

3 Central Asia and Caucasus

Central Asia and Caucasus are areas of geopolitical importance, since they are surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, and the stability and development of these regions significantly affect those of the Eurasian region as a whole. These regions are also of strategic importance for Japan, whose diplomacy in the area of resource and energy is aiming to diversify resource supply countries, because these regions include countries abundant of energy and mineral resources such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and rare metals. From this

<Japan's Efforts>

Since the Central Asia and Caucasus countries' independence in 1991 following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Japan has been providing assistance in diverse areas such as the improvement of infrastructure for economic development (socio-economic infrastructure), human resources development for the transition to a market economy, and the rebuilding of health and medical care and other social systems in order to support the efforts of each country towards the transition to market economies and economic development.

In May 2017, then Foreign Minister Kishida participated in the 6th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue held in Turkmenistan, and signed the Joint Declaration that symbolizes the broad range of cooperative relations between Japan and the Central Asian countries, in various matters including North Korean issues. He also announced the "Initiative for Cooperation in Transport and Logistics" which sets out the direction for cooperation till now and in the future, in the fields of transport and logistics, based on the belief that strengthening mutual connectivity within and outside the region as a prioritized and practical field of future cooperation can contribute to the development of the region. Under this initiative, he expressed that Japan would be providing support amounting to approximately ¥24 billion. For example, Japan's assistance towards road improvement and disaster risk reduction measures (including landslide countermeasures) through

viewpoint, Japan has been supporting nation-building efforts for long-term stability and sustainable development in these regions, which is designed to establish the firm basis of universal values in the countries in these regions, such as human rights, democracy, market economy, and the rule of law, while taking into consideration a broader regional perspective which covers Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other neighboring regions surrounding Central Asia.

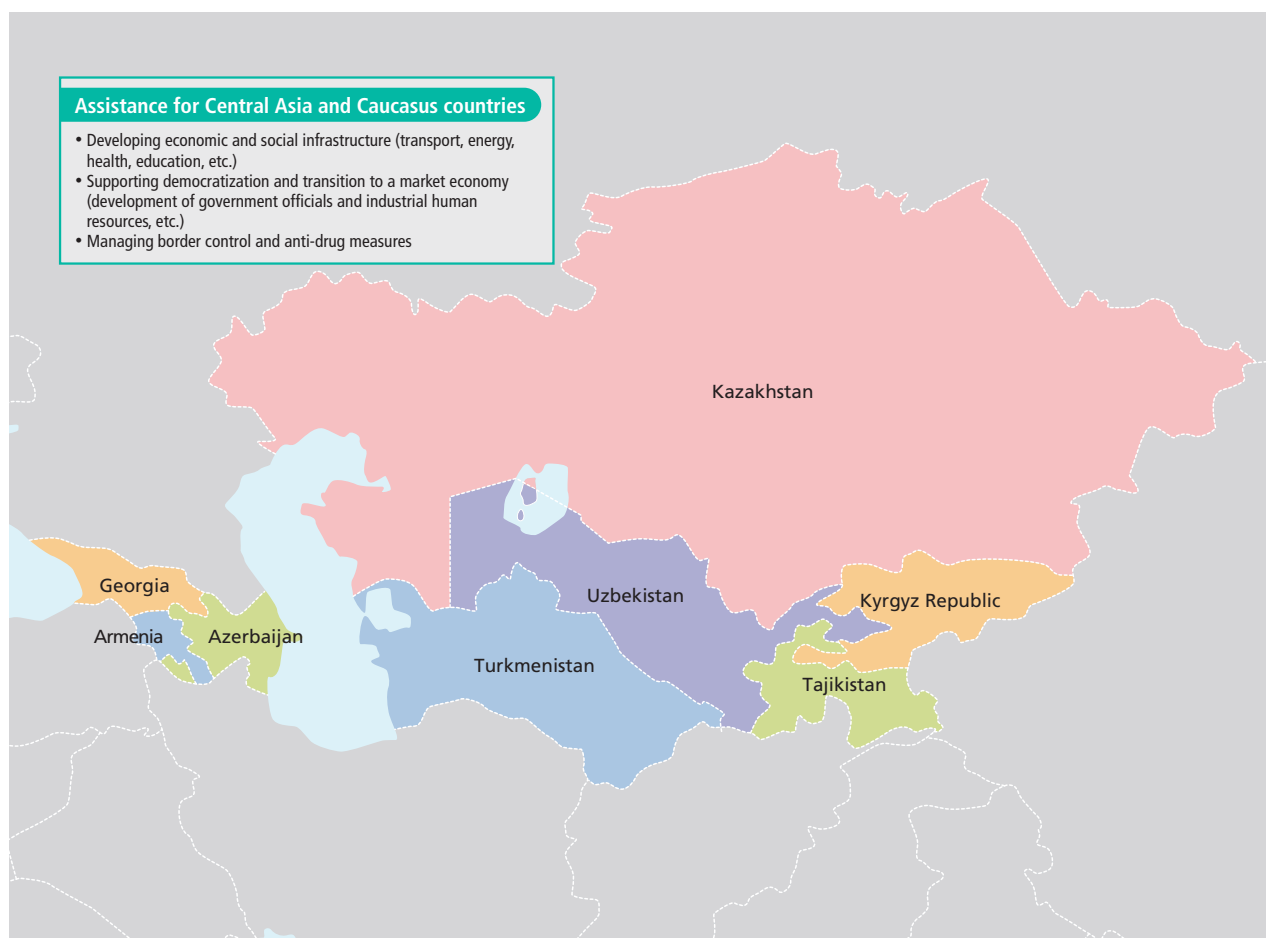
the International Main Roads Improvement Project for the Kyrgyz Republic under this initiative is expected to improve road transportation capability and safety. Furthermore, Japan expressed its intention to accept 2,000 trainees in the next five years. By 2016, Japan has accepted 10,270 trainees from Central Asia and Caucasus, and dispatched 2,303 experts to the region. Japan has also been providing support in the development of the human resources necessary for new nation-building efforts, including the implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship, which is a study-in-Japan program for young government officials, and the development of human resources for business through Japan Center for Human Resources Development.

