

Section 3

Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

Overview

(Proactive Communications to the Public)

Public understanding and support are indispensable for the smooth implementation of Japan's foreign policy. As such, providing prompt and clear explanations on the policy details and on the role of government is crucial. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is committed to agile and effective public relations, using various forms of media, lectures, and publications.

To provide information in an effective fashion, regular press conferences are conducted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Press Secretary, while extraordinary press conferences are held as necessary. MOFA releases statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Press Secretary announcing the stance of the Government of Japan on specific issues, and issues press releases that provide information on MOFA's activities. In addition, the Minister, State Ministers, and Parliamentary Vice Ministers explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public through appearances on TV and other means. MOFA also assists

in facilitating reporting activities of the diplomatic events.

MOFA's official website swiftly provides information about diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, the latest and basic information on Japan's foreign policy, as well as Japan's stance on historical issues and international affairs. In addition, MOFA transmits information through various social media platforms.

MOFA organizes speeches by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to promote public relations through dialogue with Japanese nationals and also holds various lectures by its officials at international exchange organizations, universities and high schools nationwide to promote understanding of Japan's foreign policy and the international situation, as well as to cultivate the next generation of Japanese leaders. Moreover, MOFA strives to improve two-way communication with the public through such public consultation initiatives as receiving comments and opinions on its official website.

(Declassification of Diplomatic Records)

To further enhance the public understanding of and confidence in

Japan's foreign policy, MOFA established the "Committee for the Promotion of the Declassification of the Diplomatic Records" and is actively engaging itself in the smooth transfer of records and in their declassification. In addition, MOFA has been engaged in efforts to facilitate the public use of the diplomatic documents in accordance with the Public Records and Archives Management Act.

(Strengthening Foreign Policy Implementation Structure)

While the security environment surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe, and diplomatic challenges are diversifying, it is vital to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure. As such, MOFA is updating the organizational and personnel structures at both overseas diplomatic missions and within the ministry. With regard to the diplomatic missions, which are overseas bases for Japanese diplomacy, MOFA established an Embassy in Cyprus, a Consulate-General in Recife (Brazil), and a Mission of Japan to the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in January 2018.

The number of staff members at MOFA remains relatively small compared to that of other major countries. In addition to the establishment of more diplomatic missions overseas, in order to better respond to the complex international challenges and make international contributions comparable to other major countries, it is necessary to further increase the number of staff members. At the same time, the training system for staff members should be strengthened to improve the practical knowledge, capability, and foreign language ability of each individual

diplomat as well as the enhancement of public relations skills through them. MOFA continues its efforts to ensure the necessary foreign policy implementation structure while further streamlining its organization.

MOFA appropriated 692.6 billion yen in the budget for FY2017 to enhance the foreign policy implementation structure as well as more proactively promote diplomacy as a leading player in international initiatives and discussions.

(Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy)

As is referred to in the National Security Strategy, expanding the intellectual base for Japan's diplomacy and security and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people will lead to a strengthening of Japan's diplomatic power in the middle to long-term. Therefore, MOFA will deepen interaction with think tanks in the diplomacy and security fields, strengthen their development and reinforce support, and actively make use of the insights of private sector intellectuals.

1 Proactive Communications to the Public

(1) Providing Information through Domestic Media

MOFA has committed itself to accurately providing information through various media, such as newspapers, television and the Internet in order to gain the understanding and support of Japanese nationals for Japan's foreign policy. The press conferences of the Foreign Minister are open to various media including Internet media and the records and videos of the press conferences are posted on the website of MOFA. On the occasion of overseas or local visits by the Prime



A regular press conference by the Foreign Minister (MOFA, Tokyo)

▶ Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	161 times
Press Secretary	40 times
Total	201 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2017 Text posted MOFA website

▶ Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	21 times
Statements by the Press Secretary	51 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,488 times
Total	1,560 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2017 Counted by MOFA

Minister or the Foreign Minister, MOFA also provides information from the visited countries/places so that the people can easily follow and understand the processes and outcomes of the visits. In addition, MOFA carries out providing information and making cooperation for media coverage in various forms, which include distribution of information by documents such as MOFA press releases, transmission of information on foreign policy using email newsletters, and interviews of high-level officials of MOFA by newspapers of their respective hometowns.

