

Section 3

Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

1 Proactive Communications to the Public

(1) Overview

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 the government is crucial. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is making efforts in timely and effective public relations, using various forms of media, lectures, publications and others.

(2) 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. To provide information effectively, regular press conferences are conducted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Press Secretary, while special press conferences are held as necessary. Press conferences by 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. During overseas



A Regular press conference (MOFA, Tokyo)

Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	150 times
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*From January 1 to December 31, 2018 Text posted MOFA website

Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	29 times
Statements by the Press Secretary	44 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,570 times
Total	1,643 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2018 Counted by MOFA

or local visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, MOFA also provides the information related to the visits from the countries/places abroad so that people can easily follow and understand the gist and the achievements of the visits. On certain specific topics, MOFA regularly releases statements by the Minister for Foreign

Affairs or Press Secretary announcing the stance of the Government of Japan. Similarly, MOFA frequently makes press releases on MOFA's activities. Additionally, through various media, the Minister and State Ministers for Foreign Affairs often explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public. MOFA also is engaged in public relations in a variety of ways, such as arranging interviews between high-level officials of MOFA and local newspapers of their respective hometowns. It also extends assistance to media covering various diplomatic events.

When media report factual errors and insufficient information, MOFA reacts with an appeal for correction, contributes its views, and posts its views on the website of MOFA upon announcement at a press conference. With these efforts, MOFA strives for gaining an accurate understanding of Japan's policy in the world.

(3) Information Provision through the Internet

MOFA's website (Japanese and English) is a way to promptly provide information on the diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, as well as on Japan's foreign policy including territorial integrity, recognition of history, security, along with the latest international relations and other basic relevant information. MOFA's website in the Japanese language enjoys a wide range of contents including introductory ones on diplomacy such as "Easy Ways to Understand International Situations," and "MOFA for Kids" for elementary and junior/senior-high school students.

MOFA also utilizes social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

(4) Dialogue with Japanese Nationals

With the notion of "Public Relations through Dialogue," MOFA provides the people of Japan with an opportunity to directly talk to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Foreign



MOFA's Official Website



MOFA's Official Facebook Page



"MOFA for Kids"

Affairs, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and its officials. Such occasions include the events titled "Talk to the Minister," in which the Foreign Minister engages in direct dialogue with the public to give straightforward explanations on Japan's foreign policies, and other themes of high interest among people, and answer questions and opinions.

MOFA also participates in "Home Town Talks," in which, the three highest ranking officials of various ministries and governmental agencies



"International Issue Presentation Contest" (September 22, Nihonbashi Social Education Center, Tokyo)



Lecture on the International Situation (July 5, El Park Sendai Seminar Hall, Miyagi Prefecture)



Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA: Students from Sapporo Otani High School (Hokkaido) (November 23, Tokyo, MOFA)



Journal on foreign affairs entitled "Diplomacy"

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 Program	46 times
Talk for High School Programs	117 times
Visits by elementary and junior and senior-high school students to MOFA	160 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2018)

talk with the residents of local Japanese areas. In 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii visited Kurashiki City of Okayama Prefecture in April, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto visited Iiyama City of Nagano Prefecture in September, giving explanations on the MOFA's policies, and exchanged opinions with the participants.

MOFA reaches out various age groups holding "Lectures on the International Situations," "Diplomatic Talks," and "Talks for High School Programs," by sending its officials to venues such as international exchange organizations,

universities and high schools throughout Japan. MOFA attaches importance on promoting better understandings in foreign policy and international affairs among youth, who are going to bear the future of Japan on their shoulders. With the notion in mind, MOFA 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."

MOFA also introduces Japan's ODA policies and specific measures to the public through various symposia, lectures, and "ODA Delivery Lectures" in which MOFA officials take part. (31 lectures in 2018).

Additionally, MOFA publishes the periodical journal "Diplomacy," sharing information on discussions taking place in various areas and at various levels concerning diplomacy and international affairs relevant to Japan widely.