Considering the importance of cooperation among countries in this region which are facing common issues, Japan promotes regional cooperation in areas of border control, counter-terrorism and anti-drug measures, disaster risk reduction, and agriculture. Apart from these efforts, Japan provided election-related equipment to the Kyrgyz Republic which is eagerly advancing its process of democratization. This equipment was effectively used in the 2015 parliamentary election and the 2017 presidential election, which facilitated the peaceful elections without any major confusion and consequently contributed to more solid establishment of democracy in the country.



In June 2017, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Motome Takisawa, visited Georgia and held a dialogue with Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

◆ Japan's international cooperation policy in the Central Asia and Caucasus Region



III
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Chart III-10 Japan's Assistance in the Central Asia and Caucasus Region

Calendar year: 2016

(Unit: US\$ million)

Calendar year: 2010										
Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Uzbekistan	9.77	2.42	6.84	16.61	178.49	28.59	149.90	166.51	195.10
2	Azerbaijan	0.46	—	0.92	1.38	57.25	20.44	36.81	38.18	58.63
3	Tajikistan	25.41	8.27	5.63	31.04	—	—	—	31.04	31.04
4	Georgia	1.07	—	0.84	1.92	16.13	2.63	13.50	15.42	18.05
5	Kyrgyz Republic	4.48	—	8.33	12.81	—	0.48	-0.48	12.34	12.81
6	Armenia	2.02	—	2.62	4.64	—	10.32	-10.32	-5.67	4.64
7	Kazakhstan	0.31	—	1.99	2.30	0.66	38.84	-38.18	-35.88	2.96
8	Turkmenistan	—	—	0.50	0.50	—	2.01	-2.01	-1.51	0.50
	Multiple countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus	2.72	—	0.62	3.34	—	—	—	3.34	3.34
Central Asia and the Caucasus region total		46.25	10.69	28.30	74.54	252.53	103.31	149.22	223.77	327.07

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- Due to rounding, the total may not match the sum of each number.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

- Aid for multiple countries is aid in the form of seminars or survey team dispatches, etc. that spans over multiple countries within a region.
- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Negative numbers appear when the recovered amount of loans, etc. exceeds the disbursed amount.



