



# Chapter 4

## Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public

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## Section 1

# Japanese Society and People Deepening Their Ties with the World

### Overview

#### (Tapping the Power of Foreign Nationals for the Growth of Japan)

Increasing the number of people traveling between Japan and other countries stimulates the economy and promotes mutual understanding among different cultures. Based on this view, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) takes steps to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into Japan and also their stay in the country.

The Government of Japan attaches importance to promoting Japan as a tourism-oriented country based on the recognition that “Tourism is a main pillar for Japan’s growth strategy and regional revitalization,” and MOFA has engaged in strategic relaxation of visa requirements. With efforts to attract tourists including showcasing the various attractiveness of Japan and other factors, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached the highest record of 24 million in 2016, exceeding 20 million a year for the first time. MOFA strives to contribute to the increase of foreign visitors while continuing to maintain “Japan, the safest country in the world,” and to a tourism-oriented country both in quantity and quality by attracting

the wealthy class, repeat visitors, and the young generation.

In order to further vitalize the Japanese economy and increase Japan’s competitiveness, it is critical to secure capable human resources irrespective of their nationality. “Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised in 2016)” set forth utilization of foreign human resources. To realize it, MOFA works with relevant ministries and agencies to ensure the effective policy and measures for accepting foreign human resources taking into account human rights. Moreover, MOFA encourages national debate on the challenges arising from the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japanese society, as well as appropriate measures to be taken.

#### (International Organizations and Japanese Nationals)

At international organizations, staff from all over the world capitalizes on their respective skills and traits to carry out activities for addressing global issues.

Japan has been providing personnel contributions as well as financial and intellectual contributions to international organizations. If more Japanese nationals

play active roles in international organizations, Japan's presence in the international community will be enhanced and the human resources of Japan will also be enriched.

MOFA carries out programs to recruit, train, support, and provide information to competent Japanese nationals who can play active roles in international organizations and contribute to them. MOFA will further strengthen its efforts to create an environment where outstanding Japanese nationals can play active roles on the global stage.

### **(NGOs and Volunteers)**

The Government of Japan has promoted All-Japan diplomacy which draws on the strengths of non-governmental actors. In this context, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become even more important in recent years as implementers of support activities in developing countries and as channels for offering policy proposals. Japanese NGOs play a significant role in fields that Japan excels in and can make international contributions to, such as health, water and sanitation, education, disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, and emergency humanitarian assistance for refugees and disaster victims. MOFA regards NGOs as important partners in development cooperation, and strives to strengthen partnerships with NGOs through financial assistance, improving their operational environment, aid and dialogue.

Participants in the volunteer programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers (SV), are crucial actors in

international cooperation. In the countries and regions where they are dispatched, JICA volunteers see the development challenges from the same perspective as local people and work hard together to tackle them. Such programs are highly appreciated by local people including government officials in various countries and earn their gratitude, as symbols of the "Visibility of Japanese Development Cooperation." In addition, the programs play a substantial role not only in local economic and social development, but also in fostering mutual understanding, friendship, and goodwill between Japan and these countries and regions. Furthermore, these programs are also significant from the viewpoint that JICA volunteers bring back their experiences to contribute to society in the end, for the volunteers use their volunteer experience and stay active at home and abroad upon their return.

### **(Cooperation with Local Governments)**

Regional revitalization is one of the top priority issues of the Cabinet. MOFA is implementing all-ministry efforts under initiatives named "Local to Global" to showcase the regions' attractiveness to the world and to attract as many tourists and investments as possible. At home, MOFA, together with local governments, carried out "Regional Promotion Seminars" and "Diplomats' Study Tours" as well as projects to support regional revitalization by way of using the Iikura House, the Ministry's facility etc., to showcase the various attractiveness of local areas to the diplomatic corps in Tokyo. Also MOFA started a new project in which the Foreign Minister visits regional areas with the diplomatic corps in Japan to share the attractiveness of the regions.

Overseas, as measures to support Japan's local governments in promoting their attractiveness including the field of tourism, and in developing local industries and regional economies, "Regional Promotion Projects" have been conducted, by using Japan's diplomatic facilities overseas. Moreover, MOFA, in collaboration with local governments, continued to conduct PR and other activities under the "Project to Support Overseas Presentations as Countermeasures for Reputational Damages" to dispel damage from rumors stemming from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition, MOFA actively promotes alcohol beverages (Japanese sake, wine, etc.) produced in various regions in Japan through its diplomatic missions overseas and supports overseas operations of local governments and local SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) by making use of ODA.

