

Section 2

Japan's International Cooperation (Development Cooperation and Response to Global Issues)

Overview

(Development Cooperation Charter and Strategic Use of ODA)

More than sixty years have passed since Japan started its Official Development Assistance (ODA)¹ in 1954. Japan's development cooperation policy including ODA has greatly contributed to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community and consequently the national interests of Japan for many years.

On the other hand, the international situation with regard to development cooperation is at a major crossroad. The world is facing more diverse and complex challenges transcending national borders as the world becomes increasingly globalized. Furthermore, considering the growing roles of recent non-ODA public/private funds and support from emerging countries, it is important to collect wisdom and actions of developing countries as well as developed countries and various resources apart from the central government (corporations, local governments, NGOs, etc.). In this new era,

it is essential for ensuring Japan's national interests that Japan should consider development cooperation as a part of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and strategically use ODA to address development and human rights issues while continuing to adhere to the course that Japan has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. Under the Development Cooperation Charter established based on this recognition (decided by the Cabinet in February 2015), there is a need to steadily implement the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," the development goals for the whole international community, including developed countries. It is also vital to establish anew a fully adequate system in order to secure the safety of Japanese people engaged in international cooperation abroad.

For Japan, development cooperation is one of the most important diplomatic tools and is essential for its proactive contribution to peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, from humanitarian assistance such as initiatives to resolve

¹ For details on Japan's international cooperation, refer to "Japan's International Cooperation" of White Paper on Development Cooperation.

issues concerning refugees in the Middle East and Africa, emergency assistance in response to disasters, to economic and social development in developing countries such as infrastructure development and human resource development. In particular, the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” set out by Prime Minister Abe in August 2016 places emphasis on support that contributes to strengthening the rule of law at sea, as well as enhancing connectivity through means such as the development of quality infrastructure, in order to achieve economic prosperity for the region. In developing quality infrastructure, it is vital to secure various elements including economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs and responsible financing for recipient countries which are included in the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016, as well as openness and transparency of infrastructure, and promote their international standardization. Japan will continue to contribute to peace and prosperity of the international community while actively making use of ODA and developing quality infrastructure.

The revitalization of Japan's economy through the growth of developing countries and its growth alongside these countries is also an important issue for Japan's national interest. As described in the “Growth Strategy 2017” (revised in June 2017) and “Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy” (revised in May 2016), it is necessary to utilize ODA strategically in order to further promote the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

Such efforts by Japan have won both high praise and trust from the international



Foreign Minister Kono attending the side event on promoting investment in quality infrastructure, at the 72nd UN General Assembly (September 19, New York, U.S.)

community. It is important that Japan continues and strengthens the efforts in the future so that Japan can lead the international community as a major responsible country in the world and ensure the international environment and order in line with Japan's national interests.

(Response to Global Issues)

While globalization has resulted in dramatic economic and social development worldwide, it has also brought about diverse threats to human security. The threats include conflict, terrorism, disasters, global environmental issues such as climate change, global health issues including infectious diseases, human trafficking, refugee issues, labor issues, and economic crises. These global issues cannot be addressed by one country alone. The international community must work together based on the concept of human security. Against this background, new frameworks aimed at countering the various global issues were formulated, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement. In 2017, Japan accelerated the implementation of these frameworks, and

at the same time, disseminated information about Japan's initiatives through the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC)² Forum 2017 (See Special Feature "UHC Forum 2017").

With the aim of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted in September 2015 as international goals with the year 2030 as the target deadline, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters was established within the Cabinet in May 2016, headed by the Prime Minister and comprising of all Ministers as members. Japan's guidelines toward the achievement of the SDGs (SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles) were established in December the same year. At the fourth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held in December 2017, the SDGs Action Plan 2018 was decided. This Action Plan incorporated the key initiatives that the Government of Japan aims to advance in an integrated manner. Overseas as well, Foreign Minister Kishida attended the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2017, where he put out messages about Japan's SDGs initiatives through public-private partnership as well as international cooperation relating to the SDGs (See Special Feature "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -Cooperation with Diverse Stakeholders-").

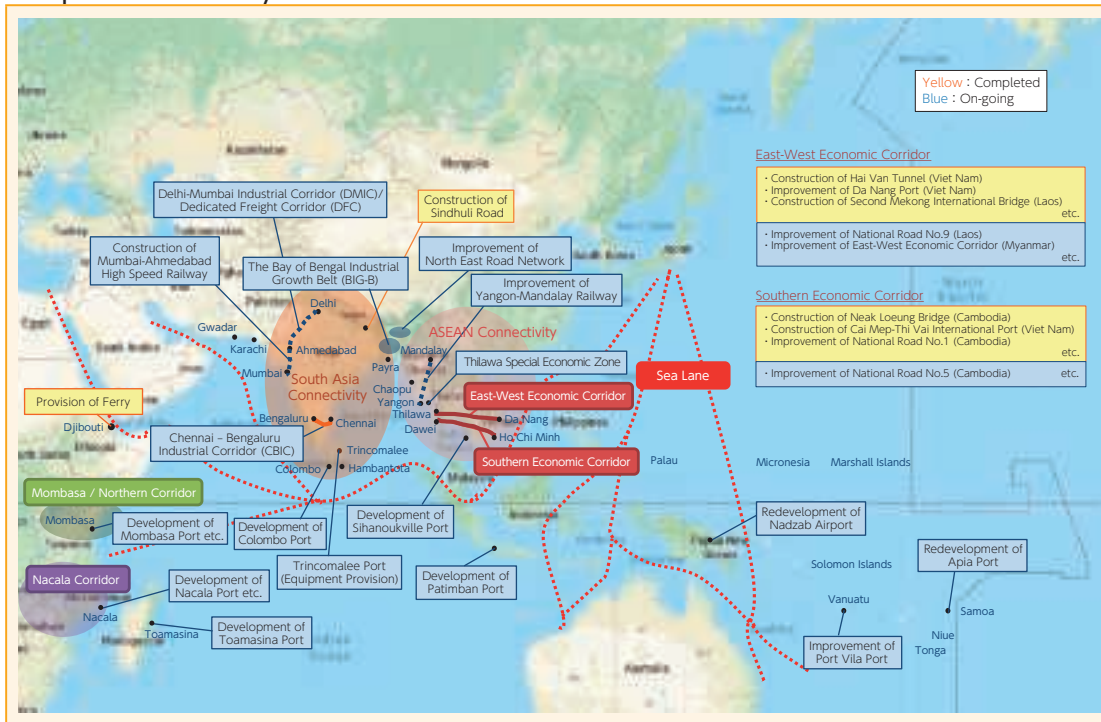
In the area of disaster risk reduction, which is essential to realize sustainable development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

held in Sendai in March 2015, and steady efforts are underway to bring disaster risk reduction into the mainstream. The enactment of "World Tsunami Awareness Day" (November 5), adopted at the UN General Assembly in December 2015, was followed by the implementation of related activities in 2017 including events to raise awareness about the "World Tsunami Awareness Day" in Japan and around the world, as well as tsunami evacuation drills.

In the area of health, Japan contributed to the international efforts in addressing global health issues based on the "Basic Design for Peace and Health" formulated in September 2015 as its Global Health policy under the Development Cooperation Charter. The UHC Forum 2017 was convened in Tokyo in December 2017 to promote UHC, and the importance of promoting UHC, which also contributes to responding to public health emergencies such as infectious diseases, left a deep impression about Japan's leadership in this field on the international community.

In the area of climate change, the Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in France in December 2015. This Agreement is a fair and effective framework that provides for the submission of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (nationally determined contribution) by each country independently, with no distinction between developing and developed countries, and for the implementation of measures toward the achievement of these targets. It entered into force in November 2016, and Japan

² To endure affordable access to basic health services for all whenever they need them throughout their lives

▶ **Japan's Connectivity Initiative**

ratified the Agreement in the same year. Negotiations are currently underway with the aim of adopting the relevant guidelines in 2018, and Japan participated actively in discussions to that end at the COP23 held in Germany in November 2017 as well as on other occasions.

