after explaining that the leaders of the G7 had discussed the issue of refugees at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, announced that in order to ensure

“human security”, Japan would provide assistance to refugees totaling \$2.8 billion, offer \$100 million in total to the newly established World Bank Global Crisis Response Platform, and human resources development including educational assistance and vocational training to approximately 1 million people, and that the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) as members of the J-TRaC would provide assistance to Syrian refugee children.

Through cooperation with international organizations, Japan will extend humanitarian as well as self-reliance assistance to refugees and migrants while implementing development cooperation to support economic development of host countries and communities. At the same time, Japan will enhance bilateral assistance which is beneficial to both refugees and their host countries, so as to promote the humanitarian and development nexus, and will steadily implement commitments made at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.



Syrian refugees waiting for registration at the UNHCR reception center in Bekaa Valley in Lebanon (Photo: UNHCR)



## Section 4 Agendas Led by Japan

### ● Quality infrastructure investment

In May 2016, Japan held the presidency at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment incorporating the basic elements of quality infrastructure investment were endorsed by the G7. The global demand-supply gap of investment in infrastructure (socio-economic foundations) has become a serious bottleneck for economic growth throughout the world and development issues the world is facing. In particular, it is said that the demand for infrastructure development in Asia is enormous, but building infrastructure itself must not be the objective. The important points are that Asia continues to drive the global economy as a growth center of the world through infrastructure development, and the fruits of the growth reach all corners of the region and society, including the socially vulnerable. The awareness that “quality infrastructure investment” is necessary for realizing the above-mentioned objective is spreading throughout the world. Clear statements about “quality infrastructure investment” are made in the 2030 Agenda and the leaders’ documents of the recent G7, G20, and ASEAN<sup>2</sup> summits, and APEC,<sup>3</sup> etc.

In infrastructure investment, it is important that while the infrastructure itself is user-friendly, safe, resilient against natural disasters and “quality”, the infrastructure project is based on the needs of the partner countries. In addition, the infrastructure development should put importance on harmonization with the local



Attaining the improvement of stable supply of electricity in Kenya's Rift Valley Province through the construction of Units 4 and 5 of the Olkaria I Geothermal Power Station (70 MW × 2) (Photo: JICA)

environment, communities and the lives of the people, the cost-effectiveness in the long run from construction to maintenance, and job creation and skill transfer to local areas. It is also important that coordination and dialogue from a long-term perspective are carefully carried out from the planning stage in compliance with international standards and rules. Moreover, the funding and know-how of the private sector need to be utilized. This is the big picture of “quality infrastructure investment.”

Furthermore, in advance of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, Japan announced that it would provide financing of approximately \$200 billion over the next five years across the world through the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure.” Subsequently the basic elements of quality infrastructure investment constituting the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment were also mentioned in the Nairobi Declaration adopted in TICAD VI, the G20 Hangzhou Summit Leaders’ Communique, the outcome documents of the East Asia Summit, etc., and the concept of quality infrastructure is recognized internationally. The Government of Japan will promote “quality infrastructure investment” under collaboration with countries around the world, including in Asia, and international organizations, while indicating the necessity of promotion of “quality infrastructure investment” and its specific content in various situations for the growth of the world and for the solution of development issues such as poverty, inequality, etc.



The Neak Loeung Bridge (Tsubasa Bridge) in Cambodia was opened to traffic in April 2015. The primary span is 640m with a total bridge length of 2,215m, and reaches 5,400m when including connected roads. Previously, crossing the Mekong River by ferry took one hour, but it has been reduced to approximately 5 minutes with the opening of the bridge. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

Note 2: ASEAN: Association of South East Asian Nations

Note 3: APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

## ● Women

With the belief that it is essential for a vibrant and growing society to create an environment where women can demonstrate their power to the fullest extent, Japan is enhancing cooperation with the international community towards realization of “a society where women shine.” As a part of that cooperation, Japan has held the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014, inviting many leaders from overseas to appeal for a reformation of work-styles which are barriers to the promotion of women’s active participation in society and perceptions of gender norms between men and women, and in addition listening to the voices of youth and women facing difficulties, and holding comprehensive discussions on a variety of issues facing women, including disaster risk reduction, starting a business, education, peacebuilding, etc.