## 1 Linking the Energy of Foreign Nationals to the Growth of Japan

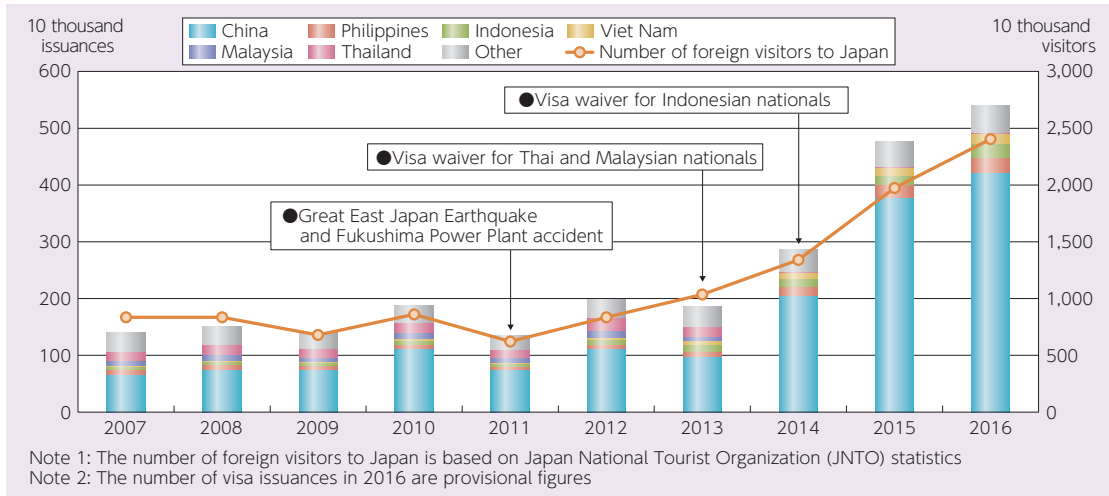
### (1) Growth Strategy and Relaxation of Visa Requirements

In 2016, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached the highest record of 24 million exceeding 20 million a year for the first time. The Government set new goals of the number of foreign visitors to 40 million in 2020 and 60 million in 2030 in the "Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan" issued at the end of March 2016. In the Vision, it is stated that the government would engage in strategic relaxation of visa requirements for the five countries: China, Russia, India, Philippines and Viet Nam, for which visas are required to visit Japan despite their high market potential to attract

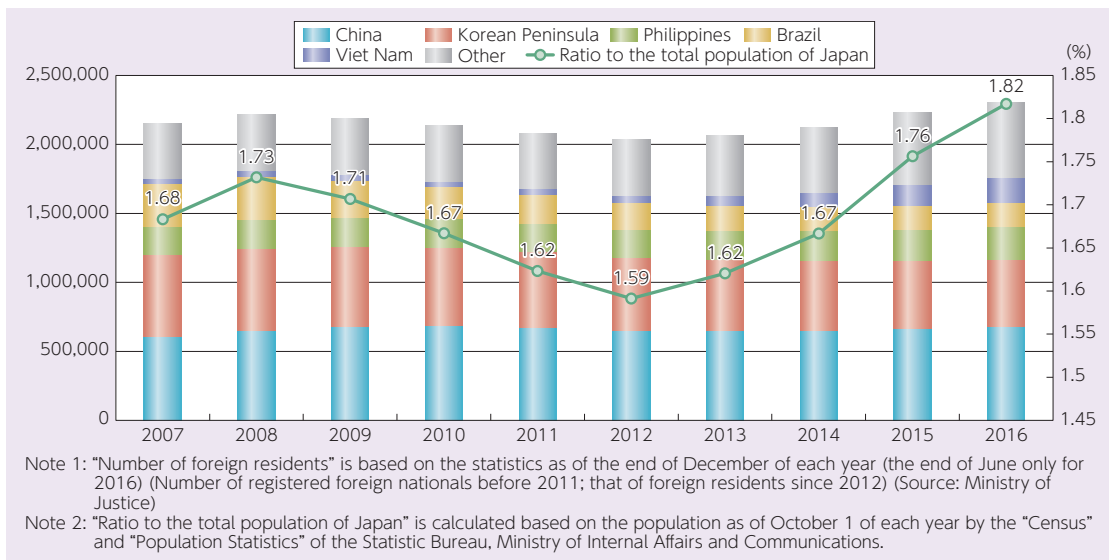
tourists. The concrete measures taken were published in the Tourism Vision Realization Program 2016 adopted by the Ministerial Council on the Promotion of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented Country in May. Based on these, MOFA has engaged in examining and implementing strategic relaxation of visa requirements not only for these five countries but also for other countries from the perspective of promoting people-to-people exchanges and strengthening bilateral relations, etc. To be specific, relaxation of multiple entry visa for Indian nationals as of January 11, the relaxation of multiple entry visa for business purposes for Vietnamese and Indian nationals as of February 15, introduction of multiple entry visa for Qatari nationals as of October 3, and the relaxation of multiple entry visa for business purposes and simplification of applications for students, etc. for Chinese nationals as of October 17 have been implemented. Furthermore, the simplification of visa application procedures for Indian students and the expansion of the number of visa application sites, announced on the occasion of Indian Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan in November 2016, have been implemented since February 2017. Moreover, the introduction of multiple entry visas for tourism purposes, etc. for Russian nationals were announced on December 16, 2016 on the occasion of Russian President Putin's visit to Japan, and has been implemented since January 1, 2017.