Japan will continue to cooperate with the respective countries, international organizations, civil society, etc., under the Global Partnership, to promote human security and work actively toward the resolution of global issues.

Rapid changes in the Arctic environment as a result of global warming have brought about possibilities of new economic activities such as the use of the Northern Sea Route and the development of mineral and biological resources. On the other hand, there is growing concern over the Arctic environment in the international community, such as the impact on the lives

of people in the Arctic including indigenous peoples, the importance of conserving the Arctic environment and sustainable development, and potential changes of the security environment.

Based on “Japan’s Arctic Policy” adapted in 2015, Japan will ensure its strong presence on the issues over the Arctic by its contribution to the whole world, making full use of its strength in science and technology.

(Science and Technology Diplomacy)

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements for peace and prosperity that support socioeconomic development, and play a vital role in security. In this regard, Japan’s advanced science and technology attracts a high level of international interest and expectations. Japan, by promoting science and technology diplomacy, harnesses its

unique strengths in science and technology to contribute to the development of science and technology at home and abroad, the promotion of relations with other countries, the peace and stability of the international community, and the resolution of global challenges. Japan is also putting effort into initiatives implemented through the activities of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

1 Development Cooperation (ODA, etc.)

(1) The Current Status of ODA

A FY2017 Priority Policy for Development Cooperation

From the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, development cooperation is one of the most important tools toward further contributing to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, and promoting Japan’s diplomatic policies. With the aim of promoting strategic and effective development cooperation based on the Development Cooperation Charter, while also taking reference from diplomatic policies such as the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” and guidelines such as the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs),” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has positioned the following (items (A) to (C)) as priority issues for FY2017, and will tackle these challenges while strengthening cooperation with various entities.

(A) Improving the environment and sharing universal values to achieve peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community

Based on the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy,” Japan is committed to

improving connectivity between Asia and Africa as well as promoting stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. At the same time, Japan also works to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals working abroad, such as by offering cooperation to efforts by developing countries to improve counter-terrorism measures and the security environment. Based on the concept of sustaining peace, Japan contributes proactively to the realization of peace and stability in the international community through peacebuilding, support for refugees, measures to counter violent extremism, and other efforts, while at the same time strengthening the collaboration between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. Japan also provides support for efforts by countries that share universal values such as the rule of law, and cooperates in fields including the strengthening of maritime security capabilities and the development of legal systems.

(B) Addressing global challenges and promoting human security towards achieving the SDGs

Japan strategically implements cooperation initiatives towards the achievement of the SDGs, which the international community as a whole is geared towards. In particular, Japan provides support for drawing up national strategies and plans, and also supports human resource development in relation to the formulation and implementation of development policies. It promotes cooperation in fields such as health, women (gender), education, disaster risk reduction and tsunami countermeasures, and climate change and global environmental issues.

(C) Contributing to economic diplomacy and regional revitalization with the aim of achieving “quality growth” alongside developing countries

Japan is involved in cooperative efforts toward the realization of “quality growth” in developing countries, and through that cooperation, contributes also to the growth of Japan alongside with the developing countries, and to regional revitalization in Japan. In particular, Japan works to improve the environment for foreign direct investment, and to support the overseas expansion of local governments and small and medium-sized enterprises, while at the same time further promoting the expansion of “quality infrastructure,” including the promotion of “Japanese style.” Furthermore, Japan provides support for the development of human resources for industries in developing countries, and through new policies, promotes innovation among domestic industries in Japan.

In tackling priority issues (A) to (C) above, efforts are made to organically tie up the initiatives with bilateral cooperation and cooperation through international organizations. At the same time, Japan also promotes companies that enhance Japan’s visibility, with the involvement of Japanese private corporations, local government bodies, universities and research institutes, and NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs). In addition to putting effort into domestic publicity aimed at deepening understanding among the citizens towards supporting developing countries, through development cooperation, Japan also actively communicates information about Japan’s initiatives and promotes them to other countries. Japan is also engaged in efforts to strengthen measures to secure

the safety of those involved in international cooperation projects.

B Safety Measures for Personnel Engaged in International Cooperation Projects

In the terrorist attacks that struck Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in July 2016, seven Japanese engaged in ODA efforts lost their lives while one Japanese was injured. The Government of Japan is determined to continue supporting developing countries, and to never give in to terrorism; however, the international terrorism situation is becoming increasingly severe. To ensure the safety of Japanese personnel engaged in international cooperation abroad, it is vital to establish a new system for ensuring utmost preparedness.

From the standpoint of such awareness, the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects was established under the Minister for Foreign Affairs. After five meetings with participation from many members from the relevant ministries and agencies, the Council published its final report at the end of August 2016, which sets forth new safety measures for personnel engaged in international cooperation projects. The final report covered the safety measures that should be taken in cooperation between MOFA and JICA, with the relevant parties, in accordance with the following five pillars: (1) Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information; (2) Code of conduct of partners and NGOs; (3) Physical/non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills; (4) Post-crisis response; and (5) Heightening crisis management awareness and improving the organizational structure

of MOFA and JICA.

Japan will keep up the steady implementation of new safety measures, and ensure the safety of personnel engaged in international cooperation projects, in order to contribute proactively to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community as a responsible major power.

(2) Japan's Development Cooperation Performance and Approaches to Major Regions

A Japan's ODA Performance

In 2016, Japan provided approximately 16.81 billion US dollars in ODA³, 11.8% more than the previous year on the basis of gross disbursements. Japan ranks fourth among the member states of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), following the U.S., Germany, and the UK. In terms of net disbursements generally used for international comparison, the amount was about 10.42 billion US dollars, up 13.2% from the previous year, and like for gross disbursements, ranking fourth after the U.S., Germany, and the UK. The ODA/GNI ratio based on net disbursements was 0.20%, ranking 20th among member states of the DAC.

B Approaches to Major Regions

(A) Southeast and Southwest Asia

The peace, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asian region are important to Japan, which has a close relationship with the region. Japan has created momentum toward solutions for various development



Opening ceremony of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Myanmar. Japan provides support for the SEZ in many ways, including investing in the SEZ management company, developing the surrounding infrastructure, establishing the relevant legal systems, government administration, and consideration for environment and society. (August 14, Myanmar Photo: MJTD)

issues including poverty reduction, by promoting economic growth and human security in the region through development cooperation, and also contributed to the development of the region.

Approximately 52.3% of the total bilateral ODA of Japan went to the Asia region in 2016. A large portion of it comprised of support for Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan not only provides support towards efforts aimed at overcoming issues faced by ASEAN and further promoting integration, but also places a strong emphasis on support for the building of quality infrastructure and training of industrial human resources to strengthen regional connectivity and industrial foundation development. For example, Japan has already undertaken human resource development for more than 30,000 people in ASEAN by March 2017, including experienced technical experts, engineers, and human resources for research and development under “the Industrial Human Resource Development

³ The main forms of ODA from Japan are: grant aid, namely, bilateral fund donations; loan aid for development in developing regions; technical cooperation; donations or contributions to international organizations. Of these, loan aid for development accounts for the largest percentage. Loan aid for development is typically repaid with interest.

Cooperation Initiative,” which aims to develop 40,000 industrial human resources in three years, as announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Malaysia) held in November 2015. Furthermore, in order to establish a free and open international order, Japan places great importance on providing support for maritime security through ODA, including the provision of patrol boats and the related equipment, and human resource development, to the Asia region, which is located along Japan’s sea lanes, and is important for regional security. Furthermore, in light of the current situation and towards the realization of an Asia that is resilient against terrorism, Japan announced at the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in the Philippines in November 2017 that it will be providing steady support of 15 billion Japanese yen over two years through a comprehensive approach to improve security in the southern part of the Philippines and the Sulu-Celebes Seas. In addition to these efforts, Japan is also providing support to eradicate domestic and regional disparity, and support in areas including disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, and energy for creation of a sustainable society.

