

DIPLOMATIC BLUE BOOK 2019



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Diplomatic Bluebook 2019

Japanese Diplomacy and International Situation in 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Preface to the Diplomatic Bluebook 2019

The world is currently going through a significant period of change. Economic globalization, while creating further opportunities for growth worldwide, has also led to widening social and economic disparities and issues of migration, and allowed protectionism and inward-looking trends to loom large even in countries that have enjoyed the benefits of a free economy. Furthermore, the international order based on fundamental values, such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for international law, which has underpinned the peace and prosperity of Japan and the world, is being challenged by unilateral attempts at changing the status quo by force and the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. In order to protect and bolster the rules-based international order, Japan must play an even more proactive role.

With this in mind, the following six priority areas continue to be at the center of Japan's foreign policy: (1) strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhancing the networks of allies and partners; (2) enhancing relationships with neighboring countries in light of the security environment around Japan; (3) promoting free trade; (4) contributing to address global issues; (5) advancing diplomatic efforts toward the Middle East; and (6) promoting efforts for achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Beyond these areas, Japan also needs to tackle a wide array of issues, including cyber diplomacy, debate on weapons with cutting-edge technologies such as Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), and innovative financing mechanisms such as international solidarity tax for addressing global issues. Japan will never conduct diplomacy backed by military power. With the amount of official development assistance (ODA), a major pillar of Japan's diplomacy, declining to half of what it used to be at its peak, Japan's sheer diplomatic capabilities based on wisdom and ideas are being tested.

The Diplomatic Bluebook 2019 presents an overview of the state of affairs in the international community and Japan's diplomatic activities throughout 2018. Chapter 1 provides a brief overview of international relations surrounding Japan and Japan's diplomacy; Chapter 2 and 3 examine major events in 2018, focusing on Japan's foreign policy with a panoramic perspective of the world map and on promoting national and global interests; and Chapter 4, entitled "Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public," discusses the efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Japanese society and people in deepening ties with the world and to assist Japanese people overseas, as well as on-going efforts by the Ministry to enhance the foundation of diplomatic activities. New special feature articles with many photos have also been added in the opening pages, to allow the readers to become more familiar with diplomacy.

I hope that this Diplomatic Bluebook will help you understand Japan's foreign policy deeply, and that it will send out broadly to domestic and overseas readers an image of Japan contributing proactively to global peace and prosperity.

Minister for Foreign Affairs
KONO Taro



In principle, this Diplomatic Bluebook 2019 describes an overview of the international affairs and Japan's diplomatic activities between January 1 and December 31 of 2018; however, some important events that occurred until March 2019 are also included.

In this book we tried to provide plain and concise explanations that anyone would find easy to read. Some articles in columns were contributed by distinguished persons who are internationally successful and others concerning activities which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) particularly put an emphasis on in 2018.

Key speeches, communiques, and statistics which were listed in the Diplomatic Bluebook until 2002 are available on the MOFA website at https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html. You will find an electronic version of this book and back numbers of the Diplomatic Bluebook at https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html.

For more details with respect to Chapter 3, Section 1, "4. Disarmament, Non-proliferation, and the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy," and Chapter 3, Section 2, "Japan's International Cooperation," please refer to MOFA's publications, "Japan's Efforts on Disarmament and Non-proliferation," and "White Paper on Development Cooperation/Japan's ODA White Paper." These documents are also available on the MOFA website at https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/report.html.

Please note that the titles of persons and names of countries appearing in this book are those as of 2018.

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Japanese Diplomacy in 2018 Seen through Photographs

Prime Minister Abe's visit to Europe (January) (Chapter 2-4)



Visit to Estonia (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



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Visit to Latvia (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Visit to Romania (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Visit to Japan by the U.S. Vice President (February, Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-2-1)



Visit to Serbia (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Visit to Bulgaria (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) on the occasion of the PyeongChang Olympic Games (February, Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-2)

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly (January, United Arab Emirates) (Chapter 3-3-4)

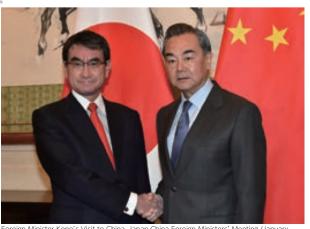




Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula (January, Canada) (Chapter 2-1-2)



Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") (January, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-4-2)



Foreign Minister Kono's Visit to China, Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting (January, China) (Chapter 2-1-3)



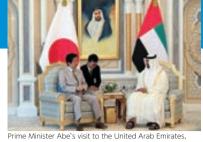
Prime Minister Abe's visit to the U.S., Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (April, U.S.; Photo:



Visit to Japan by the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting (April, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-1-3)



Visit to Japan by the Foreign Minister of Russia, Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (March, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-5-1)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to the United Arab Emirates, meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi (April, United Arab Emirates; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-6-2)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Jordan, Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting (May, Jordan; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-6-2)



Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting (April, Jordan) (Chapter 2-2-1)



Foreign Minister Kono's Visit to the ROK, Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (April, ROK) (Chapter 2-1-2)



Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (April, Switzerland) (Chapter 3-1-4)



Inter-Korean Summit Meeting (April, ROK; Photo: AFP=Jiji) (Chapter 2-1-2)



G7 Toronto Foreign Ministers' Meeting (April, Canada) (Chapter 2-2-1)

Japanese Diplomacy in 2018 Seen through Photographs (May-September)



Visit to Japan by the Premier of China and the President of the ROK, Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit (May, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-7)



Ceremony to present an Akita Inu "Masaru" to the Russian skater Alina Zagitova (May, Russia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to the U.S., Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (June, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-2-1)



U.S.-North Korea Summit (June, Singapore) (Chapter 2-1-2)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Russia, Japan-Russia Summit Meeting (May, Russia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-5-1)



G7 Charlevoix Summit (June, Canada; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 3-2-2)



The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) (May, Fukushima Prefecture; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-6)



Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Brazil, welcome reception hosted by Nikkei representatives (May, Brazil) (Chapter 2-3-3)



Signing ceremony for the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) (July, Tokyo: Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-4-2; Chapter 3-3-1)



Visit to Japan by the Secretary of State of the U.S. and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (July, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-1-2)



Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Poland, Japan-Poland Foreign Ministers' Meeting (July, Poland) (Chapter 2-4-1)



Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Russia, Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) (July, Russia) (Chapter 2-5-1)



Visit to Japan by the UN Secretary-General (August, Nagasaki City; Photo: Nagasaki City) (Chapter 3-1-5)



Foreign Minister Kono's visit to France, Signing of the Japan-France Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) (July, France) (Chapter 2-4-2)



Special Light-up of the Eiffel Tower for Japonismes 2018 (September, France; Photo: ©CLAD/The Farm) (Chapter 2-4-2; Chapter 3-4-2)



Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (August, Tokyo) (Chapter 3-1-4)

Japanese Diplomacy in 2018 Seen through Photographs (September-December)



10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting (October, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-7)

Prime Minister Abe's address to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly (September, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 3-1-5)



UN General Assembly High-Level Side Event on "Promoting Quality Infrastructure" (September, U.S.)

(Chapter 3-2-1)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Spain, Japan-Spain Summit Meeting (October, Spain; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-4-2)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Russia, Japan-Russia Summit Meeting (September, Russia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-5-1)



Nelson Mandela Peace Summit (September, U.S.) (Chapter



UN Security Council Meeting on DPRK denuclearization (September, U.S.) (Chapter 2-1-1)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to France, Japan-France Summit Meeting (October, France; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-4-2)



Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting (October, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-7-1)



Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (September, U.S.) (Chapter 3-1-4)



Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Germany, Japan-Germany Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September, Germany) (Chapter 2-4-2)

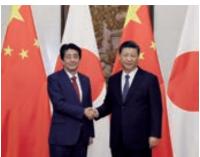


Visit to Japan by the UK Foreign Minister, Japan-UK Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue (September, Tokyo) (Chapter 2-4-2)

Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Australia, the Eighth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations ("2+2") (October, Australia) (Chapter 2-1-6) Prime Minister Abe's visit to China (October) (Chapter 2-1-3)



Summit Meeting with the Premier of China (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Summit Meeting with the President of China (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Visit to Japan by the Prime Minister of India, Informal Working Dinner (October, Yamanashi Prefecture; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-5)



APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (November, Papua New Guinea; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 3-3-1)





Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia, Japan-Australia Summit Meeting (November, Australia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-6)



Visit to Japan by the President of Burkina Faso, Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting (November, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-7-4)



Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting (November, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-1-5)

G20 Buenos Aires Summit (December, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 3-3-1)



Prime Minister Abe's visit to Latin America (December) (Chapter 2-3-2)



The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit Meeting (October, Belgium; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) (Chapter 2-4-3)



Visit to Uruguay (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Visit to Paraguay (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Daily Schedule of an International Trip by the Foreign Minister

An overseas visit by the Foreign Minister: Leaving busy Tokyo, having chats with foreign ministers of other countries in gorgeous locales, visiting various famous places, and relishing splendid banquets... No no, it's not like that.

It actually means enduring long flights, attending international conferences, and holding bilateral meetings in the minutes between conferences.

It means building relationships of trust and friendships with ministers of other countries during a short stay, having animated discussions about recent international issues, and coordinating efforts in various issues. This is an introduction of such busy international trips by the Foreign Minister.



policy regarding the issue of North Korea.

ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings

August 3 (Fri.)

- 11:00 Japan-Timor-Leste Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- 11:20 Informal talk with the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea
- 11:30 Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- 12:35 Japan-EU Foreign Ministers' Working Lunch

16:30 Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting

18:30 Japan-Indonesia Foreign Ministers' Meeting 19:20 Gala dinner

(Time is also set aside during the intervals for advance preparation for meetings, etc.)

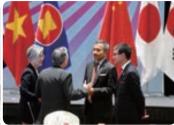
August 4 (Sat.)

Saturday. But there is no weekend during an overseas visit.

East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting



ASEAN Plus Three (Japan-China-ROK) Foreign Ministers' Meeting ministers of the ROK, China, and Singapore



Also hold discussions with the foreign during intervals between the meetings



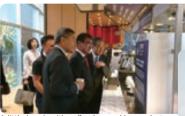
Secretary of State Pompeo

Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Discussion centered on the issue of North Korea



Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD)

The trilateral discussion had desks forming the shape of a triangle



A little break with coffee brewed by a robot.



Ministers' Meeting



ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting An important forum for confidence building in the region

August 5 (Sun.)

Last day in Singapore



Breakfast time cannot be wasted. A breakfast meeting was held for the Japan-Singapore Foreign Ministers' Meeting.



The discussion continued while enjoying durians.



Focusing on 2019-2020

2019 and 2020 will be important years for Japan holding international conferences such as the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD 7.

Many country leaders and ministers from all over the world will also visit Japan for the opportunities of the Rugby World Cup 2019™, Japan and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Taking full advantage of these opportunities, Japan will develop strategic diplomacy toward the international community through promoting Japan's initiatives to contribute to global peace and stability.

G20 Osaka Summit



The G20 Summit was started in 2008 to handle the financial crisis, and has come to have major influence in economic fields as the "premier forum for international economic cooperation." Japan will host the G20 Summit for the first time in 2019. At the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan is determined to lead global economic growth by promoting free trade and innovation, achieving both economic growth

and reduction of disparities, and contributing to the development agenda and other global issues with the SDGs at its core. Through these efforts, Japan seeks to realize and promote a free and open, inclusive and sustainable society (See Special Feature "G20 Osaka Summit – Hosting the G20 Summit for the first time").





■Schedule: Friday, June 28 to Saturday, June 29, 2019

■ Venue: Osaka City

G20 Buenos Aires Summit (December 2018, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

TICAD 7



The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is a summit level international conference launched by Japan in 1993 for the development of Africa. As an inclusive and open forum, it has realized its guiding principles of African ownership and partnership with the international

community. TICAD 7 is scheduled to be held in Yokohama in August 2019. Many participants will gather from African countries, international organizations, civil society, and more (See Special Feature "TICAD7 – Collaboration with host city Yokohama").





TICAD VI (August 2016, Kenya; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

- ■Schedule: Wednesday, August 28 to Friday, August 30, 2019
- Venue city: Yokohama City

Major Opportunities for Diplomacy and International Exchanges

Rugby World Cup 2019™, Japan



The Rugby World Cup, the tournament to determine the world champion of 15-player rugby that is held once every four years, will take place in Japan. The Rugby World Cup is considered to be one of the world's three largest sporting events alongside the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the FIFA World Cups. As this is the first game to be held

in Asia, Japan will most likely draw attention (See Column "Not once in four years. Once in a lifetime." (Rugby World Cup 2019^{TM} , Japan)).

- Schedule: Friday, September 20 to Saturday, November 2, 2019
- ■Venues: 12 venues throughout Japan









14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, known as "Congress," is the UN's largest international conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The last 13th Congress was participated in by about 4,000 people from 149 countries. The 14th Congress

(Kyoto Congress) will have discussions on measures and international cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice under the overall theme of "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda" (see Chapter 3-1-3(5)).



The 13th Congress (April 2015, Doha)



The scheduled 14th Congress venue

- Schedule: Monday, April 20 to Monday, April 27, 2020
- Venue city: Kyoto City

Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020



It has been 56 years since the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games were held in Tokyo in 1964. With the three core concepts of "achieving personal best," "unity in diversity," and "connecting to tomorrow," about 11,000 athletes will compete in 33 sports and 339 events at the Olympic Games,

■ Schedule: Olympic Games, Friday, July 24 to Sunday, August 9, 2020
Paralympic Games, Tuesday, August 25 to Sunday,
September 6, 2020

■Venue: 42 venues centered on Tokyo

and about 4,400 athletes will compete in 22 sports and 540 events at the Paralympic Games (see Chapter 3-4).







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Chapter 1

International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2018

In order for Japan to ensure its national interests in the political, security, and economic domain, and to continue to maintain and develop an international order desirable for Japan based on fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and respect for international law, it is essential to conduct strategic diplomacy, while rationally grasping changes in the international situation and responding to those changes.

Below is a broad overview of the international situation surrounding Japan and Japan's diplomacy in 2018.

Overview of the International Situation

The security environment surrounding Japan continues to face very severe conditions. In addition, factors such as the unprecedented change in the balance of power in the international community and rapid progress in technological innovation have had substantial and complex impacts on the global and regional security environment. Furthermore, as a backlash to the advance of globalization, protectionism and an inward-looking tendency are becoming conspicuous even in countries that have been enjoying the benefits of free trade, such as the United States and Europe.

The international order based on fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and respect for international

law, which have underpinned the stability and prosperity of the world, including that of Japan, is being challenged by attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion, and the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. Moreover, Europe, which has supported the maintenance and promotion of the international order, is in unstable situation due to the weakening of the administration in France and Germany, as well as the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Brexit).

(1) Changes in the International Situation in the Mid to Long-term

A Change in the Balance of Power

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the balance of power in the international community has been changing on an unprecedented scale and this has substantially influenced the dynamics of international politics.

In the international community, interdependency among countries further expands and deepens. On the other hand, thanks to further growth of national power of such countries as China, changes in the balance of power are accelerating and becoming more complex, thereby increasing uncertainty over the existing order.

Against such a backdrop, prominently emerging are inter-state competitions across the political, economic and military realms, in which states seek to shape global and regional order to their advantage as well as to increase their influence.



Diversification and Complexification of Threats

The security environment has become complicated with concerns regarding the increase of "gray-zone" situations that are neither pure peacetime nor contingencies over territorial sovereignty and interests, especially in the Asian region.

In addition, cases involving employment of methods to alter the status quo, such as "hybrid warfare," that intentionally blur the boundaries between the military and non-military realms and ones including intervention in democracy from foreign countries through the manipulation of information and other methods are also being pointed out.

Issues related to the transfer, proliferation and improvement of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, including the possibility of acquisition and use of such weapons by terrorist organizations, etc., constitute a major threat to the entire international community, including Japan.

Regarding terrorism, although the decline of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is being witnessed, it is still necessary to be careful of the influence of the non-state actors including international terrorist organizations in the international community. In addition, there is a growing concern of terrorism targeting so-called soft-targets in recent years. Advances in communication tools, including social networking services (SNSs), are also being used in the diffusion of violent extremism, one of the primary causes of terrorism, and the expansion of the range of activities by terrorist organizations.

Recent advances in science and technology are invigorating activities in new spheres such as cyberspace and outer space. While this presents big opportunities, it also brings about new risks and threats, with the establishment of applicable norms under development.

Furthermore, technology transformation which can bring about the essential change to the nature of the society and people's lives, such as IoT, robot, AI, quantum technology is advancing, and not only the international competition to gain superiority in technologies is becoming severer, but also the movement to make use of these technologies for security purposes is becoming more active.

© Global Economic Trends (the Emergence of Protectionism and Inward-Looking Trends)

In the world economy, interdependence has been strengthened more than ever through the development of the global supply chain and financial systems, in line with the progress globalization and innovation such as digital technology. While these create further opportunities for growth, they also make it easier for an economic shock in one region or fluctuations in commodity prices and other factors to simultaneously impact other regions and the entire world economy. Moreover, innovative progress in information and communication technologies by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, represented by AI, robotics, and Big Data, will press the international economic order to transform further by dramatically changing all aspects of people's lives. Furthermore, to enable smoother crossborder economic activities, there is an increased need for the maintenance and formulation of an economic order based on rules.

On the other hand, mounting protectionism and inward-looking trends in the U.S. and major countries in Europe run counter to globalization, and these tendencies remain pronounced. The backgrounds of those tendencies may vary, from the increasing domestic income inequality, job losses, the increase in imports, and a rise in migrants, to the global environmental problems. In Europe, the influx of migrants and refugees is slowing, but at the same time the economic disparity between the south and the north remains unsolved. In the U.S., President Trump continued to emphasize "America First," and the issue of trade friction between the U.S. and China rose to the surface.

■ Growing Concern over Global Issues

The international community has been engaged in various efforts to globally eradicate extreme poverty and hunger through initiatives based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000. Poverty threatens the survival, daily life, and dignity of each person and becomes a source of social injustice, political instability and violent extremism, and its eradication is vital also from the perspective of "human security."

Furthermore, the number of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and asylum-seekers has continued to increase due to such factors as frequent occurrences of new crises and protracted conflicts and persecutions, and as of the end of 2018, it reached approximately 70 million people¹, the largest number since the end of World War II. The issue of refugees and other displaced persons is a serious humanitarian problem and has brought about friction in the international community over responses to the issue, and there is a concern that it will be further prolonged and aggravated.

In addition, as a result of the impacts of climate change, 2018 saw a succession of large-scale disasters around the world caused by major typhoons and torrential rain. It is forecast that natural disasters such as typhoons and torrential rain will continue to become severer with the effects of climate change, and there is a concern that this will have a serious impact especially on people in vulnerable environments. The number of people crossing borders has also increased dramatically due to globalization, posing an increasingly serious threat of the outbreak and transmission of infectious diseases. It has also been pointed out that the increase in global population, industrialization, and urbanization in the future may aggravate issues over water, food, and health.

In order to resolve these global issues, it will be important to steadily implement the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," which

are development goals of the entire international community, and address social, economic, and environmental issues in an integrated manner. It is said that promoting the SDGs will generate a value of 12 trillion US dollars and create 380 million jobs worldwide, and achieving the SDGs provides an opportunity to generate significant growth and profits. In particular, 2019 is an important year for achieving the SDGs, with Japan hosting the G20 and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), and the first SDG Summit being held in New York, U.S. In the lead-up to these opportunities, the international community is expected to advance concrete efforts while pooling the wisdom of a range of stakeholders.

■ The Situation in the Middle East Faced with Destabilizing Factors / The Escalation of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

The Middle East lies in a geopolitically important location and is an essential region that supplies energy resources to the world, including Japan. Its stability is crucial for the peace and stability of the international community, including Japan. On the other hand, the Middle East is facing several challenges that are destabilizing the region, including the existence of violent extremism such as ISIL, mass flows of refugees and their influx into neighboring regions, the prolongation of the Syrian crisis, the Middle East peace process, the tension between countries in the region and the domestic situations in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Libya.

While the territory controlled by ISIL in Iraq and Syria has shrunk as a result of the operations against ISIL, the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) who had been under its influence to their home countries or to third countries has spread the threat of terrorism and violent extremism around the world, including Asia.

¹ Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) website



(2) The Very Severe Security Environment in Fast Asia

A Nuclear and Missile Development by North Korea

North Korea has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with a series of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and there has been no essential change in North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.

B China's Strengthening of Military Power which Lacks Transparency and Unilateral Attempts to Change the Status Quo

The peaceful development of China should be welcomed by Japan and the entire international community. However, China continues to expand its defense budgets and strengthen its military power extensively and rapidly without transparency. It also gives priority to securing superiority in new domains, such as outer space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum. China continues unilateral actions and attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion at sea and in the airspace in areas such as the East and South China Seas based on its own assertions which are incompatible with the existing order of international law of the sea.

In the East China Sea, amid the continuation of intrusions by Chinese Government-owned vessels into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in 2018, Chinese naval vessels and aircraft have been conducting intense activities. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral development of resources in the maritime areas pending delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelves. Furthermore, in recent years China has been carrying out numerous surveys in the waters around Japan, including the East China Sea, without Japan's consent, or surveys that differ in the details of

those agreed upon.