As described, further expansion of relaxation of visa requirements is expected as it has the effect on promoting people-to-people exchanges and Japan's economic growth. On the other hand, the Government intensifies visa control as a part of border measures to prevent the entry of criminals

### The Number of Visa Issuances and Foreign Visitors to Japan



### Changes in the Number of Foreign Residents and their Ratio to the Total Population of Japan



and foreign visitors with intention of illegal labor, as well as those who could become victims of human trafficking. MOFA is determined to continue working on the relaxation of visa requirements, aiming at increasing the number of visitors to Japan while ensuring that "Japan, the safest country in the world," and contributing to achieve a tourism-oriented country both in quality and quantity and attract the wealthy class, repeat visitors, and the young

generation. Also, MOFA intends to conduct such relaxation of visa requirements with taking into account all the factors such as the bilateral relations and their diplomatic significance.

#### (2) Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and their Social Integration

Since the Lehman Shock in 2008, the number of long-term foreign residents in Japan had kept decreasing until 2012

when the trend turned upward. While the aging of the population continues with low birth rate resulting in the decrease of the population, it is important for Japan to secure capable human resources, irrespective of their nationality, in order to further vitalize Japan's economy and improve its competitiveness. The "2016 Revised Japan Revitalization Strategy" specifically aims at an effective utilization of foreign human resources, and it is expected that the number of competent foreign nationals living in Japan will further increase in the future.

MOFA cooperates with the relevant ministries and agencies to assure the series of measures to be considerable and effective to the principle of human rights of the foreign nationals. MOFA also hosts "International workshops on the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japan", aiming to encourage debate among the people by providing opportunities to discuss concrete challenges and measures. In February, MOFA co-hosted a workshop with Shinagawa Ward and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under the theme of "Diversity Management in Workplaces: Do Japanese Firms Provide Attractive and Fulfilling Working Environments?" The participants mainly



International workshop on the acceptance of foreign nationals and their integration into Japan (February 26, Tokyo)

discussed the environment in Japanese companies and how Japanese and foreign nationals should work together.

In June, MOFA and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government co-hosted the Disaster Management Seminar for Diplomatic Missions and Foreign Delegations in Tokyo, focusing on the theme of foreign tourists' safety and relief at the time of disasters, considering the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place in 2020.

## 2 Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Community

### (1) Japanese Taking Active Roles in International organizations

International organizations are founded to serve the common interest of the international community. People of various nationalities join these international organizations and draw on their skills and traits to create an environment where people of the world can enjoy peace, security and prosperity. There are many international organizations to solve global issues; for instance, poverty reduction, climate change, human rights, humanitarian affairs, food, energy, refugee protection, conflict prevention/peace-building, health, education, employment and women empowerment.

Competent individuals with specialized knowledge, passion and capabilities to contribute to the world beyond the framework of nation states are needed so that international organizations can competently perform their duties and fully fulfill the roles expected of them. In addition to financial contributions for international organizations to deal with



## Japanese Working on a Global Scale

Peacekeeping involves people from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds with different values and approaches to work, coming together from all over the world to bring about peace. Daily life in the field can be challenging at times. However, I feel privileged to be able to take part in this global public service. (Jin Iwata)



The Haiti 2010 earthquake memorial in MINUSTAH base. Honoring the memory of the 200,000 victims, including 102 United Nations personnel, who perished in this tragic event.

**Jin Iwata**

Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff/Directeur de Cabinet  
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

I find UNHCR's protection work rewarding when my day-to-day efforts bear fruit such as that safety of refugees and equitable access to asylum are ensured, regardless of challenges in working in the field sometimes in a tense situation. (Tomoko Ishihara)



Protection activities for refugees and migrants in Lesbos island in Greece

**Tomoko Ishihara**

Associate Regional Protection Officer,  
Regional Representation for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal,  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

their tasks through regular budget and voluntary contributions, Japan also makes contributions in terms of intellectual and human resources through the active roles of Japanese staff.

Currently, about 800 Japanese nationals are working as professional staff members in UN-related agencies around the world. The number of Japanese employees have increased by more than 100 since 2000, signifying the expansion of Japan's intellectual and personnel contributions. However, compared to the number of professional staff members of other G7 member countries, which exceed 1,000, Japanese personnel contribution remains insufficient.

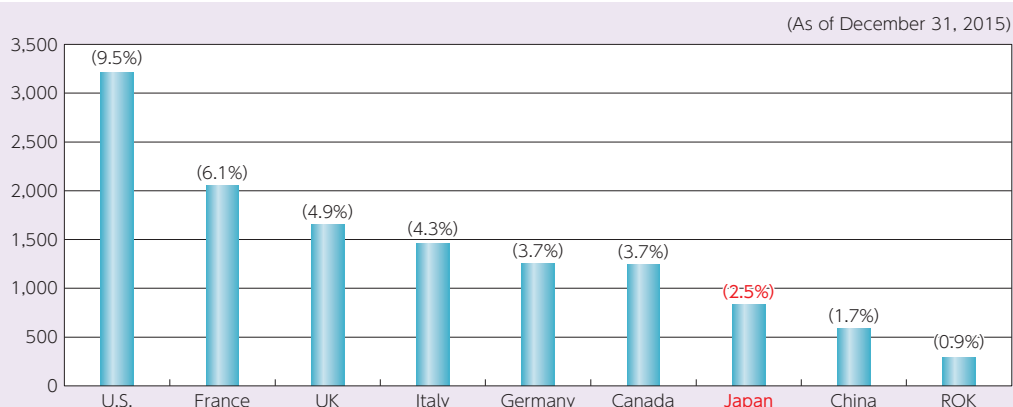
The Government of Japan has set the objective of increasing the number of Japanese employees working at UN-related agencies to 1,000 by 2025. To this end, MOFA is actively recruiting, training, supporting, and providing information

in collaboration with universities and related ministries and agencies to Japanese nationals who can play active roles and make a contribution on the global stage. As part of this effort, MOFA has organized guidance sessions to provide information on the process of recruitment by international organizations and hosted Outreach Missions of human resource staff from international organizations visiting Japan.