In the Mekong region, under the “Japan-Mekong Connectivity Initiative,” newly established at the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (Laos) in July 2016, Japan is moving forward on initiatives aimed at the realization of “vibrant and effective connectivity,” including the enhancement of institutional and human connectivity as well as physical connectivity, through further infrastructure development, institutional improvement, and development of the surrounding areas in the region. Japan also announced in

2015 that it will be providing support of 750 billion Japanese yen over three years through ODA. In this regard, it announced at the 9th Japan-Mekong Summit Meeting held in the Philippines in November 2017 that it has already disbursed more than two-thirds of this assistance.

By providing such assistance, Japan aims to provide strong support to the ASEAN Community established in December 2015.

Southwest Asia holds strategic importance as a marine transportation hub that connects East Asia with the Middle East, and is also a region with countries that have immense economic potential, such as India. It is also increasingly drawing interest from Japanese companies as an export and investment destination. On the other hand, the region is still confronted by many unresolved issues such as undeveloped infrastructure and poverty. While also keeping in mind improving the investment environment for Japanese companies and human security, Japan provides a range of assistance through ODA to assist the region in overcoming these challenges.

With regard to India, on the occasion of Prime Minister Abe’s visit to the country in September, the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad



Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the high-speed rail project in India (September 14, Ahmedabad, India). Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

High Speed Rail was held, and the provision of an ODA loan was signed and exchanged. In addition, the two leaders also agreed to move forward on cooperation between Japan and India for the enhancement of regional connectivity and in the development of India's North Eastern Region based on coordination between Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" and India's "Act East policy".

With regard to Sri Lanka, at the Summit Meeting held during Prime Minister Wickremesinghe's visit to Japan in April, Prime Minister Abe announced that, to fully support Sri Lanka's development as a hub in the Indian Ocean, Japan would promote the development of infrastructure in sectors such as ports, transportation and energy through Japan's Quality Infrastructure, and support strengthening connectivity and national development. At the same time, Japan also decided to provide assistance including yen loans for the expansion of water supply and basic infrastructure development in the former conflict-affected areas.

(B) Central Asia

The Central Asia and the Caucasus are geopolitically important areas surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Its stability and development are important for all in the whole Eurasia, including Japan. Japan supports the "open, stable, and independent" development of Central Asia, and upholds the ideal of Japanese diplomacy that contributes to peace and stability in the region and around the world. Japan supports nation building that allows fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, market

economy, and the rule of law to take root for long-term stability and sustainable development in this region with broad-based views covering neighboring regions including Afghanistan and Pakistan in mind.

On the occasion of the issuance of the joint declaration for the Sixth Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue held in Turkmenistan, Japan announced the Initiative for Cooperation in Transport and Logistics, which sets out the current and future direction of cooperation in the field of transportation and logistics. Based on this initiative, future improvements in transportation capabilities and safety through road improvements and disaster risk reduction measures are expected. Furthermore, as a result of the effective application of election-related equipment provided by Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, which is making progress in democratization, during the parliamentary elections of 2015 and presidential elections of 2017, the elections were carried out peacefully without any major disorder. In this way, Japan also contributes to the establishment of democracy.

(C) Central and South America

Central and South America has enjoyed friendly relations with Japan for a long time and have deep historical ties with Japan, as demonstrated by the fact that about 2.1 million Japanese descendants, known as "Nikkei," reside in the region. The region is a major supplier of resources and food, as well as a potential new market with gross regional production amounting to approximately 5 trillion US dollars. On the other hand, as many countries in the region are confronted by problems such as



International disaster relief and rescue team engaged in search and rescue activities after the Mexico earthquake (Photo: JICA)

domestic income disparity and poverty in the agricultural and mountainous regions, Japan is engaged in various cooperative efforts while also taking into account the characteristics of each country in the Central and South America region.

Central and South America is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, and tackling these problems is a challenge. This year, Japan dispatched members of the Japan Disaster Relief Team to Mexico in the aftermath of a major earthquake, and also supplied emergency relief supplies to countries of the Caribbean that had suffered serious damage in the hurricane.

Disaster risk reduction continues to be an important area in Japan's cooperation with Central and South America, and Japan continues to provide technical cooperation aimed at strengthening the abilities of these countries to cope with disasters. This includes providing equipment that is useful during times of disaster, and the Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America "BOSAI." In addition, from the perspective of measures aimed at mitigating the damage caused by disasters, Japan is engaged in the development of disaster-resilient infrastructure through grant aid in

Bolivia, Honduras, Haiti, Saint Lucia, and other parts of this region. In the fields of environment and climate change, Japan has decided to cooperate with Jamaica in promoting energy conservation, with a dollar-denominated loan as the first project.

In Central and South America, it is important to provide cooperation based on the development issues each country faces. During the visit by Prime Minister Abe in 2016, he announced that Japan will commence large-scale grant aid to Cuba. Based on the above announcement, Japan is engaged in new cooperation projects in the agricultural sector, which is a priority area in Cuba. Furthermore, Japan has also decided to provide grant aid for the disposal of landmines to Colombia, which reached a peace agreement in 2016

(D) The Middle East

Securing peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa regions, which are geopolitically important and important for energy security, is crucial not only for the stability of Japan but also of the world. From these standpoints, Japan has proactively provided support for these regions to achieve peace and stability.

Taking the opportunity at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016, Japan announced that it will provide support amounting to approximately 6 billion US dollars over the three years, including support for human resource development for about 20,000 people. The objective is to build a "tolerant and stable society" in the Middle East while stemming the growth of violent extremism based on the stance that "the best way is to go in the middle." From the perspective of extending opportunities for education to Syrian youths and fostering

human resources expected to contribute to the recovery of Syria in the future, Japan announced that it will accept up to 150 Syrian students for the coming five years, and it accepted the students in 2017.

At the First Japan-Arab Political Dialogue held in Cairo, Egypt, during Foreign Minister Kono's visit to the Middle East in September, five new initiatives were announced under the "Kono Four Principles" of (1) intellectual and human contribution; (2) investment in "people;" (3) enduring efforts; and (4) enhancing political efforts. The five Initiatives were: (A) upgrading the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative, (B) further contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) deployed in the Sinai Peninsula, (C) expanding cooperation on education and human resources development, (D) enhancing political efforts, and (E) new humanitarian assistance for refugees and stability. As a part of these efforts, he announced that Japan would be providing fresh support of approximately 25 million US dollars towards humanitarian crises in Syria, Iraq, and the neighboring countries, with the aim of preventing further instability in the region. Furthermore, concerning investment in "People", for the purpose of developing cooperation in the education field under the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP), Foreign Minister Taro Kono explained Japan's policy to offer an ODA loan for Japanese-style education being introduced by the Government of Egypt, as well as a grant aid for educational and research equipment at the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST).

In December, Foreign Minister Kono attended the 13th Manama Dialogue, where



Japanese experts guiding students at the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) (Photo: JICA)

he announced the fresh provision of around 21 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance to Syria and the neighboring countries, as Japan's continued support to countries that have been affected by the fight against ISIL and others. With this, in 2017 alone, Japan's assistance in total will reach over 100 million US dollars for all Syrian people in need inside Syria and around 320 million US dollars in Iraq, Syria and its neighboring countries.

During the same month, Foreign Minister Kono made a tour of the Middle East countries, and delivered a speech at the commemorative ceremony for the kick-off of phase 2 of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) project in Palestine. During his speech, he declared that Japan will be upgrading the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative. In addition to providing support for ICT and facilitating smooth logistics, he revealed Japan's plans to provide fresh support for Palestine amounting to approximately 40 million US dollars.