In the South China Sea, China has conducted large-scale and rapid land reclamation and built outposts on the disputed features, and utilized them for military purposes. From 2016 to 2017, there were developments seen such as test flights to the Spratly Islands carried out by private Chinese aircraft, the deployment of surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island of the Paracel Islands, patrols in the airspace above Scarborough Shoal carried out by bombers and other aircraft and the sailing of an aircraft carrier of the Chinese Navy to the South China Sea. In 2018, China stepped up its activities, including the deployment of missile systems and jamming equipments on the Spratly Islands and takeoff and landing training by bombers on the Paracel Islands. According to an announcement by a U.S. think tank, the total area covered by permanent facilities that China completed or commenced construction as of 2017 has reached around 290,000 square meters.

With regard to the dispute between the Philippines and China over the South China Sea, China continues to make its own unique assertions concerning its territorial rights in the South China Sea, including rejecting the legally binding force of the final award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal, which confirmed the unlawfulness of China's land reclamations and other actions in July 2016.

2 Japan's Diplomacy

Amid the various challenges facing the international order based on fundamental values that have underpinned global stability and prosperity, Japan must take on a greater responsibility and role than before, while collaborating with other countries. Based on this recognition, Japan, while continuing to make the utmost efforts to promote its national interests, will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community and will further consolidate Japan's position as a peace-loving nation.

(1) Diplomacy Taking a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map and "Proactive Contribution to Peace"

In order to create a stable and predictable international environment, which is desirable for Japan, it is important to build trust and cooperative relationships with countries worldwide and the international community through diplomatic efforts, to strengthen the basis for stability and prosperity of the international community and to prevent the emergence of threats in advance. From such a perspective, since the inauguration of the Abe administration, the Government of Japan has advanced diplomacy, from a panoramic perspective of the world map, under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has thus far visited 78 countries and regions (160 countries and regions in total), and since his appointment in August 2017, Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited 63 countries and regions (96 countries and regions in total) (as of February 18, 2019). As a result, Japan's presence in the international community has steadily risen, and the relationship of trust between Prime Minister Abe and foreign leaders as well as between Foreign Minister Kono and other foreign ministers and the heads of international organizations have also been greatly deepened. In addition, parliamentary exchanges are playing a major role in diplomacy.

As a stable force in the international community, Japan will continue to build relationships of trust with countries' leaders, and while promoting its national interests, lead the international community for peace and prosperity of the world.

(2) The Six Priority Areas of Japan's Foreign Policy

In order to protect and promote Japan's national interests, Japan intends to continuously strengthen the following six priority areas of its foreign

policy: (1) strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance and promote the networking of allies and friendly nations; (2) enhance relations with neighboring countries; (3) promote economic diplomacy; (4) contribute to address global issues; (5) contribute to the peace and stability of the Middle East; and (6) promote a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

[1 Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and Promoting the Networking of Allies and Friendly Nations]

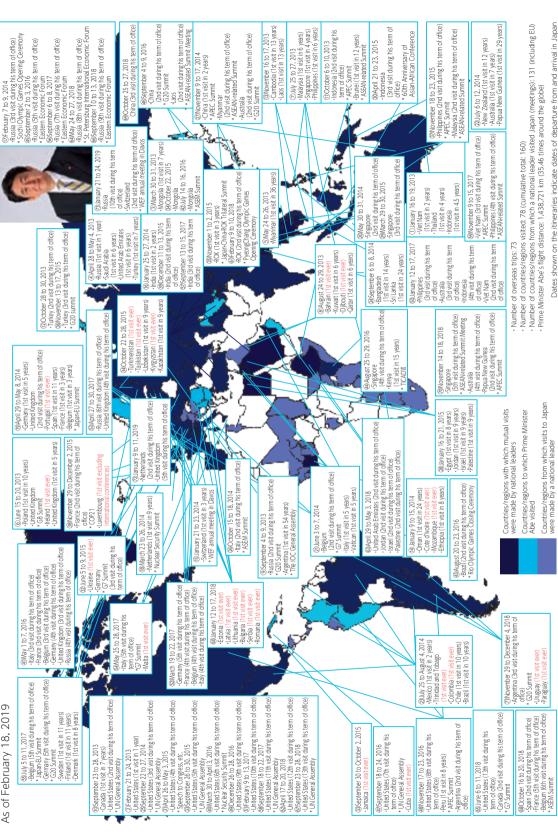
The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy and security, and plays a significant role in regional and international peace and prosperity. As the security environment surrounding Japan continues to be very severe, the Japan-U.S. Alliance is more important than ever.

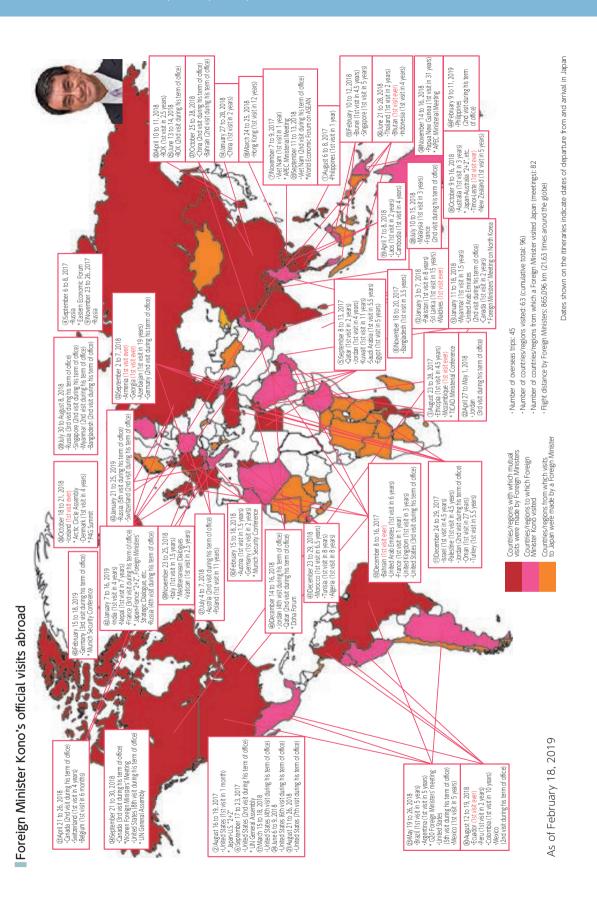
Against this backdrop, the Japan-U.S. Alliance has become more solid than ever under the personal relationship of trust between the leaders and Foreign Ministers, as well as through continuous efforts of both countries to enhance the Alliance in a variety of areas such as politics, economy, and security. The two countries are working closely to address regional and international issues including the issue regarding North Korea, and to maintain and promote a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

In addition, Japan, under the Legislation for Peace and Security and the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the Guidelines), is implementing a "seamless" response covering from peacetime to contingencies through various consultations and mechanisms with the U.S. In 2018, interpersonal exchanges between highlevel officials were conducted actively. In March and October, the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue was held, in which Japan and the U.S. had candid discussions about ways to secure the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through these multilayered efforts, Japan will continue to promote security and defense cooperation, further enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.

Prime Minister Abe's official visits abroad

As of February 18, 2019







Mitigating the impact on local communities including Okinawa is one of the most important issues for the Government. In March, approximately three hectares of lands along Route 58 of Makiminato Service Area were returned. Additionally, the relocation of all carrier air wing squadrons from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni was completed in the same month. Japan will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on local communities including Okinawa, while working on the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henoko as soon as possible, in order to ensure the stable stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan.

Alongside security and interpersonal exchange, Japan-U.S. cooperation in the economic field is one of three pillars underpinning the Japan-U.S. Alliance. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April, the two leaders decided to launch talks for free, fair and reciprocal trade deals (FFR) chaired by Mr. Motegi, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy and Ambassador Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative. The first and second rounds of the FFR talks were held in August and September. Moreover, at the Summit Meeting in September, the leaders concurred on entering into negotiations for a Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement on goods (TAG). At the Summit Meeting in November, the leaders reaffirmed that they will further expand trade and investment between Japan and the U.S. in a mutually beneficial manner, and realize economic development in a free and open Indo-Pacific region based on fair rules.

Furthermore, with the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the cornerstone, Japan will continue to play a leading role in regional peace and prosperity by promoting the networking of allies and friendly nations, including frameworks with countries sharing common strategic interests, such as India, Australia, and the EU and major European countries, such as the UK, France, and Germany, as well as regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

that includes the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

[2 Enhancing Relations with Neighboring Countries]

Enhancing our relations with neighboring countries constitutes an important basis for making the environment surrounding Japan stable.

It is extremely important for Japan to build a stable relationship with China from a broad perspective. The relationship with China, a neighboring country across the East China Sea, is one of the most important bilateral relationships for Japan. The two countries have close economic relations as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In 2018, seizing the opportunity of the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, high-level dialogues were actively held, including by the two countries' leaders and foreign ministers. It was a year in which the Japan-China relationship got back onto a normal track and entered a stage for aiming to achieve new development. In May, Premier Li Keqiang paid an official visit to Japan, the first visit by the Premier of the State Council in eight years since 2010. In October, Prime Minister Abe visited China. It was the first time in around seven years for a Japanese Prime Minister to visit China. Reciprocal visits by the Japanese and Chinese foreign ministers also took place for the first time in nine years. In addition, exchanges between members of parliaments and political parties were actively conducted. As a result, practical dialogues and trust-building were steadily advanced between Japan and China in a variety of fields (See Special Feature "Reflection on 40 Years of ODA to China").

At the same time, attempts by China to unilaterally change the status quo in the East China Sea by force or coercion are absolutely unacceptable, and Japan will continue to respond calmly and resolutely while strengthening coordination with the relevant countries, along with strengthening communication in order

to make the East China Sea a "Sea of Peace, Cooperation and Friendship."

Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) face an extremely severe situation amid a series of negative moves by the ROK, including the decisions by the ROK Supreme Court regarding the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula, the announcement by the Government of the ROK on its intention to dissolve the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation, the incident in which Japanese vessels had to withdraw from an international fleet review hosted by the ROK over the hoisting of the flag of Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) vessels, and the incident of an ROK naval vessel directing its fire-control radar at an SDF aircraft. Additionally, with regard to Takeshima, which is an inherent part of the territory of Japan, ROK National Assembly members landed on the island, and a series of military exercises and marine searches were conducted on and near Takeshima. Japan lodged a strong protest at each instance. Concerning such difficult issues, the Government of Japan will continue to strongly urge the ROK to take appropriate measures, based on Japan's consistent position.

Meanwhile, people to people exchanges are taking place steadily between the two countries, with the number of people making visits between the two countries exceeding 10 million for the first time in 2018.

Japan held political dialogues actively with Russia, including four Summit Meetings and four Foreign Ministers' Meetings. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abe reached an agreement with President Putin to "accelerate negotiations on a peace treaty on the basis of the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration of 1956." Furthermore, at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting held on the margins of the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in Argentina in December, the two leaders agreed that "Mr. Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be responsible for the negotiations

and that the negotiations will be handled by Mr. Mori, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Morgulov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, under the Foreign Ministers' leadership." Under the strong leadership of the Japanese and Russian leaders, Japan will continue to persistently negotiate with Russia to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the territorial issue.

Regarding the issues of North Korea, a historic U.S.-North Korea Summit was convened in Singapore in June 2018, where U.S. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un agreed on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, The second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in February 2019. It is important that the international community remains united to support the process between the U.S. and North Korea toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, taking into account the results of the summits. Japan will continue to cooperate with the U.S. and the ROK and coordinate closely with the international community including China and Russia, toward the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues. The abductions issue by North Korea is a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, while at the same time it is a universal issue for the international community as a whole that constitutes violation of basic human rights. Japan has positioned its resolution as the most important issue and is making utmost efforts toward its resolution while working closely with relevant countries including the U.S.

In October 2018, Prime Minister Abe held the 12th Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Modi of India, when the latter paid his third visit to Japan since his appointment as Prime Minister. The two leaders expressed their willingness to cooperate in a wide range of areas for achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific including the institution of a Foreign and Defense Ministerial Dialogue ("2+2"),



identification of concrete cooperation projects related to enhancing connectivity, commencement of negotiations on the Japan-India Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), and progress on the High-Speed Rail project.

As demonstrated by the Eighth Japan-Australia "2+2" in October 2018 and the visit to Darwin, Australia by Prime Minister Abe in November, Japan and Australia, as special strategic partners sharing fundamental values and strategic interests, are steadily strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including security, economic issues, and regional affairs.

The stability and prosperity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are vital for the stability and prosperity of the entire region. As Japan supports the centrality and unity of ASEAN and encourages ASEAN's further integration efforts, Japan has been strengthening its relationship with ASEAN and each of the ASEAN countries.

While utilizing organizations such as the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Japan continues to strengthen its relationship with Europe in a multilayered approach. Japan also promotes security and defense cooperation with the UK and France. In addition, Japan is further strengthening its relations with the Pacific island countries through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process. Japan is strengthening its relationships with countries of the Central Asia and the Caucasus, and of Latin America and the Caribbean as well.

(3 Promoting Economic Diplomacy)

In 2018, the Government of Japan continued to advance economic diplomacy from the three aspects of: (1) rule-making to bolster free and open global economic systems; (2) supporting the overseas business expansion of Japanese companies through promotion of public-private partnerships; and (3) promoting resources diplomacy along with inward investment toward Japan.

For Japan, which has promoted economic

growth on the basis of free trade, it is critically important to maintain and develop the open. stable and rules-based international economic order. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit in Canada. and the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in Argentina, Japan led the discussions on topics such as the global economy and trade. At the closing session of the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, Prime Minister Abe assumed the G20 presidency from President Macri of Argentina, and expressed his determination for the G20 Osaka Summit to be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 (See Special Feature "G20 Osaka Summit"). Furthermore, as the pressure of protectionism continues to increase, Japan led the discussions on free trade and inclusive growth through frameworks such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

As an initiative to promote free trade, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP12) was signed in February 2016, but in January 2017, the Trump Administration in the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the Agreement. Nevertheless, an agreement at the ministerial level on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) negotiations was reached by 11 countries, not including the U.S., in Da Nang, Viet Nam in November 2017 as a result of Japan's leadership. The agreement was signed in Santiago, Chile in March 2018 and entered into force on December 30, 2018. Furthermore, the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed by Prime Minister Abe, President Tusk of the European Council, and President Juncker of the European Commission on the occasion of the Japan-EU Summit in July 2018 and entered into force on February 1, 2019. Japan will continue to vigorously pursue negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Japan-China-ROK Free Trade Agreement in parallel, and will spread 21st century-rules for free and fair trade and

investment throughout the world.

In order to support the steady growth of the Japanese economy by capturing the momentum of economic growth overseas including emerging countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has proactively carried out activities such as offering counseling to Japanese companies, working to sell Japanese infrastructure and technologies overseas through public-private collaborations, and holding events to promote Japanese products, at diplomatic missions overseas, thus providing support for Japanese companies' cultivation of foreign markets. Regarding the import restrictions in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, Japan is issuing accurate information to the governments and general public of relevant countries and regions in a prompt manner, and making efforts for the lifting of the restrictions based on scientific evidence. In addition, from the perspective of connecting Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Japanese economic growth, the Government of Japan is achieving winwin cooperation that contributes both to the development of Japanese companies' business overseas and to the socioeconomic development of recipient countries, through proactively promoting the orders for ODA projects with Japanese companies, and using ODA for the development of overseas business by Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises.

In the area of resources, Japan engaged in strengthening Japan's and the world's energy, resources, and food security. In February 2018, MOFA compiled the "Report of the FY2017 Strategy Meeting on Natural Resources" regarding Japan's concrete initiatives for ensuring its resource security and advancing energy and resource diplomacy. In July, MOFA announced that it would further pursue energy diplomacy corresponding to the changing global energy landscape and energy transitions. Furthermore, as one of the world-leading responsible fishery nations and consumers of fishery product, Japan has played an active role

for the appropriate conservation and management as well as sustainable use of marine living resources, including whale. With regard to Japan's whaling policy, in December 2018, Japan notified its withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC), taking into account that at the 67th meeting of the IWC in September 2018, it was reaffirmed that it is extremely difficult for States with different views to coexist and that anti-whaling countries have no intention of allowing commercial whaling of any form. Even after its withdrawal, Japan will continue to contribute to science-based sustainable management of whale resources in accordance with international law.

Regarding foreign tourists, Japan is working to promote visits to Japan through the strategic relaxation of visa requirements and by promoting the attractions of Japan. The number of overseas visitors to Japan reached 31.19 million in 2018.

[4 Addressing Global Issues]

The issues of disarmament and non-proliferation, peacebuilding, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, human rights, women's empowerment, and the consolidation of the rule of law are related to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, including Japan. These issues cannot be solved by one country alone, and require a united response by the international community, and the initiatives for these issues are one critical part of Japan's "Proactive Contribution to Peace" initiative.

In order to take care of socially vulnerable people, and to realize a society where individuals can make the most use of their potential in the international community with respect for human rights, freedom, and democracy as the fundamental values, Japan is advancing international contributions under the notion of "human security."

(Promotion of International Peace Cooperation)

Japan has placed importance on cooperating in the field of peacekeeping and peacebuilding,



including United Nations (UN) Peace Keeping Operations (PKOs) from the standpoint of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. Since 1992 Japan has dispatched more than 12,500 personnel to 27 UN missions including UN PKO. Most recently, Japanese staff officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2011 while the engineering units had been dispatched since 2012. The engineering units concluded their activities in May 2017, but four staff officers (Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officials) are still on active duty at the UNMISS headquarters.

(Measures to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism)

Japan is taking comprehensive counterterrorism measures, based on the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism" that Japan compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016 and other documents in response to the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Those efforts consist of initiatives for (1) improvement of counter-terrorism capacity; (2) measures to counter violent extremism, the root cause of terrorism; and (3) social and economic development assistance for creating a foundation for moderate society. In addition, at the G7 Charlevoix Summit in Canada in 2018, the G7 confirmed that members would continue to collaborate to combat terrorism. Furthermore, Japan is striving to further strengthen information gathering through the Counter Terrorism Unit -Japan (CTU-J), and is strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism with the relevant countries.

In parallel to these initiatives, Japan is also engaged in strengthening measures for the safety of Japanese nationals overseas, including personnel at Japanese companies, tourists, students studying abroad and those working on international cooperation projects.

(Proactive Initiatives for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation)

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, Japan has a mission to lead the international community's efforts concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with the aim of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan attaches importance to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime wherein both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States participate. Japan is engaging in realistic and practical nuclear disarmament measures, while appropriately addressing real security threats.

Foreign Minister Kono attended the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference held in Geneva from April to May, Foreign Minister Kono introduced the recommendations of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament, including transparency, verification and interactive discussions. He stated that building up concrete and practical measures with the cooperation of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States is the way to realize the elimination of nuclear weapons that Japan upholds. In November, the third meeting of the Group of Eminent Persons was held in Nagasaki. Based on its recommendations, discussions were held from a mid to long-term perspective on hard questions regarding the relationship between disarmament and security, which should be resolved on the way to the elimination of nuclear weapons. During the UN General Assembly High-Level Week, the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was held (biennial meetings held in the years between the Article XIV conferences). Foreign Minister Kono co-chaired the meeting with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Payne. A foreign ministers' statement was issued which urged North Korea to sign and ratify the

CTBT, and also advocated the facilitation of the CTBT's entry into force and strengthening of universalization and verification mechanisms. Furthermore, Japan submitted a draft resolution regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly, aiming to create a common ground where the international community can take united actions toward a world free of nuclear weapons, even under the current severe international security environment. The draft resolution was adopted with the support of 162 countries.

(Strengthening Cooperation with the UN and Other Organizations and UN Security Council Reform)

From January 2016 to the end of December 2017, Japan served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 11th time, which is more frequent than any other UN Member State.

Japan is also putting efforts into the UNSC reform, including its entry as a permanent member of the Council, with the pressing need to reform the Council in a way that reflects the realities of the international community in the 21st century, so that the Council can address contemporary challenges more effectively. Furthermore, in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of peace and security in the international community as a member of the Council prior to its admission as a permanent member, Japan is running for the UNSC non-permanent membership election in 2022.

In addition, in response to the variety of issues addressed by the UN and other international organizations, Japan has been providing financial and policy contributions as well as making personnel contributions through the activities of Japanese personnel, and is also making efforts to encourage the employment and promotion of more Japanese staff at international organizations.

(Proactive Efforts to Strengthen the Rule of Law)

Japan is working to maintain and promote

"Free, Open and Stable Seas" based on the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea." Furthermore. Japan is strengthening its cooperation with various countries by actively participating in the efforts of the international community in areas that include initiatives for promoting and entrenching freedom of navigation and overflight, initiatives to ensure the security of sea lanes through anti-piracy measures off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden as well as support for the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Center, international rulemaking to strengthen the rule of law in cyberspace and outer space and strengthening the rule of law in the Arctic.

(Human Rights)

Human rights, freedom and democracy are fundamental values, and their protection and promotion serve as the cornerstone of peace and stability in the international community. In this field, Japan proactively participates in bilateral dialogues and a number of multinational fora, such as the UN, and makes contributions, including constructive dialogue with the UN human rights mechanisms, in order to improve the human rights situation globally.