Furthermore, MOFA also supports young people dispatched to international organizations by strengthening and expanding the Junior Professional

Officer Programme (a system of sending young Japanese nationals who aspire to work in international organizations as regular employees for two years in principle to provide them with opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and experience in international organizations and to aim for regular employment after their

## Number of staff members at UN-related agencies by Nationality (professional or higher)



Note 1: This graph includes the number of professional staff members or higher and technical cooperation professionals with a term of one year or longer.

Note 2: The percentage represents the ratio against the total number of employees (33,810).

Source: Created by MOFA from UN document (CEB/2016/HLCM/HR/20)

dispatch). MOFA is also committed to coordination with human resource sections of international organizations, gathering information, providing vacancy information, and supporting application procedures, etc. for the promotion and employment of Japanese staff.

As one of Japan's contributions in the international community, more Japanese people taking on active roles in international organizations are expected to lead to the enhanced presence of Japan. It will also demonstrate how Japan is truly committed to the promotion of peace and prosperity of the world and actively working for it. In addition, Japanese staff of international organizations may play the role of a "bridge" between the international organization and their home country. For example, when Japan cohosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), in 2016 held in Kenya with the United Nations, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and others, Japanese staff members, who are able to understand the work procedure of both Japan and partner organizations and

differences in the way of thinking between them, proved essential in advancing projects and policy issues in a smooth, prompt and efficient manner and their roles were highly appreciated by the international organizations (See Column "The Voices of the People Who Gave Support on the UN Stage"). The presence of Japanese staff in international organization has vital significance also from the perspective of promotion of Japan's diplomatic priorities.

Moreover, increase in the number of Japanese people with various international experiences will in turn lead to enrichment of human resources of Japan, contributing to the development of Japan as a whole.

MOFA will continue to be even more active in undertaking measures to increase the number of Japanese nationals working in international organizations so that competent Japanese nationals who understand the roles and responsibility of international organizations and have high aspiration and passion to contribute to solving the issues faced by the international community can take part in international organizations.



## (2) Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

### A Development Assistance

It is estimated that in Japan there are over 400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in international

cooperation activities. Most of them are familiar with local needs at the grassroots level and provide flexible and detailed support in developing countries / regions with various challenges such as poverty, natural disaster, and conflicts and their

## Column The Voices and People Who Have Supported the United Nations

### The UN as a path to building a better world

June Kunugi Special Representative

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), State of Palestine

Working for the United Nations is in my DNA—literally, as my father previously worked for the United Nations in New York, Jerusalem, and Bangkok. Growing up as a foreigner wherever I lived also made me want to dedicate myself towards promoting multicultural understanding and building a more peaceful, equitable, and tolerant world through international partnership.

The 1990 World Summit for Children organized by UNICEF gave me both inspiration and later a career opportunity. As a graduate student, I attended and wrote an article about the Summit for the *Asahi Weekly*. I was moved by the Summit's message that the means and knowledge exist in the world to protect children and reduce their suffering, and to tackle the challenge of around 40,000 children dying every day from largely preventable causes—diarrhoea, respiratory infections, and malnutrition. What was needed was political will, which is why UNICEF convened the largest gathering of world leaders up to that time, and mobilized their commitment and political will to achieve the goals and plan of action adopted at the Summit.

After graduating in 1991, I was fortunate to get a job with UNICEF, first as a consultant and then as a JPO sponsored by the Government of Japan.

I have worked with UNICEF at headquarters (New York, Tokyo) and field locations (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Oman and the Gulf, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and now Palestine) for over a quarter of a century. I have witnessed significant progress, including in reducing child mortality rates globally through the work of the UN and its partners, enabled by donor partnership and support, with Japan being one of the leaders.

I have felt privileged to have been part of the UN, and highly recommend more Japanese people to consider careers in the UN system. The technical expertise and experience Japanese staff contribute are highly appreciated, and in turn they gain unique experience and knowledge that enrich Japanese society and linkages with the rest of the world, building a better future together.



With a girl from the nomadic Bedouin tribe

**Supporting “Win-Win-Win” TICAD Process**  
**Shigeki Komatsubara, TICAD Programme Adviser**  
**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Over two days in August 2016, in Nairobi Kenya, the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), the first TICAD summit on African soil, was held. TICAD VI attracted political and business leaders from Africa and Japan as well as representatives from Europe, Americas, Asia, Civil Society as well as International Organizations, totaling 11,000, proved to be one of the most successful international conferences held in Africa.