(E) Africa

Africa has achieved a significant economic growth thanks to its abundant natural resources and a rapidly growing population. As a potential market, it is

attracting the attention and anticipation of the international community. Since 1993, Japan has worked with African countries as well as supporting countries and organizations to tackle Africa's development issues through the processes of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), and continued to provide support towards the realization of economic growth in Africa. The TICAD processes further strengthen relations between Japan and Africa, and serve as a forum for discussing the further development of Africa while respecting the ownership of the African countries. For these reasons, the TICAD framework has been highly appraised by the countries of Africa. In August 2016, TICAD VI was held in Nairobi, Kenya, the first TICAD meeting to be held in Africa. The Nairobi Declaration was adopted with three priority areas as its pillars: (1) Diversification and industrialization of the economy; (2) Promotion of resilient health systems; and (3) Stabilizing society. Prime Minister Abe, who co-chaired the conference, announced during his keynote speech that Japan will be investing a total of 30 billion US dollars jointly from the public and private sectors, over three years from 2016 to 2018, towards Africa's future. This investment will go towards the development of about 10 million human resources by harnessing Japan's strength of high quality, and follow the three priority areas set out in the Nairobi Declaration. In 2017, these efforts were implemented steadily. The TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held in August in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Foreign Minister Kono, who attended the meeting as its co-chair, spoke about the status of progress of Japan's initiatives in

line with its commitments made at TICAD V and TICAD VI.

Japan also takes full advantage of the opportunities presented by exchanges of key persons to promote initiatives under the TICAD process. On the occasion of the visit from President Rajaonarimampianina of Madagascar to Japan in December, the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation on food security and safe water, which are priority areas set out in TICAD VI. In addition, on the occasion of the visit from President Sall of Senegal to Japan during the same month, the two countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation on health, infrastructure, and food security.

The next TICAD, which will be TICAD 7, is scheduled to be held in Yokohama in 2019. Japan will harness its strengths to provide steady support in areas such as economic growth that incorporates private-sector investment, development, and the promotion of social stability. At the same time, Japan will build mutually beneficial relationships with the countries of Africa and will continue to contribute to the realization of Africa's "quality growth" through cooperation between the public and private sectors.

(3) Approaches to Appropriate and Effective Implementation of ODA

A Approaches to Appropriate Implementation of ODA

In the implementation of ODA, efforts are made to enhance transparency by exchanging views with external experts at each phase and formulating projects based on these discussions. In the phase of preliminary studies in the implementation of ODA, the Development Project Accountability Committee holds

open sessions and decides whether studies should be implemented based on reviews and discussions conducted with external experts. Furthermore, after the implementation of the project, JICA publishes on its website the ex-post evaluation results for all projects valued at 200 million Japanese yen or more, while ex-post evaluations are also conducted by third parties for projects valued at 1 billion Japanese yen or more. With regard to grant aid projects implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an ex-post evaluation system has also been introduced since FY2017. Internal ex-post evaluations are carried out for projects over 200 million Japanese yen or more, and the results of the evaluation are published, while external ex-post evaluations are conducted for projects over 1 billion Japanese yen or more. The matters pointed out in such ex-post evaluations are applied to the formulation of future ODA projects.

B Approaches to Effective Implementation of ODA

ODA is implemented through three frameworks corresponding to the needs of the partner country and the scale of the project: grant aid, loan aid, and technical cooperation. In order to utilize the limited budget efficiently and achieve a high level of development, MOFA and JICA take into account the needs of the partner country, establish priority areas of cooperation for each country, and formulate projects that contribute to these areas while going beyond the boundaries of each framework. For example, as the agricultural sector makes up about 30% of Myanmar's GDP, development of agriculture is extremely important in order to improve the lives of

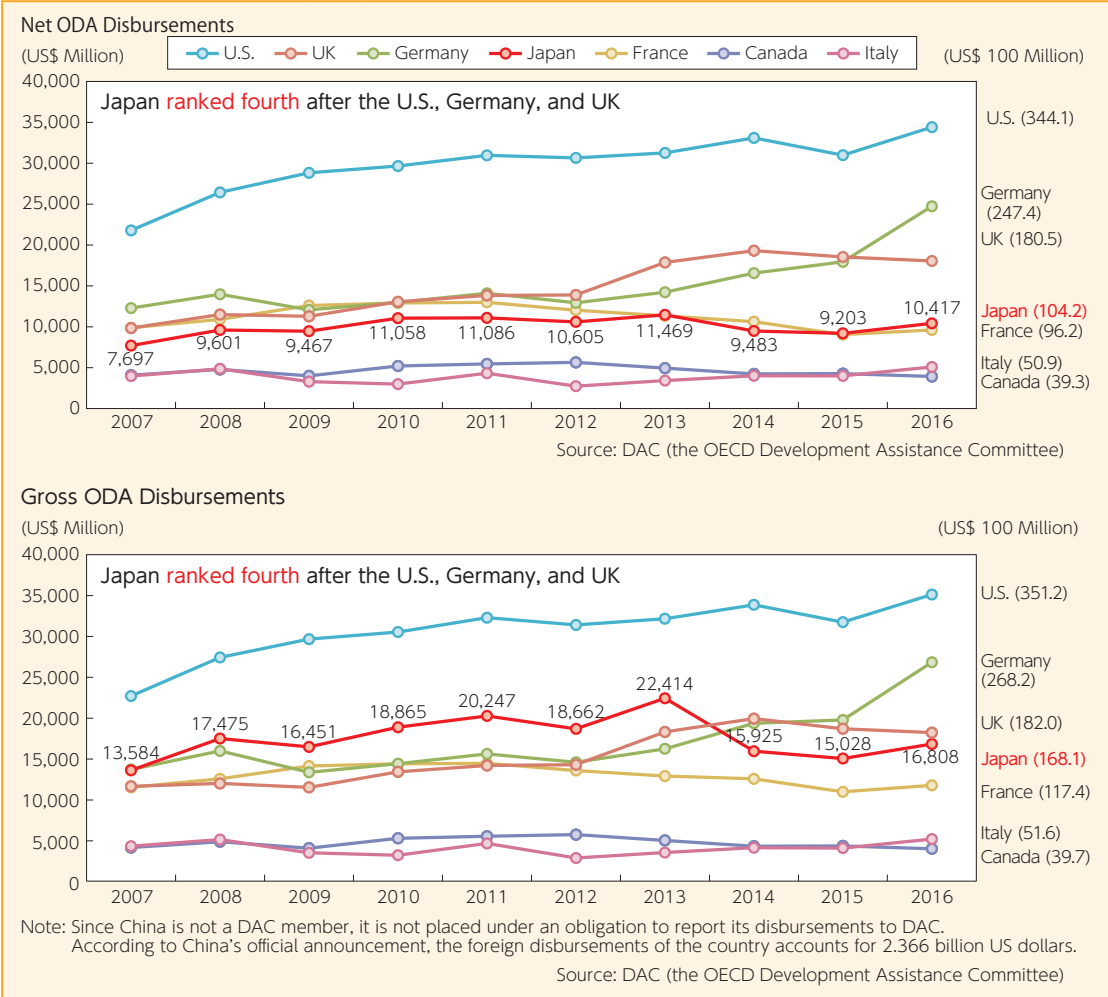
the people. From this perspective, Japan has been dispatching experts since October 2017 to expand systems for the widespread propagation of good seeds, as a part of technical cooperation. In November, it also decided to finance, through an ODA loan, the refurbishment of irrigation facilities, improvements of farm roads and bridges, development of approximately 2,000 hectares of farming fields, and establishment of a seed center, with the aim of improving the income of farmers in Myanmar. In this way, Japan combines various support schemes to improve efficiency of the overall value-chain of agricultural produce.

Japan also contributes to the creation of international frameworks for effective ODA implementation. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) exists as a framework that various development entities participate in with the aim of enabling the international community to work as one towards improving the effectiveness of development cooperation for developing countries. These entities are not limited to developed and developing countries, but also include civil society, the private sector and so on. Japan has been serving on the Steering Committee of the GPEDC since September 2015. At the 2nd High-level Meeting of the GPEDC held in November 2016 as well as other related fora, Japan introduced its initiatives in effective development cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and investment in quality infrastructure, and these initiatives were highly appraised by other participants.

