

# Looking Back on the Year 2016 under the Development Cooperation Charter



Ms. Miwa Sonoda (right), an expert and a leader of the JICA maternal and child health project, visits the hospital with the head of the hospital in Vientiane, Laos, and consults with local nurses. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

## Section 1 What is the Development Cooperation Charter?

The Development Cooperation Charter is the most fundamental policy document for the development cooperation policies of Japan. It was established and approved by the Cabinet in February 2015 as the first revision of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter in 12 years. We have implemented development cooperation policies under the new Charter in 2016, the second year after the revision.

Since 1964, over more than 60 years, Japan has promoted development cooperation, primarily in the form of ODA, contributing to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. In recent years, development issues arising from globalization, etc. have become more diverse, complex, and wide-ranging. The international community has to undertake a plethora of issues, including regional conflicts, large numbers of refugees, frequent terrorism, global warming, etc. Furthermore, the roles of public and private funds other

than ODA and a variety of actors other than government are growing; therefore the importance of collaboration amongst these actors is increasing. Moreover, in order to make development sustainable and effective, not only the initiatives of developed countries but also the collaboration between developed countries and developing countries are essential.

In this new era, Japan is resolutely continuing its course as a peace-loving nation while positioning development cooperation as a part of its proactive contribution to peace based on the principle of international cooperation, and specifically undertaking development cooperation in order to utilize ODA strategically as an important diplomatic policy tool. Based on such a recognition, the Development Cooperation Charter is also consistent with the basic policies of Japan, in particular the National Security Strategy and the Japan Revitalization Strategy.

The objective of development cooperation is to

contribute more proactively to securing the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. Furthermore, such cooperation will also lead to ensuring the medium- to long-term national interests of Japan, such as maintaining the peace and security of Japan, achieving further prosperity, realizing an international environment that provides stability, transparency and predictability, and maintaining and protecting an international order

based on universal values. In this way, the international community and Japan can build a Win-Win relationship. The Development Cooperation Charter makes this point clear, positioning ODA as the driving force for promoting a variety of activities that help development and stating that the priority issues shall be proactively undertaken in accordance with the following basic policies.

## Basic Policies

### ● Contributing to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes

Japan is proactively contributing to securing the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community through appropriate ways for Japan as a peace-loving nation and complying with the principle of avoiding any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts. Taking into account the fact that situations are increasing in which cooperation for non-military purposes with armed forces or members of the armed forces is necessary when undertaking the important issues of the international community, we have clarified the policy for development cooperation for non-military purposes with these people, which had not been sufficiently clear before.

### ● Promoting human security

Japan will focus on individuals – especially those liable to be vulnerable, and provide cooperation for their protection and empowerment so that people can live with dignity, free from fear and want.

### ● 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 will attach importance to human resources development, economic and social infrastructure building, etc., which constitute the basis for the initiatives and self-help efforts of developing countries, and will focus on dialogue and collaboration in order to ascertain the true needs of the partner countries.

## Priority issues

- “Quality growth” and poverty eradication through such growth
- Sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society
- Building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges

In 2016, Japan, as the G7 chair country, presented specific initiatives and led discussions for responding to the issues faced by the international community, in fora such as the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, TICAD VI, the ASEAN Summit, the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, etc. It is important to take

the lead in efforts to achieve the SDGs based on the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles established in December 2016. Japan intends to continue steadily implementing these initiatives, under the auspices of the Development Cooperation Charter, while also proactively and strategically utilizing ODA.

## Section 2 Initiatives for Quality Growth

The development of quality infrastructure leads to the improvement of the lives of the people living nearby, and stimulates economic activities inside their country and region, so it is one of the important initiatives for supporting quality growth in each country. Japan has proactively assisted the development of quality infrastructure so that the public and private sectors can work together to achieve quality growth in a form aligned with the economic and development strategies of the respective countries and regions. For example, the Nhật Tân Bridge in Viet Nam which opened in 2015 was built using ODA loans from Japan, and the special technologies possessed by Japanese companies were used when constructing the bridge on soft ground.