In 2018, the journal featured numerous papers written by renowned domestic and overseas experts on a variety of foreign diplomacy issues, including “public diplomacy” and a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

Moreover, MOFA also makes various pamphlets in order to promote further understanding on the organizational structure and foreign policies of MOFA in an understandable manner. In addition to the above, MOFA accepts individual public opinions through various ways, including the website of MOFA, the office of the Prime Minister of Japan, and the web system of e-Government Public Comment Procedure (“e-Gov”). Comments and opinions from the public are accordingly shared in MOFA and used as a reference in policy making and planning.

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

To further enhance the public understanding of and confidence in Japan’s foreign policy, MOFA is actively engaging itself in the smooth transfer of records and their declassification. In addition, MOFA has been engaged in efforts to facilitate greater convenience in the public use of diplomatic documents.

MOFA preserves more than 120,000 historical materials, including 40,000 prewar historical documents in its Diplomatic Archives and has declassified its postwar diplomatic records since 1976 as a voluntary initiative. The Rules on the Declassification of Diplomatic Records, which were established in May 2010, stipulate: (1) the 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 have been transferred to the Diplomatic Archives and made public since then has reached approximately 31,000 by the end of 2018.

Furthermore, MOFA discloses information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs, while giving considerations to national security, the relationship of mutual trust with other countries, the impact on diplomatic negotiations, and the protection of personal information. In 2018, MOFA received 560 requests for disclosure, and the documents totaling 79,528 pages were disclosed.

2 Strengthening Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

The security environment surrounding Japan has become very severe and diplomatic issues are becoming increasingly challenging and diverse. Under these circumstances, it is vital to further strengthen Japan’s foreign policy implementation structure, and MOFA is reinforcing its organization and personnel at headquarters and overseas missions, including Embassies and Consulates General.

Diplomatic missions overseas, such as Embassies and Consulates General, not only represent Japan and promote diplomatic agenda, but also play a key role in areas such as information gathering on the frontline and strategic communication with the public abroad. At the same time, overseas missions are also responsible for operations directly related to enhancing the interests of 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 2019, Japan established a new Embassy in Belarus, a Consulate-General in Davao (the Philippines), and a Delegation to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal (Canada). As a result, the number of diplomatic missions overseas as of FY2018 is 226

Special
Feature**Exhibitions Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration:
Japanese Diplomacy in the Meiji Era as Reflected in Historical Documents**

In 2018 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) held exhibitions to look back on Japan's Meiji era diplomacy with historical documents preserved at the Diplomatic Archives, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (1868).

The Diplomatic Archives is a MOFA facility for preservation, management, and use of Japan's diplomatic historical materials since the end of the Edo era. The Special Exhibition "Japanese Diplomacy in the Meiji Era as Reflected in Sovereign and Personal Letters" was held from January 11 to May 31 at the Annex of the Diplomatic Archives. This exhibition displayed sovereign letters and personal letters sent from the heads of foreign countries to His Majesty the Emperor Meiji with particular importance for diplomatic history, including the credentials of British Minister to Japan, Harry Smith Parkes, (sent from Her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1868, giving recognition to the legitimacy of the Meiji Government) and the commission of full powers to Chinese plenipotentiary Li Hongzhang, which was brought to the Peace Conference of Sino-Japanese War in 1895 (a sovereign letter from Qing Emperor Guangxu).

Following this, the Diplomatic Archives held the Special Exhibition "Japanese Diplomacy in the Meiji Era as Reflected in Treaties" from June 12 to October 11. In this exhibition, the Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands (signed document), the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation which successfully eliminated consular jurisdiction, the Treaty of Shimonoseki, the Portsmouth Peace Treaty and other well-known treaties that appear in school textbooks were displayed.

Many positive opinions were received from the visitors, such as "I was moved by seeing the originals of these precious historical documents," "This was a reminder of the importance of diplomacy," "I admire the efforts of so many people that I was able to feel from the exhibition" and so on. There were also some voices requesting the use of pictures and explanatory notes pertaining to the exhibits as teaching materials.

Responding to the requests that the historical materials should be displayed in other regions, the Diplomatic Archives held the Joint Exhibition "Hokkaido in the Context of World History" together with the Archives of Hokkaido, from July 24 to August 23. Commemorating the 150th anniversaries of Hokkaido and the Meiji era, this exhibition put on display treaties related to the history of Hokkaido, such as the Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands (instruments of ratification). This was the first exhibition of these documents in Hokkaido and about 19,000 people visited. Many visitors appreciated that they were blessed with the opportunity to see the originals of precious historical documents in Hokkaido.