C Efforts toward Promotion of Information Disclosure and Improvement Development of Cooperation Quality

The understanding and support

► Recent Trend of ODA by Major Donors



from Japanese citizens is essential for the implementation of development cooperation. Therefore, efforts are made for effective communication and higher quality of development cooperation to enhance their understanding of ODA. Various PR events took place aiming to reach out to a wide range of people. Specifically, participatory type events such as “Global Festa Japan 2017” (September 30 and October 1), Japan’s largest event for international cooperation, in Odaiba, Tokyo, and “One World Festival” in Osaka City in February were held. In addition to these, TV publicity programs

(Special program “Team Earth Smile of the Interstellar Spacecraft Oriental” and mini program “MA-SA’s Discovery - Smile Earth”) were broadcasted to present some examples of international cooperation activities by Japan all over the world, and to explain the meaning of development cooperation for Japan in an easy-to-understand manner, based on the reports from ODA sites in developing countries. Also, efforts are continuously made to deliver information on development cooperation through the ODA website. Furthermore, based on the Development Cooperation Charter, which declares enhanced efforts

for overseas publicity, Japan plans tours to its development cooperation project sites for the local media so that they will cover Japan's cooperation, and prepares PR pamphlets in English and local languages.

In order to raise the quality of ODA, it is necessary to apply knowledge and know-how gained from ODA evaluations to subsequent policy planning and project implementation. MOFA mainly carries out evaluations by external experts at policy and program levels, and the results are shared and used by relevant parties. Also, from the viewpoint of improving transparency of the JICA's projects, the JICA publicizes their current status and achievements on the "Visible ODA" section of its website. As of the end of December 2017, a total of 3,957 projects are listed on this site.

2 Response to Global Issues

(1) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda)" is a set of international development goals to be achieved by 2030, which was adopted by the UN Summit in September 2015 as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 2030 Agenda lists the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets that are interrelated and closely linked to each other, and which serve as development goals for the whole of the international community including developed countries.

Japan has consistently and proactively contributed to discussions and negotiations for the 2030 Agenda even before full-fledged discussions got underway in the international community. First, Japan established the

SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all Cabinet Ministers as members, formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles to serve as Japan's guidelines in the implementation of the SDGs, and established eight priority areas that Japan will place particular focus on. Furthermore, Japan puts great importance on public-private partnership for the implementation of the SDGs, and has to date held four Round Table Meetings on the promotion of the SDGs, bringing together stakeholders from a wide range of fields including NGOs, academia, the private sector, and international organizations. It also engages in the exchange of views on initiatives by local governments and businesses towards the promotion of the SDGs. With regard to international cooperation, Japan has, for example, announced at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in July that it will be providing support of 1 billion US dollars by 2018 mainly for the sectors of education, health, disaster risk reduction, and gender, with a focus on the next generation.

At the fourth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held in December, the SDGs Action Plan 2018 was unveiled, covering the main initiatives to be undertaken by MOFA as well as other relevant Government Ministries towards the achievement of the SDGs. With the aim of spreading Japan's "SDGs Model," this Action Plan established, as the basic direction of the model, the promotion of Society 5.0 that is tied in with the SDGs and achieved through efforts by the public and private sectors, regional revitalization driven by the SDGs, and empowerment of the next generation and women as

Special Feature

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**- Cooperation with Diverse Stakeholders -**

Conferment Ceremony for the Chair of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (Prime Minister) Award (December 26, Prime Minister's Office, Tokyo, Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by consensus at the UN Summit held in 2015, are development goals for the entire international community, including developed countries. Japan is actively promoting initiatives both domestically and internationally while rallying the collective wisdom and knowledge of a wide range of stakeholders, in order to realize a diverse and inclusive society where “no one will be left behind” through the implementation of the SDGs.

This Special Feature showcases some of the specific SDG-related efforts in 2017.

In promoting the SDGs, it is highly important to put effort into raising awareness among the people. The Government of Japan decided, at the meeting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Promotion Headquarters held in June 2017, to establish the Japan SDGs Award to commend Japanese companies and organizations that are making outstanding efforts to the achievement of the SDGs, with the aim of appealing to a wide audience on the SDGs. The recipients of the award were selected while taking into account the views of a selection committee, which comprises members of the SDGs Promotion Round Table Meeting from a wide range of stakeholders including NGOs/NPOs, academia, the private sector, and international organizations. At the Conferment Ceremony for the first Japan SDGs Award, held in December 2017, Shimokawa town in Hokkaido won the Chair of the SDGs promotion Headquarters (Prime Minister) Award from among a large number of candidates.

Efforts are also being made to raise awareness about the SDGs through collaboration with the famous entertainer, PIKO TARO. At the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York in July 2017, which serves as the international forum for following up on the SDGs, Foreign Minister Kishida proposed the Public Private Action for Partnership (PPAP) as Japan's approach towards the realization of the SDGs. PIKO TARO, who gained fame worldwide for his performances of advocating the same keywords

“PPAP,” gave a performance at the HLPF reception hosted by the Government of Japan. This performance received wide media coverage by press from Japan and overseas, and



PIKO TARO performing at the HLPF reception hosted by the Government of Japan (July 17, New York, United States)

was met with a great response.

To raise even greater interest in the SDGs based on these initiatives, PIKO TARO was appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for Promoting the SDGs at the Global Festa Japan 2017 event held in September the same year. Through such initiatives that involve a wide range of stakeholders, public awareness of the SDGs is growing steadily. Also in September, the Japan Securities Dealers Association established a Council for Promoting SDGs. Furthermore, at the beginning of November, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) revised the Charter of Corporate Behavior that sets out the action guidelines that companies should comply with, for the first time in seven years. At the same time, it positioned the realization of Society 5.0 as a pillar for the achievement of the SDGs. As private companies accelerate their efforts to incorporate SDGs as part of their primary businesses, beyond the scope of corporate social responsibility (CSR), the government is also providing a strong boost for such moves through concrete measures to support them.

SDGs cannot be achieved through the government's efforts alone. All actors need to take ownership over the SDGs. The government, on its part, will also continue to take the lead in efforts moving forward, in order to strengthen and reinvigorate the world.

Reduction" as an independent contribution from Japan, and declaring the provision of 4 billion US dollars in total to the area related to disaster risk reduction and training of 40,000 government officials and local leaders in the four years from 2015 to 2018.

Coinciding with World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5), proposed by Japan and enacted unanimously at the 70th UN General Assembly held in December 2015, Japan took the lead in organizing various conferences and tsunami evacuation drills in 2016 to raise awareness and strengthen preparedness about tsunami in countries around the world; in November the same year, the High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" in Kuroshio was held in Kuroshio town, Kochi Prefecture. The objective of this Summit is to pass on the experiences and lessons drawn in the field of disaster risk reduction to the youths who will bear the responsibility for the future. High school students from the countries which are vulnerable to the impact

of tsunamis were invited to Japan for the Summit, where they learnt alongside with Japanese high school students about the history of tsunamis in Japan and the disaster risk reduction and mitigation initiatives put in place by the various countries. The second High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" was held in Ginowan City, Okinawa, on November 7 and 8, 2017. Japan will continue to share the experiences and lessons drawn from past disasters with the world, and to promote the "mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction" that incorporates the perspectives of disaster risk reduction in the policies of every country.