(Toward a Society in Which All Women Shine)

The gender issue was addressed as a crosscutting theme at the G7 Charlevoix Summit in Canada. In their leaders' declaration and other documents, the leaders confirmed continuous efforts toward achieving gender equality. On this occasion, Japan announced it would extend 200 million US dollars to support quality education for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries and human resources development. In addition, at the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in Argentina, the leaders' declaration was adopted welcoming the continued implementation of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), whose launch was announced at the G20



Hamburg Summit in Germany in July 2017 and to which Japan contributed 50 million US dollars. In March 2019, the fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) was held jointly with Women 20 (W20), one of the G20 Engagement Groups (a group independent from governments and comprised of various stakeholders of the international community).

(Development Cooperation Charter and ODA Utilization)

Under the Development Cooperation Charter decided by the Cabinet in February 2015, Japan has continued to proactively and strategically utilize ODA in ways that contribute both to the development of Japanese companies' businesses overseas and to the recipient countries' economic and social development, in order to contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community and to secure Japan's national interests.

(TICAD)

Since 1993, Japan has taken the initiative to support the development of Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). In October 2018 Japan hosted the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, with Foreign Minister Kono (co-chair) attending, and confirmed the progress of the initiatives announced at TICAD V and VI.

(Quality Infrastructure)

Based on the belief that infrastructure development should contribute to "quality growth" in developing countries, and on the basis of the "G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment" adopted at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Japan is promoting the development of "quality infrastructure" in which open access and transparency, as well as economic efficiency and safety in view of life-cycle cost, local employment and technology transfer, social and environmental considerations, alignment

with economic and development strategies including the fiscal soundness of the beneficiary countries, and the effective mobilization of capital are ensured. In order to make this "quality infrastructure" concept widely known in the international community, MOFA has striven to promote "quality infrastructure" by co-organizing the "Seminar on Promoting Quality Infrastructure" with the OECD Development Centre in April 2018 and by co-hosting a UN General Assembly High-Level Side Event on "Promoting Quality Infrastructure" with the European Commission and the UN in September 2018.

(Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs])

The SDGs are 17 global goals unanimously adopted at the UN Summit in 2015. Japan has been implementing concrete initiatives domestically and internationally at an accelerated pace in order to lead the global effort for achieving the SDGs. At the sixth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held at the Prime Minister's Office in December 2018, the Headquarters decided the "SDGs Action Plan 2019" that lays out the main initiatives of the Government based on three pillars: (1) promotion of Society 5.0 that corresponds to the SDGs through private-public efforts; (2) regional vitalization driven by the SDGs; and (3) empowerment of the next generation and women. In order to realize a prosperous and vibrant society in line with the Action Plan, Japan will contribute to nation-building globally and to human resources development in the international community, based on the notion of human security.

(Global Health)

Health holds an important role in realizing the concept of "human security." Based on the "Basic Design for Peace and Health" formulated in September 2015, Japan has been working to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which contributes to improving preparedness and response to public health crises (UHC: To

ensure affordable access to basic health services for all whenever they need them throughout their lives). Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Kato attended the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the fight against tuberculosis held in September 2018. Minister Kato presented that Japan has long implemented international technical cooperation to tackle tuberculosis and provided financial support to international organizations, and expressed Japan's intention to continue to make contributions in this area.

(Climate Change)

The Paris Agreement is a fair and effective framework that provides for the submission of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets determined nationally by both the developed and developing countries, and for the implementation of measures toward the achievement of these targets. Following the Agreement's adoption, negotiations on the implementation guidelines to fully operationalize the Agreement commenced. In December 2018, the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement were adopted at the COP24 in Katowice, Poland, based on discussions regarding items such as mitigation, adaptation, transparency frameworks, market mechanisms, and finance. Japan actively participated in the negotiations on each item and contributed to establishing common rules for all countries in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

(Utilizing Science and Technology for Diplomacy)

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements of peace and prosperity, and MOFA is advancing initiatives that utilize the power of science and technology in diplomacy in both bilateral relationships and multinational frameworks. Prof. Teruo Kishi, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, gathers domestic expertise through the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, for which the Advisor serves as chair, while advising the Minister for

Foreign Affairs and relevant departments as well as promoting public relations and networking overseas. At the third UN Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum held in June 2018, the Advisor took the podium as a panelist and made recommendations regarding the STI Roadmap. The Advisor also spoke on Japan's initiatives, which are based on the 2017 "Recommendation for the Future" for implementing the SDGs, and proposed that each country prepares an STI roadmap.

[5 Contributing to the Peace and Stability of the Middle East]

The Middle East and North Africa is situated in a geopolitically important location and is also an important supplier of energy resources such as crude oil and natural gas to the world. On the other hand, the region faces a number of destabilizing issues such as ISIL and other violent extremist groups and the refugee issue. Achieving the peace and stability in this region is of great importance to the world as a whole, including Japan, and the international community is working to resolve these issues.

Japan coordinates with the global community to undertake humanitarian assistance and support stabilization, and to implement development cooperation from a mid to long-term perspective. Alongside that Japan is also encouraging countries to play a constructive role in realizing stability in the Middle East (See Special Feature "Japan's Assistance for Palestine [JAIP, CEAPAD]"). In April 2018, the "Senior Officials Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society" was held as an initiative to support stabilization in post-ISIL Iraq. In October, at the Manama Dialogue attended by Foreign Minister Kono for the second consecutive year, the Foreign Minister emphasized that Japan will draw on its experience to support the reforms underway in the Middle East countries through human resources development and other efforts.



[6 Promoting a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific"]

A free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is a cornerstone of the stability and prosperity of the international community. In particular, the Indo-Pacific region, which stretches from the Asia-Pacific through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of the world's vitality and supports more than half the world's population. Maintaining and strengthening the Indo-Pacific region's free and open maritime order as "international public goods" will bring stability and prosperity to all the countries in this region without discrimination.

In order to promote this vision in practice, Japan is advancing (1) the promotion and establishment of fundamental principles such as the rule of law, freedom of navigation and free trade. (2) the pursuit of economic prosperity through enhancing connectivity, through Quality Infrastructure development in accordance with international standards, and (3) initiatives for ensuring peace and stability that include assistance for capacity building on maritime law enforcement, anti-piracy measures, disaster risk reduction and non-proliferation. Japan will advance concrete initiatives while working closely with partner countries, including the U.S., Australia, India, New Zealand, ASEAN countries, Pacific island countries, and major European countries (See Special Feature "To achieve a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'").

(3) Strengthening Strategic Communications and the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

[Strategic Communications]

Public understanding and support of Japan's policy and initiatives both domestically and abroad are indispensable for the implementation

of Japan's foreign policy. Presenting Japan's various attractiveness, such as culture and food, serves to increase understanding of Japan in the international community, and is also important in the economic aspect such as tourism and exports. Particularly in regard to sharing the attractiveness of Japan's regions, MOFA has been working to promote such attractiveness from "Local to Global," and attract tourists and inward investment from "Global to Local."

In 2018 as well, MOFA provided information both in and outside Japan by using various tools including MOFA websites and social media. In commemoration of the 160th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan-France diplomatic relations, "Japonismes 2018: les âmes en resonance," a large-scale event in France showcasing Japanese culture, such as performing arts, food, and attractiveness of the regions of Japan, was held. Furthermore, "Japan House" promotes Japan's attractiveness through an All-Japan initiative. Following the opening of Japan House São Paulo in April 2017 and the partial opening of Japan House Los Angeles in December 2017, all three facilities opened in 2018 with Japan House London opening in June and Japan House Los Angeles grand opening in August.

[Strengthening the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure]

As we face diplomatic issues that are becoming more complex and diverse, MOFA must enhance its foreign policy implementation structure in order to build a stronger foundation for policy execution. While continuing its streamlining efforts, MOFA will further expand its foreign policy implementation structure through strategically reinforcing its overseas missions and personnel (See Column "Improving efficiency and work style reform at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs").



To achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific"

More than two years have passed since Prime Minister Abe advocated the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in August 2016. The importance of achieving a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region, stretching from the Asia-Pacific through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, has been widely shared across the international community. With the further emergence of various threats, including the severe security environment of the Indo-Pacific region, piracy, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, and illegal fishing, there is a growing need for the countries of the region to cooperate toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Japan is promoting the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" in order to develop the Indo-Pacific region as "international public goods" that bring stability and prosperity for any country. This vision involves maintaining and strengthening a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law across the region through the elimination of those various threats, as well as through enhancing connectivity within the region by developing quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards.

More specifically, Japan is advancing efforts based on the following three pillars.

Three pillars of Japan's efforts toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific"

- (1) The promotion and solidifying of the rule of law, freedom of navigation, free trade, etc.
- (2) The pursuit of economic prosperity through enhancing connectivities, including through quality infrastructure development in accordance with international standards
- (3) Commitment for peace and stability that includes assistance for capacity building on maritime law enforcement, cooperation in such fields as disaster risk reduction and non-proliferation

Together with the countries that share the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," Japan is moving forward on concrete cooperation toward the realization of this goal. For example, when Prime Minister Abe visited the U.S. in September 2018, Prime Minister Abe and President Trump praised concrete cooperative projects in third countries, and reaffirmed the strong determination to further enhance cooperation in various fields in the Indo-Pacific region, with the aim of advancing their shared vision of maintaining and promoting a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Taking the opportunity of the visit by U.S. Vice President Pence to Japan in November,



Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (September 26, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the Governments of Japan and the U.S. issued the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on Advancing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Through Energy, Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity Cooperation. In October, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi of India, who was visiting Japan, reiterated their unwavering commitment to working together toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" based on the shared vision between Japan and India, and shared their will to expand concrete cooperation with the U.S. and other partners. During the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting also held in October, concrete cooperative projects were specified in the Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation. Furthermore, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia in November, he affirmed with Prime Minister Morrison that the two countries share the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and concurred that the two countries will cooperate in order to realize the stability and prosperity of the region.

In addition, the Government of Japan took the opportunity of multilateral meetings such as ASEAN, APEC, TICAD, and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to explain in detail Japan's vision and initiatives toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" to the participating countries. Going forward, Japan will build a multilayered cooperative relationship while coordinating closely with partners, in order to further implement initiatives toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Chapter 2

Japan's Foreign Policy that Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map

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Asia and Oceania

1 Overview

(General overview)

The Asia-Oceania region is home not only to China and Japan, the second and third largest economies in the world, but also to many emerging countries with remarkable growth. As the world's growth center, the region, with an abundance of human resources, drives the world economy and has been enhancing its presence. Of the world population of 7.6 billion, approximately 3.6 billion people live in East Asia Summit (EAS) member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia)1. This represents about 48% of the world's population2. The combined nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, China and India nearly tripled over the last ten years, as compared to the world average of 150%3. Total exports and imports of EAS member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia) is 10.35 trillion US dollars, making it comparable to the European Union (11.72 trillion US dollars)4. There are close economic ties among these nations and they have a high degree of economic interdependence. As the middle class expands, overall purchasing power is expected

to rise sharply. This will support strong economic growth within the region, and the huge demand for infrastructure and massive purchasing power of the large middle class will also help to bring renewed affluence and vitality to Japan. Realizing affluence and stability throughout Asia and Oceania is indispensable for Japan's peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, the security environment in the Asia-Oceania region is becoming increasingly severe as seen in the following developments: the nuclear and missile development by North Korea; modernization of military forces in a manner that lacks transparency and attempt to change the status quo by force or coercion in countries in the region; and tension within the region growing over maritime domain. Other factors hindering the stable growth of the region include immature economic and financial systems, environmental pollution, unstable demand and supply of food and resources, frequent natural disasters and aging population.

Japan highlights enhancing cooperation with neighboring countries as a pillar of its diplomacy, and has been engaging in proactive diplomacy including at the leaders' and Foreign Ministers'

¹ ASEAN (member states: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam), Japan, China, the ROK, India, Australia and New Zealand

² The State of World Population 2018

³ World Bank (WB)

⁴ International Monetary Fund (IMF)

level. Regarding the relations with Asia-Oceania countries, in 2018, Prime Minister Abe visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) to attend the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympic Games in February, and paid an official visit to China in October for the first time in seven years by a Japanese Prime Minister. In November, Prime Minister Abe visited Singapore to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, followed by his visit to Australia and then to Papua New Guinea for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. Japan also hosted summit meetings inviting Asia-Pacific countries, such as the seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting and eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) in May and the tenth Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October. In addition, summit meetings were held by inviting VIPs, including Prime Minister Modi of India. Foreign Minister Kono engaged in diplomatic activities in this region persistently, visiting 21 countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific in 2018.

(Japan-U.S. Alliance and Asia-Oceania region)

The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangement is a foundation of peace, prosperity and freedom, not only for Japan but also the entire Asia-Pacific region. In the midst of an increasingly severe regional security environment, the Japan-U.S. Alliance is more important than ever. Since the inauguration of President Trump in January 2017, Prime Minister Abe and President Trump held 36

Summit Meetings, including telephone calls, by the end of 2018. The two countries have been working closely at multiple levels, including at the summit level, to address the various issues of the Asia-Pacific region, including those related to North Korea.

Furthermore, Japan and the U.S. are deepening their cooperation in achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." On the occasion of the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in September, a factsheet was released on Japan-U.S. cooperation in areas such as maritime security and disaster risk reduction. On the occasion of U.S. Vice President Pence's visit to Japan in November, a joint statement was issued on concrete cooperation in the areas of energy, infrastructure and digital connectivity. Aside from the U.S., Japan will continue to work with like-minded countries, such as Australia, India and ASEAN countries, in continuing to play a leading role in the peace and prosperity of the region.

(Measures on the comfort women issue)

The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with the issues of reparations, property and claims pertaining to the Second World War, including the comfort women issue, under the San Francisco Peace Treaty and through other bilateral treaties, agreements and instruments. Japan is of the view that these issues have been legally settled with the respective parties to these treaties, agreements and instruments.



Japan-Australia Summit Meeting (November 16, Darwin, Australia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Foreign Minister Kono attending the World Economic Forum on ASEAN (September 13, Hanoi, Viet Nam)

The Issue of Comfort Women

1. The issue of comfort women between Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK)

- (1) As the issue of comfort women has been a major diplomatic issue in Japan-ROK relations since the 1990s, Japan has sincerely dealt with it. The issue concerning property and claims between Japan and the ROK was legally settled in 1965 through the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on the Economic Cooperation between Japan and the ROK. However, from the perspective of facilitating feasible remedies for the former comfort women, the people and the Government of Japan cooperated to establish the "Asian Women's Fund" in 1995, through which they carried out medical and welfare projects and provided "atonement money" to each former comfort woman in Asian and other countries, including the ROK. In addition, successive Prime Ministers have sent letters expressing their "apology and remorse" to former comfort women. The Government of Japan has made every effort as mentioned above.
- (2) Furthermore, as a result of great diplomatic efforts, the Governments of Japan and the ROK confirmed that the issue of comfort women was "resolved finally and irreversibly" with the agreement reached at the Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting in December 2015. The Japanese and ROK leaders also confirmed that they would take responsibility as leaders to implement this agreement, and that they would deal with various issues based on the spirit of this agreement. This agreement was welcomed by the international community, including the then Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Kimoon and the U.S. Government.

In accordance with this agreement, in August 2016, the Government of Japan contributed 1 billion yen to "the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation" established by the Government of the ROK. The Foundation provided financial support to 34 out of 47 former comfort women who were alive at the time of the agreement, and to the bereaved families of 58 out of 199 former comfort women who were deceased at the time. The agreement has been received positively by many former comfort women.

- (3) However, in December 2016, a comfort woman statue¹ was installed on the sidewalk facing the Consulate-General of Japan in Busan by a civic group in the ROK. Subsequently, the Moon Jae-in administration was newly inaugurated in May 2017. Based on the results of the assessment made by the Taskforce to Review the Agreement on Comfort Women Issue under the direct supervision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha announced the position of the Government of the ROK on January 9, 2018 as follows: i) it will not ask for a renegotiation with Japan; and ii) the 2015 agreement, which fails to properly reflect the wishes of the victims, does not constitute a true resolution of the issue. In July 2018, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the ROK announced that it would arrange a reserve budget to "appropriate the full amount" of the 1 billion yen contributed by the Government of Japan and contribute this amount to "the Gender Equality Fund". In November, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced that it would proceed with its dissolution of "the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation."
- (4) The dissolution announcement is totally unacceptable for Japan in light of the 2015 Japan-ROK agreement. While the Government of the ROK, including President Moon Jae-in, repeatedly stated in public that it "will not abandon the agreement" and "will not ask for a renegotiation with Japan," Japan has implemented all of its commitments under the Japan-ROK agreement and the international community is closely awaiting the ROK's implementation of the agreement. The Government of Japan will continue to call on the Government of the ROK to steadily implement the Japan-ROK agreement.

^{1:} For the sake of convenience and practicality, the statues in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul and the Consulate-General of Japan in Busan are referred to as "comfort woman statues." However, the use of this term is not a reflection of the recognition that these statues accurately embody the reality of these women at that time.

2. The comfort women issue in the international community

- (1) The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with the issues of reparations, property, and claims pertaining to the Second World War, including the comfort women issue, under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which the Government of Japan concluded with 45 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, and through other bilateral treaties, agreements, and instruments. These issues including those of claims of individuals have already been legally settled with the parties to these treaties, agreements, and instruments.
- (2) On this basis, the Government of Japan has actively taken measures to recover the honor of former comfort women and to provide remedies for them. In 1995, the AWF was established with the cooperation of the people and the Government of Japan for the purpose of carrying out atonement and remedy projects for former comfort women. The Government of Japan provided a total of 4.8 billion yen. Approximately 600 million yen was donated to the AWF by the people of Japan. The Government of Japan extended maximum cooperation to the AWF, which implemented medical and welfare support projects and provided "atonement money," to offer realistic relief to former comfort women. As part of the AWF's projects, "atonement money" (2 million yen per person), which was funded by donations from Japanese people, was provided to 285 former comfort women (211 for the Philippines, 61 in the Republic of Korea, 13 in Taiwan). Moreover, the AWF provided funds in those countries/areas for medical and welfare support funded with contributions by the Government of Japan (3 million yen per person in the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, 1.2 million yen for the Philippines) (for a total of 5 million yen per person in the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, 3.2 million yen per person in the Philippines). Furthermore, using funds contributed by the Government of Japan, the AWF extended support for projects to promote social welfare services for elderly people in Indonesia as well as projects to help improve the living conditions of former comfort women in the Netherlands.
- (3) When the "atonement money" as well as the medical and welfare support were provided to individual former comfort women, then-Prime Ministers (namely, PM Ryutaro Hashimoto, PM Keizo Obuchi, PM Yoshiro Mori and PM Junichiro Koizumi) sent signed letters expressing their apology and remorse directly to each former comfort woman.
- (4) As stated in the Statement by the Prime Minister issued in 2015, Japan will engrave in its heart the past, when the dignity and honour of many women were severely injured during wars in the 20th century. Japan will lead the world in making the 21st century an era in which women's human rights are not infringed upon.
- (5) Despite such sincere efforts by the Government of Japan, there are claims that can hardly be said to be based on historical facts, such as the allegations of "forceful taking away" of comfort women and "sex slaves" as well as the figures such as "200,000 persons" or "several hundred thousands" for the total number of comfort women.

The Government of Japan's position regarding these claims is as follows;

"Forceful taking away"

"Forceful taking away" of comfort women by the Japanese military and government authorities could not be confirmed in any of the documents that the Government of Japan was able to identify. (This position is stated, for example, in a written answer approved by the Cabinet on December 16, 1997 to a question by a member of the House of Representatives.)

"Sex slaves"

The expression of "sex slaves" contradicts the facts so that it should not be used. This point was confirmed with the ROK on the occasion of the Japan-ROK Agreement in December 2015 and the expression "sex slaves" is not used in the agreement.

- Figures such as "200,000 persons" for the total number of comfort women

 The figure "200,000 persons" lacks concrete evidence. As stated in the report of the Government study's result of August 4, 1993, it is virtually impossible to determine the total number of comfort women as no documents have been found which either indicate the total number or give sufficient ground to establish an estimate.
- (6) The Government of Japan has been making efforts to provide clear explanations regarding its sincere efforts and official position in international fora. Specifically, at the UN, the Government of Japan has explained its position at a number of opportunities such as during the examination of the Seventh and Eighth Periodic Reports by the Government of Japan on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in February 2016. In February 2017, the Government of Japan also submitted its amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court for the trial concerning a comfort woman statue installed in Glendale in the suburbs of Los Angeles, United States.

[See References]

- Written Answer to the Second Question Submitted by House of Representatives Member Ms. Sanae Takaichi on References to the "Comfort Women" Issue in Textbooks (December 1997)
- Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion (December 2015)
- Remarks by Then Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Sugiyama for the Consideration of the Seventh and Eighth Periodic Reports by the Government of Japan under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (February 2016)
- Brief of the Government of Japan as *Amicus Curiae* in Support of Petitioners, *Koichi Mera and Gaht-US Corporation v. City of Glendale* (February 2017)
- Statement by Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii at the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council (February 2018)
- Remarks by Deputy Director-General / Deputy Assistant Minister (UN Ambassador) of the Foreign Policy Bureau Otaka for the Consideration of the Tenth and Eleventh Combined Periodic Report by the Government of Japan under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (August 2018)
- Letter from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Human Rights Okamura Chair Janina of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and Fact-sheet with Regard to the Concluding Observations from the Consideration of the First Report by the Government of Japan under the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (November 2018)

Meanwhile, we have observed some installation of comfort woman statues⁵ not only in the ROK but also in the U.S., Canada, Australia, China, the Philippines, Germany and Taiwan. Such movements are extremely regrettable and incompatible with the position of the Government of Japan. The Government of Japan is of the view that claims such as "forceful taking away

of comfort women by the Japanese military and government authorities," "several hundred thousands of comfort women existed," and "sex slaves" are not recognized as historical facts. The Government of Japan will continue reaching out to various people involved in this issue to explain this position. (For more details, see boxed article "The Issue of Comfort Women")

⁵ For the sake of practical convenience, they are referred to as "comfort woman statues." However, the use of this term is not a reflection of the recognition that these statues correctly embody the reality of those women at that time.