In addition, the Diplomatic Archives held the Joint Exhibition "Japanese Diplomacy in the Meiji Era as Reflected in Diplomatic Records" in cooperation with the Kagoshima Prefectural Museum of Culture Reimeikan from November 6 to December 16. During this period, the "Segodon" Exhibition, which was synchronized with a TV history drama describing the life of Saigo Takamori (1827-1877), also took place at the museum. The exhibition offered an opportunity to learn more about the Meiji era through the Diplomatic Archives documents along with the materials in the Reimeikan museum.

For the convenience of those who did not have a chance to visit the exhibition, the Diplomatic Archives made available digital archives, the Exhibition "Japanese Diplomacy in the Meiji Era as Reflected in Sovereign and Personal Letters" on its website in December. This archives enabled anyone to view the exhibition anytime and anywhere, and also to see letters and characters, seals, patterns, and other unique details in various documents from other countries through the screen.



Exhibition poster

These exhibitions commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration introduced Japan's trial-and-error process of modernization. Opening itself to the world at the end of the Edo era, Japan started building up international relations in the Meiji years, tackling various challenges, such as



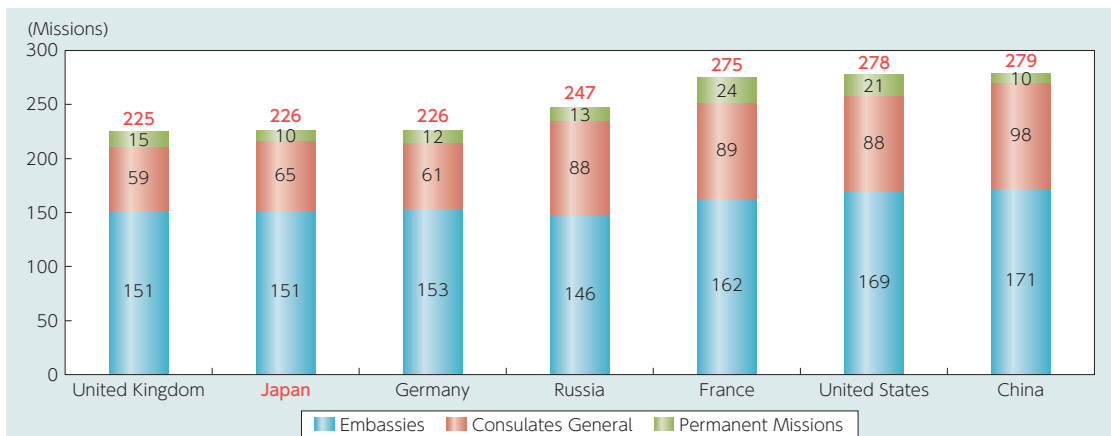
The Portsmouth Peace Treaty (signed document)

establishing diplomatic relations with other countries, border demarcation, and revision of unequal treaties. After the subsequent Sino-Japanese war (1894-95) and Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905), Japan reached a position equal to Western powers. We hope that these exhibitions provided a broad picture of Japan's diplomatic history, and an opportunity to think of Japanese foreign policy in the future. MOFA will continue to make efforts to promote public understanding of Japanese diplomacy by preserving, managing and encouraging the use of important historical documents.