UNDP and Japan have much in common in their development perspectives and approaches, such as human centered development, human security, as well as individual and institutional capacity building, and have been working together for the success of the TICAD process since its inception in 1993. TICAD, which brings together key stakeholders from Africa, Japan and global community to discuss African development, is a very unique international endeavor, and it has been making important contributions to global development agenda such as the regional integration, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reflecting the rising interest among Japanese stakeholders in Africa that is achieving steady economic growth, more than 3,000 people participated in TICAD VI from Japan. It was a touching moment to meet again in Nairobi with so many Japanese business leaders with whom I had worked during 11 years at Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) secretariat, before joining UNDP 15 years ago. Since then, I have been consistently working for African development from UNDP headquarters in New York and Ghana country office, and have witnessed Japan and Africa getting ever closer to each other.

TICAD is the “win-win-win” endeavor, contributing to Africa, Japan and the Global Society at the same time. I look forward to welcoming more Japanese colleagues to join the United Nations and enrich it with their experiences and wisdoms.



With Kenya's Ambassador Ben Ogotu, Director General of the TICAD VI Secretariat, on the day of the adoption of the TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration

## Column

**Impressions from the podium of chairing the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)****Masahiko Metoki, Chairman, Postal Operations Council (POC), Universal Postal Union (UPU) (Senior Vice President (International Affairs), JAPAN POST Co., Ltd.)**

During the plenary session of the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Berne, Switzerland, the conference room, with a capacity of 200, is filled to the second-floor balcony seats with representatives of the 40 Council members, observers, regional organizations, Secretariat staff members, and others.

The Chairman and about 10 members of the International Bureau, including the Director General, sit in a row on a 60-cm-high podium at the front of the room.

From 2013 to 2016, I chaired a total of eight meetings here. I would look over the conference room, and then declare the meeting open. All eyes would turn to me, and we were seemingly transported to another world for a while.

The proceedings never follow the script. There is not a moment's rest with requests to change the order of proceedings, the absence of the person supposed to explain the agenda items, voting requiring complicated procedures, and untimely statements just as discussions are about to conclude, as well as the need to notify the interpreters and other people concerned when we have to go beyond the scheduled time.

I also made many blunders. For example, I did not notice that a member country right in front of me was requesting to speak. I also mistakenly said 2020 instead of 2012 and was warned by the support staff next to me.

This was what it was like to be in charge of the meeting. Fortunately, Japan was well-received by UPU members as the chair country. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me along the way.

The UPU is an international organization for international mail whose purpose is to guarantee the free circulation of postal items over a single worldwide postal territory composed of interconnected networks. Established in 1874, the UPU is said to be the second oldest international organization worldwide. It became a UN specialized agency in 1947. It currently has 192 member states and areas.

The Congress, the supreme body of the UPU, is held once every four years. Operations between Congresses are carried out by the International Bureau, the Council of Administration (CA; 41 council members) and the Postal Operations Council (POC; responsible for operational matters concerning postal service, 40 council members).

Japan joined the UPU in 1877 and has always been handily elected a member of the POC since its establishment in 1957. It has actively contributed to operational activities, including quality improvement of Express Mail Service (EMS) and the development of a



Mr. Metoki (left) with an IB director (right).

tracking system for international mail, as two specific examples of its cooperation.

Against this background, in order to contribute to the UPU as a way to show gratitude for the condolences and encouragement that we received from other countries on the occasion of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and to emphasize the importance of the public mission of mail as a country struck by disaster, Japan stood for the first time in 2012 as a candidate for the POC chair.

At the Doha Congress in that same year, Japan, as the sole candidate, was elected as the chair country. I was designated to serve as the POC chairman, as I was the director of the International Business Division of Japan Post at the time.

As chairman, I aimed to conduct the proceedings effectively and in a way that everyone, including myself, could understand. Specifically, with the cooperation of member countries and the International Bureau, I was able to achieve results such as making the proceedings visible by displaying the agenda items in English and French at the front of the conference room and expediting decision-making by holding meetings twice a year. Today, they have become standard practice for the UPU.

It was also important to build personal trust with the chairpersons of the committees under the POC that discuss specialized and technical matters.

In January 2013, we held a preparatory meeting in Tokyo to which we invited the committee chairpersons on a voluntary, unofficial basis. All the chairpersons participated and generated an esprit de corps to conduct POC activities together through cross-functional discussions on issues for the POC as a whole.

At the end of the cycle, the committee chairpersons stated one after another that they had gained a solid understanding of the matters that needed to be executed through teamwork at the Tokyo meeting and that they had never experienced anything like that in their long years of activity in the UPU.

With that, I managed to fulfill my duties as the chair. At the Universal Postal Congress in Istanbul, Turkey in October 2016, Japan was elected again as the chair country, and I was designated to serve again as the chairman.

There are several important issues in this cycle as well that require early decisions.

Integrating international postal products, Electronic Advance Data (EAD) of customs information and the development and introduction of products geared to e-commerce are just a few of the issues that are the subject of major controversy from legal and technical perspectives. I intend to use my previous experience as the chair to hold efficient and effective discussions.

In this new four-year cycle, I hope to be able to look around the conference room in a little more relaxed manner.



Mr. Metoki (second from the left) with the committee chairs at a regional meeting in New Delhi.

importance in development cooperation is increasing.