When factual errors and insufficient information are reported by the media, MOFA submits an appeal for correction,



MOFA's Official website



MOFA's Official Facebook Page



MOFA for Kids

contributes its views, and posts its views on the website of MOFA upon announcement at a press conference. These are all efforts to gain an accurate understanding of Japan's approach and stance domestically and internationally.

(2) Providing Information through the Internet

MOFA's Japanese website, like its English website, swiftly provides information about diplomatic activities of the Prime

Minister and the Foreign Minister, as well as the latest news on Japan's foreign policy and international affairs. Moreover, MOFA's Japanese website posts a wide range of contents including "Easy Ways to Understand International Situations," which explains international situations in simple ways, and "MOFA for Kids" for the students of elementary and junior/senior-high schools.

MOFA provides information through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

(3) Dialogue with Japanese Nationals

MOFA promotes "Public Relations through Dialogue with Japanese Nationals" to provide the people of Japan with an opportunity to directly talk to the Foreign Minister and its officials.

As a part of such opportunities, MOFA holds "Talk to the Minister" to give explanations on Japan's foreign policies and the principles and other themes in which the people have much interest and give candid answers to the questions and opinions of the participants. In 2017, Foreign Minister Kishida visited Kyushu University (Fukuoka Prefecture) in March, Hokkaido University (Hokkaido Prefecture) in April, Kanazawa University (Ishikawa Prefecture) in June, and Kobe University (Hyogo Prefecture) in July as part of the "Local to Global" Project and held the symposium "Dialogue with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida," which featured a keynote speech by Foreign Minister Kishida and a panel discussion.

MOFA is committed to using various occasions to promote understanding of foreign policies and international affairs. For instance, MOFA organizes lectures by its officials at international exchange

organizations, universities and high schools throughout Japan, through "Lecture on the International Situation," "Diplomatic Talks," and "Talks for High School Programs." It also holds the "International Issue Presentation Contest" for university students, and debate sessions between university students and young officials of the ministry through "Dialogue with Students," as well as providing opportunities for young students to visit MOFA under the program "Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA."

▶ **Number of Lectures on Various Topics Offered by the Ministry and the Number of Visits to the Ministry by Elementary and Junior/Senior-High School Students**

Lecture on the International Situations	16 times
Diplomatic Talk	57 times
Talk for High school	120 times
Visits by elementary and junior and senior-high school students to the Ministry	187 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2017)

MOFA also introduces Japan's ODA policies and specific measures to the public through various symposia, lectures, and "ODA Delivery Lectures" in which officials from MOFA are dispatched to schools, etc. (40 lectures in 2017).

Additionally, MOFA is sharing discussions taking place in various areas and at various levels concerning diplomacy and international affairs relevant to Japan widely with the public through the publication of the journal "Diplomacy."

▶ **Number of Public Opinion Communications**

By e-mail	104,561 times
By phone	7,273 times
By fax / letter	1,851 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2017)



Visit by Foreign Minister Kishida to Hyogo Prefecture under the "Local to Global" Project (July 23, Hyogo Prefecture)



Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA: Students from Teikyokani Senior High School (Gifu Prefecture) (November 7, Tokyo, MOFA)



Lecture on the International Situation (September 15, Makuhari Public Hall, Chiba Prefecture)



Journal on foreign affairs entitled "Diplomacy"

Moreover, in order to promote further understanding on the organizational structure and foreign policies of MOFA, various pamphlets that explain them in an understandable manner were released. In addition to the above, MOFA surveys public opinion through various forms of media, including the website of MOFA, the website of the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet, and the electronic governmental Public Comment Procedure ("e-Gov"), as well as through telephone calls, fax messages and letters. Opinions and comments gathered from the public are shared throughout MOFA and used as a reference in policy making and planning.

(4) Promotion of the Declassification of Diplomatic Records and the Access to Information

MOFA has voluntarily declassified its

diplomatic records at the Diplomatic Archives since 1976. The Rules on the Declassification of Diplomatic Records, which were established in May 2010, stipulates: (1) declassification of diplomatic documents created more than 30 years ago in principle and (2) the establishment of the "Committee for the Promotion of the Declassification of the Diplomatic Records" which is chaired by the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as attended by external experts, to further promote the declassification of diplomatic records and improve its transparency. The number of files which has been transferred to the Diplomatic Archives and made public since May 2010 reached approximately 29,000 by the end of 2017.