2 Korean Peninsula

(1) North Korea (including the abductions issue)

The Government of Japan has been taking various initiatives to realize its basic policy of seeking to normalize its relations with North Korea through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, as well as settlement of the unfortunate past in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration of September 2002.

A historic U.S.-North Korea Summit was convened in Singapore in June 2018, where U.S. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un agreed on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in February 2019. It is important that the international community remains united to support the process between the U.S. and North Korea toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, building on the results of the summits. Japan will continue to cooperate with the U.S. and the ROK and coordinate closely with the international community, including China and Russia, toward the resolution of the issues of North Korea.

With regard to the abductions issue, Japan continues to call on North Korea to implement the May 2014 Japan-North Korea agreement (the agreement in Stockholm⁶) and will continue to make utmost efforts to realize the return home of all abductees at the earliest possible date, while coordinating closely with relevant countries including the U.S.

A North Korea Nuclear and Missile Issues

North Korea has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance

with a series of relevant United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions, and there has been no essential change in North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.

In his New Year's Address in January 2018, Chairman Kim made reference to the need for inter-Korean dialogue, while on the other hand, indicated that North Korea will mass-produce nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles and spur efforts to deploy them for operation. At the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula held in Vancouver on January 16, participating countries discussed the need to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions and to further strengthen autonomous measures. At the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on the same day, the three Ministers confirmed that Japan, the U.S. and the ROK would take the lead on the initiatives of the international community, including calling for the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Subsequently, President Trump expressed his intention to hold talks with Chairman Kim. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting that followed on April 17 and 18, the two leaders shared the view that North Korea needs to abandon all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

At the third Plenary Meeting of the seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held on April 20, North Korea announced it would suspend nuclear tests and test launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and shut down a nuclear test site. In the "Panmunjom Declaration on Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula" issued at the Inter-Korean Summit on April 27, both sides confirmed the common goal of realizing, through the complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. On May 24, North Korea demolished the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. In addition, at

⁶ In May 2014, Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations were held in Stockholm, Sweden. North Korea promised to conduct comprehensive and full-scale investigation on all Japanese nationals, including abductees.

the Inter-Korean Summit on May 26, Chairman Kim once again expressed his intention to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, according to an ROK announcement.

At the first ever U.S.-North Korea Summit on June 12. a joint statement of the U.S. and North Korean leaders was issued, in which Chairman Kim directly promised President Trump the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in a written document with his signature. This format took into account a proposal made by Prime Minister Abe to President Trump at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April that agreements between the U.S. and North Korean leaders be kept in a signed document. During the Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talks on June 12 following the U.S.-North Korea Summit, the two leaders reaffirmed the resolute policy of Japan and the U.S., as well as Japan, the U.S. and the ROK to make a concerted effort with the international community to urge North Korea to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions, building on the achievements of the historic U.S.-North Korea Summit. Furthermore, on June 14, at the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul, ROK, the Foreign Ministers shared the view that it is important to translate the outcomes of the U.S.-North Korea Summit into concrete actions by North Korea. On July 7 and 8, U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo visited Japan immediately after visiting North Korea, and Japan-U.S.-ROK and Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meetings were held. At the meetings, the Foreign Ministers confirmed their shared goal of seeking the dismantlement of all its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner based on the UN Security Council resolutions, and shared their views that they will work together to urge North Korea to take concrete actions toward the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

In the "Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018" issued at the Inter-Korean Summit on September 19, North Korea announced that it would first permanently dismantle the Dongchang-ri missile engine test site and launch platform under the observation of experts from relevant countries, and that it expressed its willingness to take additional measures, such as the permanent dismantlement of the nuclear facilities in Yeongbyeon, as the U.S. takes additional measures. The Declaration also set forth that both sides would cooperate closely in the process of pursuing the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

On October 7, Secretary of State Pompeo held talks with Chairman Kim during his visit to North Korea. The U.S. announced that Chairman Kim invited inspectors to confirm the irreversible dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. Meanwhile, on November 7, the cancellation of the scheduled U.S.-North Korea High Level Official Meeting was announced, and no additional U.S.-North Korea High Level Official Meetings were held in 2018.

On January 18, 2019, Kim Yong-chol, Deputy Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited the U.S. and made a courtesy call on President Trump. While the second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on February 27 and 28, it did not lead to an agreement between the two leaders. Regarding the Summit, President Trump stated that he spent constructive time with Chairman Kim, and that while North Korea was ready to carry out a large part of the denuclearization sought by the U.S., the U.S. could not agree to lift its sanctions entirely to this end.

It is crucial that the international community makes concerted efforts to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions for the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner by North Korea. As part of the Japan Coast Guard's patrolling activities and the Self Defence Force's monitoring and surveillance activities, Japan has been conducting information gathering on the activities of vessels

suspected to be violating the UN Security Council resolutions. When the Government of Japan strongly suspects that ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean vessels banned by the UN Security Council resolutions are conducted, Japan has been taking measures such as notification to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1718, sharing of information with related countries, and releasing of information to the public. In 2018, Japan revealed to the public ten activities strongly suspected to be ship-to-ship transfers, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website and through other media. Aircrafts of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in addition to the U.S., have engaged in monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit maritime activities, including shipto-ship transfers for around one month from late April 2018 and for around a month and a half from mid-September based in Kadena Air Base. Furthermore, monitoring and surveillance activities were conducted in waters surrounding Japan including the East China Sea, by naval vessels such as multiple vessels of the U.S. Navy, the British Royal Navy frigate SUTHERLAND and landing ship ALBION, the Royal Canadian Navy frigate CALGARY and Royal Australian Navy frigate MELBOURNE. Japan considers it is significant that Japan, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the UK and France are sharing information and coordinating efforts as part of the multinational effort to ensure that UNSCRs are implemented fully and effectively.

B The Abductions Issue and Japan-North Korea Relations

(A) Basic Position on the Abductions Issue

To date, the Government of Japan has identified 12 separate incidents, involving a total of 17 Japanese abductees, 12 of whom have not yet returned home. North Korea claims that 8 of these 12 abductees have died and that it is unable to confirm that the other 4 ever entered its territory, but as no convincing explanation of this claim has

been provided, Japan continues to work toward the resolution of this issue on the assumption that all of the abductees whose whereabouts are unknown are still alive. As well as being a critical issue concerning the sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens, abduction by North Korea constitutes a universal issue among the international community as a violation of basic human rights. Based on the basic recognition that the normalization of its relations with North Korea is impossible without resolving the abductions issue, Japan has positioned its resolution as the most important issue. Accordingly, Japan has strongly urged North Korea to provide a full account of all the abduction cases, to hand over the perpetrators to Japan, and to ensure the safety of all abductees and their immediate return to Japan.

(B) Initiatives by Japan

Following the nuclear test by North Korea in January 2016 and the launch of the ballistic missile in the following month which North Korea purported to be a "satellite," Japan announced its autonomous measures against North Korea in February 2016. In response, North Korea unilaterally announced that it would completely stop the investigations on all Japanese nationals and dissolve the Special Investigation Committee. Japan lodged a serious protest against North Korea, conveyed its intention of not abandoning the agreement in Stockholm, and strongly demanded that North Korea implement the agreement and return all the abductees home at the earliest possible date.

(C) Japan-North Korea Relations

During the reception of the Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony hosted by President Moon Jae-in on February 9, 2018, Prime Minister Abe brought up the abductions, nuclear and missile issues and conveyed Japan's basic position to Kim Yong-nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of

North Korea. Prime Minister Abe strongly urged North Korea to resolve the abductions issue, especially the return of all abductees to Japan. In August, during the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore, Foreign Minister Kono briefly talked with the North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong-ho and conveyed Japan's basic position regarding Japan-North Korea relations. Additionally, in September, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with the North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho at the UN headquarters.

(D) Cooperation with the International Community

In order to resolve the abductions issue, it is essential for Japan not only to proactively urge North Korea, but also to gain understanding and support from other countries regarding the importance of resolving the abductions issue. Japan has taken all possible diplomatic opportunities to raise the abductions issue and other issues concerning North Korea, including at summit meetings, foreign ministers' meetings and international conferences such as the G7 Charlevoix Summit in Canada, the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN-related Summit Meetings and UN meetings.

With regard to the U.S., President Trump raised the abductions issue with Chairman Kim at the U.S.-North Korea Summit in June 2018, at the request of Prime Minister Abe. In addition, the U.S. has raised the abductions issue with North Korea at opportunities, such as Secretary of State Pompeo's visit to North Korea. At the second U.S.-North Korea Summit in February 2019, President Trump raised the abductions issue with Chairman Kim at the tête-à-tête meeting, which was held first on the first day, and clearly stated Prime Minister Abe's views regarding the abductions issue. At the small group dinner that followed, President Trump again raised the abductions issue, and a serious discussion was held between the leaders. At the U.S. Congress, a resolution regarding a U.S. citizen possibly abducted by North Korea was approved and passed during the regular session of the House of Representatives in September 2016 as well as during the regular session of the U.S. Senate in November 2018.

The ROK has raised the abductions issue with North Korea at multiple opportunities, including the Inter-Korean Summit in April 2018. At the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting in May 2018, Prime Minister Abe called on support and cooperation of President Moon Jae-in of the ROK and Premier of the State Council of China Li Kegiang toward the early resolution of the abductions issue, and as a result of obtaining their understanding, the abductions issue was included in the outcome document for the first time. Furthermore, at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in September 2018, Prime Minister Abe called on Russia's cooperation in resolving the abductions issue, and obtained President Putin's understanding. At the Japan-China Summit Meeting in October that year, Prime Minister Abe once again explained Japan's position regarding the abductions issue, and obtained the understanding and support of President Xi Jinping.

Japan will continue to closely coordinate and cooperate with relevant countries, including the U.S. toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

North Korea's External Relations, etc.

(A) U.S.-North Korea Relations

On March 8, 2018, Chung Eui-yong, Republic of Korea National Security Adviser paid a courtesy call on President Trump during his visit to the U.S. to explain the outcomes of the visit to North Korea by an ROK delegation, which was led by a special envoy, from March 5 to 6. Following the courtesy call, National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong announced to the press at the White House that President Trump stated he would meet with Chairman Kim by May. Subsequently, U.S. Government officials including President Trump verified such intention.

On May 9, during Secretary of State Pompeo's visit to North Korea to prepare for the U.S.-North Korea Summit, three U.S. citizens who had been detained in North Korea were released. On May 10, President Trump announced that a U.S.-North Korea Summit would be held in Singapore on June 12.

On May 24, President Trump disclosed his letter to Chairman Kim and indicated his intention not to hold a U.S.-North Korea Summit. However, following a courtesy call by Kim Yong-chol, Deputy Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea during his visit to the U.S. on June 1, President Trump announced once again that a U.S.-North Korea Summit would be held in Singapore on June 12.

On June 12, a U.S.-North Korea Summit was held for the first time in history in Singapore, and following the meeting, President Trump and Chairman Kim signed a joint statement of the two leaders. From July 6 to 7, U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo visited Pyongyang and held a meeting with Kim Yong-chol, Deputy Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea. Following the U.S.-North Korea generals' consultations on July 15, a transport aircraft of the U.S. Forces repatriated the remains of U.S. troops killed during the Korean War from Wonsan in North Korea to Osan in the ROK on July 27, on the 65th anniversary of the Korean War armistice. On August 1, the remains were transported to Hawaii, and a repatriation ceremony was held with U.S. Vice President Pence attending.

On October 7, Secretary of State Pompeo visited North Korea with Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun, who was appointed in August, and others, and held talks with Chairman Kim. The U.S. Department of State announced that they discussed the dates and location of the second U.S.-North Korea Summit, and that Chairman Kim invited inspectors to verify

the irreversible dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

In January, February, August, September, October, November and December 2018, the U.S. newly designated individuals, entities and ships which are subject to sanctions based on the autonomous measures of the U.S. against North Korea for its involvement in the proliferation of WMDs and human rights violations, based on the U.S. policy of maintaining sanctions until the denuclearization of North Korea is achieved. The sanctions target entities and individuals in North Korea, as well as those in third countries, including Russia and China.

(B) Inter-Korean Relations

Though the Moon Jae-in administration of the ROK inaugurated in May 2017, through channels such as "the Korean peninsula peace initiative" unveiled in Berlin in July 2017, proposed the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue to North Korea, North Korea continued not to oblige. However, Chairman Kim made reference to the need for inter-Korean dialogue in his New Year's Address in 2018, and this prompted considerable strides in inter-Korean relations that year.

Three Inter-Korean Summits were held in 20188. The first summit of the year was held at the "Peace House" on the South Korean side of Panmunjom on April 27, and the "Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula" was adopted as an agreement document between the two leaders. The second summit was held at the "Thongil house" on the North Korean side of Panmunjom on May 26. At this meeting, it is believed that Chairman Kim expressed his willingness to hold a U.S.-North Korea Summit. The third summit was held during President Moon's visit to North Korea from September 18 to 20, and the "Pyongyang

⁷ On July 6, 2017, President Moon announced "the Korean peninsula peace initiative" ((1) the reunion of separated families and revisits to ancestral graves on October 4 and holding South-North Red Cross talks to this end, (2) North Korea's participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, (3) the mutual cessation of hostile action along the Military Demarcation Line, and (4) the resumption of Inter-Korean exchanges and dialogue).

⁸ Prior to 2018, an Inter-Korean Summit was held twice in June 2000 and October 2007.

Joint Declaration of September" was adopted as an agreement document between the leaders.

On this basis, the North and South deepened exchanges and cooperation in a variety of areas according to the above agreement documents. In the security realm, the "Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration in the Military Domain" was adopted as an outcome of the Inter-Korean Summit in September. Measures taken thus far include the suspension of military exercises around the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), establishment of a no-fly zone over the MDL and withdrawal of some guard posts in the demilitarized zone. In the area of economic cooperation, the two sides discussed cooperation in sectors such as railway and road, forestry, health and medicine, and aviation. They have held, for example, onsite surveys for railways and roads connecting the North and South and their groundbreaking ceremony. The ROK has also provided insecticides to control pine wilt to North Korea.

In addition, the Inter-Korean Liaison Office stationed with North Korean and ROK authorities was established in Kaesong in North Korea. A reunion of separated families was also conducted for the first time in approximately three years. On the other hand, some agreements made at the Inter-Korean Summit to be achieved by the end of 2018 were not realized, including Chairman Kim's visit to Seoul.

Against this backdrop, the Moon administration has expressed its position of promoting inter-Korean cooperation within the sanctions framework according to the UN Security Council resolutions, and requested and obtained approval from the Security Council Committee for sanctions exemptions for some of the projects.

(C) China-North Korea Relations

In March 2018, Chairman Kim visited China as his first overseas destination following the death

of Chairman of National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il in December 2011, and held talks with President of China Xi Jinping. Chairman Kim visited China again in May and June 2018. Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi visited North Korea in May 2018 and paid a courtesy call on Chairman Kim. Chairman of the Congress Standing Committee of China Li Zhanshu, visited North Korea on the anniversary of its founding on September 9. North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho visited China and paid a courtesy call on President of China Xi, in December. In January 2019, Chairman Kim visited China ahead of the second U.S.-North Korea Summit. In this manner, reciprocal visits by high-level officials were conducted.

Under such circumstances, China and North Korea have maintained close economic ties. For example, trade between China and North Korea accounts for approximately 90% of North Korea's entire external trade excluding inter-Korean trade.

(D) Other Issues

In 2018, a total of 225 drifting or wrecked wooden vessels presumed to be from North Korea were discovered (104 in 2017). While such vessels have been discovered before, their number has increased in recent years, and the Government of Japan continues its effort to gather and analyze information with great interests on developments in North Korea. Japan will continue to deal appropriately with these issues working closely with relevant government agencies.

Domestic Political Affairs and Economy (A) Political Affairs

In North Korea, the power base of the regime centered on Chairman Kim, is being enhanced. Through the revision of the party constitution at the seventh Party Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in May 2016, the post of Chairman of the Party was newly established and, Kim Jong-

⁹ Of the projects identified above, sanctions exemptions have been approved for projects such as on-site surveys for railways, railway and road groundbreaking ceremony and repair of facilities used for the reunion of separated families.

un, First Secretary of the Party, was appointed as the Chairman of the Party, establishing a new party structure centered on Chairman Kim. Moreover, in June 2016, the Fourth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly was held. The National Defense Commission (NDC) was reorganized into the State Affairs Commission, and Kim Jong-un, First Chairman of the NDC, was appointed as Chairman of the State Affairs Commission. At the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea held in April 2018, Chairman Kim declared victory of the "byungjin policy," which was presented at the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in March 2013, and he stated that focusing all of its energies on economic construction was the strategic policy of the Party.

(B) Economy

The National Five-Year strategy for Economic Development (2016–2020) was announced at the Seventh Party Congress of the Worker's Party of Korea in May 2016. Under these conditions of economic hardship as the result of sanctions and economic blockades imposed by the international community, Chairman Kim expressed his intention to improve and raise the standard of living of the people in his New Year's Address in January 2018, as North Korea entered the third year of its national five-year strategy for economic development.

North Korea's economic growth rate in 2017 was -3.5% (Bank of Korea estimate), deteriorating significantly from the positive growth of 3.9% in the previous year. Decreased production in agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries, steel industry, industrial production and other industries is considered to have contributed to this negative growth. Trade with China continues to account for the largest share of North Korea's external trade. In 2017, the total value of North Korea's external trade (excluding inter-Korean trade) was

5.5 billion US dollars (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) estimate), of which trade with China accounted for around 90%.

E Other Issues

Defectors who have fled North Korea have to be kept in hiding to avoid being cracked down by the authorities in the countries where they are staying or being forcibly repatriated to North Korea. The Government of Japan is addressing the protection of and support for these North Korean defectors, in line with the purpose of the North Korean Human Rights Violation Act. taking into account a comprehensive range of factors, including humanitarian considerations, the safety of those concerned, and relations with the countries in which these defectors reside. Relevant ministries and agencies in Japan are working together closely to promote measures aimed at helping the defectors accepted by Japan to become settled.

(2) Republic of Korea (ROK)

A Japan-ROK Relations

(A) Bilateral Relations

In 2018, the relations between Japan and the ROK faced an extremely severe situation amid a series of negative moves by the ROK, including the decisions by the ROK Supreme Court regarding the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula, the announcement by the Government of the ROK to dissolve the "Reconciliation and Healing Foundation," the landing by ROK National Assembly members on Takeshima Island, the incident in which Japanese vessels had to withdraw from an international fleet review hosted by the ROK over the hoisting of the flag of SDF vessels, and the incident of an ROK naval vessel directing its fire-control radar at an SDF aircraft10. Meanwhile, three Japan-ROK Summit Meetings and eight Japan-ROK Foreign

¹⁰ For the Ministry of Defense's final statement on the radar irradiation incident, see the following link: https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/news/2019/01/21x_1_e.pdf

Ministers' Meetings were held. Based on its consistent position, Japan continued to urge the ROK to take appropriate measures to the difficult issues between the two countries, and confirmed with the ROK that Japan-ROK and Japan-ROK-U.S. would work closely on the issues of North Korea.

- (B) Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (See boxed article "The Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula")
- (C) Issue of Comfort Women (See boxed article "The Issue of Comfort Women")

(D) Takeshima Dispute

Regarding the dispute between Japan and the ROK concerning the territorial sovereignty over Takeshima, Takeshima is indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based on international law. Japan has repeatedly made it clear that the ROK's occupation of Takeshima is illegal and has no international legal basis. Japan has been keeping the world informed about Japan's position on the issue through various media¹¹, and has repeatedly lodged strong protests against the ROK over matters such as landing on the island by members of the ROK's National Assembly and others, the ROK's military exercises and maritime surveys12. In particular, in 2018, members of the ROK's National Assembly landed on Takeshima on three instances, and military exercises and marine searches were also conducted on the island or its

vicinity. The Government of Japan considers them unacceptable in view of the Japanese position and lodged strong protests.

For a peaceful settlement of the Takeshima dispute, Japan has proposed to the ROK that the issue be referred to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1954, 1962 and 2012. However, the ROK has rejected the proposal in all instances. Japan is determined to continue to engage in appropriate diplomatic efforts to settle the Takeshima dispute in a peaceful manner in accordance with international law.

(E) Exchange

While there are various issues between the two countries, people-to-people exchanges are taking place steadily between the two countries. With regard to the number of people making visits between the two countries, in 2018, approximately 7.54 million people from the ROK visited Japan, while approximately 2.95 million people from Japan visited the ROK. Both figures are higher than the ones in the previous year. People of the two countries actively visited each other, with the total number reaching approximately 10.49 million people, exceeding 10 million people for the first time.

In Japan, K-POP and South Korean TV dramas, etc., are widely accepted by people of all ages. In the ROK, Japanese food, manga, anime and novels of Japan have become popular.