The immense demand for infrastructure development continues to exist in each country and region, particularly in Asia, and the assistance for the development aimed at further growth is required. In order to meet this demand, Prime Minister Abe announced the Partnership for Quality



The completed Nhật Tân Bridge (Vietnam-Japan Friendship Bridge) in Viet Nam. The bridge will alleviate congestion and improve traffic efficiency across the Hong River in Ha Noi City and contribute to the city's economic development. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

Infrastructure in May 2015, and Japan is collaborating with the Asia Development Bank (ADB) to provide “quality infrastructure investment” of approximately \$110 billion to Asia over the next five years, and is making efforts to provide more attractive finance for the infrastructure demand in Asia through the improvement of systems for ODA loans and Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF).

Moreover, on May 23, 2016 Prime Minister Abe made an announcement of the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure in which Japan would provide approximately \$200 billion to infrastructure demand, not only in Asia but also across the world. Furthermore, it was also mentioned that Japan would further advance the improvement of the systems and the strengthening of the functions of government agencies including JICA which implemented the assistance.

By steadily executing these initiatives, Japan intends to encourage quality growth through the development of quality infrastructure in the international community.



The Matadi Bridge, built with the assistance of Japan in 1983, is the only suspension bridge to cross the Congo River. Although regional conflicts began shortly after its completion, Japanese engineers were successful in transferring the related technologies, demonstrated by the bridge being well maintained for over 30 years since its completion. It is a symbol of friendship between Japan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno / JICA)

## Section 3 Human Resources Development

Human resources development through educational and vocational training of an appropriate quality is essential for economic growth and the solution of the poverty problems that arise from it. Assistance for human resources development to encourage productivity improvements and technological innovation is necessary not only in poor countries but also in countries that have achieved a certain level of economic growth, like Thailand for example, to ensure that they do not fall into the “middle income trap.” Human resources development is a cross-sectoral issue, and in order to respond to it Japan is actually implementing a variety of initiatives using ODA.

For example, in the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2015 Prime Minister Abe announced the Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative based on the view that industrial human resources that are responsible for establishing and upgrading the key industries of each country are essential for the sustained growth of Asia. This initiative will assist industrial human resources development of 40,000 people in the Asia region over the three years from 2015, mainly through technical cooperation.

Specifically, in accordance with the human resources development needs of each country based on its stage of economic development, Japan is assisting in the provision of basic education in the area such as science and mathematics, enhancing higher education in engineering, and helping the development of human resources in a wide range of areas, including technicians, engineers, researchers and developers, business managers, the officials in charge of the establishment of industrial policies, etc.

Furthermore, Japan is providing a variety of training programs in Japan tailored to the actual conditions in each developing country and region. One type of these programs provides opportunities to study at a graduate school in Japan. For example, under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) a total of over 200 young officials come to Japan from approximately 10 countries every year in order to deepen their knowledge for the sake of the socio-economic development of their home countries at graduate schools in Japan.

Recently, Japanese training projects targeting not only officials, educators, and researchers but also promising

business people have started. For example, the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) provides Masters Course study and experience of internships at Japanese companies to the human resources of Africa. Moreover, in TICAD VI held in Kenya in August 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would train approximately 30,000 industrial human resources in Africa that form the core of economic activities, through research, practical studies, and business practices, including the African Business Education Initiative for Youth 2.0.

The provision of these kinds of opportunities for training in Japan also leads to the trainees participating actively in their own countries after returning home, as people with a good understanding of Japan. For example, when Japanese companies advance their economic activities in Africa, they hope that there is a possibility that they will be able to cooperate with the graduates. In the past there was an actual example of a trainee from Hanoi University of Science and Technology in Viet Nam who visited Japan for an IT education capacity enhancement project formerly implemented by JICA who after returning home started a company named after the Japanese university at which he studied, and became a human resource bridging the IT industries of Japan and Viet Nam.