Furthermore, MOFA discloses information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative

Organs while giving considerations to the national security, the relationship of mutual trust with other countries, the impacts on diplomatic negotiations, and the protection of personal information. In 2017, MOFA received 512 requests for disclosure, and the documents totaling 80,953 pages were disclosed.

2 Strengthening Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

While the security environment surrounding Japan has become increasingly severe and diplomatic challenges are diversifying, including nuclear tests and missile launches by North Korea, it is vital to further expand Japan's foreign policy implementation structure. With this in mind, MOFA is enhancing the organizational and personnel structures of overseas diplomatic missions such as Embassies and Consulates General, and the Ministry.

Diplomatic missions overseas, such as Embassies and Consulates General, not only represent Japan but also play a key role in areas such as information gathering on the frontline of diplomacy, strategic communication to the public overseas, promotion of diplomatic relations, and international contribution. At the same time, diplomatic missions overseas are also responsible for operations directly related to the improvement of benefits for Japanese nationals, such as protecting their lives and safety, providing support for Japanese companies, promoting investment and tourism, and securing energy and other resources.

In January 2018, Japan established an Embassy in Cyprus, a Consulate-General in Recife (Brazil), and a Mission of Japan to the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa

(Ethiopia). As of FY2017, the number of the diplomatic missions overseas is 223 (150 Embassies, 64 Consulates General and nine Permanent Missions).

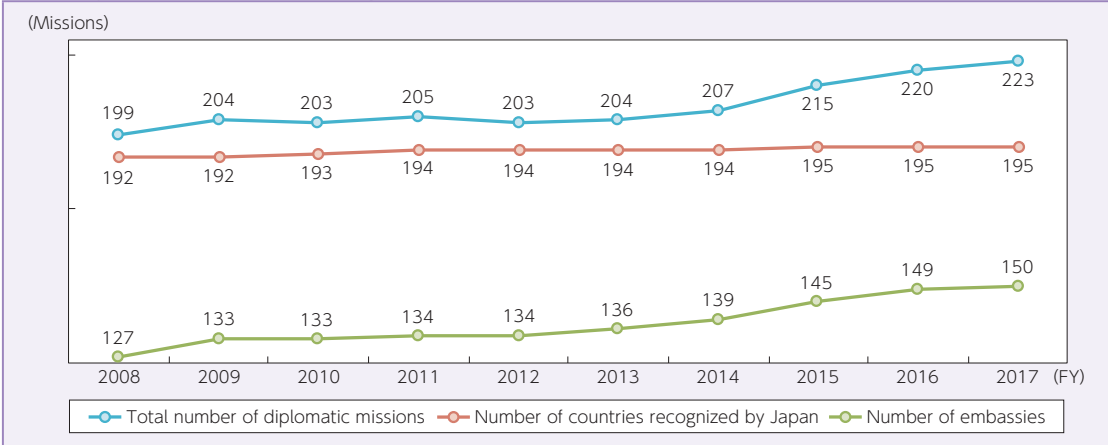
Amidst the destabilization of the Middle East in recent years, Cyprus, an EU member state that is close to the Middle East, is gaining geopolitical significance. In addition to further developing a friendly relationship between Japan and Cyprus, it is important to enhance timely information gathering and to strengthen coordination with local authorities as Cyprus may serve as a destination for evacuation in the case of an emergency in the Middle East or North Africa.

Recife in Northeast Brazil has been gaining importance in the Brazilian economy. Moreover, Recife is home to approximately 180,000 Japanese immigrants and descendants ("Nikkei"), and is an important region for strengthening ties with the Nikkei community, to which Japan attaches importance.