Changes in the Number of Diplomatic Missions

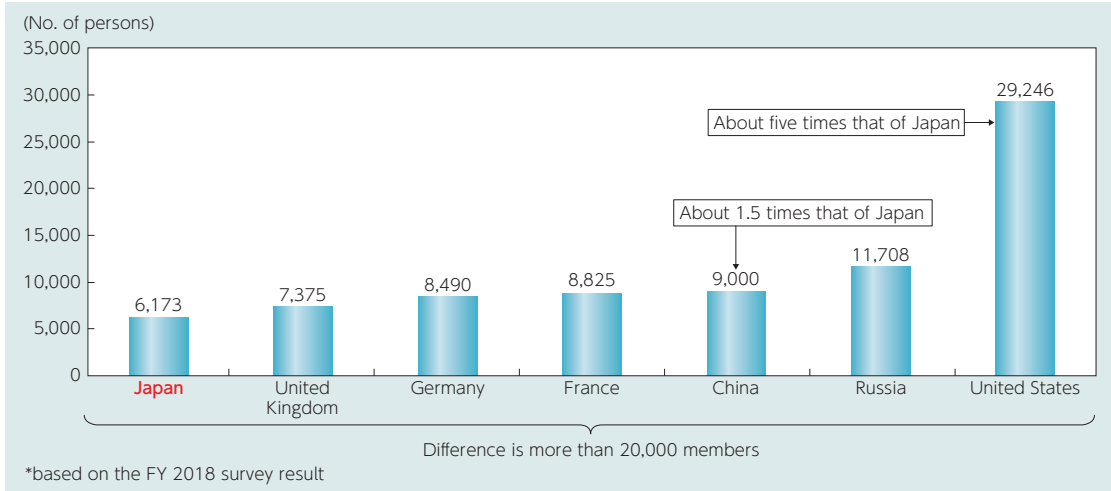


Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries

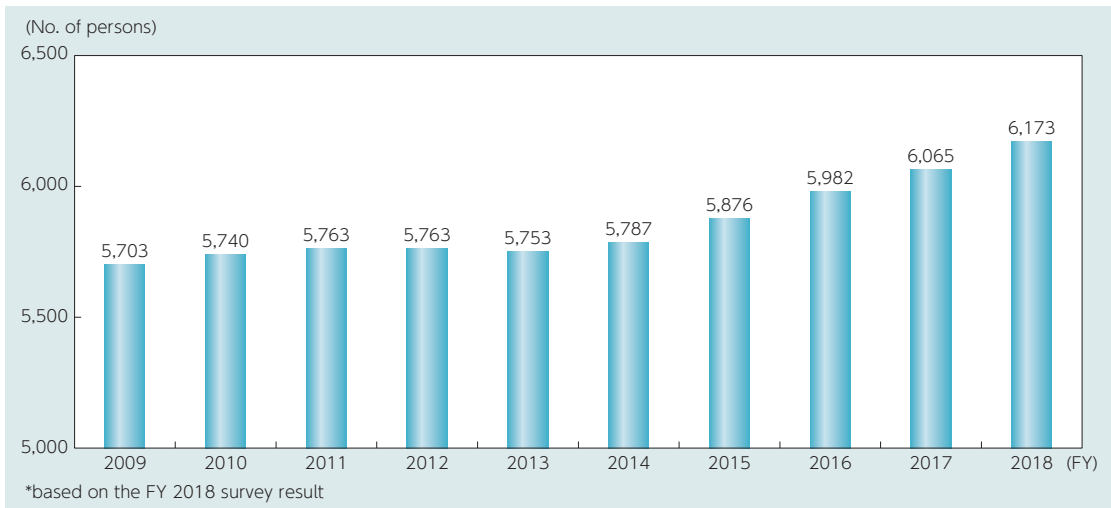


Note 1) Figures for each country (excluding Russia) as of January 2019
 Note 2) Figures for Russia as of January 2018

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



Number of Staff Members at MOFA



(151 Embassies, 65 Consulates General and 10 Permanent Missions).

Belarus occupies a position of geopolitical importance as a country bordering the EU and Russia. Moreover, given that it was a country 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, and the two countries share knowledge in the field.

Davao, the Philippines, has produced President Duterte (former mayor of Davao), and the city carries growing political weight. Moreover,

Mindanao with Davao at its center hosts many Japanese companies and Japanese national residents, and the need to support those Japanese businesses and nationals through a diplomatic mission is heightening. The region still harbors a destabilizing element of Islamic extremism and potential terrorist attacks thereof, thereby necessitating activities for information gathering and execution of preventive measures against terrorism.

ICAO is a specialized organization under the United Nations involved in ensuring the formulation and implementation of rules

Column Improving Efficiency and Work Style Reform at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

What impression do you have of work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)? You might have a glamorous image, but some might also envision extremely busy people. Work at MOFA does in fact involve interaction with foreign countries with different perspectives and stances to Japan. It also requires dealing swiftly with emergency situations. As globalization progresses, diplomatic challenges have diversified, and the areas that the officials of MOFA deal with have become broader and more specialized. In general, the workload at MOFA has increased.