Moreover, based on the Japan Revitalization Strategy 2016 approved by the Cabinet in June 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA began a new project called Innovative Asia. This project utilizes ODA, etc. to encourage the development and circulation of highly skilled human resources so that outstanding human resources in developing countries or other places in Asia can work at companies, etc. in Japan and contribute to innovation in Japan. They will contribute to their own country's innovation and industrial development. In the first phase of this project, Japan will establish partnerships with universities in 14 countries in Asia, including ASEAN countries, India, Sri Lanka, etc. to provide opportunities to study at graduate schools and research institutes, experience internships at companies, etc. in Japan. Under this project, the goal is to invite to Japan a total of 1,000 outstanding students involved in science and technology research over the five years from FY2017.

Furthermore, in the case that these foreign students wish to work for a fixed period in Japan, they will be able to receive preferential treatment when obtaining their status of residence in Japan (special additional points of the Points System for Highly Skilled Human Resources, etc.).

Innovation is born from the diversity of society. Through this project Japan will extend its efforts to enhance the circulation of knowledge and human resources in Asia including Japan, thereby fostering innovation, which is the foundation of sustained development of the economy, improving the lives of the people.



The farewell event for administrative officials dispatched from Myanmar to a master's program in Japan (Photo: Junichi Yamazaki / Japan International Cooperation Center)

## Section 4 Realization of a Peaceful and Secure Society and Addressing Global Challenges

### ● The rule of law

Establishment of the rule of law, promotion of good governance, promotion and establishment of democratization, and respect for basic human rights including the rights of women with development of infrastructure (socio-economic foundations) are the key to advancing development in a stable manner with the “quality growth” of developing countries. In particular, the rule of law is the essential foundation for realizing a fair and equitable society in a country, domestically, and at the same time it forms the basis for friendly and equal relations between states in external relationships. Japan has stipulated strengthening the rule of law in the international community as one of the pillars of its foreign policies, and contributed to strengthening the rule of law in each country through supporting legal and judicial reform and other related assistance. Japan’s cooperation for promoting the rule of law assists the self-help efforts of developing countries based on ensured good governance and contributes to build a base that is essential to lead sustained growth, through assistance for initiatives aimed at lawmaking as well as developing legal and judicial systems in developing countries, and the understanding and consolidation of said rule of law institutions in those countries.

Rational rules reflecting the will of the citizens must be brought into force, administered, and managed fairly and properly in order that developing countries can achieve goals such as economic growth, the guarantee of human rights, and poverty reduction and that people there can lead rich and peaceful lives. Japan is assisting initiatives for the development and improvement of legal and judicial systems in each developing country, focusing on developing human resources and tailored to the identified needs and issues in each country, through an all-Japan approach involving JICA, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Supreme Court of Japan, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, university staff, etc.

The country in which Japan first implemented assistance for the development of legal systems using ODA was Viet Nam. The Government of Viet Nam introduced the Doi Moi (Renewal) policy in 1986, and commenced development and revision of civil and commercial laws in order to switch to a market economy. In the context of this series of developments, Japan responded to a request from the Government of Viet Nam and commenced assistance for the development of legal systems using ODA in 1996, and used the methods such as dispatching the legal experts of Japan to Viet Nam and accepting Vietnamese trainees in Japan to provide assistance for the drafting of the civil laws and civil procedure laws that form the foundation of a country and for the development of the human resources

that would actually manage the laws and regulations. As one example of these long years of assistance bearing fruit, Lê Thành Long studied at Nagoya University from 1999 through the trainee acceptance system based on Japan’s ODA and has been highly successful, earning his doctorate in 2003 and becoming Minister of Justice in Viet Nam in April 2016.

In Nepal, a civil war between the government and the Maoist anti-government forces, triggered by a popular movement calling for democratization at the beginning of the 1990s, lasted for ten years from 1996 to the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement in 2006, and during that period many Nepalese people lost their lives. In order to support their national efforts of democratization in Nepal after the civil war, Japan recognized the necessity of assistance for a variety of issues in the development of legal systems in Nepal such as needs of modern society, the gap between the new constitution and laws, the legal positioning of religious elements, and assisted lawmaking including the drafting of civil law, while carefully holding consultations between an advisory group comprised of experts from Japan and members of the legal profession in Nepal. (Refer to “Stories from the Field” on page 83.)