C Approaches in the Area of Education

In the area of education, Japan announced "Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth," a new strategy for Japan's international cooperation on education, in line with the timing for the adoption of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" in September 2015. The new

strategy specifies “educational cooperation to achieve inclusive, equitable and quality learning,” “educational cooperation for industrial, science and technology human resource development and sustainable socio economic development,” and “establishment and expansion of global and regional networks for educational cooperation” as guiding principles. Based on these guiding principles, Japan is providing various forms of educational support in countries around the world. It is also an active participant in education support-related fora including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

D Approaches in Agricultural Areas

In coordination with the relevant countries, such as G7 or G20 member states and international organizations, Japan has delivered assistance for agriculture and rural development in developing countries. In April 2016, Japan hosted the G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting. At this Meeting, the “Niigata Declaration,” which seeks to strengthen global food security, was adopted and issued.

E Approaches in the Area of Water

Japan has continuously been the largest donor in the area of water since the 1990s and has implemented high quality assistance utilizing Japan’s experiences, expertise, and technologies. Japan proactively participates in discussions in the international community, and tackles global issues in the area of water based on its contributions to date.

(2) Global Health

Overcoming health issues that threaten lives and hinder all kinds of social, cultural

and economic activities is a common global challenge directly linked with human security. Japan has advocated human security, which underlines the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” and has acted in support of that principle. Japan regards health as its indispensable element. Japan has achieved the world’s highest healthy life expectancy and is further expected to play a proactive role in the area of health. Japan aims to realize the international community that enhances the people’s health as well as ensures the right to health through assisting the area of global health.

Under this principle, Japan has achieved remarkable results in overcoming health issues such as infectious diseases outbreak, maternal and child health and nutrition improvements through cooperation with a number of countries and various international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Based on the Basic Design for Peace and Health, a theme-based policy for the Development Cooperation Charter formulated in 2015, and bearing in mind the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that ensures the provision of basic health services throughout the lives of all people, Japan demonstrated its leadership ability and took the lead in discussions.

Japan has hosted an event to promote UHC at the UN General Assembly in September. At this event, Prime Minister Abe explained that the realization of UHC, which is positioned as an international

Special Feature

UHC Forum 2017

The vision of “Health for all” looks hard to realize. The latest data shows that at least half of the world’s population does not have full coverage of essential health services. The international community should work more actively to improve this situation.

Japan has been playing a leading role in the area of global health drawing on its experience and knowledge including the national health insurance system. Prime Minister Abe has continued to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a “Japan brand.” Therefore, he actively refers to this policy at such occasions as the G7, TICAD and the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

As one of these efforts, “UHC Forum 2017” was held in Tokyo on December 13 and 14, 2017, with the aim of further promoting UHC. Co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UHC2030, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), this Forum welcomed about 600 participants from 61 countries.

This Forum, attended by Prime Minister Abe, brought together high level officials including Presidents and Health Ministers of various countries, representatives of international organizations including UN Secretary-General Guterres, World Bank Group President Kim, WHO Director-General Tedros, and UNICEF Executive Director Lake, and international health experts. They actively discussed how to promote UHC internationally. “UHC Tokyo Declaration” was adopted as the commitment to accelerate the efforts towards achieving UHC by 2030 by the co-organizers of the forum.

- * Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
To ensure that all people can receive the health services they need at an affordable cost throughout life.
- * The UN General Assembly held in 2017 designated December 12th as the International Universal Health Coverage Day.



High-level Opening Session
(December 14, Tokyo, Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Prime Minister Abe proposed building and strengthening of a platform for the promotion of UHC to realize a society where “no one will be left behind,” the core principle of the SDGs. He also emphasized the importance of cross-sectoral efforts, covering such fields as water and

sanitation, nutrition, etc., and announced that Japan will provide assistance amounting to approximately 2.9 billion dollars in coming years to push forward the efforts towards UHC by countries and organizations.

The global situation and progress of UHC and the measures against public health emergencies, as well as various international initiatives related to UHC, were introduced at the Expert's Meeting. Thematic breakout sessions were also held on strengthening of health system and health workers, financing for UHC, access to medicine, and health needs in the aging society, all of which are the important challenges to achieving UHC.

The UN High-level Meeting on UHC will be held in 2019. Japan will continue to cooperate with various governments and organizations to promote UHC.

goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributes not only to resolving issues in the health sector, but also to the development of foundation for people's everyday lives as well as the correction of disparities, thereby playing an extremely important role in achieving many of the SDGs goals. He also reaffirmed the importance of UHC with leaders who are driving the global health sector. The UHC Forum 2017 held in Tokyo in December was attended by the UN Secretary-General Guterres, as well as a large number of people such as the heads of states, health ministers, and heads of international organizations. At this Forum, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that, in order to accelerate the promotion of UHC, it is crucial to enhance the momentum towards UHC, promote the coordination among the national governments and donors, advance the continuous monitoring and evaluation, mobilize resources inside and outside of the country, and promote innovation. He further announced that Japan will provide assistance amounting to approximately 2.9 billion US dollars in the coming years to push forward the efforts towards UHC by countries and organizations. Furthermore, in order to promote initiatives in the area

of nutrition, which forms the basis for good health, he announced that Japan would be hosting the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2020 (See Special Feature "UHC Forum 2017").

(3) Labor

It is important to raise income levels through employment, in order to raise the living standards of those living in poverty. Against the background of an expanding supply-chain worldwide, it is necessary to put effort into developing the labor environment, and to realize "decent work" (work that is of an acceptable quality for motivated human beings) around the world. The realization of "decent work" has been positioned as a primary objective of the activities of the International Labor Organization (ILO), which marks its 100th anniversary in 2019.

In view of this, Japan is also engaged in development cooperation in the field of labor. In 2017, Japan offered technical cooperation to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, including the development of labor laws related to social security, capacity building, and occupational health and safety, as well as the improvement of enforcement systems,

by making voluntary contributions to the ILO and providing support to networks of international labor organizations.

In May, the ILO Director-General Ryder visited Japan for the first time in four years. He paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida, and signed a memorandum of cooperation with Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare Yasuhisa Shiozaki to affirm the strengthening of cooperation between Japan and the ILO.

(4) Environmental Issues and Climate Change

A Global Environmental Issues

There is growing awareness internationally of the importance of efforts to address the global environmental issues. For example, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out goals for the environmental sector. Japan is fully engaged in conserving the natural environment and realizing sustainable development, through its active participation in negotiations and encouragement of other parties in international organizations concerning multilateral environmental treaties and environmental matters. At the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) held in Nairobi, Kenya in December, discussions were held to further advance international cooperation in the field of the environment.

(A) Conservation of Biodiversity

Japan ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena

Protocol on Biosafety, under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in May and December respectively. Japan will further promote international cooperation towards the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use, including the faithful implementation of these protocols.

In recent years, illegal trade of wildlife, such as elephants and rhinoceros, is becoming an increasingly severe issue. It is also drawing the attention of the international community as one of the sources of funding for international terrorist organizations. In light of this situation, the UN Resolution on Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife was adopted for the third consecutive year at the UN General Assembly held in September. Japan participated as a co-sponsor of the resolution, just as it did in the previous times.

In November, at the 53rd Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) held in Lima, Peru, discussions were held on the promotion of sustainable forest management.

(B) International Management of Hazardous Chemicals/Hazardous Waste

In August, the Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force. This Convention sets out comprehensive regulations for mitigating the risks that mercury poses to human health and the environment. In September, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland, and was attended by 68 countries that are party to the Convention including Japan. Japan took a proactive stance in communicating its technology and knowhow on preventing

damage from mercury to the world, and declared that it will continue to exert its leadership with the aim of promoting global mercury countermeasures.

In November, the 11th Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, as well as the 29th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, were jointly held in Montreal, Canada. At these conferences, discussions were held on the enforcement of production and consumption regulations for substances that are destructive to the ozone layer, based on the adoption of the amendment made previous year to add hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) to the list of controlled substances under the Protocol.

(C) Conservation of the Marine Environment

In June, the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 was held at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the conference, discussions were held on promoting efforts that are focused on the conservation and sustainable use of the seas and marine resources. Japan provided information about measures to counter marine waste and acidification of the seas, as well as its cooperation towards the international conferences of Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting (PALM) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It also declared its intention to continue contributing to the realization of SDG 14.