The Government of Japan has also sought to promote mutual understanding and build a friendly and cooperative relationship for the future through the Japan-Korea Exchange Festival—the

¹¹ In February 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a pamphlet entitled "Takeshima: 10 points to understand the Takeshima Dispute." Currently, it is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in 11 languages: Japanese, English, Korean, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabian, Russian, Chinese, and Italian. Furthermore, since October 2013, videos and flyers about Takeshima have been available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website and currently they are available in the above 11 languages. In addition, Japan has taken initiatives such as distributing a smartphone app increasing awareness about the Takeshima issue.

¹² After Shim Jae-kwon, member of the Minjoo Party of Korea, landed on Takeshima in May 2018, a delegation of 13 ROK National Assembly members of the Education Committee led by Lee Chan-yeol, member of the Bareunmirae Party, landed on the island in October and a delegation of eight ROK National Assembly members led by Na Kyung-won, member of the Liberty Korea Party, landed in November. In addition, the ROK Armed Forces conducted Takeshima defense training in June and December 2018. Following each of these instances, the Government of Japan immediately conveyed to the Government of the ROK that such an act was unacceptable and extremely regrettable in light of Japan's position on sovereignty over Takeshima, and strongly protested against the act.

The Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula

1. Japan's Basic Position

The problems concerning property and claims between Japan and the ROK, including the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula, have been settled completely and finally by the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the ROK of 1965. Article I of the Agreement stipulates that Japan shall supply to the ROK 300 million US dollars in grants and up to 200 million US dollars in loans through economic cooperation. In Article II, it was also confirmed that problems concerning property, rights and interests of the two Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) as well as concerning claims between the Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) are "settled completely and finally" and "no contention shall be made" thereof.

2. ROK Supreme Court Judgments and Japan's Response

On October 30 and November 29, 2018, the Supreme Court of the ROK ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation to ROK nationals who were allegedly working at these companies during World War II

Such Supreme Court judgments are extremely regrettable and totally unacceptable. The decisions clearly violate Article II of the Agreement and inflict unjustifiable damages and costs on the Japanese companies*. Above all, the decisions completely overthrow the legal foundation of the friendly and cooperative relationship that Japan and the ROK have developed since the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1965.

Accordingly, Japan has strongly demanded that the ROK take appropriate measures, including immediate actions to remedy such breach of international law. Nevertheless, the Government of the ROK has not taken any concrete measures since then. Furthermore, Japan regards as extremely serious the plaintiffs' moves to seize the assets of the Japanese companies.

It is clear that there is a dispute over the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement between Japan and the ROK regarding this matter. Therefore, on January 9, 2019, the Government of Japan requested diplomatic consultations to the Government of the ROK pursuant to Article III, Paragraph 1 of the Agreement. Japan considers that the Government of the ROK will enter into consultations in good faith.

From the standpoint of, inter alia, protecting the legitimate business activities by Japanese companies, the Government of Japan has provided explanations to as well as conducted exchanges of views and maintained close contact with relevant companies regarding the Government's consistent position and the circumstances in the ROK related to the relevant litigations. The Government of Japan will continue to examine all possible options, including international adjudication and counter measures, and take appropriate actions based on its consistent position.

*On October 30, 2018, the four economic organizations of Japan (Keidanren, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan Association of Corporate Executives and Japan-Korea Economic Association) issued a statement stating that they were "deeply concerned" about the Supreme Court judgment.

[See References]

- Regarding the Decision by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea, Confirming the Existing Judgments on the Japanese Company (Statement by Foreign Minister Taro Kono) (October 30, 2018)
- Request for Consultations Pursuant to the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, Pertaining to the Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (January 9, 2019)

major Japan-ROK cultural exchange event that has become firmly rooted in both countries—and Japan's Friendship Ties Programs (JENESYS 2018).

In addition, as 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the 1998 "Japan-ROK Joint Declaration: A New Japan-ROK Partnership toward the Twentyfirst Century" between Prime Minister Obuchi and President Kim Dae Jung, the Advisory Panel of Experts on Promotion of Japan-ROK Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges was set up in July under the leadership of Foreign Minister Kono. The Panel met three times, following which on October 3 the experts submitted recommendations to Foreign Minister Kono. On October 29, the experts of the Panel visited the ROK and exchanged views with members of the Task Force to Boost Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges between the ROK and Japan, set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, regarding each other's recommendations. In connection with the 20th anniversary of the Joint Declaration, a commemorative symposium was held attended by Prime Minister Abe and a commemorative reception was hosted by Foreign Minister Kono on October 9.

(F) Other Issues

Sea of Japan is the only internationally established name for the sea area concerned and the UN and governments of major countries such as the U.S. adopt Sea of Japan as its official name. Objections to this name, however, were first raised by the ROK and North Korea in 1992.

Since then, the ROK and North Korea have been objecting to the name at the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and other international conferences. These assertions however are groundless, and Japan has firmly refuted these assertions each time they arise.

Furthermore, Japan has made requests to the Government of the ROK through its diplomatic channels to return cultural properties that were stolen and are currently in the ROK¹³ to Japan as soon as possible. Japan will continue to call upon the Government of the ROK for their prompt return.

In February 2019, Moon Hee-sang, Speaker of the National Assembly of the ROK, made grossly inappropriate remarks. Japan firmly protested to the ROK that the remarks were extremely regrettable, lodged a strong protest, and requested an apology and withdrawal of the remarks.

Other than these issues, Japan has provided supports and taken measures as much as possible from a humanitarian perspective in a wide range of fields, including responses for ethnic Koreans in Sakhalin¹⁴, addressing the issue of atomic bomb survivors living in the ROK¹⁵ and helping Hansen's disease patients admitted to sanitariums in the ROK¹⁶.

B Japan-ROK Economic Relations

Japan and the ROK continue to maintain close economic relations. The total value of

¹³ In April 2016, Buseoksa Temple in the ROK called for the Government of the ROK to return to Buseoksa Temple a Seated Kanzeon Bodhisattva statue, which had been stolen from Tsushima City in Nagasaki Prefecture and not returned to Japan, and filed a suit in the Daejeon District Court. On January 26, 2017 the court issued the verdict in the first instance which awarded the statue to the plaintiff (Buseoksa Temple).

¹⁴ For various reasons, before the end of World War II, the people from the Korean Peninsula traveled to what was then known as Minami Karafuto (South Sakhalin), but were compelled to remain there for a long time after the war ended under the de facto rule of the Soviet Union, without being given the opportunity to return to the ROK. The Government of Japan is providing such people with supports, such as to enable them to return home temporarily and to visit Sakhalin.

¹⁵ The issue of provision of support to those who were exposed to the atomic bombs while living in Hiroshima or Nagasaki during World War II, and subsequently went to live overseas. To date, Japan has provided support in the form of the Atomic Bomb Victim Health Handbook and allowances based on the Atomic Bombs Survivors' Assistance Act.

¹⁶ People who were admitted to Hansen's disease sanatoriums built overseas by Japan before the end of the war had demanded the payment of compensation in accordance with the Act on Payment of Compensation to Inmates of Hansen's Disease Sanatorium. The Act was revised in February 2006, allowing compensation to be paid to those formerly resident in sanatoriums overseas for the first time.

trade between the two countries amounted to approximately 9.34 trillion yen in 2018. Japan is the ROK's third-largest trading partner and the ROK is Japan's third-largest trading partner. The ROK's trade deficit with Japan decreased by approximately 21% from a year earlier, reaching 2.24 trillion yen (Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance). Japanese direct investment in the ROK totaled approximately 1.3 billion US dollars (down 29% from the previous year) (figures published by the ROK Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy), making Japan the ROK's sixth-largest source of foreign direct investment.

Japan and the ROK continue to make every effort for progress in negotiations concerning the Japan-China-ROK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Concerning the environment, the 20th Japan-ROK Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation was held in July 2018. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral environmental cooperation, marine debris measures, and global environmental issues such as climate change, confirming that Japan and the ROK will closely cooperate on such subjects.

With respect to the issue of restrictions on import of Japanese marine products by the ROK, a panel was established at the WTO in September 2015, in response to Japan's request. After examining the issue for around two and a half years, a panel report was submitted in February 2018 recognizing Japan's claims. However, the ROK appealed certain issues of law contained in the Panel Report to the Appellate Body in April 2018. In addition to the WTO response, the Government of Japan has been taking various opportunities to request the ROK to repeal the import restriction measures promptly. In addition, regarding the ROK's anti-dumping measures against stainless steel bars originating from Japan, a panel was established at the WTO in October 2018 at Japan's request. Bilateral consultations based on the WTO Agreement were also held in December concerning the ROK's assistance measures for its shipbuilding industry.

Situation in the ROK

(A) Domestic Affairs

The ROK hosted its first winter Olympic and Paralympic Games: the PyeongChang Olympic Games in February 2018 and the PyeongChang Paralympic Games in March.

On March 26, President Moon Jae-in proposed revising the Constitution, which would reduce the powers of the President while shortening the presidency from a five-year to a four-year term. This was the first constitutional amendments proposed since the existing Constitution was established in 1987. However, voting on the draft constitutional amendments presented to the National Assembly was nullified on May 24 due to a lack of a quorum (two-thirds of sitting National Assembly members), which meant a denial of the amendments.

In the local elections on June 13, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea won 14 of the 17 metropolitan mayor and governor posts. In the National Assembly re- and by-elections held at the same time, the Democratic Party of Korea secured an overwhelming victory, winning 11 of the 12 constituencies.

Since the 2017 presidential election campaign, President Moon Jae-in pledged to eradicate "deep-rooted evils" and eliminate the frauds and corruption from nine years of conservative government (Park Geun-hye and Lee Myungbak administrations). In this regard, some developments have been observed, including prosecutors' search and seizure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (August 2, 2018) and detainment of Yang Sung-tae, former Supreme Court Chief Justice (January 24, 2019) on suspicion of "judicial transaction," in which attempts were made to accommodate by extending the Supreme Court decision on the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula in exchange for increasing posts at diplomatic missions overseas.

(B) Foreign Policy

In 2018, the ROK engaged in diplomacy with top priority given to the issues of North Korea. At milestone opportunities, such as visits to North Korea by a special envoy delegation (March and September) and Inter-Korean Summits (April and September), the ROK provided explanations to or held consultations with countries such as the U.S., Japan, China and Russia regarding the outcomes of its meetings, through channels such as summit meetings, summit telephone talks, and dispatches of special envoy delegations (See Chapter 2, Section 1, 2 (1) regarding inter-Korean relations).

With regard to ROK-U.S. relations, it was announced that, based on the progress of the dialogues with North Korea, in June 2018, all plans for the U.S.-ROK joint military exercise "Freedom Guardian" scheduled for August 2018 would be suspended indefinitely, along with two U.S.-ROK Marine Exchange Program training exercises scheduled to occur within three months. In October 2018, the suspension of the U.S.-ROK joint military exercise "Vigilant Ace" was announced. In March 2019, the ROK and the U.S. decided to end a series of the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises, "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle." However, from the perspective of maintaining military readiness, the two countries newly conducted the command post exercise "Alliance." Furthermore, the ROK and the U.S. reached an agreement in principle on revising their FTA in March 2018, and the revised protocol was signed in September and entered into force in January 2019.

In addition, in 2018, President Moon Jae-in visited Viet Nam (in March), the United Arab Emirates (in March), Japan (in May for the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit), the U.S. (in May), Russia (in June), India (in July), Singapore (in July), the U.S. (in September for the UN General Assembly), France (in October), Italy (in October), the Vatican (in October), Belgium (in October), Denmark (in October), Singapore (in November for the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings), Papua New Guinea (in November for the APEC

Economic Leaders' Meeting), the Czech Republic (in November), Argentina (in November for the G20 Summit) and New Zealand (in December).

(C) Economy

In 2018, the GDP growth rate was 2.7%, showing a decrease from 3.1% the previous year. The total amount of exports increased 5.5% year-on-year to around 605.2 billion US dollars, while the total amount of imports increased 11.8% year-on-year to around 535.2 billion US dollars, resulting in a trade surplus of around 70.0 billion US dollars (figures published by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy).

As for domestic economic policies, the Moon Jae-in administration inaugurated in May 2017, has stressed the importance of "income-led growth" and "an employment-centered economy" revolving around people. In October of the same year, the government announced a five-year job creation plan. Against this backdrop, it has taken measures, such as significantly increasing the minimum wage for two consecutive years (to 7,530 won in 2018 (up 16.4% year-on-year) and to 8,350 won in 2019 (up 10.9% year-on-year)). On the other hand, the ROK has a youth unemployment rate of 9.5% (2018), and employment conditions are worsening.

3 China / Mongolia, etc.

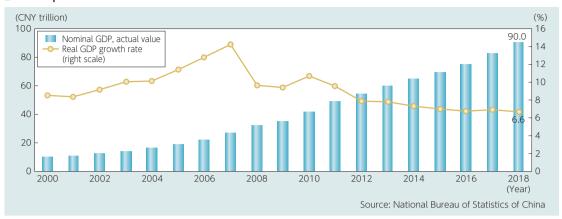
(1) China

A The Situation in China

(A) Domestic affairs

The first session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the first session of the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee were held in March, and the personnel of the State Council, NPC, and CPPCC of the second Xi Jinping administration based on the party personnel in autumn 2017 was announced. President Xi Jinping (first in the internal party hierarchy) and Premier of the State

Development of China's GDP



Council Li Keqiang (second in the internal party hierarchy) were reelected, while Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC (NPC SC) Li Zhanshu (third in the internal party hierarchy), Chairperson of the CPPCC Wang Yang (fourth in the internal party hierarchy), and others were newly appointed. Mr. Wang Qishan, who had retired from the Standing Committee of the Central Political Bureau (PSC) (the so-called "top seven"), was elected as Vice President (it was unusual for a retired PSC member to return to public office).

At the NPC this time, the Constitution was amended for the first time in 14 years since 2004, with an addition to the Constitution of "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" alongside former President Hu Jintao's "Scientific Outlook on Development." In addition, the existing prohibition of third terms by presidents and vice presidents was abolished, making it possible for President Xi to maintain his position as president after 2023.

In the anti-corruption field which is actively undertaken by the Xi administration, the "National Supervision Commission" was newly established, starting an organization to crack down on corruption targeting not only members of the Communist Party of China but also all government workers.

There was reorganization of the State Council for the first time in five years since 2013,

and the number of departments constituting the State Council increased from 26 to 27, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, and the Ministry of Emergency Management.

Regarding social affairs, Ms. Liu Xia, the wife of Mr. Liu Xiaobo, a human rights activist and Nobel peace prize Laureate who died in 2017, moved to Germany in July after being released from what was essentially house arrest. The suppression of human rights activists and ethnic minorities such as the Uighurs in China continues to increase, and concerns are being raised by the international community.

(B) Economy

The real GDP growth rate in 2018 increased 6.6% year-on-year, and total trade value increased 12.6% year-on-year, which shows a slowdown in the recovery of China's economy. Due to the effects of managing issues of excess production capacity and excess debt, and trade and investment between the U.S. and China, lowered growth in domestic demand (consumption, fixed asset investment) has become visible. Trade and investment issues between the U.S. and China can also be seen in financial affairs, and stocks

on the Shanghai Stock market became 25% lower at the end of the year compared to the beginning of the year. For foreign exchange rates, the trend of the drop in the value of the yuan against the US dollar continued on from the second half of the year, and although there was a change in the way of calculation of exchange rates in August, the exchange rate at the end of the year was around 6.9 yuan to the US dollar (at the beginning of the year it was 6.4 yuan to the US dollar). Based on such economic conditions, in July, the Government of China indicated that it would prop up business conditions through implementation of proactive financial policies such as infrastructure development and moderate financial policies such as provision of liquidity.

In terms of external economic policies, in 2018, the 40th anniversary of China's "reform and opening up" policy, the China International Import Expo was held and, the tariffs on vehicles, daily necessities, and other products were lowered, which are efforts toward opening up the domestic market. On the other hand, concerning the trade and investment issue between the U.S. and China, while both countries repeatedly implemented additional tariff measures on each other, attention is being paid to the trends of the discussions conducted between the countries on their future responses.

At the Central Economic Work Conference in December, with a statement that "We must see that there are new and worrisome developments amid generally steady economic operation, the external environment is complicated and severe, and the economy faces downward pressure," there was continuation of proactive financial policies such as large-scale tax reductions as well as moderate financial policies such as resolution of the financial problem faced by private businesses and small businesses. The important tasks for 2019 were set as high-quality development of the manufacturing industry, promotion of strong domestic market formation, acceleration of economic system reform (strengthening and improvement of state-owned

capital, reduction of government participation in resource allocation, etc.), promotion of general external openness, and more. In order to manage the party and administration stably, it is necessary to ensure constant economic growth and handling all domestic and external issues, and it is worth paying attention to the trends of China's future economic and financial policies.

(C) Foreign Policy

In 2018, China appealed with its "major-country diplomacy" by holding successive large-scale diplomatic events inviting leaders of countries around the world, including the Boao Forum for Asia (April), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (June), the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (September), and the China International Import Expo (November).

In June, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs was held for the second time under the Xi administration (the previous conference was in November 2014), attended by the seven members of the PSC and Vice President Wang Qishan. Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission Yang Jiechi announced the establishment of the guiding position of the "Xi Jinping thought on diplomacy."

In terms of U.S.-China relations, President Trump stated in his State of the Union Address at the beginning of the year that China and others are "rivals…that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values." Since July, relations have been increasingly tense with both countries implementing retaliatory tariffs on each other. Amidst this, at the U.S.-China Summit Meeting (December) held during the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, both countries shared the view on temporarily suspending further tariff measures and holding more discussions, so their future movements are the focus of attention.

(D) Military Affairs and Security

China has been increasing its defense expenditures about 51-fold over the past 30

years, but the breakdown of the budget and the intention behind the increase has not been disclosed sufficiently. Under such circumstances, it is extensively and rapidly enhancing and modernizing its military power centered on its nuclear and missile capabilities and naval and air forces. In doing so, it is placing importance on ensuring its superiority in new domains of outer space, cyberspace, and electromagnetic waves. China's expansion of military capability lacking transparency, unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea, and expansion and activation of its military activities are common concerns in the region and international community. China has been demonstrating a proactive stance in continuing to take an active part in United Nations PKOs as well as providing various kinds of humanitarian aid and disaster support, etc.

At the 19th Party Congress, President Xi Jinping stated that China would transform its armed forces. into a world-class military by the middle of this century. In recent years, China has grown to have a great influence on the international community, not only politically and economically, but also militarily. To dispel any fears of China, there is a pressing need for China to increase transparency regarding its national defense policies and military power through specific and accurate disclosure of information. Japan intends to further promote mutual trust in Japan-China relations through dialogue and people-to-people exchanges, including the Japan-China Security Dialogue, while cooperating with other countries. Japan also intends to urge China to improve its transparency and encourage its positive involvement in the international order based on the rule of law.

B Japan-China Relationship

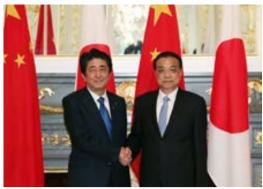
(A) Bilateral Relations - General

The relationship with China, the neighboring country across the East China Sea, is one of Japan's most important bilateral relationships, and the two countries have close economic relations, as well

as people-to-people and cultural exchanges. 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, and the opportunity was taken to frequently hold high-level dialogues including Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers' Meetings. It was a year in which Japan-China relations returned to their normal track and entered into a new stage aiming for new development.

In 2018, reciprocal visits were realized by Prime Minister Abe and Premier Li Kegiang. In May, Premier Li Kegiang paid his first official visit to Japan as Premier in eight years since 2010. At the Japan-China Summit Meeting, Premier Li Kegiang invited Prime Minister Abe to visit China within the year, and both leaders shared the view on steadily implementing high-level reciprocal visits toward the visit to Japan by President Xi Jinping. In addition, Premier Li Kegiang stated that Japan-China relations had returned to their normal track through this visit to Japan and that he wanted to maintain long-term, stable development. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan-China relations have transitioned from competition to collaboration, and that he would like Japan and China to take major responsibilities together for various regional and global issues through development of bilateral relations. A total of 10 memoranda of cooperation have been signed, including the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China.

In October, Prime Minister Abe visited China for the first time in about seven years by a Prime Minister of Japan, with the exception of attendance at multilateral conferences. Extensive results were achieved in politics and security, foreign affairs, culture and people-to-people exchanges, and other various fields, including frank discussions on bilateral relations as well as various regional and global issues at respective summit meetings held with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and signing of 12 international agreements and memoranda. During Prime Minister Abe's visit to

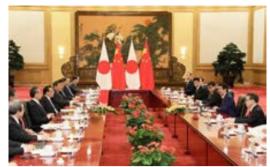


Japan-China Summit Meeting with Premier Li Keqiang (May 9, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

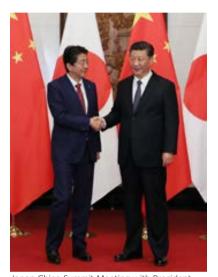
China, in addition to the summit meetings, many events were conducted such as the reception for the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, and the Japan-China Forum on Third Country Business Cooperation, and an exchange between Prime Minister Abe and students from Peking University. It was thus a highly meaningful visit.