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016 Japan, as the country holding the presidency and taking into account of the outcomes of the Elmau Summit (Germany) in 2015, took up empowerment of women including education, promoting the active role of women in the natural sciences and technology areas, etc. as one of the priority issues, and thereby increased the international momentum towards promoting the active role of women in all areas. Also, in order to put into practice the “gender mainstreaming” clearly stated in the SDGs, under the leadership of Prime Minister Abe, agenda items related to women were raised at all of the G7 ministerial meetings for the first time in history. The outcome of this was that the G7 leaders shared the perception that empowerment to realize the potential of women, promoting the active role of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) areas and encouraging the participation of women in the areas of peace and security are important, and agreed to the

“G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace.” Furthermore, they launched the Women’s Initiative in Developing STEM Career (WINDS) in order to increase momentum towards and foster an enabling environment for promoting the active role of women in the areas of science and technology.

Additionally, Japan took this opportunity to announce the Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment as one of the new thematic policies based on the Development Cooperation Charter, declared that it would implement the development of human resources including capacity building for approximately 5,000 female officials, etc. and improving the learning environment of approximately 50,000 girls over the three years from 2016 to 2018, and is steadily implementing these measures.

The Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, aiming to promote the active role of women in developing countries, has designated the priority areas of (i) promoting women and girls’ rights, (ii) creating an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potential, and (iii) advancing women’s leadership in politics, the economy, and other public fields. Specifically, it is aiming to assist the development of an environment and building of systems that enable women to expand the options in their own lives and independently pursue their own potential freely, through infrastructure with due consideration to gender perspectives, assistance for girls’ education including in STEM fields, promotion of the participation of women in leadership roles, particularly in disaster risk reduction, etc.



Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida delivers a speech at WAW!2016, held in Tokyo in December 2016.

## ● Health

Japan places importance on and promotes its contribution to the area of global health under the concept of “human security,” which focuses on each individual person and realizes a society in which people can live with dignity through the protection and empowerment of individuals. In particular, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the establishment of the Basic Design for Peace and Health, a guideline for Global Health policy under the Development Cooperation Charter in September 2015, Japan has exercised leadership to produce outcomes including the hosting of international conferences with regard to the response to public health emergencies and the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016, Japan led the discussions as the country holding the presidency. The leaders highlighted health in the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration and agreed on the importance of three areas, which are strengthening of the capacity to respond to public health emergencies, such as infectious diseases, promotion of UHC which also contributes to crisis management and response, and reinforcement of responses to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Concrete actions in these areas were elaborated in the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan decided to contribute a total of approximately \$1.1 billion to international health organizations for preparedness for and prevention of public health emergencies, protection against infectious diseases, and health system strengthening aiming at the realization of UHC as Japan’s concrete contribution.

Moreover, TICAD VI held in August 2016 highlighted one of the priority areas and focused on strengthening the response to public health emergencies and promoting UHC, which also contributes to prevention and preparedness for those crises, as elaborated under one of the priority pillars “Promoting resilient health systems for quality life” in the Nairobi Declaration. Furthermore, Prime Minister



Infant medical check-up held at the Maternal and Child Health Center of the Chilenje Clinic in Zambia (Photo by Atsushi Shibuya / JICA)

Abe announced, regarding the declaration at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, that Japan will contribute approximately \$1.1 billion to international health organizations, Japan would provide assistance of more than \$500 million to Africa through organizations including the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Gavi Vaccine Alliance to save the lives of more than 300,000

people, provide training to approximately 20,000 experts and policy officers for measures against infectious diseases, and increase the number of people who have access to the basic health services by approximately 2 million people. Also, in the high-level event on “UHC in Africa” jointly hosted by Japan and international organizations, the Global Fund and the World Bank announced they would make a contribution of \$24 billion over the next three to five years to health systems in Africa. Moreover, Japan jointly announced with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Global Fund, and the African Development Bank the policy framework “UHC in Africa” that African countries could refer to when formulating specific national strategies towards the realization of UHC in Africa.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Ms. Tomomi Kera, works as a midwife at the regional health division of the prefectural hospital of Punakha, the former capital city of Bhutan. She provides maternal and child health services such as consultation services for pregnant women, health checks for expecting mothers, health checks for infants, immunization, and family planning consultations. (Photo: Bhutan Broadcasting Service)