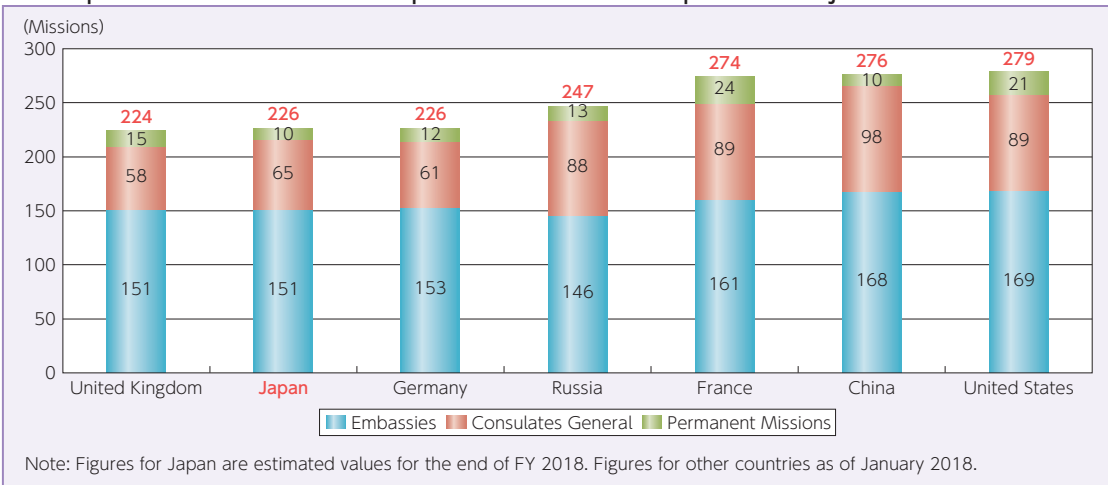
The Mission of Japan to the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) serves an important role in strengthening relations with the African Union Commission (AUC), the executive organ of the AU, and also with the respective African countries to further promote support for the development of Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and efforts regarding important policy issues such as UN Security Council reform.

In order to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure in a sustainable manner, the following diplomatic missions will be established in FY2018: an Embassy in Belarus, a Consulate-General in Davao in the Philippines, a Delegation of

► Changes in the Number of Diplomatic Missions



► Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries



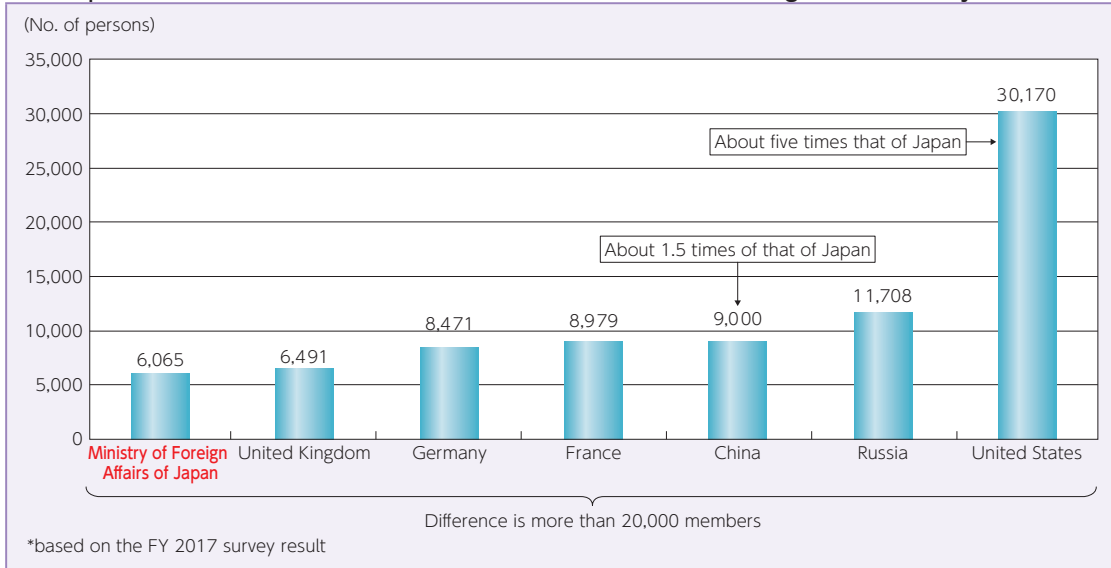
Japan to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada, and a Mission of Japan to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Belgium.

Belarus occupies a position of geopolitical and economic importance as a country bordering the EU and Russia, which provided its capital of Minsk as a location for peace negotiation for resolving the Ukraine issues. Moreover, given that it was the country most damaged by the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident, Japan has concluded the agreement on cooperation to advance aftermath response to accidents at nuclear

power stations with Belarus following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The two countries work together as valuable partners in sharing knowledge in the field.

Davao (the Philippines) is the home town of President Duterte (former mayor of Davao), which is gaining political significance as the president goes back and forth between Davao and Manila while serving his term in office. As there is a growing trend of Japanese companies and Japanese nationals residing in the city, the need to support Japanese businesses and

▶ Comparison of the Number of Staff Members at Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Major Countries



protect Japanese nationals is increasing. Meanwhile, due to the unstable factor of terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic extremists, initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals is crucial.