Additionally, between the leaders of Japan and China, the first Japan-China Summit Telephone Talk was held with President Xi Jinping in May, and Japan-China Summit Meetings were held with President Xi Jinping in September (the Eastern Economic Forum) and November (the G20 Buenos Aires Summit).

Reciprocal visits by the foreign ministers of Japan and China were also held for the first time in nine years in 2018. Foreign Minister Kono visited China in January, and confirmed the importance of steadily realizing mutual visits by the leaders of Japan and China. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Japan in April, and a Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held as well as the Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue, which was held for the first time in about eight years. In addition, continuous dialogues were held between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and China by seizing various opportunities including in August (the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings), September (the United Nations General Assembly), and October (Prime Minister Abe's visit to China).



Japan-China Summit Meeting with Premier Li Keqiang (October 26, Beijing, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations



Japan-China Summit Meeting with President Xi Jinping (October 26, Beijing, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

On August 12, the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, congratulatory telegrams were exchanged between Prime Minister Abe and Premier Li Keqiang, as well as between Foreign Minister Kono and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and resolutions of deepening bilateral cooperative relations and further developing Japan-China relations were announced.

In addition to this, in February and September, Secretary-General of the National Security Secretariat Yachi visited China and met with State Councilor of the State Council Yang Jiechi, and in August, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Akiba visited China and held an exchange of views with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng and others. Besides this, between the diplomatic authorities of both countries, the 2019 Memorandum on Drafting the Annual Plan on Exchanges and Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China was signed during Prime Minister Abe's visit to China, and practical dialogue and trust-building were steadily advanced between Japan and China in each field, including the Japan-China International Law Dialogue (September), the Japan-China Counter-Terrorism Consultation (September), exchange between the Foreign Service Training Institute of Japan and China Foreign Affairs University (September), reciprocal visits by groups of mid-level officials (December), and the Japan-China Foreign Press Officials Meeting (December). Moreover, active exchanges were conducted between the legislative bodies and political parties of Japan and China. Speaker of the House of Representatives Oshima paid an official visit to China in July at the invitation of the NPC, and a joint statement was issued at the 8th meeting of the Japan-China Ruling Party Exchange Council that was held in Japan in October.

Both Japan and China share a major responsibility for the peace and stability of the region and the international community, and a stable relationship between Japan and China is essential not only to the citizens of both countries but also, for dealing with regional and international issues, including the North Korean issue. Founded on the idea of building "a Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests" in which it is important to develop the relations of the two countries by expanding their common interests in the context of contributing together to issues of the international community, Japan will continue to implement frequent high-level reciprocal visits in a broad perspectives, and advance exchanges and cooperation in all fields, and elevate Japan-China relations to a new stage.

(B) Japan-China Economic Relations

Economic relations between Japan and China. including trade and investment, are close and interdependent. The total trade between Japan and China (excluding Hong Kong) amounted to about 317.5 billion US dollars in 2018 (6.9% increase year-on-year), and China has been the largest trading partner for Japan for 13 consecutive years. Moreover, according to Chinese statistics, Japan's direct investment in China increased to about 3.81 billion US dollars (16.5% increase year-on-year (estimated from officially published information on investment)) in 2018, due to a trend of recovery in the Chinese economy. Japan ranks fourth in terms of the amount of direct investment to China (Singapore ranks first, the ROK is second, and the UK is third).

2018 marked the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, and high-level visits and cooperative relations were also strengthened in the economic field. In April, the Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue was held for the first time in about eight years, during which topics as follows were discussed: regarding macroeconomic policies, cooperation and exchange in the economic field between Japan and China, cooperation between Japan and China in third countries, and economic cooperation in East Asia and responses toward global issues. During the visit to Japan by Premier Li Kegiang in May, in addition to sharing views on economic cooperation between Japan and China for finance, food products, and third countries, the "Agreement on Social Security between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China" (Japan-China Social Security Agreement) was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Abe and Premier Li Kegiang, and received unanimous approval at the extraordinary Diet session in November. During Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October, finance cooperation was developed (selection of a Chinese yuan-clearing bank, conclusion and

entry into force of a currency swap agreement, strengthening of cooperation between the stock markets of Japan and China), and the view was shared on creating a Japan-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue for cooperation in the fields of innovation and intellectual property rights. In particular, Prime Minister Abe pointed out to President Xi Jinping that it is important for China to further improve on issues including intellectual property rights. In addition, the Forum on Third Country Business Cooperation was held with the participation of about 1,500 top people from the business circles of Japan and China, and 52 memoranda of cooperation concerning infrastructure, distribution, and other fields were signed and exchanged. Furthermore, considering that 2018 is the 40th anniversary of China's "reform and opening up" policy, the Government of Japan ended all new ODA contributions to China as of FY2018, the view was shared on seeking a new stage of bilateral cooperation, and it was decided to proceed with coordination toward implementing dialogues and people-to-people exchanges in the development cooperation field (See Special Feature "Reflection on 40 Years of ODA to China"). Besides this, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso visited China in August, and held the Japan-China Finance Dialogue with Minister of Finance Liu Kun. In addition, exchanges were implemented in broad areas, including the visit to Japan by Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang in August, during which he attended the Japan-China Science and Technology Cooperation Committee, and had a meeting with Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hayashi.

In regard to food products, the Project to Support the Overseas Promotion of Regional Charms was held in Beijing and Shanghai from the end of January to the beginning of February to expand publicity business for Japanese food products centered on rice cultivated in Japan and other products. In November, the Japan-China Food

Safety Promotion Initiative Ministerial Meeting was held in Tokyo for the first time in seven years, attended by State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Oguchi, Vice Minister Zou Zhiwu of general administration of customs, and others. In particular, regarding the import restrictions placed on food and agricultural products from Japan by the Government of China, Japan has taken every opportunity to urge Chinese side to carry out an evaluation based on scientific evidence. and has lobbied for the abolition and relaxation of the restrictions. The opportunities included the Japan-China Summit Meetings in May and October and the above-mentioned Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue, the 8th Japan-China Ruling Party Exchange Council in October and the meeting between top officials of the relevant authorities, i.e. Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Yoshikawa and Customs Commissioner-General Ni Yuefeng in November, the visit to China by Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Eto in November, the visit to China by Special Advisor to the Cabinet Nishikawa in July, and the visit to China by LDP Secretary-General Toshihiro Nikai in August. Some results were produced from this, including the announcement by the Chinese authorities of the lifting of the ban on polished rice from Niigata Prefecture at the end of November.

There were active economic exchanges also in the private sector. During the visit to China by a mission from the Japan-China Economic Association. Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in September, and the Japan-China Business Leader and Former High-Level Government Official Dialogue (Japan-China CEO Summit) held in Beijing in October, views were exchanged between the executives of major companies in Japan and China, and meetings were held with officials of the Government of China including Premier Li Keqiang.

Special Feature

Reflection on 40 Years of ODA to China

In 1979, Prime Minister Ohira announced Japan's cooperation for China's modernization following the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and China, and China's adoption of the reform and opening-up policy. In the same year, Japan began Official Development Assistance (ODA) to China with technical cooperation for railway modernization and other areas of cooperation.

In the 1980s, Japan provided assistance with emphasis on transition to a market economy and modernization, mainly through large-scale economic infrastructure assistance with yen loans. For example, the expansion project for Qinhuangdao Port in Hebei Province turned the port into China's largest coal loading and unloading port. Additionally, the China-Japan Friendship Hospital was established as the first grant aid project to China. Since then, the hospital continued to train medical experts through technical cooperation from Japan and is a symbol of friendship between Japan and China.



China-Japan Friendship Hospital (Beijing, China; Photo: JICA)

In the 1990s, in addition to economic infrastructure projects, such as Shanghai Pudong International Airport and Beijing Urban Railway, Japan provided assistance toward urbanization, and countermeasures to environmental pollution and regional poverty. The Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, the establishment of which was supported by Japan's grant aid, now plays a central role in China's environmental protection efforts. Survey results show that a series of yen loan projects in environmental areas conducted from FY1996 to FY2000 benefited more than 3.95 million people in ten cities via city gas projects, more than 900,000 people in six cities via regional heat supply projects, and more than 13 million people in 28 cities via sewage projects.

In the 2000s, the focus of assistance shifted from economic infrastructure to areas such as environmental and ecological conservation, social development, human resource development, and legal system establishment, and the scale of ODA to China contracted from a peak of 214.4 billion yen in FY2000. Specifically, ODA steadily contributed to afforestation projects in 13 provinces and autonomous regions, establishing pension systems in rural areas, fostering the business environment, and developing a legal framework to support Japanese companies' entry into Chinese market. However, Japan concluded general grant aid and new yen loan provision to China in 2006 and in 2007 respectively in



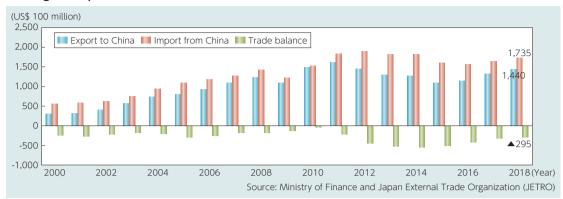
Activities by Japan's Disaster Relief Team after the major Sichuan earthquake (Sichuan Province, China; Photo: JICA)

light of China's advancement. In addition, the media in Japan and China extensively covered assistance by Japan's Disaster Relief Team after the major Sichuan earthquake in 2008.

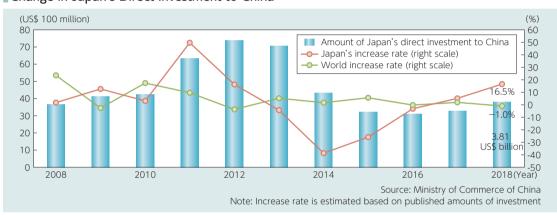
These assistance helped support and promote China's reform and opening-up policy, while also forming a robust foundation as a major pillar underpinning Japan-China relations.

In recent years, through technical cooperation projects and other assistance, Japan has provided assistance only to areas which truly require assistance such as cross-border pollution and infectious diseases that directly benefit the Japanese people. On the occasion of Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October 2018, he announced the conclusion of ODA to China, which totaled approximately 3.6 trillion yen including loan aid and grant aid on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy from a perspective of promoting a new era of Japan-China cooperation as equal partners. Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his great appreciation for Japan's past assistance. In the coming future, the governments of Japan and China will hold discussions to materialize new forms of cooperation between the two countries, such as dialogue and people-to-people exchanges in the area of development policy.

Change in Japan's Value of Trade with China



Change in Japan's Direct Investment to China



(C) Promotion of Mutual Understanding Between Japanese and Chinese People (Current situation of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China)

The number of Chinese visitors to Japan has continued to increase since 2013. The number of visitors in 2017 reached around 7.36 million people (estimated by the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)), which was a new record. In 2017, over 10 million people from Japan and China visited the other country throughout the year. There was a further shift from group tourism to individual tourism, and there was also an increase in the number of repeat visitors as a result of relaxed visa requirements. It is thought that this is leading to diversification of the destinations and needs of visitors to Japan.

(Japan-China youth exchange, etc.)

During Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October, he and Premier Li Keqiang shared the recognition that it is necessary to further expand people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China, particularly exchanges among the young generation, from the perspective of fostering mutual trust and understanding among the people of both countries. In addition, the foreign ministers of Japan and China signed the "Memorandum on Enhancing Youth Exchange between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China," 2019 was designated as "Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year," and shared the view on implementing young exchanges on a scale of 30,000 people over the following five years.

In 2018, through JENESYS2018, the people-



Prime Minister Abe interacting with university students at Peking University (October 26, Beijing, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



The Japan-China 500-University Student Delegation at the Japan-China University Student Exchange Ceremony and Networking Dinner marking the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China (November 30, Tokyo; Photo: Japan-China Friendship Center)

to-people exchange project including young people, about 800 Chinese people, including high school students and young adults, were invited to Japan. Young Chinese people who visited Japan experienced various cultures, lifestyles and the charms of Japan through school exchanges and tours of companies, while deepening mutual understanding with Japanese youth. They also actively exchanged opinions about what the future of Japan-China relations should be. Furthermore, under the Japan-China International Solidarity Project on Afforestation and Tree-Planting, a thousand or so people were invited to the exchange event for promoting understanding of Japan based on the theme of the "Three KAKEHASHI (Bridge)" Projects ((1) University exchanges, (2) Olympic and Paralympic exchanges, and (3) Soccer exchanges).



Welcome reception for Premier Li Keqiang hosted by the Executive Committee for Promotion of Japan-China Exchange (May 10, Tokyo; Photo: Keidanren)



Opening ceremony of "Japan Autumn Festival in HK: Rediscovering Nippon" held with attendance of Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Carrie Lam (third from left) (October 12, Hong Kong)

(Exchanges in various fields)

To develop Japan-China stable relations that will continue in the future, the Government of Japan endeavors to invite people at various levels from all walks of life to Japan, such as people who have certain influence in the political, economic, public and academic sectors, and opinion leaders, in addition to young people who will carry the next generation, such as high school students and university students, thereby making efforts for a wide range of relationship building and strengthening. Through exchanges including the exchanging of views with various circles and experts in Japan, and inspection tours, it is expected that good relationships will be built between the participants, promoting a more accurate understanding of Japan.

Furthermore, in 2018, which is the 40th

anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, with the cooperation of the Executive Committee for Promotion of Exchanges for the 45th Anniversary of the Normalization of Japan-China Diplomatic Relations and the 40th Anniversary of the Conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China (the Executive Committee for Promotion of Japan-China Exchange), over 440 approved events were held throughout the year including a variety of exchange programs, promoting friendly cooperative relations.

(D) Specific Pending Issues (Situation surrounding the East China Sea)

In the East China Sea, Chinese Governmentowned vessels continue to intrude into Japanese territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands. Also, the Chinese military has been rapidly expanding and increasing its activities in quality and quantity at sea and in the airspace over the East China sea. Furthermore, China continues unilateral development of resources in the maritime area pending delimitation between Japan and China, and has repeatedly carried out maritime surveys without Japan's consent.

The Senkaku Islands are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. Thus, there exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands. From 1895, when Japan obtained territorial title over the Senkaku Islands by lawful means under international law, until the 1970s, when the islands became the focus of attention after it was suggested that there might be oil reserves in the East China Sea, China had not raised any objections to Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands. Moreover, China has never explained why it had not expressed objections until then.

Regarding the trends in the presence of Chinese





A Chinese maritime structure confirmed to have been built near the geographical equidistant line between Japan and China (Photo: Ministry of Defense) See the link below for details: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/china/higashi_shina/tachiba.html

Government-owned vessels and fishing boats in the waters around the Senkaku Islands, Chinese Government-owned vessels continue to intrude into Japanese territorial waters, recording 19 incidents during the year (the numbers were 29 in 2017, and 36 in 2016). In response to such unilateral attempts by China to change the status quo, the Government of Japan has repeatedly lodged strong protests and requested the withdrawal of Chinese vessels through diplomatic routes. With the determination to defend Japan's territorial land, sea and airspace, Japan will deal with the situation with resolute and calm determination.

In addition, Chinese naval vessels and aircraft have also been accelerating their activities in the sea and airspace around Japan. In January, a submarine and ship navigated into Japan's contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands, and in June, a Chinese Navy hospital ship navigated into the same contiguous zone. We expressed serious concerns, issued a severe protest, and

strongly requested that it would not happen again, through diplomatic routes. Furthermore, aircraft activity also continues to be active, and the number of times the Air Self-Defense Force had to scramble jets in response to Chinese military aircraft since autumn 2012 has remained high. In response to these recent activities by the Chinese military, Japan has been raising the issues in an appropriate manner through diplomatic routes.

Furthermore, China has continued its unilateral activities to develop natural resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between Japan and China and the continental shelf that have not vet been delimited in the East China Sea. The Government of Japan has confirmed 12 new structures built between June 2013 and May 2016, making a total of 16 structures including those confirmed before then, on the Chinese side of the geographical equidistance line. Such unilateral development actions are extremely regrettable, and every time such moves by China are recognized, Japan has strongly requested China to cease its unilateral development and to resume negotiations as soon as possible on the implementation of the "2008 Agreement" regarding the cooperation between Japan and China on the development of natural resources in the East China Sea. During Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October 2018, both countries reaffirmed the complete adherence to the "2008 Agreement" regarding the development of resources in the East China Sea, and shared the view that they will increase communication with the aim for an early resumption of negotiations to implement the agreement.

Moreover, in recent years numerous activities by China to carry out surveys in the waters around Japan, including the East China Sea, without obtaining Japan's approval, or surveys that differ from those agreed upon have been confirmed.

In order to deal with these concerns appropriately, both Japan and China have been promoting dialogue and exchanges between the authorities concerned. During the visit to Japan

by Premier Li Kegiang in May, the discussions on the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China had been conducted after ten years of consultations, and in June the Mechanism began to be utilized. This is highly significant for promoting mutual understanding between both countries and avoiding and preventing accidental collisions. In December, the first Annual and Experts Meeting based on the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities was held. Also, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to China, the Japan-China Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) Agreement was signed. The Agreement creates a legal framework regarding Japan-China cooperation for the maritime search and rescue field, and is expected to enable smoother and more efficient search and rescue activities. In addition, in April and December, meetings of the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs were respectively held in Sendai and Wuzhen, Jiaxing City, Zhejiang Province.

As Prime Minister Abe has repeatedly stated at Japan-China Summit Meetings, true improvement in Japan-China relations cannot be achieved without stability in the East China Sea. It is highly meaningful from the perspective of building trust and bolstering cooperation for diplomats from both countries to meet in person and exchange opinions frankly, such as at the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs Round Meetings or other discussions between related authorities of both countries. The Government of Japan will strive to improve relations with China, while asserting Japan's position on individual issues through steady dialogue and continued bolstering of communication, in an effort to turn the East China Sea into the "Sea of Peace, Cooperation and Friendship."

(Abandoned chemical weapons issue)

The Government of Japan, in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), has been working on the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China. In 2018, on site investigations, and excavation and recovery operations were carried out in various locations across China. The destruction works in Haerbaling District in Dunhua, Jilin Province also have been carried out. In total, about 52,000 abandoned chemical weapons have been destroyed as of December 2018.

(Cases of Detainment of Japanese Nationals)

In regard to cases of detainment of Japanese nationals, the Government of Japan requests the Government of China to ensure transparency in executing the law and the judicial process, properly safeguard the rights of Japanese nationals, ensure impartial justice, and provide humane treatment.

(2) Taiwan

A Internal Affairs

The once-every-four-year local elections were held on November 24. The ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was severely defeated losing half its mayor post, and the opposition Kuomintang party more than doubled its number of mayors and won. After the elections, President Tsai Ing-wen resigned as Chairperson of the DPP. In addition, the real GDP growth rate in 2018 increased by 2.63% year-on-year.

B Cross-strait Relations and Foreign Affairs

Since the inauguration of the Tsai Ing-wen administration, it can be seen that the direct cross-strait exchanges through the official route (Chinese side: the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan Affairs Office; Taiwan side: the Straits Exchange Foundation, Mainland Affairs Council) have been discontinued. Moreover, Taiwan was unable to attend meetings held by international organizations and others, including meetings organized by World Health Organization (WHO), due to opposition from China. The Dominican Republic and Burkina Faso

severed relations with Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China in May, and El Salvador did the same in August, decreasing the number of countries with diplomatic ties with Taiwan to 17.

Japan-Taiwan Relationship

For Japan, Taiwan is a crucial partner and an important friend, with which it shares fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law, and enjoys close economic relations and people-topeople exchanges. The relationship between Japan and Taiwan is maintained on the basis of working relations at the non-governmental level in accordance with the 1972 Joint Communiqué between Japan and China. In November, five cooperation documents between the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association were signed. Then the 3rd dialogue on maritime cooperation was held in December, and two memoranda of cooperation were signed.

On the other hand, Taiwan has continued to impose import restrictions on Japanese food products after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and Japan has repeatedly strongly requested the removal and relaxation of the restrictions on the basis of scientific evidence.

(3) Mongolia

A Domestic Affairs

Prime Minister Khurelsukh, who was elected Prime Minister in October 2017 and Chairman of the ruling Mongolian People's Party in November 2017, has made efforts to steadily implement the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Results include the real GDP growth rate reaching 6.4% for the January-September 2018 period, creating a shift to steady improvement of Mongolia's macroeconomic indicators.

B Japan-Mongolia Relations

Mongolia is an important regional partner sharing universal values with Japan, so Japan will continue to strengthen friendly ties with the country in a "Strategic Partnership," so that the relationship will truly be mutually beneficial.

High-level exchanges were actively held between the Government of Japan and the Government of Mongolia in 2018, including the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in February (Tokyo), the third Japan-Mongolia Strategic Dialogue in April (Tokyo), the Summit Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Battulga in September (Vladivostok, Russia), and the Summit Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Khurelsukh in December (Tokyo). In addition, as for multilateral dialogues, the 3rd Japan-U.S.-Mongolia Trilateral Dialogue was held in April (Tokyo), and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Mongolia in August to attend the completion ceremony for capacity building support implemented by the Ministry of Defense.

Between the legislative bodies, after the visit to Japan by Deputy Speaker of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia Enkh-Amgalan in June, Vice President of the House of Councillors Gunji visited Mongolia in October. Following on from reciprocal visits by Chairman of State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia Enkhbold and Speaker of the House of Representatives Oshima last year, reciprocal visits by the vice presidents of the legislative bodies were implemented to further strengthen mutual exchanges.