In these circumstances, MOFA is working on streamlining and reforming its operations to develop an environment in which its staff can fully demonstrate their ability and focus on formulating foreign policy.

Since his inauguration, Foreign Minister Kono has been proactively visiting foreign countries and developing a relationship of mutual trust with counterpart countries. Simultaneously, in order to continue carrying out an increasing number of foreign visits, MOFA has reviewed the support tasks for the Minister's official trip preparation and coordination, and lowered the number of staff necessary for the task by 40%. In addition, part of the work related to ministerial meetings to be held in Japan has been entrusted to private companies, thereby reducing the number of staff that need to be mobilized for the work, and cultivating an overall work environment that allows all staff members to concentrate on their original area of responsibility.

In consular affairs, a service directly connected to the public, MOFA is working to improve and streamline its services through the use of IT technology. For example, the integration of the consular connection systems implemented in March has enabled the sending out of safety information swiftly to Japanese tourists abroad and Japanese nationals overseas. MOFA is also studying the introduction of electronic applications for passports and e-visas, as well as credit card payment systems for the fees for these services.

Furthermore, in order to develop an empowering environment for a diverse workforce, MOFA is trying to carry out work style reform. About 30% of the staff currently working in MOFA are women, and many staff members are part of a dual-career family. Through the development of teleworking (work-from-home) and a flex time system, as well as the provision of seminars and training, efforts are being made to change employees' mindset so that the employees of both genders with parenting or nursing care responsibilities can maintain a good balance between work and private life.

MOFA will continue to work on streamlining and improving operations so that we can create a work environment where "humans," the greatest asset of diplomacy, can be vibrant and active, in order to provide appropriate services to the public.

concerning international civil aviation, and is closely associated with aviation diplomacy and security. As events that greatly impact the security of Japan as well as civil aviation have occurred, including 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 urging ICAO to take appropriate measures.

In addition to the establishment of these overseas missions, Japan established a Mission to

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in July 2018. Japan has been conducting practical cooperation with NATO on maritime security, crisis management against cyberattacks and other threats, and in the field of international cooperation. It is also important from the perspective of contributing to peace and stability of the international community as a whole, as well as the maintenance of order through strengthening the alliance network among Japan, the U.S. and European countries.

Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consul-Generals of Japan – From the Frontlines of Hospitality Diplomacy

Noriko Kitamura

As the Executive Chef for the Ambassador of Japan in Malaysia, I have been preparing meals at the official residence of Ambassador Miyagawa since March 2014. One of the most important jobs of an Executive Chef is to manage the lunch and dinner banquets hosted by the Ambassador for VIPs of Malaysia invited to the official residence. These range from small-scale events for about five to six people, to large-scale events for about 20 people. The guests visit the official residence with high expectation of delicious Japanese cuisine.



Photograph of Prime Minister Mahathir and the author

Malaysia is a multiethnic country with mainly Malay, Chinese, and Indian citizens. It is forbidden for Muslims to have alcohol and pork, and for Indians of the Hindu faith to have beef. These guests often attend the same dinner banquets, and with the further addition of vegetarian guests, planning the menu requires great effort.

The Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consul-Generals of Japan carry out the menu planning, purchasing of ingredients, preparation, and cooking all by themselves. Preparing food mechanically results in cold and unimpressive dishes. So I try to obtain as much information as I can about the guests beforehand and building upon that research, strive to subtly incorporate the favorite items of the guests, local foods, and specialties into the courses of the meal. The more information that I collect, the more greatly my imagination about the guests develops. I am encouraged and motivated to cook while imagining the moment when the guests express their surprise and pleasure.

I have also had opportunities to prepare and serve food to VIPs whom we rarely get a chance to encounter. Perhaps I should say that this is one of the advantages of working as an Executive Chef for an Ambassador/Consul-General of Japan. In the past, I have been blessed with opportunities to prepare food for Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia, and guests from Japan including His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Planning the menus for VIPs is always a difficult task, but I have ultimately reached the conclusion that instead of serving eccentric and newfangled dishes, I can only put all my heart into preparing the dishes that are usually served to guests. In any case, it is an invaluable experience for a chef to have been able to prepare food for such dignitaries.