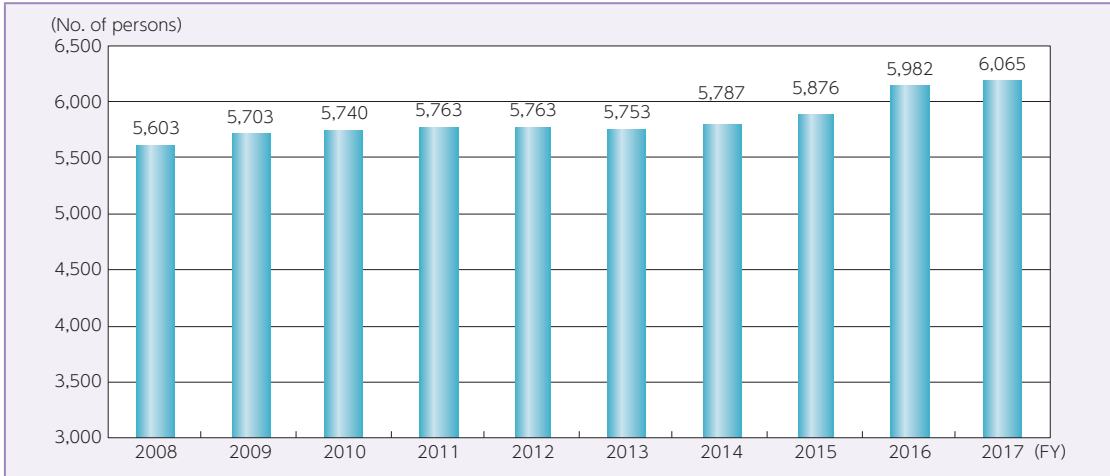
The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized organization under the United Nations involved in ensuring the formulation and implementation of rules concerning international civil aviation, and is closely associated with aviation diplomacy and security assurance. As events that greatly impact the security assurance of Japan as well as civil aviation have occurred, including repeated ballistic missile launches by North Korea and the designation of an air defense identification zone by the Chinese Government, Japan collects information via ICAO, while working collaboratively with other Member States such as the U.S. and Republic of Korea in urging ICAO to take appropriate measures.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is engaged in addressing urgent issues concerning the peace and stability

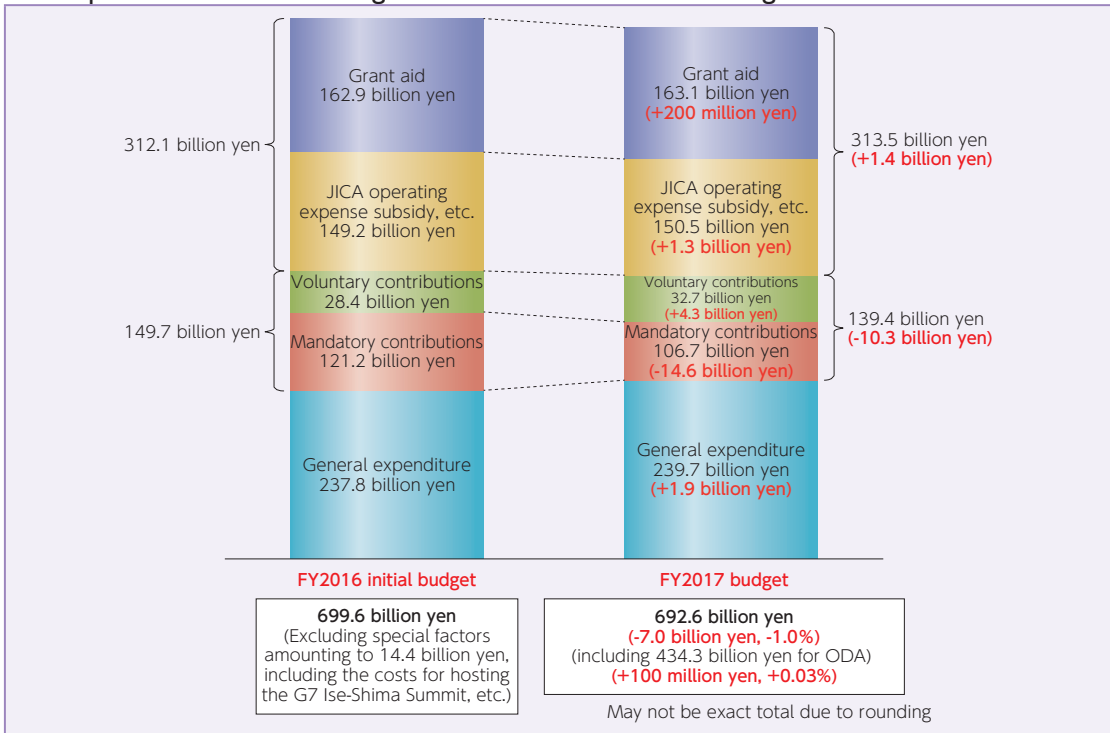
of the international community as well as conducting activities to ensure stability outside of the region. NATO and Japan share common security challenges such as cyber issues and terrorism. Japan has been conducting practical cooperation with NATO based on the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP) signed by Prime Minister Abe upon his visit to NATO's headquarters in May 2014. The establishment of a Mission to NATO will contribute to the cooperative relationship, which is important in strengthening the alliance network among Japan, the U.S. and European countries, as well as maintaining order in the international community as a whole and contributing to peace and stability.