A public consultation on the five major bills including a draft of the civil law held in Kathmandu, Nepal (Photo: Takako Nagao)

Based on the government’s basic policies regarding assistance for the development of legal systems which were revised in May 2013, Japan has extended assistance for the development of legal and judicial systems giving priority to eight countries in Asia (Indonesia, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Mongolia, Cambodia, Laos, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh). In addition to that, Japan is implementing such assistance to African countries, by dispatching judicial advisors to Cote d’Ivoire, helping to establish call centers that provide legal information to the citizens, and organizing criminal justice training for criminal justice officials for eight neighboring countries in West Africa, including Cote d’Ivoire, and the training has been held both in Japan and in Cote d’Ivoire. These forms of assistance not only contribute to the establishment of rule of law systems that ensure an

environment for free socio-economic activities as well as the stability of society in the partner countries; the support also makes it easier for foreign companies, including companies from Japan, to run venture businesses in those countries, which leads to the provision of advantages for the entire international community.

Japan has extended its support in the areas of governance, including promoting the rule of law, to approximately \$2.7 billion over the ten years from 2005 to 2014.

Ensuring law enforcement is also important for establishing the rule of law with consistency. Japan is

assisting capacity building of the customs and the police for government measures for anti-corruption, to control exports and imports weapons, and to combat human trafficking, other organized crimes, and terrorism. Furthermore, Japan is a maritime nation. In order to implement the rule of law at sea, Japan provides assistance for improving the law enforcement capacity of maritime security authorities in developing countries, through ODA and other assistance schemes with the donation of ships, technical assistance and capacity building of human resources.

### ● Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy

Prime Minister Abe announced the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy on the occasion of the keynote speech at TICAD VI held in Kenya in August 2016. This strategy is based on the belief that a key for stability and prosperity of the international community is dynamism created by the combination of the “two continents”: rapidly growing Asia and Africa that possesses huge potential of growth; and “two oceans”: the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, which are free and open. By envisioning this dynamism as an overarching and comprehensive concept, Japan will broaden the horizon of Japanese diplomacy.

Confidence, responsibility and leadership have been fostered in Southeast Asia and South Asia as democracies, and rule of law and market economies have already taken root. It is important to spread this success of Asia through the “free and open Indo-Pacific” to the Middle East and Africa to bring out its potential, or to encourage stability and prosperity in the entire region by improving

the “connectivity” of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Specifically, starting from East Asia and going through South Asia, the Middle East, and then to Africa, Japan will implement various assistance such as for infrastructure development, trade and investment, development of the business environment, economic and social development, and human resources development in an integrated manner. For African countries, Japan will provide assistance for nation-building that respects the ownership of the partner countries with regard to not only the development perspective but also political and governance perspectives.

When implementing these kinds of strategies, the role of ODA is particularly important. For example, in order to realize the “vibrant and effective connectivity” that revitalizes the movement of goods and people in a region, Japan utilizes ODA not only to enhance physical connectivity through quality infrastructure investment such as the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway

## A New Foreign Policy Strategy: “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy”

“Diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map”

“Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation

Based on the accomplishments of the Abe Administration, Japan intends to further improve and expand these diplomatic concepts

### “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy”

A key for stability and prosperity of the international community is dynamism that is created by combining “Two Continents”: Asia that is rapidly growing and Africa that possess huge potential of growth; and “Two Oceans”: Free and open Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean

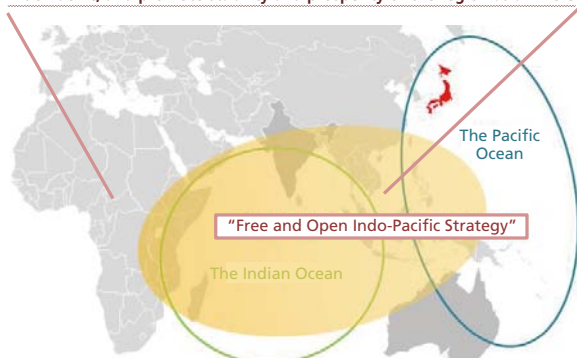
⇒ broaden the horizon of Japanese foreign policy by envisioning the above as an overarching, comprehensive concept

#### Africa

- Full of potential
  - population around 1.1 billion (15% of global population) → around 2.5 billion in 2050
  - account for 30,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (22% of global area)
  - high economic growth rate (4.2% on average (2002-2013))
  - rich in natural resources and promising markets
- ⇒ progressing as a “developing continent” whereas still challenged by poverties and terrorism etc.

Japan will provide nation-building support in the area of development as well as politics and governance, in a way that respects the ownership of African countries, and not by forcing on or intervening in them

Improve “connectivity” between Asia and Africa through free and open Indo-Pacific, and promote stability and prosperity of the region as a whole



\*To make the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” into shape, Japan will strengthen strategic collaboration with India, which has a historical relationship with East Africa, as well as the US and Australia.

#### Asia

- Increase of awareness of confidence, responsibility and leadership, as well as democracy, rule of law and market economy taking root in Southeast and South Asian countries
- ⇒ Currently expanding its success to Africa and bring out the potential of Africa as a “global main player” through a free and open Indo-Pacific

Japan will expand infrastructure development, trade and investment, and enhance business environment and human development from East Asia as a starting-point, to the Middle East and Africa

in India, but also to advance assistance for strengthening institutional connectivity such as facilitating customs clearance. Furthermore, it is also essential for human resources to skillfully use these kinds of infrastructure and systems, therefore Japan will proactively develop industrial human resources and highly skilled human resources, and strengthen people-to-people connectivity by providing support for human resource exchanges and building networks among Japan, Asia and Africa.

### ● Assistance for stabilization of the Middle East

In the Middle East, the number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons remains at a high level, and they are kept in inhumane conditions. Furthermore, the burden of the countries hosting those refugees is increasing, and there are serious concerns that violent extremism will spread as a consequence of ongoing political chaos and a high rate of youth unemployment, especially in the North African countries. It is essential not only to provide humanitarian assistance but also to encourage addressing the root cause of the provision of destabilization in the Middle East by providing support for reconstruction and development, in particular to alleviate poverty, disparities, and youth unemployment from a medium- to long-term perspectives.

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016, Japan announced that it would provide support of approximately

Moreover, it is extremely important to enhance the connectivity of the region, create economic spheres as integrated “dimensions” rather than spots or lines, and invigorate trade and investment to exert the potential of the region to the maximum extent. This will bring about a Win-Win relationship for both Japan and the international community. Japan intends to continue its contribution to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community by utilizing ODA strategically under the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

\$6 billion in total, including capacity building for around 20,000 people over the next three years under the philosophy of “The Best Way is to Go in the Middle” in order to prevent the expansion of violent extremism and build a “tolerant and stable society” in the Middle East.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the G7 pledged more than \$3.6 billion including Japan’s new commitment of \$500 million, in support of Iraq’s efforts to combat terrorism, to address its fiscal challenges and to strengthen its economy. In addition, Japan announced its intention that it would dispatch the J-TRaC, a humanitarian assistance team consisting of JICA experts and volunteers to the refugee camps, host countries and communities, and accept up to 150 Syrian students studying abroad.

### ● Countermeasures for climate change and global issues

Global environmental issues have a serious impact on sustainable development, and they have already exceeded the level at which they can be solved through the efforts of one country. In order to prevent global warming, it is essential that all countries make efforts for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but the reality is that many developing countries need to make efforts to pursue their own economic development. In addition, these developing countries cannot implement sufficient countermeasures only with their own funds and implementation capabilities. Therefore, the international community will proactively provide assistance to

developing countries to promote global climate change countermeasures.