At the G20 Hamburg Summit (Germany) held in July, a declaration was made on the establishment of two initiatives: the G20

Resource Efficiency Dialogue, and the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter.

At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the London Convention (Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter) held in September, the implementation of the strategic plans and the draft operational plan were adopted.

With regard to the conservation of the marine environment of the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, the 22nd Intergovernmental Meeting for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), which involves cooperation among Japan, China, South Korea, and Russia, was held in Toyama in December. At this meeting, an agreement was reached on the Mid-Term Strategy for NOWPAP covering 2018 to 2023, as well as the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

B Climate Change

(A) Entry into Force of the Paris Agreement, and the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23)

A concerted effort by the international community is essential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change; however, the Kyoto Protocol adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997 required only developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of active negotiations spanning several years, including the “Durban Agreement” of 2011⁴, the Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 held

⁴ Contents included (1) Agreement on a new legal framework for all countries to participate by the year 2015; (2) The entry into force of the same framework from 2020. Decided on at COP17.

in Paris in December 2015. The Paris agreement is a fair and effective framework that provides for the submission of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets (nationally determined contribution) by each country, with no distinction between developing and developed countries, and for the implementation of measures toward the achievement of these targets. This Agreement entered into force in November 2016, and has been ratified by more than 170 countries including Japan (as of December 2017). The U.S. announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in June 2017, but it has continued to participate in climate change negotiations at COP and other fora.

In November 2017, COP23 was held in Bonn, Germany under the chairmanship of Fiji. At COP23, the focus of discussions was placed on developing discussions on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement to be adopted by 2018 in accordance with the decision at COP22 in 2016. Japan participated in COP23 with three main objectives: (1) furthering discussions on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement, (2) completion of the design of Talanoa Dialogue, which is a facilitative dialogue to stocktake collective efforts to reduce emissions which will be started in 2018 and (3) accelerating Global Climate Action. The three objectives were largely achieved in various aspects of the outcomes of the conference. Some developing countries pushed for reopening the Paris Agreement. They maintained their pre-Paris positions that only developed countries were required to take actions, and also argued for treating all agendas equally on the time allocation and the format of outcome of the session.

Developed countries were opposed to these arguments, and Japan emphasized that the guidelines should promote all countries' efforts on climate change and should not be bifurcated. Since there are clear differences between views of developed and developing countries, the challenge will remain in finding a way to develop the guidelines constructively while maintaining the mandate of the Paris Agreement. Japan contributed to the success of CPO23 by supporting Fiji, the COP23 Presidency, on both negotiation and promotion of global climate actions, including offering various forms of support such as organizing the Regional Workshop to prepare for COP23 in the Asia-Pacific. Japan actively participates in the development of the Agreement through close collaboration with related countries.

(B) Approach on Support for Developing Countries

As many developing countries are unable to adequately implement climate change policies with solely their own funds and implementation capabilities, developed countries including Japan are engaged in initiatives to provide active support for developing countries. From this perspective, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) also plays an important role as a multilateral fund that provides support to developing countries for adapting to the impact of greenhouse gas emission reductions and climate change. Japan contributes funds to the GCF based on the Act on Contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Accompanying Measures enacted in 2015, and participates actively in the management of the Fund as a board member of GCF, including the selection of projects to provide support to.

As of December 2017, the GCF Board has approved 54 projects to support.

(C) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

The JCM is a mechanism for evaluating contributions from Japan to GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner, and using them to achieve Japan's emission reduction target through the diffusion of leading low carbon technologies, as well as implementation of mitigation actions in developing countries. The mechanism also contributes to addressing climate change on a global scale. As of December 2017, Japan has established the JCM with 17 partner countries, and implemented more than 120 projects related to the reduction or removal of greenhouse gases. In 2017, the initiative has steadily produced results, with the issuance of credits from JCM projects in Mongolia and Viet Nam.

(D) Japan's Initiatives on Climate Change and Fragility Risk

The view that climate change can have an impact on the stability of economies and societies in every country has been growing increasingly prevalent in recent years, alongside with growing interest in its impact on security such as conflicts and peacebuilding. Against this backdrop, a roundtable seminar was held in January 2017, attended by guests such as representatives from the G7 countries and experts from Japan and abroad. This seminar was held as a part of initiatives on the fragility risk of climate change, on which discussions have been ongoing at the G7 Ministerial Meetings and Working Groups. Thereafter, a report titled "Analysis and Proposal of Foreign Policies Regarding

the Impact of Climate Change on Fragility in the Asia-Pacific Region –With focus on natural disasters in the Region –" was drawn up on this theme, based on hints and ideas gained from the various experts from Japan and abroad. This report was published in September. The contents of this report as well as discoveries were presented as Japan's contributions at the G7 Climate Change and Fragility Working Group held in Italy in October, and also introduced to the Pacific countries participating in the COP preparatory workshop in Fiji in September. Furthermore, it was also presented at a side event at the Japanese pavilion at COP23, and was received favorably by the attendees on all the occasions.

(5) Arctic and Antarctic

A Arctic

(A) The Rapidly Changing Arctic Environment, and Japan's Response

There is a risk that rapid changes in the Arctic environment caused by global warming (melting of sea ice, permafrost, ice sheet and glaciers, etc.) will have a drastic and irreversible impact on the ecology and the lives of those living in the Arctic, including indigenous peoples. At the same time, as the decreasing amount of sea ice has expanded the navigable area, there has been growing interest in new possibilities and economic activities such as the use of the Northern Sea Route and the development of mineral and biological resources.

Discussions are ongoing about appropriate economic activities that could enable sustainable development while conserving such an Arctic environment. Furthermore, international fora including the Arctic Council (AC) and International

Maritime Organization (IMO) have been working on international rule-making in order to ensure the actions are based on the rule of law on issues of territorial rights and maritime delimitation in the Arctic.

On the basis of increased interest by the international community over the Arctic, and in order to define the policy for more specific measures, the government adopted “Japan’s Arctic Policy” in October 2015 as its first comprehensive Arctic policy, which clarified Japan’s approach to the Arctic.

(B) Japan’s International Activities on the Arctic

Based on this policy, Japan contributes to the international community in addressing Arctic issues by making use of its particular strength in science and technology.

a. Research and Development

To promote Arctic research that contributes to global policy decision making and problem solving, the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) project was launched in FY2015. Efforts such as international collaborative research in the Arctic and cooperative systems with stakeholders are continuously strengthened. Japan also promotes international cooperation in research and human resource development at research and observation stations in the Arctic regions of the U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Greenland (Denmark).

b. International Cooperation

Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs Keiji Ide attended the Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meetings of the AC, in which Japan was formally admitted as an observer in 2013. He also participated in the international conferences on the Arctic

organized by Russia, Iceland, Finland, and Denmark, and actively presented Japan’s engagements and thoughts over the Arctic. Furthermore, he held consultations on the Arctic with the relevant countries, including the Arctic States. Japanese researchers presented outcomes of their research on the Arctic at the AC working groups which deal with specific themes. They also collaborate with researchers from other countries towards the resolution of the Arctic issues.

Japan hosted the Second Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic among Japan, China and the ROK in Tokyo in June. The Dialogue was launched at the 6th Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in 2015. It was attended by the Ambassadors in charge of Arctic Affairs and the Special Representative for the Arctic from the three countries, and adopted the joint declaration which includes the importance of maintaining cooperation based on a rule-based maritime order, and cooperative projects on scientific research by the three countries.



The Second Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic (June 8, Tokyo)

c. Sustainable Use

Amidst growing interest by the international community in the future potential of the Northern Sea Route, Japan participates in international discussions, including the AC, and emphasizes the importance of international cooperation over the issues such as the stable use of the sea route and the development of an environment for that purpose, impacts of shipping on the maritime environment and securing the safety of navigation.