MOFA provides financial cooperation in the form of grant assistance for economic and social development projects implemented by Japanese NGOs in developing countries/regions (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) and actively provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) through NGOs. In FY 2016 (as of end-December), 29 Japanese NGOs implemented 38 Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects in 15 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, etc. The projects cover a wide range of assistance, including, health/medical/hygienic care (maternal and child health, countermeasures for tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS, water/hygiene, etc.), rural development (environmental development/technological improvement for agriculture), support for the people with disabilities (vocational training/employment assistance, provision of wheelchairs for children, etc.), education (building schools, etc.), disaster risk reduction, and the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). Moreover, subsidies are provided with the objective of supporting activities that enhance the project execution capabilities and expert skills of Japanese NGOs and promote NGO projects (NGO Project Subsidies).

The Japan Platform (JPF) was established in 2000, with the aim of conducting emergency humanitarian assistance effectively and promptly through cooperation and partnership among the government, NGOs and business communities at the time of refugee crises/large-scale natural disasters. As of the end of December 2016, 46 NGOs are members of JPF. In 2016, JPF launched aid to assist

Hurricane “Matthew” disaster victims in Haiti and an Emergency response to Extreme Winter Condition (Dzud) in Mongolia, JPF continuously provided assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria, Iraq, and their neighboring nations. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Afghanistan, Yemen, Gaza (Palestine), South Sudan, and Myanmar, etc.

Japanese NGOs conduct a number of activities using contributions from supporters and the income earned from their own business. In recent years, with growing public interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), an increasing number of companies with technologies and funds implement social action programs-projects in developing countries in partnership with NGOs with much knowledge on development cooperation.

As seen thus far, NGOs assume important roles in the area of development cooperation. Identifying such NGOs as partners in development cooperation, MOFA and JICA provide indirect support for NGO activities through various policy measures with the aim of enhancing their capacity, and expertise as well as developing human resources so that NGOs can strengthen the foundation for their activities and perform further tasks. In 2016, MOFA implemented four projects, namely “NGO Study Group,” “NGO Overseas Study Program,” “NGO Intern Program” and “NGO Consultant Scheme.”

Moreover, the general meeting of the “NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting” was held in June in order to promote dialogue/coordination with NGOs. Also the ODA Policy Council to discuss overall ODA and the Partnership Promotion Committee to discuss support



for NGOs and cooperation measures were held. In addition, MOFA has been working on global-scale issues in the development and humanitarian areas, including the process to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, exchanging opinions with NGOs.

### **B Partnership in Other Major Diplomatic Areas**

MOFA also cooperates with NGOs in areas other than development cooperation. For instance, at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March, Ms. Hiroko Hashimoto (professor emeritus of Jumonji University and principal of Jumonji Junior/



Creating a Place for the Handicapped to Work in Houaphanh Province, Laos (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects Photo: Asian Development with Disabled Persons (ADDP Japan; specified non-profit organization))



The Second FY2016 NGO Consultants Liaison Meeting (November 28, Okayama Prefecture)

Senior High School) represented Japan, and NGO representatives actively participated in discussions as members of the Japanese delegation. At the 71th UN General Assembly, Ms. Yasue Nunoshiba (professor of Bunkyo University) attended the Third Committee, which deals with a range of social and human rights issues, as an advisor to the representatives of the Government of Japan. In addition, the Government of Japan has initiated dialogues with civil society including NGO representatives and experts on matters related to government reports to be submitted based on various conventions on human rights, third country resettlement projects, and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security based on the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 and related resolutions.

Japanese NGOs are also increasing their presence in the area of disarmament, and MOFA has been actively promoting cooperation with NGOs in the area of conventional weapons, for example, participation of MOFA officials in seminars hosted by NGOs, cooperation in clearance of mines and unexploded ordnances, and risk reduction education projects.

Furthermore, in the area of nuclear disarmament, MOFA has been conducting dialogues with various NGOs and experts. The Government supports the activities of NGOs and others to convey atomic bomb survivors' testimonies on the realities of the disaster of the use of nuclear weapons to the international community through the commissioned projects called "the Special Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons" and "the Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons." As of December, a total of 262 Special Communicators on 83 occasions and a



total of 174 Youth Communicators on 18 occasions have been dispatched to the world through these commission programs.

As for the measures against transnational organized crime, especially in the area of trafficking in persons, coordination with civil society including NGOs is essential. With this in mind, the government actively exchanges opinions with NGOs and other stakeholders to identify recent trends of trafficking in persons and to consult appropriate measures to address them.

### (3) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers (SV)

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program aimed at cooperation/assistance for the economic and social development of the communities of the developing countries where young skilled people aged 20 to 39 live and work together with local people in these countries, fostering mutual understanding. As of end-November 2016, 42,094 JOCVs had been dispatched to 88 countries in total. Dispatched members have been engaged in about 200 types of work in nine areas: planning administration, commercial/tourism, public utility works, human resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, health/medical care, mining, social welfare and energy.

In July 2016, JOCV, which was established in 1965 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, received the Philippines' Ramon Magsaysay Award<sup>1</sup>, otherwise known as the Asian Nobel Prize. JOCV is highly regarded

by developing countries as representing the "Visibility of Japanese Development Cooperation."

In 2016, in addition to countries where JOCVs had been dispatched, Japan concluded an agreement with Myanmar concerning the dispatch of volunteers under the JOCV program and an agreement with Lesotho on technical cooperation including JOCV.