Following the Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting held during the visit to Japan by Prime Minister Khurelsukh in December, both leaders announced a joint statement and issued a fact sheet confirming the status of progress of the "Japan-Mongolia Mid-term Action Plan for a Strategic Partnership (2017-2021) "signed by the foreign ministers in March 2017. Japan will continue to strengthen



Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting (September 11, Vladivostok, Russia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Joint press announcement following the Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting (December 13, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Mongolia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (February 22, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

bilateral relations steadily in accordance with the Plan and make efforts to develop the "Strategic Partnership" between Japan and Mongolia.

4 Southeast Asia

(1) Indonesia

Regarding domestic politics, incumbent President Joko, and Gerindra Party Leader Prabowo announced themselves as candidates in September 2018 for the presidential election in April 2019, and Indonesia has entered the full-blown "politics season" focusing on the presidential and general elections, including the start of election campaigns. The Joko administration has gained high trust from the people by implementing reforms of the social welfare system and education system, infrastructure development, and more.

In relations with Japan, 2018 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Indonesia diplomatic relations, and various exchanges and cooperation projects were actively implemented in both the public and private sectors in both countries. Among others, the 60th anniversary opening event and opening ceremony were held in Jakarta with attendance of Prime Minister's Special Envoy Nikai in January. In April, the Commemorative Symposium for the 60th Anniversary of Japan-Indonesia Diplomatic Relations was held in Tokyo with attendance of Foreign Minister Kono. In addition, experts from Japan and Indonesia compiled policy recommendations regarding future bilateral cooperation in "Project 204517," which was implemented throughout the year.

Furthermore, government high-level exchanges included holding three Foreign Ministers' Meetings with Foreign Minister Retno, such as on the occasion of Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Indonesia in June, and the Summit Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Joko during the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings (Singapore) in November. Through these meetings, the two countries, which welcomed the 60th anniversary



Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting (November 15, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

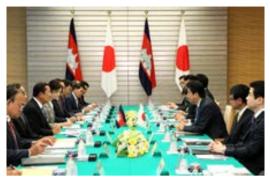
of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, confirmed further strengthening of cooperation in fields such as politics and security, economics and infrastructure, maritime affairs, disaster prevention, people-to-people exchanges, and support for Islamic education, as well as cooperation on regional issues such as the South China Sea and North Korea.

(2) Cambodia

Cambodia is located in a strategic place of the Southern Economic Corridor and serves as a key country in strengthening connectivity in the Mekong region and narrowing the regional development gap in the ASEAN region. The country has been promoting a development policy with emphasis on the enhancement of governance, with the aim of entering the group of Upper Middle-Income Countries by 2030.

Japan has been cooperating actively with Cambodia, including through the Cambodian peace process in the late 1980s and in its subsequent reconstruction and development process. In 2013, the relations between the two countries were elevated to a "Strategic Partnership." In 2018, the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, there were active reciprocal visits by officials, including Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Cambodia in April, Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn's visit to Japan in September, and Prime Minister Hun Sen's

¹⁷ A project for proposing policies that will serve as guidelines for the future by having civilian experts from Japan and Indonesia conduct discussions from an independent standpoint on what cooperation both countries will advance going forward toward 2045, the 100th anniversary of Indonesia's independence.



Japan-Cambodia Summit Meeting (October 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

visit to Japan to attend the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October. In recent years, an expansion of the bilateral relations has been seen in a variety of areas such as an increase in the number of Japanese residents and Japanese companies in Cambodia, and Cambodian residents in Japan.

Regarding domestic affairs. amidst the dissolution of the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP), the largest opposition party, due to a violation of the law on Political Parties in November 2017, the National Assembly election was held without the participation of the CNRP group in July 2018, and the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won all 125 seats. At the Japan-Cambodia Foreign Ministers' Meeting held immediately after the election in August, Japan indicated that various points were regrettable in the election such as a large number of invalid votes, and called on Cambodia in various ways to continue on the path of democratic development. In addition, at the Summit Meeting in October, Prime Minister Abe requested Cambodia to undergo democratization and conveyed his intention to expand governance support including invitations to Japan to young, politics-oriented Cambodians.

In the Khmer Rouge Tribunal which Japan has been supporting for many years, a new Trial Court Chamber judgment was issued against two former leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime, including a former head of state, in November for another sentence of life imprisonment.

(3) Singapore

In Singapore, the People's Action Party (PAP), led by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, occupies an overwhelming majority of seats in the Parliament. However, with the Cabinet reshuffle in May 2018, there has been steady progress toward a change of generations, with the percentage of young cabinet members in their 40s, known as "the fourth generation," occupying the majority for the first time.

In relations with Japan, there were continued high-level exchanges in 2018. During his visit to Belgium to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. He reaffirmed the importance of free trade, confirmed close cooperation aiming for the early entry into force of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and the early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and confirmed continued cooperation for the situations in the South China Sea and North Korea, In addition, Prime Minister Abe visited Singapore to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in November, and held a Summit Meeting. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kono and Foreign Minister Balakrishnan held Foreign Ministers' Meetings a total of four times in January, February, August, and December, and discussed issues including strengthening bilateral relations, promotion of free trade, and the regional situation.

Furthermore, the two countries work together to provide technical assistance through the "Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century (JSPP21)" that was signed in 1997, targeting developing countries. In 2018, 20 years since the signing of the JSPP21, a revised Memorandum of Discussion (MOD) was signed that added strengthening connectivity and the rule of law to the project goals. Projects introducing Japanese culture at the Japan Creative Centre (JCC) in Singapore, a platform to better understand Japanese culture, and intellectual



Japan-Singapore Summit Meeting (November 15, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

exchange between experts from both countries are also actively conducted.

(4) Thailand

Thailand is located in the center of the Mekong region and is geopolitically important. It also has many production bases of Japanese companies as a result of investment accumulated over the years, and it now serves as an essential part of global supply chains for the Japanese economy. Under the parliament and interim cabinet established by the military government, a process to restore democracy had been under way, and the Government of Thailand announced plans to hold an election for the House of Representatives on March 24, 2019 to restore democracy.

Various levels of exchanges, including political and economic ones, have been continued between Japan and Thailand on the foundation of the close relationship between the imperial and royal families and the "Strategic Partnership" relations. Active exchanges were continued at various levels between the two countries in 2018 as well. In June, Foreign Minister Kono visited Thailand to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Prayut and hold a Japan-Thailand Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In July, the Fourth Meeting of the Japan-Thailand High Level Joint Commission was held, co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Somkid, who was visiting Japan, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, and attended by economics-related ministers from both countries. In addition, Prime Minister



Prime Minister Prayut of Thailand visits Japan (October 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Prayut made the first visit to Japan in three years as Thai Prime Minister in order to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October.

(5) Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste, the first country which achieved independence in the 21st century, has realized peace and stability with the support of the international community and has been building the nation based on democracy. Stagnation in the political administration occurred in the country as the 7th Constitutional Government led by Prime Minister Alkatiri, which was inaugurated in September 2017, was the minority party in the National Parliament. To break this deadlock. President Lu-Olo decided to dissolve the National Parliament on January 26, 2018, and a National Parliament election was conducted on May 12. As a result, the Alliance of Change for Progress (AMP), composed of three opposition parties from the former National Parliament, acquired 34 out of 65 parliament seats which is the majority. On June 20, the 8th Constitutional Government was inaugurated with its new Prime Minister being former President Ruak, the central figure of the AMP.



Japan-Timor-Leste Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 12, Dili, Timore-Leste)

Regarding relations with Japan, a Japan-Timor-Leste Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held for the first time in five years between Foreign Minister Kono and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Babo during the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings held in Singapore in August. In October, Foreign Minister Kono visited Timor-Leste. This was the first visit by a Japanese foreign minister in 18 years since the visit by Foreign Minister Yohei Kono in 2000 and the first visit since the Restoration of Independence of Timor-Leste in 2002. Taking this opportunity, Foreign Minister Kono held meetings with President Lu-Olo, Prime Minister Ruak, and Minister of State and Presidency of the Council of Ministers Pereira (Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), and confirmed promotion and strengthening of bilateral cooperation in fields such as politics and security, economics and infrastructure, people-to-people exchanges and human resources training, and maritime affairs; trilateral cooperation with Indonesia; and regional cooperation.

(6) The Philippines

President Duterte of the Philippines, who assumed office in June 2016, has been backed by a high approval rating and a robust economy, and has continued to demonstrate strong leadership. Although the martial law in the Mindanao region has been maintained since the outbreak of



Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting (November 15, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the Marawi crisis in May 2017, the Philippines government has been making progress toward the reconstruction of Marawi with the help of the international community including Japan. The Mindanao peace process has witnessed milestone achievements such as the enactment of the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for the establishment of the new autonomous government in July 2018, and the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in February 2019, following the municipal plebiscite. On the economic front, the Philippines government steadily implemented the tax reform agenda, including the enforcement of comprehensive tax reform laws.

Symbolizing the Japan-Philippines relations, "Strategic Partnership," reciprocal visits by highlevel officials have been actively conducted. Japanese high-level visits to the Philippines included Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Noda in January, Minister of Land Infrastructure and Transport Ishii in April, and Deputy Prime Minister Aso in May. In return, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Cayetano visited Japan in June to hold Japan-Philippines Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In November, the 6th Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting was held between Prime Minister Abe and President Duterte in Singapore.

Japan has strongly supported active infrastructure development by the Government of the Philippines through various means, including

three meetings of the Japan-Philippines Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation in 2018, which was started specifically to follow up on the steady implementation of a one trillion yen pledge of Japanese public-private financing over five years, as announced by Prime Minister Abe in January 2017. In addition, there has been progress in Japan-Philippines security cooperation, including President Duterte's visit to the escort ship *Kaga* of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) at Subic Port and the transfer of TC-90 training aircraft from the JMSDF to the Philippine Navy.

(7) Brunei

Brunei has achieved high economic levels thanks to rich natural resources. However, the economic growth rate has fallen since 2014 due to causes such as drastically falling prices of crude oil around the world. Although there has been a positive recovery in the economic growth rate from the second quarter of 2017 due to gradually rising oil and gas prices, the Government of Brunei is aiming for economic diversification to avoid overreliance on energy resources.

Japan and Brunei have maintained friendly relations over a long period of time. Around 60% of Brunei's liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are bound for Japan, and LNG from Brunei makes up around 5% of the total LNG import to Japan, making Brunei an important country for the stable supply of energy resources to Japan. Through exchange projects such as "JENESYS 2.0" and the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program, Japan and Brunei witness frequent exchanges of young people who carry the future of Japan-Brunei relations on their shoulders. Sports exchanges, represented by badminton, are extremely important in promoting bilateral ties. Judo is steadily becoming popular while receiving cooperation from Japan with the start of the Brunei Judo Federation in April 2018.

In addition, in 2018, Foreign Minister Kono visited Brunei immediately after the Cabinet



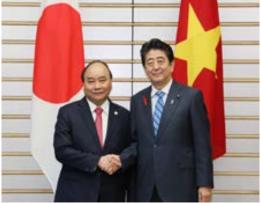
Japan-Brunei Foreign Ministers' Meeting (February 11, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei)

reshuffle in February and held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Erywan. During this opportunity, Foreign Minister Kono also visited the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Overseas Training Cruise Crew, which was docked at Muara Commercial Port. From Brunei, second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Erywan visited Japan in July. A Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held with Foreign Minister Kono, and in order to further activate favorable bilateral relations, they confirmed strengthening of continued bilateral cooperation in fields such as the economic diversification of Brunei, as well as cooperation for regional issues. There were also other active reciprocal visits by officials, including the visits to Japan by ministers such as Minister of Health Isham and Minister of Energy and Industry Mat Suny. Foreign Minister Kono also held his fifth Japan-Brunei Foreign Ministers' Meeting since he became Foreign Minister with Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Erywan during the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings held in Singapore in August, and expressed his gratitude for the contributions and cooperation from Brunei, which has been serving as the ASEAN Country Coordinator for Japan for three years since 2015.

(8) Viet Nam

Located next to sea lanes in the South China Sea and sharing a long border with China, Viet Nam is a geopolitically important country. Given that the country embraces the third largest population in Southeast Asia, and is experiencing a surge in the number of people in middle-income brackets, Viet Nam is a promising market. The country is currently striving to realize stable economic growth through the stabilization of the macro-economy including control of inflation, the promotion of foreign investment by the development of infrastructure and the improvement of the investment environment. Viet Nam was also the seventh country to conclude the TPP11 Agreement, which occurred in November. Moreover, the Government has been engaging actively in administrative reform and anti-corruption measures.

Both Japan and Viet Nam are developing cooperation in various areas under the "Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia." Reciprocal visits by officials were also actively conducted, and the late President Quang and his spouse paid a state visit to Japan in a period extending from May to June. Foreign Minister Kono visited Viet Nam to attend the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in September, and Prime Minister Phuc visited Japan to attend the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October. At the Summit Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Phuc in October, both leaders exchanged views, taking into account the fact that Viet Nam became the ASEAN Country



Japan-Viet Nam Summit Meeting (October 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Coordinator for Japan in August. 2018 marked the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Viet Nam diplomatic relations, which became an excellent opportunity to develop exchanges in various fields between the two countries by implementing over 200 anniversary projects, including cultural exchange projects.

Viet Nam has also essentially been pro-Japanese. The number of Vietnamese people visiting Japan grew from about 40,000 in 2011 to over 300,000 in 2017. The number of Vietnamese people living in Japan rose from about 40,000 in 2011 to about 290,000, the third highest nationality of people from foreign countries living in Japan.

(9) Malaysia

In the 14th Dewan Rakyat general election held in May, the opposition alliance (the Alliance of Hope, or Pakatan Harapan) led by former Prime Minister Mahathir (fourth Prime Minister) acquired a majority, and there was an change of administration for the first time since Malaysia achieved independence in 1957. Prime Minister Mahathir become Malaysia's seventh Prime Minister, and visited Japan as his first visit to a foreign country after taking office in June. He also visited Japan for the ceremony for the conferment of decorations (Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers) in November, and confirmed close bilateral cooperation relations at the Summit Meeting, Foreign Minister Kono visited Malaysia in July in response to the assumption of office of Foreign Minister Saifuddin, having the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the new administration in Malaysia. Active reciprocal visits are being conducted by officials of the two countries with successive visits to Japan from the new administration in Malaysia.

In regard to specific cooperation between Japan and Malaysia, cooperation has progressed in various fields. The "Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Malaysia concerning the Transfer of Defence



45th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Viet Nam: Continuing to Expand and Deepen the Bilateral Relationship

2018 marked the 45th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Viet Nam on September 21, 1973. During this period, the relationship between the two countries has advanced significantly, and currently the two countries are developing cooperation and exchanges in a wide range of fields, such as politics, economy, security, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, under the "Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia."

Japan has been a good partner to Viet Nam during its process of promoting economic and social development and playing an active role as a member of the international community. In particular, since 1992 when Japan resumed full-fledged ODA to Viet Nam, it has consistently been the largest official development assistance (ODA) donor to Viet Nam and supported the development of Viet Nam in many areas, including infrastructure development, human resource development, poverty reduction, and health and medical care. As a result, the investment and trade between the two countries have also expanded. The number of Japanese companies operating in Viet Nam increased from about 400 companies in 2005 to over 1,800 companies last year, becoming the sixth highest in terms of the number of Japanese companies operating in a foreign country. Japan and Viet Nam are expected to further develop their economic relations, sharing high-level trade and investment rules in the region following the entry into force of the TPP11 Agreement that they concluded as member countries.

Viet Nam is a pro-Japanese country. Viet Nam has a high level of confidence in Japanese people and products, and the two countries share some cultural similarities. The number of Vietnamese people visiting Japan has been rapidly increasing as Viet Nam develops and the bilateral relationship becomes stronger. The number of tourists from Viet Nam to Japan rose from about 40,000 in 2011 to more than 300,000 in 2017, and the number of Vietnamese people living in Japan has increased from about 40,000 in 2011 to approximately 290,000.

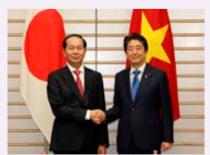
The first visit by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan to Viet Nam in spring 2017 attested to the heightened friendly relations between the two countries. Many Vietnamese people waved the flags of the two countries and provided a warm welcome along the roadsides and at destinations visited by Their Majesties.

In 2018, the year marking the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries held more than 200 commemorative events combined in order to further strengthen the bilateral ties. Amid growing of friendship between the two countries, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and his spouse Madame Nguyen Thi Hien paid a State Visit to Japan from May 29 to June 2, 2018. During the visit, President Quang visited the Maebashi Plant of Koganei Seiki in Gunma Prefecture. Koganei Seiki is a manufacturer of aircraft and automobile precision parts, including parts for Formula One cars. Thirty-four Vietnamese work as full-time employees at the company. President Quang was highly impressed by the sight of Vietnamese technicians working vibrantly together

with Japanese people and commented that "this is a great honor for them."

During their stay in Japan, President Quang and his spouse attended a welcoming ceremony and a State Banquet hosted by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace, and conversed with Their Majesties, as well as other members of the Imperial Family. President Quang also met with Prime Minister Abe, and both leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and international affairs.

President Quang, who passed away while still in office on September 21, 2018, contributed greatly to strengthening relations between Japan and Viet Nam during his tenure.



Leaders of the two countries shaking hands (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Malaysia Summit Meeting (November 6, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Equipment and Technology" was signed in April. During the visit to Japan by Defence Minister Mohamad in September, he and Defense Minister Onodera signed the "Memorandum of Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Government of Malaysia." During the visit to Japan by Minister of Entrepreneur Development Redzuan in November, the "Memorandum of Cooperation on Halal Cooperation" was signed with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seko.

Through the Look East Policy, which serves as a foundation for the good bilateral relationship between Japan and Malaysia and was proposed by Prime Minister Mahathir in 1981, about 16,000 Malaysian people have studied or have been trained in Japan so far. The two countries are cooperating in making the Malaysia Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT), which was opened in September 2011, a base for Japanese-style engineering education in ASEAN countries. At the Summit Meetings held in June and November, it was confirmed that the Look East Policy not only contributed to Malaysian development but also to the bond between the people of the two countries, and it was agreed to further strengthen this.

On the economic front, Japan is the biggest investor to Malaysia, and about 1,300 Japanese companies have been operating in Malaysia, demonstrating continued close cooperation between the two countries.

(10) Myanmar

In Myanmar, the current administration led by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has been making efforts for the consolidation of democracy, national reconciliation, and economic development. Japan is providing full-fledged support to Myanmar's democratic nation building in collaboration between public and private sectors, based on the recognition that the stability of Myanmar, which has a historical friendship with Japan, huge potential for economic development, and geopolitical importance is directly related to stability and prosperity throughout the entire region. When State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi visited Japan in November 2016, Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention that Japan would contribute 800 billion yen in total by public and private sectors over five years from FY2016 to 2020. Since then, Japan has been materializing its cooperation in various fields, including urban development, electricity, and transportation infrastructure. In October 2018, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who was visiting Japan to attend the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting, and conveyed the implementation of new assistance projects to enhance civic life in the Yangon metropolitan area.

There has been continuous tension since the conflict between communities began in 2012 in the western state of Rakhine. More than 700,000 people were displaced to Bangladesh due to the armed group's attacks on Myanmar security forces' bases in August 2017, the security forces' clearance operation and the subsequent destabilization of the situation. Together with the international community, Japan has been urging



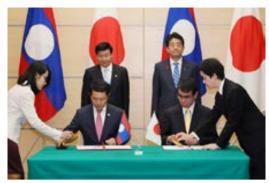
Japan-Myanmar Summit Meeting (October 9, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the Government of Myanmar to implement the "safe, voluntary, and dignified" return of displaced persons and create an environment conducive to repatriation with the involvement of the United Nations. Japan is also implementing humanitarian aid for displaced persons and host communities on the Bangladesh side and displaced persons and residents in Rakhine State. In addition, Japan is urging the Government of Myanmar to implement a transparent and credible investigation on allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine State with the involvement of the international community, and to take appropriate measures accordingly.

In Myanmar, achieving peace with ethnic armed groups, who have been fighting against the Myanmar military since its independence, has also been a pressing issue. By February 2017, 10 ethnic armed groups, including Karen National Union (KNU), had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Japan is promoting dialogues between stakeholders in cooperation with Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar. Japan is also implementing reconstruction and development assistance, including infrastructure development for houses, schools, medical facilities, and agricultural technique training, and providing electricity to houses through solar panels in cooperation with Japanese NGOs in southeast Myanmar, including Kayin State, to improve the living standards of the residents in the areas where there is a ceasefire.

(11) Laos

Laos is a land locked country bordering the five countries of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam, and therefore is a key country in connecting the Mekong region. With regard to domestic affairs, after the holding of the 10th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 8th National Parliamentary Elections in 2016, 2018 has been a year of stable administrative operation under the single-party rule of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. On the other hand, economic growth remained steady at around 7%, which was about the same level as the previous year, driven by electricity and mineral resources. In regard to relations with Japan, two visits to Japan by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and three Foreign Minister's Meetings through reciprocal visits by both Foreign Ministers have been held, and momentum has been maintained for close, high-level exchanges in recent years under the "Strategic Partnership." Regarding the support in financial stability strongly requested by the leaders of the Government of Laos, Japan continued to cooperate at multiple levels in the public and private sectors by dispatching experts, holding various seminars, etc. The Government of Japan provided emergency aid goods through JICA for the large-scale water damage from the dam collapse that occurred in Attapeu Province in July. Wattay International Airport Terminal Expansion Project, the symbolic project between both countries (See Column "Wattay International Airport-Operation of international flights"), was completed in August, and a grand handover ceremony was conducted with the attendance of high-level officials from both countries. This project made an impression for strengthening regional connectivity by the Government of Japan toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In this way, for economic cooperation fields, steady progress has been seen for the "Japan-Lao PDR Joint Development Cooperation Plan" announced by both leaders in September



Signing and exchange of notes ceremony following the Japan-Laos Summit Meeting (October 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

2016. Regarding cultural exchange, the largestever "Japan Festival" was held in Vientiane in February, and promoted mutual understanding by the peoples of both countries.