B Antarctic

(A) The Antarctic Treaty

The Antarctic Treaty adopted in 1959 sets forth the following three basic principles: (1) the use of the Antarctica for peaceful purposes, (2) freedom of scientific investigations and international cooperation, and (3) a freeze on territorial rights and claims.

(B) The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Protection of Antarctic Environment

At the 40th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 40) held in Beijing, China, from May 22 to June 1, active discussions were held about tourism and activities by non-governmental organizations in the Antarctic. At the same time, guidelines on dealing with emergency situations and other matters were revised, while procedures and guidelines were drawn up for new applications for the qualification to be parties to the ATCM. In addition, Mr. Lluberas (from Uruguay) was elected as the incoming Executive Secretary (to assume office in September), succeeding Dr. Reinke (from Germany), whose term ends this year.

(C) Japan's Antarctic Observation

Based on the 9th six-year plan of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (2016 to 2021), Japan is undertaking efforts to elucidate the global system and changes in the global environment, as well as to predict its future. To that end, in addition to long-term continuous observation, it is also implementing various research and observation activities, including observation using large aperture atmospheric radar.

3 Science and Technology Diplomacy

Prof. Teruo Kishi (Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs) supports the activities of the Foreign Minister from the perspective of science and technology, and provides advice on the utilization of science and technology in the planning and coordination of various foreign policies to the Minister and relevant divisions. He also takes part in public relations activities concerning Japan's science and technology diplomacy, while strengthening partnerships with Japanese and foreign stakeholders in the fields of science and technology.

In 2017, the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, chaired by the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as Study Group Meetings were held, and participants engaged in discussions about the utilization of science and technology in ways that contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and Arctic diplomacy.

As a result of these discussions, the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy drew up its Recommendation for the Future in May,

aimed at the implementation of the SDGs, and this document was submitted by Science and Technology Advisor Kishi to Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida. The recommendation is based on the following four pillars: For Japan's diplomacy to (1) present a future vision of "change through innovation," (2) "grasp and solve" the challenges by use of scientific data on a global scale, (3) "link" and "unite" across different sectors, regions and states, and (4) "foster" human resources who can support these initiatives. Based on these, it establishes that Japan's diplomacy should play an active leading role in the implementation of the SDGs.

In August, a working group chaired by Dr. Takashi Shiraishi, a member of the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, drew up and published a report entitled "Achievements and Future Directions of Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan." This report establishes that the building of a scientific advisory system for diplomacy through the Advisor creates a new unique character for Japan's diplomacy, and concludes that this Advisor system should continue into the future to promote Japan's initiatives in science and technology diplomacy.

Furthermore, the Advisor also implemented a project to publicize science and technology innovation through cooperation with the

Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁵ in various countries⁶, with the aim of enhancing Japan's capability of disseminating information about its prominent scientific and technological strength, and discussed the potential for future cooperation with the relevant organizations and researchers from the partner countries.

The Advisor has also attended various international conferences alongside with the science and technology advisors of other countries including the U.S., UK, and New Zealand, engaged in exchanges of opinions, and strived to build and strengthen networks. Together with the advisors of the other countries, he has also co-authored academic papers. In addition to these efforts, the Advisor widely publicizes Japan's efforts in science and technology diplomacy at various fora in Japan and abroad. To raise the level of knowledge within MOFA, science and technology diplomacy seminars are also held periodically.

Japan has concluded 32 science and technology cooperation agreements, and these are now in force with 46 countries and the EU⁷. Based on these agreements, it organizes regular joint committee meetings with these countries to engage in intergovernmental dialogue. In 2017, joint committee meetings were held with India, France, Italy, Slovenia, the EU, South Africa, and Bulgaria respectively. Attended

⁵ Project (known as "SIP Caravan") to introduce the SIP (Strategic Innovation Promotion Program), which is a new type of Japanese national project for science, technology and innovation, spearheaded by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI) as it exercises its headquarters function to accomplish its role in leading science, technology and innovation beyond the framework of government ministries and traditional disciplines by facilitating coordination among government, industry and academic entities under 11 themes, in order to lay the groundwork for future international cooperation, as well as for the international dissemination of Japan's research and development output, through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic missions overseas).

⁶ Implemented in Indonesia in March 2017, in the Philippines and Thailand in June 2017, and in the Netherlands in September 2017.

⁷ The Japan-USSR Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was succeeded by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan on different dates. The Japan-Czechoslovakia Science and Technology Cooperation Arrangement was succeeded by individual agreements with the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. The Japan-Yugoslavia Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was succeeded by individual agreements with Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro on different dates.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura attending the fourth meeting of the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy (April 27, Tokyo)



Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishi visiting the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) (September 14, Geneva, Switzerland)

by delegates from the relevant ministries and institutions, consultations were held on the current status of cooperation in diverse sectors, and on the future direction of cooperation, contributing to promoting science and technology exchange. The meeting with Bulgaria was the first to be held in 19 years.

With regard to multilateral cooperation, as

a member of the Board of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) that supports research for peaceful purposes conducted by researchers on weapons of mass destruction from the former Soviet Union, Japan works together with the U.S. and the EU to provide support mainly to countries of Central Asia. Japan also participates in ITER projects.

Column

STI for SDGs: Science, Technology, and Innovation as a “Bridging Force”

Michiharu Nakamura
Counsellor to the President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

I have been working in Japan's industrial sector for many years, and have been involved in science, technology, and innovation (STI) from the perspective of research and development. We could say that the role of *monozukuri* (production with a focus on craftsmanship) is to give form to scientific discoveries in a way that matches the needs of the real world, thereby contributing to making the world a better place.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the United Nations for 2030, place its expectations in the utilization of STI for the realization of the SDGs, and put in place mechanisms to promote international cooperation. What should Japan, which has consistently asserted its goal of becoming a science- and technology-oriented nation, do to achieve this end? In this respect, I have accepted the role of coordinator with the responsibility of consolidating views to make the necessary recommendations from the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy.

In order to draw up the recommendations, I engaged in discussions with actors who are engaged in a wide range of fields including the maritime sector, space, basic science, academia, and industry, on the approach for “STI for SDGs,” in view that the SDGs aim to resolve the diverse issues confronting humankind in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. In particular, we affirmed that Japan’s initiatives towards realizing Society 5.0, as well as expanding and deepening international cooperation through Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) and other programs, can contribute to the sustainable development of the global community. Furthermore, we also reaffirmed that science and technology play an important role in Japan’s diplomacy. The “Recommendation for the Future” completed in May 2017 as the outcome of these discussions, sets out four concrete actions in relation to the direction of “STI for SDGs.” These are: presenting the vision for a future society (Society 5.0), problem-solving through the application of data, partnership that transcends countries and sectors, and the development of human resources who will play a key role in “STI for SDGs.”

After that, I attended the second STI Forum held at the UN Headquarters in New York, together with the members who were involved in drawing up the recommendations. Bringing together 700 participants in the governmental, university, corporate, NGO, and other sectors of 100 countries, this two-day discussion focused on human resource development, collaboration with stakeholders, and the importance of the involvement of businesses, among other topics. These themes overlapped with the contents of our recommendation. The respective countries placed their expectations on Japan as a leader setting the precedence in efforts towards the realization of the SDGs, and anticipated the presentation of model cases by Japan.

The Recommendation for the Future described STI as a “bridging force.” Amidst our complex feelings of expectation and anxiety towards new technologies that are evolving rapidly in the present day, such as artificial intelligence and robots, instead of leaving technology to grow and develop on its own, I felt keenly the growing importance of taking the lead in the development of STI and making it a bridging force towards a human-centered society of the future, from the perspective of our vision on how human society should become 50 years or 100 years into the future.

We could say that the SDGs hold the key to identifying the issues that should be resolved by harnessing STI. Furthermore, promoting “social application” on a global scale into the future, with the aim of enabling research outcomes to take root and spread across the real world, can also bring us closer towards the realization of the SDGs.



Second Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) (May 15 - 16, New York, U.S.)