Climate change countermeasures are broadly classified as “mitigation” measures and as “adaptation” measures. The former aim to reduce GHG through energy conservation, promotion of the use of low-carbon energy such as renewable energy, and the latter for preventing and alleviating the negative impacts caused by climate change (examples: sea level rise, droughts). To date Japan has been actively implementing assistance for developing countries in the areas of both “mitigation” and “adaptation.”

The 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP21) adopted the Paris Agreement, a new framework to replace the Kyoto Protocol, in 2015 after many years of negotiation, and in COP21 Prime Minister Abe declared that projects to combat climate change worth ¥1.3 trillion a year would be implemented by Japanese public and private sectors in developing countries in 2020. This opened a path to realization of the goal of “mobilization of \$100 billion from both public and private sectors by 2020” by developed countries (decided in COP16 in 2010), and greatly boosted the agreement and adoption of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, related initiatives proceeded steadily in 2016 as well, as the developed countries announced the “Roadmap to \$100 billion” in October and the developing countries welcomed this in COP22 in November.

Japan will continue to collaborate with the related



The Japan Pavilion at the COP22 venue in Marrakech, Morocco. A diorama introducing Japanese low-carbon technology is on display (Photo: Ministry of Environment)

Note 4: Government representative Fukuda also made this declaration at the World Humanitarian Summit immediately before the G7.

countries to realize the goals for 2020, in particular keeping in mind the areas in which Japan is proficient, including geothermal power, urban railways, infrastructure for disaster risk reduction, securing water, etc., and will proactively provide assistance to developing countries in these areas.

Furthermore, Japan is proactively tackling other global challenges, including disaster risk reduction.

In March 2015, Japan held the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. Japan is proactively promoting cooperation on international disaster risk reduction, including having led the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which stipulates the international framework regarding disaster risk reduction until 2030, and announced the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction as its own initiative.

Furthermore, Japan proposed World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise awareness of the threat of tsunami at the global level and minimize the damage caused by tsunami, and the proposal was adopted by consensus at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015 after being jointly proposed by 142 countries. In response to this, a range of



High school students from 30 countries, including Japan, participated in the High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" in Kuroshio, Kochi Prefecture in November 2016 (approximately 110 students from Japan and 250 students from overseas participated).

meetings to educate people about tsunami, evacuation drills, etc. was held in regions around the world in 2016. Moreover, in November the "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day in Kuroshio" was held in Kuroshio, Kochi Prefecture, and approximately 360 high school students from 30 countries including Japan participated. The high school students who participated learned about Japan's history of tsunami and disaster risk reduction efforts, gave presentations on issues for the future and the efforts underway in their countries, and adopted the outcome document for the entire summit, the Kuroshio Declaration.

### ● Assistance for counter-terrorism measures

The globally growing threat of terrorism is a serious factor impeding economic and social development. For that reason, greater collaboration and cooperation are required for today's international community, and not only improving counter-terrorism capacity but also taking measures to counter violent extremism that is its root cause have become urgent issues. With an awareness of these problems, Japan, as the country holding the presidency of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, led the discussions towards the release of the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism", which focuses on the issues that the international community should address in particular and consists of three pillars: (i) counter-terrorism measures, (ii) empowerment of alternative voices to violent extremism and tolerance in society, and (iii) capacity building assistance. Furthermore, in July Japan announced that it would implement assistance of \$120 million, including human resources development for 30,000 people, from 2016 to 2018 in order to strengthen counter-terrorism capacity in Africa. Moreover, at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in September, Japan announced that it would provide approximately ¥45 billion over the next three years for Asia as comprehensive counter-terrorism measures consisting of (i) improvement of counter-terrorism capacity, (ii) measures to counter violent extremism, which is the root cause of terrorism, and (iii) social and economic development assistance for creating a foundation for a moderate society, and that it would also help develop 2,000 personnel for counter-terrorism over the next three years.