I also served as the Executive Chef to Ambassador Miyagawa when he was posted to Geneva from 2007 to 2009 as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva and Consul-General of Japan in Geneva. In Geneva, I learned about the virtues of Western food culture such as French cuisine and Italian cuisine. Likewise in Malaysia, I became well-acquainted with Eastern food culture, and broadened my repertoire as a chef. For an Executive Chef of an Ambassador/Consul-General of Japan, in addition to gaining knowledge about food, having the opportunity to learn other languages, gain exposure to different cultures, and broaden our horizons is also an appealing aspect of the job. These experiences will enrich our lives for the future.



In Malaysia, people are very familiar with Japanese cuisine, and would give examples such as sushi, tempura, and teppanyaki when asked about Japanese food. However, there are not yet any restaurants serving authentic “kaiseki” meals (traditional ceremonial dishes). I hope that there will be an authentic Japanese restaurant in Malaysia someday, as the people of Malaysia are eager to savor authentic and delicious Japanese cuisine.

A new embassy in Vanuatu will be established in FY2019. Vanuatu is a pro-Japanese country, and it is one of the geopolitically important countries in the Melanesian region for gathering and disseminating information. Through the opening of an embassy in the country, Japan seeks to elevate bilateral relations with Vanuatu to a higher level and strengthen cooperation in the international arena.

In addition to establishing 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. Despite the Government's policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses across all ministries in light of the current severe budget situation, the number of staff members at MOFA was increased to 6,173 (6,065 in 2017), in order to bolster safety measures, strengthen information gathering and analysis capabilities, vitalize the economy including infrastructure exports, advance strategic communications, and address global issues, etc. This number, however, remains insufficient in comparison with other major countries. MOFA continues its efforts to build a structure that commensurates with Japan's national power and diplomatic policy. In the meantime, as enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure remains necessary in FY2019, MOFA plans to increase its staff members by 115 in order to address important issues, such as greater information gathering and analysis capabilities, Japan's economic vitalization including increased infrastructure exports, stronger strategic communications, and addressing important agenda in security, bilateral relations and regional affairs.

MOFA appropriated a budget of 696.7 billion yen in the budget for FY2018 (an increase of 4.1 billion yen from FY2017) to take on an even more proactive role in diplomacy to lead international initiatives and discussions. The total amount of MOFA's FY2018 supplementary budget was 149.6 billion yen for matters of an urgent nature such

as assistance on global issues, including epidemic diseases, humanitarian, counter-terrorism or social stabilization assistance including refugee issues.

MOFA's FY2019 initial government budget proposal appropriated 730.6 billion yen based on the following priorities: (1) further enhancing Japan's presence and influence through international events held in Japan; (2) bolstering of diplomatic capabilities for Japan's national interests and peace and prosperity in the international community; (3) striving to nurture a deeper understanding and appreciation of the variety of charms Japan has to offer, including a true understanding of the country's nature, through the implementing of strategic communication; and (4) protecting Japanese nationals abroad and in Japan from threats such as terrorism. To respond to the increasing need for diplomacy, the budget was expanded for use of the Foreign Minister's chartered plane and to ensure the recruitment of high quality chefs for Ambassadors/Consuls-General of Japan, while also appropriating an increased ODA budget to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

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

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



Reception for the T20 Inception Conference (December 4, Tokyo)

influence on the international economic policies of each country, the Shangri-La Dialogue, which provides prominent experts and ministers of the world with an opportunity to discuss Asian security issues, and the Manama Dialogue, which deals with the security in the Middle East. There is an ever increasing importance to develop human resources, such as researchers and think tanks (study and research institutions) to take part in such discussions 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.

Moreover, in December 2018, the Inception Conference of the T20 (Think20), one of the G20 Engagement Groups (groups that are independent from governments and comprised of various stakeholders of the international community), was held in Tokyo and it was attended by approximately 200 people, including experts from G20 countries. At the meeting, policy issues related to the main themes of G20 Summits were discussed, and a process laying down policy recommendations to submit to G20 Osaka Summit was launched. There are also plans to hold the T20 Summit in May 2019.