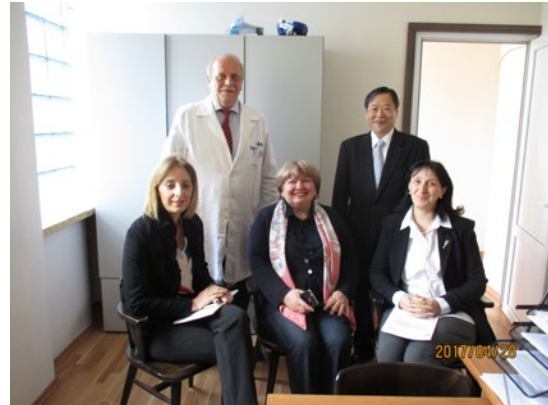
Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Introduction of Japanese Advanced Products and Its System (Medical Equipment and Welfare Apparatus Package)

Non-project grant aid (FY2014)

In Georgia, a country with a population of 4 million people and land size about one-fifth of Japan, many people have difficulty in accessing high quality medical services due to obsolete medical equipment of hospitals. To improve this situation, Japan provided high quality Japanese medical equipment (CT, digital X-ray equipment, ultrasonic diagnostic devices, etc.) for two hospitals in Georgia as well as 140 AEDs* (automatic external defibrillators) for emergency use throughout Georgia as part of this grant aid. The handover ceremony was held in April 2017.

On the day of the handover ceremony, Mr. Toshio Kaitani, Japanese Ambassador to Georgia (title at that time), visited Universal Medical Center and met a woman whose early stage lung cancer was detected by the CT provided by Japan. She was fully recovered from the cancer and expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the Ambassador. The Director of the Center mentioned that she was the first case who was saved by the CT provided by Japan, and without it early detection would not have been possible.

At the handover ceremony, Mr. Davit Sergeenko, the Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia expressed his gratitude for Japanese aid because the AEDs have increased the rate of patient survival by above 70%.



Director Gvamichava (left back row), Ambassador Toshio Kaitani (back row right), and Ms. Marina whose lung cancer was then cured by early detection (middle front row)

By providing the products made by Japanese companies, it is expected that Japanese businesses overseas will be promoted and economic relationship between the two countries will be strengthened.

* A medical device used to restore normal heart rate through electric shocks in case of cardiac arrest.

4 Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa region is a major supplier of energy resources, and accounts for approximately 50% of the world's oil and natural gas reserves. In addition, Japan depends on this region for more than 80% of its crude oil imports, and the core maritime route for commerce between Japan and Europe pass through the region. Thus, this region is critical for Japan's economy and energy security.

The Middle East and North Africa region has experienced major political upheaval since 2011. The democratization process is proceeding in the countries where longstanding regimes collapsed. Encouraging reform efforts in such countries through economic assistance and human resources development, etc. leads to peace and stability, not only in these countries and their neighbors, but also in the entire world.

However, this area is facing various challenges that destabilize the region, such as violent extremism including Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), large numbers of refugees, the Syrian crisis, continued tense relations between Gulf countries, tensions in the north of Iraq, the Middle East Peace Process, and the domestic situations in Afghanistan, Yemen and Libya. In 2014,

ISIL unilaterally declared the establishment of a self-proclaimed "state" which extends across the national borders of Iraq and Syria. With support from the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL led mainly by the United States as well as other efforts, the Government of Iraq declared the liberation of Mosul, which had been an important base for ISIL, in July 2017. In October the same year, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) also declared the liberation of Raqqa, which ISIL had claimed as its "capital," and the area controlled by ISIL has shrunk remarkably. However, threats remain in the form of "lone-wolf" terrorism; therefore it is a significant challenge for the international community as a whole to continuously tackle the fundamental causes behind the growth of violent extremism including ISIL.

Moreover, it is the feature of this region that there are many countries with large youth populations, and it is important to provide support to these countries so that they can continue to achieve stable growth. Realizing peace and stability in this region facing these kinds of issues is extremely important for the international community as a whole including Japan; therefore the international community is working towards the solution of these issues.