The Senior Volunteers (SV) program is a program to dispatch middle aged persons from 40 to 69 years of age who have wide-ranging skills and rich experiences to developing countries. The program has been expanding every year since its foundation in 1990. By the end of November 2016, a total of 6,047 volunteers had been dispatched to 74 countries, and cooperated in nine areas, the same as the JOCV program. The SV program has drawn increasing interest in recent years from the perspective of supporting to start a new life after retirement and utilizing the rich experiences and expertise of retired senior citizens.

JOCV and SV programs are supported by the high aspirations of people who are keen to provide cooperation for the sake of economic and social development and reconstruction of developing countries. MOFA actively promotes these programs, considering them as a core of participatory international cooperation by citizens. As of end-November 2016, 2,044 JOCVs and 391 SVs are working around the world (69 countries and 58 countries, respectively). The volunteer participants who have returned to Japan contribute to Japanese

<sup>1</sup> Established to commemorate President Ramon Magsaysay of the Philippines, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is awarded each year by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation located in Manila City to an individual or organization that has produced exemplary results in Asia through contributions to society, etc.



A volunteer from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) giving advice on life improvement in Costa Rica (Photo: Kenshiro Imamura/JICA)



A member from the Senior Volunteers (SV) working as a nurse at a hospital in Laos (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/ JICA)

society by sharing their experiences in educational and local activity settings and private companies. These unique participatory activities of Japan are highly appreciated and expected both domestically and internationally, including in recipient countries.

Experiences gained from JOCV/SV programs can lead to the personal development of the participants as human resources who will make a positive impact on the global arena. Thus, the government is working with companies, municipal governments and universities which need such opportunities to develop human resources through the dispatch of their employees, teachers and students to developing countries. This could lead to expand the participants from a broad range of areas. For instance, as a

program responding to the needs of private companies, such as small-and medium-sized enterprises, aiming for international development of their businesses, the government launched the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer” program in FY2012. Furthermore, the government is committed to developing an environment where returned JOCVs and SVs can feed back their experiences into society, including employment support. Returned volunteers are active in many fields inside and outside Japan. Some have been hired by the Reconstruction Agency to work as additional personnel for disaster-stricken local governments, utilizing their own specialties and experience gained in JOCV/SV programs. Some keep on supporting the countries where they were dispatched with other returned volunteers, others work for international organizations.

### 3 Cooperation with Local Government

Regional revitalization is one of the priority issues of the Cabinet. Both MOFA and diplomatic missions overseas work as one to actively promote various measures that contribute to the vitalization of the regions in order to promote a powerful diplomacy that leads to regional revitalization.

Inside Japan, projects to support regional revitalization, which started in 2015 using the Iikura House, the Ministry's facility, were jointly implemented with Kagawa Prefecture (February), Ibaraki Prefecture (June), and Wakayama Prefecture (November). Under this scheme co-hosted by the Foreign Minister and respective prefectural governors, the ambassadors residing in Japan and foreign people



Stage performance at reception (Reception co-hosted with the Governor of Kagawa Prefecture) (February 9, the Iikura House, MOFA)



Booths at the reception venue (Reception co-hosted with the Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture) (June 1, the Iikura House, MOFA)

involved in commerce and industry are invited to the Iikura House to hold seminars and receptions. With many people in attendance for each project, the various attractiveness of the regions were introduced widely both in Japan and abroad.

In addition, in 2016, MOFA launched a new undertaking to showcase the attractiveness of the regions globally. In this project, the Foreign Minister and other high-level MOFA officials visit regions in Japan with the diplomatic corps in Japan to engage in dialogue with the local people, and promote the attractiveness of the regions to the world, with the aim of connecting Japan's regions with the world and further vitalizing such areas. Foreign Minister Kishida and others visited Miyagi Prefecture in November as part of this



*Kagami-Biraki*, opening a cask of Japanese sake (Reception co-hosted with the Governor of Wakayama Prefecture) (November 10, the Iikura House, MOFA)



"Local to Global" Project: *Matsushima Taiyō Kaki Matsuri in Isojima* (Big Catch Festival for Matsushima Oysters in Isojima) (November 23, Matsushima Town, Miyagi Prefecture)

project.

Besides, "Regional Promotion Seminars" and "Diplomats' Study Tours" were organized for the diplomatic corps in Japan. "Regional Promotion Seminars" to showcase the attractiveness of respective regions were held in collaboration with Miyagi Prefecture, Miyazaki Prefecture, Kashihara City in Nara Prefecture and Tochigi Prefecture at MOFA in February, and also held in collaboration with Nagano Prefecture, Yokosuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture, Iki City in Nagasaki Prefecture and Suzuka City in Mie Prefecture at a hotel in Tokyo in June. 70 to 80 members of the diplomatic corps took part in each of the seminars. At the seminars, participating local governmental units gave presentations to the diplomatic corps in Japan and other participants to convey

the attractiveness in terms of tourism and the benefits of investing in their respective regions. This was followed by booth exhibits of the unique products and tourist attractions of the respective regions, and mutual exchanges.