In addition to the establishment of more diplomatic missions overseas, it is important to secure and increase the number of staff members to support diplomacy at MOFA and diplomatic missions overseas. Under the Government's policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses across all ministries in light of the current severe budget situation,

▶ Number of Staff Members at MOFA



▶ Comparison of the initial budget of FY2017 with the initial budget of FY2016



the number of staff members at MOFA amounted to 6,065 in order to bolster safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas, strengthen the functions for gathering terror-related information, further expand the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” initiative based on the principle

of international cooperation, promote economic diplomacy, support the overseas activities of Japanese nationals, as well as promote strategic communications. This number is, however, still insufficient when compared to that of other major countries. MOFA continues its efforts to build a

structure suitable for Japan's national power and diplomatic policy. In the meantime, based on the understanding that enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure remains necessary in FY2018, MOFA plans to increase its staff members by 90 persons in order to address important issues such as bolstering safety measures and strengthening capabilities of information gathering and analysis, vitalizing economy including infrastructure exports, further bolstering strategic communications, and responding to global challenges.

MOFA appropriated a budget of 692.6 billion yen in the budget for FY2017 (a decrease of 1.0% from FY2016 (excluding expenses on special factors)) to enhance the foreign policy implementation structure for the above-mentioned activities and to take on an even more proactive role in diplomacy as a leader in international initiatives and discussions. The total amount of MOFA's FY2017 supplementary budget was 155.4 billion yen for matters of an urgent nature such as responses to issues related to North Korea, assistance on global issues including epidemic diseases, humanitarian, counter-terrorism or social stabilization assistance including refugee issues. MOFA's FY2018 initial government budget proposal appropriated 696.7 billion yen in order to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure to undertake such issues and further expand official development assistance (ODA) that contributes to the national interest by identifying the following priorities: (1) dealing with an increasingly opaque international situation and implementing strategic foreign policy (2) protecting Japanese nationals abroad and Japan from threats such as terrorism, (3) strongly

supporting Japanese economy through diplomacy, and (4) maintaining and strengthening strategic communications.

In order to promote Japan's national interests, it is essential to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure. Japan will continue to proceed strategically with enhancements, while making efforts to streamline operations, to further expand the foreign policy implementation structure.

3 Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy

In building a future international order in the drastically changing world, it is becoming more apparent that experts from the private sector can take the initiative in freely conducting policy discussions on a global scale without being bound by the official views of governments, which in return have an impact on the world's opinion, as well as on the policy decisions of each government.

Some of the examples include the World Economic Forum (Davos), which has a large influence on the international economic policies of each country, and the Shangri-La Dialogue, which provides prominent experts and ministers of the world with an opportunity to discuss Asian security issues. There is an ever increasing importance to develop human resources of think tanks (study and research institutions) to take part in such discussion arenas and to utilize experts of universities and other organizations in major countries.

Expanding the intellectual base for Japan's diplomacy and security and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people is expected to yield improved diplomatic capabilities over the medium-to long-term. Under this premise, MOFA launched a subsidy scheme for study/

research on foreign policy and security which aims to enhance think tanks' abilities to collect/analyze/release information and to make policy recommendations. In

addition, since FY2017, MOFA has also launched a subsidized support project for territory, sovereignty, and history studies.