Furthermore, it is mentioned in the Final Report of the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects published in August in response to the terrorist attack in Dhaka in July 2016 that Japan will proactively provide assistance to developing countries for enhancing counter-terrorism measures and building their security capacities.

In order to realize these goals in a concrete way, Japan provides multi-layered and effective assistance consisting of bilateral cooperation such as technical cooperation, grant aid and loan aid, and effective combinations of cooperation through international organizations.

For example, in order to prevent the flow of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters, Japan has commenced collaboration and cooperation with other G7 countries and related international organizations regarding assistance aimed at enhancing the use of INTERPOL's stolen and lost passport database by border agencies. Japan is also working to strengthen the border security of other countries through cooperation taking advantage of the strengths of Japan, namely cutting-edge technology in such areas as biometric authentication and detection of explosive materials.

Furthermore, Japan has been working on economic and social assistance for building a moderate society as well as supporting the activities of civil society aimed at preventing radicalization.

Japan will work with the international community to tackle the issues of terrorism and violent extremism in a more proactive manner.

## Section 5 Development Cooperation through Collaboration with Diverse Actors

In recent years, the international environment surrounding ODA has been dramatically changing. For example, the economy is being globalized, many developing countries are under the spotlight as new investment destinations and markets, and private funds worth approximately 2.5 times ODA are flowing into developing countries. In the context of these changes to the environment, the form of international cooperation of Japan is also changing. At the same time, in the development of developing countries, activities not only by governments or international organizations but also by private companies and NGOs are increasingly important; furthermore local governments and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are also drawing attention as new development partners.

In that context, the role of ODA is also changing, and a variety of actors are working on the development of developing countries through various approaches utilizing their field of expertise. Rich approaches connecting each actor through ODA are expected to enlarge development effects by generating synergy effects.

For example, importance is now being placed on the role of private companies in achieving sustainable growth in developing countries. The increase in direct investment in developing countries leads to the transfer of technology and know-how to developing countries, and also leads to an increase in employment and income growth. Specifically, initiatives based on collaboration between the public and private sectors are important, including infrastructure development that leads to the improvement of the business environment of developing countries, development of the industrial human resources, assistance for BOP (Base Of the Economic Pyramid, refer to page 167) businesses, etc. Examples of this kind of public-private collaboration contributing to the economic development of developing countries include the project for industrial complex development, sales and operation in the Special Economic Zone on the outskirts of Yangon City in Myanmar, and the project for basic training of technical interns and engineers before dispatch to Japan and helping them to get a job after they return home at Japanese companies operating in Viet Nam.

Moreover, the role of the Japanese local governments in the same context is also increasingly important. In recent years, the economic development of emerging countries, particularly in Asia, has been remarkable at times, but on the other hand due to the rapid economic development and progress of urbanization, the need for responses to urban problems such as water, energy, waste management, urban traffic, pollution, and disaster risk reduction has been growing rapidly, and it is expected that the large amount of expertise and know-how accumulated by the Japanese local governments will be helpful for the development challenges of developing countries. Cases of this type in which the Japanese local governments utilized

ODA to address these challenges in developing countries include the technical cooperation by Yokohama City to carry out the Water Supply System

Improvement Project for Metro Cebu Water District in the Philippines, the

JICA Partnership

Program (JPP) by Miyakojima City of Okinawa Prefecture for the Water Supply Model Project in Samoa, etc.

Furthermore, NGOs are entities that can ascertain in detail the diverse issues and needs on the front line in developing countries and respond quickly in accordance with the situation, so they are typical actors of Japan's "visible assistance" through citizen participation. Currently, the number of NGOs in Japan working on international cooperation activities is said to be over 400 (as of December 2016), and they are achieving steady growth. For example, recently the participation of NGOs in emergency humanitarian assistance to respond to conflicts in Iraq, Syria, its surrounding countries, Yemen, etc. and to large-scale natural disasters such as the Nepal Earthquake, etc. has been attracting international attention.