“Diplomats’ Study Tours” organized for the diplomatic corps in Japan were conducted in Tochigi Prefecture (February), Yokosuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture (May), Nagano Prefecture (July), Fukuoka City in Fukuoka Prefecture and Iki City in Nagasaki Prefecture (November), with around 20 to 30 members of the diplomatic corps participating in each occasion. The diplomatic corps visited local research, cultural, industrial and artistic facilities, etc. and interacted with various local organizations and their students.

Furthermore, MOFA actively provides local governments with opportunities to explain Japan’s current diplomatic policies and exchange views. As a part of such activities, a “Local Partnership Cooperation Forum” was held in January. Part One of the forum was the foreign policy briefing session, where MOFA explained “Economic Diplomacy and Public-Private Collaboration.” In Part Two of the forum, participants exchanged views in five sectional meetings entitled “information transmission to the world by making use of foreign media”, “local partnership”, “showcasing various attractiveness of Japan through the Japan House”, “Public-Private Cooperation (supporting the overseas activities of Japanese businesses and local governments by utilizing ODA)”, and “undertaking regional revitalization (utilization of new types of grants, etc.).” About 250 people, mainly local government officials, attended the forum.

Overseas, MOFA continued to conduct the “Project to Support Overseas Presentations as Countermeasures for Reputational Damages,” launched in 2015 to dispel rumors stemming from the Great East Japan Earthquake and promote the attractiveness of tourism resources and food in collaboration with local governments in the disaster-stricken areas, in Seoul and Taipei (hosted by the Interchange Association (public interest incorporated foundation)) in February 2016. In Seoul, local government officials and people from the tourism and distribution industries among others took part in the ceremony at the Ambassador’s residence by invitation, with Aomori, Miyagi, Fukushima and Kagoshima Prefectures participating. In Taipei, the opening ceremonies were held with officials from the Taiwanese authorities and people from the food industries, tourism and distribution industries among others taking part by invitation, as well as a promotion event for the general public with about 17,000 visitors over two days with the participation of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Chiba and Ehime Prefectures.

In addition, 20 “Regional Promotion Projects” were conducted in Asia, North America, and Europe as measures to support local governments in promoting the attractiveness of each region and in developing local industries and regional economies by making use of Japan’s diplomatic facilities overseas. For example, in June, the Shanghai Office of Kumamoto Prefecture and the Consulate General of Japan in Shanghai showcased the attractiveness of Kumamoto and Kyushu by co-hosting an event at the consulate-general to recover reputational damages of the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016 mainly





Regional Promotion Seminar: Exchange meeting (June 30, Tokyo)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Welcome reception hosted by the mayor (May 23, Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture)

in the field of tourism and to express gratitude for the support and donations for Kumamoto.

In addition, MOFA supports sister-city exchanges between Japanese local bodies and their counterparts abroad through various initiatives. Specifically, in order to support the international initiatives of local governments and communities, Japanese diplomats visit sister cities of Japanese municipalities and share each other's opinions with officials responsible for international/economic exchanges. Also, heads of the diplomatic missions overseas visit local cities in Japan to have dialogues and deliver lectures on sister city exchanges prior to leaving for new posts or when they



Diplomats' Study Tour: Tourism Train "Rokumon" (July 29, Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: A so-called Yuruchara (costumed mascot character), Jinmenseki-kun (stone face character), welcomed the diplomatic corps (November 8, Iki City, Nagasaki Prefecture)

temporarily return to Japan. In addition, if a foreign local governmental body wants to establish a sister-city relationship with a Japanese one, MOFA indirectly supports such a move by providing prefectures and 20 major cities with relevant information and posting it on the "Glocal" (global and local) Diplomatic Network" on the website of MOFA<sup>2</sup>.

As part of the overseas promotion of alcoholic beverages (Japanese sake and wine, etc.) produced in various parts of Japan, diplomatic missions overseas create opportunities to introduce Japanese alcoholic beverages, by way of offering them at lunch/dinner with government leaders of the assigned countries or diplomatic corps

<sup>2</sup> Currently (as of February 2017), the countries with a large number of Japan's sister and partnership cities (including prefectures and municipalities) are, in descending order, the U.S. (448), China (362), the ROK (163), Australia (108), and Canada (70) and so on. (Calculated by the Council of Local Authorities for Internal Relations; see its website: <http://www.clair.or.jp/j/exchange/>)



The local promotion project in Taipei to recover reputational damages (February 26, Taipei)

of other countries, and making a toast with Japanese sake at grand events such as the Emperor's birthday receptions. As a result, participants in these lunch/dinner events or receptions organized around the world have given positive feedback and evaluations on Japanese alcoholic beverages. The opportunities have increased their understanding and initiated their interest in Japanese alcoholic beverages.

Moreover, MOFA works on supporting local companies. With the rapid economic development, the demand for water treatment, waste disposal, urban transportation, and anti-pollution measures, etc., have sharply increased in developing countries. In cooperation with Japanese local authorities and by making use of ODA, MOFA supports the overseas business expansion of local SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), which have accumulated knowledge on countermeasures against such problems, and increases development cooperation. This contributes not only to the global outreach of local companies, development of globally competent human resources, and Japanese style of infrastructure export but also to vitalizing the economy of whole Japan as well as some local areas.