NGOs are important partners for the government in development cooperation, and the Development Cooperation Charter states that the government will strategically strengthen partnerships with NGOs/civil society organizations (CSO).

MOFA is actively collaborating with NGOs as a part of securing the understanding and support of the Japanese people regarding development cooperation, and in order to implement ODA effectively. Under the Development Cooperation Charter, in June 2015 MOFA worked with NGOs to formulate the Medium-Term Plan stipulating the direction of collaboration over the next five years, and currently MOFA is endeavoring to implement the plan. The basic policies of the Medium-Term Plan with regard to collaboration between MOFA and NGOs are (i) cooperation with respect to funding for the development cooperation activities of NGOs, (ii) cooperation to enhance the capacities of NGOs, (iii) dialogue with NGOs regarding development cooperation policies and collaboration with NGOs, and (iv) collaboration with NGOs in development cooperation.



Flow volume management being carried out by the Samoa Water Authority Urban Section Non-Revenue Water Countermeasures Unit as part of the "Capacity Enhancement Project for Samoa Water Authority in Cooperation with Okinawa" (see page 155) (Photo: Kenta Tomiyama / JICA)

## Section 6 Securing the Safety of People Involved in International Cooperation Projects

The security situations are complex in developing countries where not only the JICA staff, experts and volunteers but also a variety of people involved in international cooperation projects including consultants, contractors and NGOs are working, and not only does the situation differ from country to country; it also changes day by day and minute by minute.

Japanese consultants working on a JICA project were killed in the terrorist attack in Dhaka in July 2016, and in response, MOFA and JICA reviewed safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects, and established the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects under MOFA in order to establish new safety measures. MOFA and JICA, together with many relevant ministries and agencies, and in cooperation with government-related institutions, companies, NGOs, and experts in regional situations and crisis management, published the new safety measures (the Final Report) on the last day of August. Taking into account the recent international situation, this Final Report recognizes that the notion that “safety is ensured at no cost” is now completely obsolete and it has become essential for the top of their organizations to take the lead in taking measures. It decided to take specific measures in a variety of areas in order to secure the safety of people involved in JICA and also a wider range of people involved in international cooperation projects and NGOs, including SMEs that do not have strong organizational structure. These measures include (i) making the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects a permanent council, and engaging in steady implementation of safety measures and close information sharing with the relevant people, (ii) enhancing the equipment for safety measures of diplomatic missions abroad and overseas JICA offices and assistance for building the security capacities of local authorities, (iii) encouraging the people involved in projects and NGOs to record expenses for safety measures in project expenses, and in addition to utilizing and improving systems, lobbying local governments, etc. and (iv) nominating a Deputy Director General-level official in MOFA and an executive in JICA, respectively, as the officials in charge of safety measures, etc.

Since the publication of the Final Report, MOFA and JICA have steadily implemented the new safety measures. For example, they instructed the diplomatic missions abroad and overseas JICA offices on measures with which they can implement immediately, such as strengthening their gathering of information on security, strengthening their relationship with the local security authorities, etc. Furthermore, the International Cooperation Bureau in MOFA and JICA have worked to strengthen their systems to fundamentally reform safety measures, including nominating a senior official to be in charge of safety measures, etc. In addition, they have held country consultations in order to share threat information, etc. with the relevant people, and they have made sure that all people involved in projects, NGOs, etc. are aware that they are encouraged to complete their Overseas Residential Registration or their Overseas Travel Registration (“Tabi-Regi”). Moreover, JICA holds safety measures training and counter-terrorism measures training for a wide range of relevant people, including the people involved in projects, NGOs, etc., has held safety measures seminars and meetings in the overseas locations, and has implemented emergency contact drills, etc.

The Development Cooperation Charter emphasizes that measures to ensure the safety of people involved in projects, NGOs, etc. are important, as well, and they are an essential precondition for moving forward with ODA projects. The Government of Japan will carefully work on the steady implementation of safety measures.



The first meeting of the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects, held at MOFA on July 12, 2016