5 South Asia

(1) India

Geopolitically speaking India is an extremely important country as it faces the Indian Ocean connecting Asia and Africa and is positioned in the center of sea lanes. Moreover, India has the 3rd largest economy in Asia, with the world's 2nd largest population and a huge middle-income group. Japan and India are the two largest democratic countries in Asia, sharing common fundamental values, such as democracy and the rule of law, as well as strategic interests.

Recently, India has been implementing a variety of economic initiatives, including "Make in India," resulting in the maintenance of a high economic growth rate of around 7%. Consumption and production have also been increasing, and foreign direct investment has been rising steadily against a backdrop of deregulation.

In diplomatic relations, the "Act East" policy has been laid down in implementing active diplomacy to promote concrete cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, thereby enabling India to gain more influence in the international arena as a global power.

Regarding relations with Japan, Prime Minister Modi visited Japan for the third time since his inauguration and held the twelfth summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe in October 2018, as part of annual reciprocal visits between the prime ministers held since 2005. At the Summit Meeting. the prime ministers agreed to cooperate in extensive fields including holding a new Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting), identifying specific areas of cooperation to improve connectivity, launching negotiations for the Japan-India Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), making progress in the high speed railway project, making decisions on the seven projects related to yen loans, reaching agreement in principle on the signing of the bilateral swap arrangement between Japan and India, further cooperating on global issues and regional affairs, in order to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Moreover, Prime Minister Abe invited Prime Minister Modi to his vacation home in Yamanashi Prefecture for the first time as a foreign dignitary, symbolizing the special and multi-layered partnership between Japan and India.

(2) Pakistan

Pakistan is located in a strategic position connecting Asia and the Middle East. Thus, its political stability and economic development are essential for the stability and growth of the region. Pakistan is also one of the most important countries in the context of international counterterrorism measures. Furthermore, the country embraces a population of around 200 million, and approximately 60% of the total population is under 25 years old, thus making its economic potential high.

As for internal affairs, the term of office of the lower house members expired in May 2018, and elections of the National Assembly and Provincial Assembly were held on July 25. Pakistan Tehreeke-E-Insaf (PTI), the second largest opposition party,

won the elections with a lead of around 50 seats on the ruling political party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The leader of PTI Khan was inaugurated as prime minister, and the new Khan administration was launched in August.

In foreign affairs, the India-Pakistan relationship has remained tense even after the start of the new administration. Furthermore, under the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership," the relationship with China has been enhanced in a wide range of fields toward the construction of an economic corridor between China and Pakistan (CPEC), which is an important constituent element of China's "Belt and Road" initiative. Regarding the relationship with Afghanistan, there remain many issues to be addressed, including border control and refugee problems. Meanwhile, the relationship with the U.S. remains stagnant with Pakistan being criticized by name in the Trump administration's new South Asia strategy.

On the economic front, the growth rates in FY2017/2018 marked around 5.79%, making them the highest in the past 13 years. However, the Khan administration has faced a serious shortage of foreign currency reserves since its inauguration, and it is advancing initiatives to improve this situation through support from pro-Pakistan countries and negotiations on IMF programs.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited Pakistan for the first time in nine years as foreign minister of Japan in January 2018, and in August immediately after the start of the Khan administration, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Pakistan and held meetings with leading figures in Pakistan to exchange views on efforts to further bolster bilateral ties, and on regional affairs. Meanwhile, Advisor to Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Commerce, Textile, Industry, Production and Investment Dawood visited Japan in December to attend a public-private economic dialogue and discuss with government officials measures to enhance economic ties between Japan and Pakistan.

(3) Bangladesh

Bangladesh, in which Muslims account for around 90% of the population, is a democratic country located in the Bay of Bengal and is geopolitically very important as an intersection between India and ASEAN.

The 11th general elections were held at the end of December in 2018, resulting in the continued rule of the Awami League administration led by Prime Minister Hasina. Furthermore, with the deterioration in peace and order in Rakhine State of Myanmar since August 2017, more than 700,000 displaced persons have flooded into the country, thus causing deterioration in humanitarian conditions. Negotiations have been taking place with the government of Myanmar to return the refugees, but this has yet to be finalized.

On the economic front, the country maintained a steady economic growth rate of around 7.24% in 2017, thanks to robust exports mainly of textile products. With a population of around 160 million people, Bangladesh has a production base with abundant low cost and high-quality labor, and the high potential of its market including considerable infrastructure demand is attracting attention. The number of Japanese-affiliated companies developing business in the country has increased from 61 in 2005 to 269 in 2016. However, the securing of a stable supply of electric power and natural gas as well as infrastructure improvement remain as challenges for foreign companies investing in the country.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii visited Bangladesh in March, followed by a visit by Foreign Minister Kono in August. The foreign ministers of both countries confirmed to strengthen bilateral relationship and cooperation on regional and international affairs under the Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership. In addition, Minister Kono held detailed discussions on the response to the issue of displaced persons flooded into Bangladesh from Northern Rakhine

State of Myanmar. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kono visited the Cox's Bazar refugee camp.

(4) Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is located in a strategic position on the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. The country is traditionally pro-Japanese and its geopolitical and economic importance is note-worthy. Since the end of the civil war in 2009, the security situation has greatly improved. Japanese tourists roughly quadrupled as compared with 2008, to over 40,000 since 2016.

In domestic politics, President Sirisena, who was elected at the presidential election in January 2015, maintained the grand coalition of the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) established after the general election in August the same year, and is running the Government together with Prime Minister Wickremesinghe (UNP). However, President Sirisena dissolved the UNP and SLFP coalition in October 2018 and dismissed Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, while simultaneously naming former President Rajapaksa as Prime Minister and announcing the dissolving of Parliament. After that in December, the court ruled that the dissolving of Parliament by President Sirisena was unconstitutional, and Mr. Rajapaksa resigned, reinstating Mr. Wickremesinghe to the post of Prime Minister.

The Sirisena administration set up a National Reconciliation Bureau to address this important task after the end of the civil war and has been working in a variety of ways including the establishment of a mechanism consisting of a four-layer system to correspond to the investigation of the truth related to alleged human rights violations, rights for justice, rights for compensation, and prevention of recurrence of conflict.

After the end of the civil war, the economy of Sri Lanka was growing at an annual rate of 7%, and it continues to maintain steady annual growth of over 3% in recent years. Its GDP per-capita was

recorded at 4,065 US dollars in 2017, and given the geopolitical importance of the country and its access to the Indian market, an even higher growth rate is expected.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, President Sirisena visited Japan in May 2016, followed by another visit in March 2018 for the second time since his inauguration as President. A Summit Meeting was held with Prime Minister Abe in which the two countries agreed on Japan's support to enhance "quality infrastructure" in various areas, such as ports, transportation and energy. The leaders also agreed to advance cooperation in defense and security-related areas through capacity building assistance, cooperation for visits by MSDF vessels to Sri Lanka, and personnel exchanges.

Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kono visited Sri Lanka for the first time in 15 years as foreign minister of Japan, in January 2018.

(5) Nepal

Nepal has geopolitical importance as an inland state between the great powers of China and India. For many years, Japan has been a major donor to Nepal and the two countries keep traditionally friendly relations through a variety of exchanges including between the imperial family and the former royal family, and through mountaineering.

In domestic affairs, local elections for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies were held in 2017, and in February 2018, Prime Minister Oli was inaugurated, and the coalition government formed by the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (UML) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (MC) was set up. The UML and MC merged in May and the Nepal Communist Party was established.

For many years, Japan has assisted the consolidation of democracy in Nepal, and has been supporting the country's initiative to realize a "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepal."

In November 2018, Foreign Minister Gyawali

visited Japan and exchanged views with Japanese government officials, toured agricultural facilities, and held an investment seminar to further strengthen economic relations.

(6) Bhutan

In Bhutan, the third lower house election was held in October 2018 since the country's democratization, and it was won by the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) party, launching a new administration under the leadership of Prime Minister Tshering. Bhutan sets Gross National Happiness (GNH) as a guideline of the administration and is currently working on the priority issues of reducing poverty, improving the quality of healthcare and education, gender equality, the preservation of the environment, culture and traditions, stabilization of the macroeconomy, economic diversity, advancing of decentralization, etc., under the 12th Five- Year Plan (from July 2018 until June 2023).

With regard to the relationship with Japan, Prime Minister Tobgay visited Japan in April 2018 for the second time since his inauguration and held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. The leaders agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations through promoting economic cooperation and human exchanges. Furthermore, during his stay in Japan, Prime Minister Tobgay visited Soma City in the Fukushima Prefecture. Moreover, in June, Foreign Minister Kono made Japan's first ministerial level visit to Bhutan and paid a courtesy call to His Majesty King Wangchuck. He also held meetings with various government officials of Bhutan, including Foreign Minister Dorji.

(7) The Maldives

The Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean and its economic growth is mainly led by fishing and tourism, which account for about 30% of GDP. The country graduated from a least

developed country in 2011, and its per-capita GDP reached approximately 9,792 US dollars, marking the highest in South Asia.

In domestic affairs, the presidential election held in September 2018 saw President Yameen (at the time) running for reelection, pitted against joint opposition candidate Solih, resulting in candidate Solih's win inauguration as president in November. President Solih is promoting a foreign policy of strengthening cooperation with all countries hoping to build mutually beneficial relations through advancing cooperation with other countries in the region including India.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and in January 2018, Foreign Minister Kono visited the Maldives for the first time as a Japanese foreign minister. On the occasion of the inaugural ceremony for President Solih held in November, Prime Minister's Special Envoy Takeshita (President of the Japan-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship League) visited the Maldives and paid a courtesy call to President Solih. In December, Foreign Minister Shahid visited Japan with Finance Minister Ameer and Economic Development Minister Ismail to hold meetings with Foreign Minister Kono. During the series of meetings, the ministers confirmed that they would strengthen bilateral relations and cooperate to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

6 Oceania

(1) Australia

A Brief Summary and Overview

In the Foreign Policy White Paper issued by the Australian Government in November 2017, it was announced that as the guidelines of foreign policy of the next ten years, Australia will promote an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, oppose protectionism, promote and protect international rules, etc., while also strengthening cooperation with partners including Japan. This

foreign policy has continued to be upheld even after Prime Minister Morrison replaced Prime Minister Turnbull in August 2018.

With the region facing a variety of issues, the "Special Strategic Partnership" between Japan and Australia, which share fundamental values and strategic interests, is more important than ever. The two countries' strategic visions toward maintenance and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region are aligned in wide-ranging areas. With the Prime Ministers' annual mutual visits and close coordination between the Foreign Ministers serving as the basis, the two countries have been further deepening political and security cooperation and collaboration toward stability and prosperity of the international community. Furthermore, multilateral coordination partnerships such as the Japan-U.S.-Australia. Japan-Australia-India and Japan-U.S.-Australia-India relations are being steadily strengthened.

On the economic front, the two countries are promoting free trade, including the TPP Agreement. Australia is the fifth largest trading partner for Japan and Japan is the second largest trading partner for Australia, and the two countries are further developing mutually complementary economic relations based on the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). During Prime Minister Turnbull's visit to Japan in January 2018 and Prime Minister Abe's visit to Australia in November, they confirmed the deepening of the "Special Strategic Partnership" in an array of areas including the deepening of security and defense cooperation, economic issues and people-to-people exchanges. Prime Minister Abe visited Darwin, Australia, a target of air raids of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. Prime Minister Abe visited a memorial dedicated to the war dead with Prime Minister Morrison and sent out a message regarding the successful postwar reconciliation between the two countries. In addition, the two leaders commended the start of gas production from the Ichthys LNG Project

based in Darwin and shared the view that they would further promote energy cooperation.

In Darwin, Prime Minister Abe held his first Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Morrison. They also held a meeting accompanied only by their interpreters and a small group dinner, and developed a personal relationship of trust. The two leaders shared the view on advancing concrete cooperation, such as capacity-building assistance in maritime security and enhancing connectivity, in order to maintain and strengthen a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, the two leaders affirmed their commitment to cooperate on North Korea issues and shared the view on regional affairs, including Southeast Asia and Pacific island countries.

The Foreign Ministers held frequent meetings on the margins of various occasions, including the UN General Assembly. In October, the Eighth Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultation ("2+2") was held in Sydney. The two countries shared their views on the increasingly severe regional situations and confirmed that they would continue to cooperate closely toward the peace and stability of the region. Furthermore, Japan has strengthened its relations with the states of Australia. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii visited Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) in February as well as the Northern Territory, South Australia, NSW and Queensland in June. Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade Palaszczuk and others also visited Japan.

B Cooperation in the Security Field

To ensure peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region, Japan and Australia have continued to steadily strengthen and expand cooperation in the field of security. At the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in November, the two leaders welcomed the significant progress made to date in negotiations for the reciprocal access agreement, which would improve administrative, policy and legal procedures to facilitate joint operations and exercises between Japan's Self-Defense Forces

and Australia's Defense Forces. They also directed all relevant Ministers to accelerate negotiations with a view to concluding them, preferably by early 2019.

At the Eighth Japan-Australia 2+2, the two countries shared the view that enhancing collaboration between Japan and Australia, "Special Strategic Partners" sharing fundamental values and strategic interests, is important more than ever, and confirmed their unwavering partnership under the Government of Prime Minister Morrison who took office in August. They agreed to further strengthen security and defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, and confirmed strengthening coordination regarding North Korea, the South China Sea, the East China Sea, Southeast Asia and Pacific island countries.

Furthermore, Japan and Australia, both of which are allies of the U.S., are continuing to work on further enhancing Japan-U.S.-Australia cooperation. The Eighth Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) was held in August, and views were exchanged on various regional issues such as North Korea, the South China Sea, the East China Sea, infrastructure investment. cybersecurity, and measures countering terrorism and violent extremism. It was also agreed that Japan, the U.S. and Australia would coordinate and cooperate closely including these issues.

Economic Relations

Japan and Australia have taken the lead in promoting a system of free trade in the region through close cooperation, including the TPP Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Between Japan and Australia, mainly industrial products such as automobiles are being exported to Australia, while mainly energy resources such as coal and natural gas, and agricultural products such as beef are being imported into Japan, in a mutually

complementary economic relationship that has been developed steadily over the years. Japan is the second biggest investor in the world for Australia, and since the entry into force of the Japan-Australia EPA in January 2015, there have been active exchanges of goods, funds and people between the two countries. Moreover, efforts are being made to further develop economic relations between Japan and Australia under the Conference for Promotion of Exchanges between Japan and Australia, with an innovation-led reform of industrial structures and region-led promotion of relationships serving as the two pillars.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

There exists a foundation for affinity toward Japan in Australia cultivated over many years, as shown by the fact that approximately 360,000 people in Australia learn the Japanese language (the highest number of learners per population in the world), and that there are over 100 sister city relations. In order to strengthen the foundation of Japan-Australia relations, various initiatives have been implemented, including the promotion of mutual understanding through JENESYS 2018, the exchange program including young people, and the "New Colombo Plan" 18 as well as the Young Political Leaders Exchange.

From April to November, the Government of Australia ran "Australia now" in Japan, a flagship public relations and cultural diplomacy program. It held performances as well as cultural and sports events featuring science, research and innovation, creativity and design and Australian lifestyle.

E Cooperation in the International Community

In order to make an active contribution to peace and stability in the international community, the two countries have been strengthening cooperation in wide-ranging areas. In particular, cooperation has been deepened in addressing various issues facing the Indo-Pacific region such

¹⁸ An Australian Government policy which aims to increase knowledge of Asia among university students in Australia by promoting their studies in Asia.

as maritime security and nuclear and missile development by North Korea. In 2018, Australia dispatched aircraft three times for monitoring and surveillance activities based in Kadena Air Base against illicit maritime activities, including ship-toship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, Australia dispatched its frigate MELBOURNE for monitoring and surveillance activities in waters surrounding Japan, including the East China Sea. Japan and Australia also work closely with respect to Pacific island countries with which the latter has deep ties. In November, on the occasion of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea, the "Joint Statement of the Governments of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America on the Trilateral Partnership for Infrastructure Investment in the Indo-Pacific" and "The Papua New Guinea Electrification Partnership" signed by Papua New Guinea, Japan, Australia, the U.S. and New Zealand were issued. Furthermore, the two countries are working together as important partners on global issues, such as UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs), disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change and UN Security Council reforms.

(2) New Zealand

A Brief Summary and Overview

Japan and New Zealand share fundamental values, such as democracy and a market economy. The two countries have been maintaining good relations over the years. In recent years, under the "Strategic Cooperative Partnership," the two countries have been strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas including the economy, security and defense cooperation and people-topeople exchanges and also cooperative relations on issues facing the region and the international community. The Labour Party-NZ First Party coalition government, which was inaugurated in October 2017 by the first change in government in approximately nine years, places emphasis on

Japan-New Zealand relations.

B Mutual VIP Visits

From Japan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited New Zealand in February to hold a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peters. He also attended the commemorative ceremony to mark the 7th anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake. In October, Foreign Minister Kono paid the first visit to New Zealand by a Japanese Foreign Minister in approximately five years. He paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Arden and held meetings including with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peters. The two sides shared the view on strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation in Pacific island countries, and on coordinating on regional situations, including North Korea issues.

From New Zealand, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peters visited Japan in May to attend the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8). He held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, and they shared the view that cooperation would be promoted especially regarding Pacific island countries. On the margins of the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in November, Prime Minister Abe held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Arden, and they shared the view that the two countries would continue to work closely to strengthen their relations.

Economic Relations

The two countries enjoy a complementary economic relationship and cooperated on the entry into force of the TPP Agreement. Furthermore, in the fields of food and agriculture, the "New Zealand Hokkaido Dairy Collaboration Project" designed to improve the profitability of dairy farming in Japan has been implemented since 2014. The "New Zealand Hokkaido Sheep Collaboration Project" has also been launched with the aim of vitalizing the sheep industry.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

In FY2018, approximately 20 university students from New Zealand visited Japan as part of JENESYS 2018. More than 1,100 young people from New Zealand have now visited Japan through youth related programs.

In addition, networking between sister cities is making progress with an aim to promote mutual understanding among the youth. Furthermore, the New Zealand Government sponsored "Game On English" which extends support to English language education for Japanese students through rugby, in which New Zealand won the World Cup twice in a row. Under this program, 31 Japanese students visited New Zealand in 2018.

E Cooperation in the International Community

The two countries are cooperating closely for the peace and stability of the international community, including the UN. In particular, in response to illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions, New Zealand conducted monitoring and surveillance activities by aircraft based in Kadena Air Base in September 2018 with the U.S., Australia and Canada. Furthermore, Japan and New Zealand have collaborated in regional cooperation frameworks such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and APEC. As for Pacific island countries, the two countries have also been cooperating through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). Japan and New Zealand issued the "Joint Press Release on Cooperation in the Pacific" between their foreign ministers as well as a joint press release on "Cooperation on the Pacific Climate Change Centre."

(3) Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

A Brief Summary and Overview

The PICs and Japan are bound by the Pacific Ocean, have deep historical ties, and are important partners for Japan in areas such as cooperation in the international arena and the supply of fisheries and mineral resources. They are becoming increasingly important from a geopolitical perspective as they are located at the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Japan has been holding PALM once every three years since 1997, and the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in May 2018. Furthermore, highlevel officials from Japan have been constantly attending the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue since its inception in 1989. Japan has been further strengthening relations with PICs through visits at various levels using the occasion of these international conferences, ODA projects, and active people-to-people exchanges.

B Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM)

PALM marked its 20th anniversary in 2017. In May 2018, PALM8 was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Tuilaepa of Samoa. PALM8 was held under the theme, "We are Islanders—Partnership Towards Prosperous. Free and Open Pacific," and leaders and others participated from 19 countries and regions including Japan, 14 PICs, New Zealand and Australia as well as the two regions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia which participated for the first time. Prime Minister Abe held individual summit meetings with various leaders. At PALM8, discussions focused on the four agenda items of (i) maritime order based on the rule of law, and sustainable oceans, (ii) resilient and sustainable development, (iii) connecting Pacific citizens, and (iv) cooperation in the international arena. The PALM8 Leaders' Declaration was adopted as an outcome of the discussions. Countries expressed their gratitude for Japan's contributions through PALM and other initiatives.

Mutual VIP Visits

In January, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii visited Nauru to attend its 50th independence anniversary



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii attending the Nauru 50th independence anniversary celebration (January, Nauru)



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visiting the Division of Marine Law Enforcement of Palau (December, Palau)

celebration and held meetings with President Waga and others. Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in March and held meetings with Foreign Minister Pato of Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister Houenipwela of the Solomon Islands and others. Special Advisor Sonoura visited Palau and Micronesia in April and held meetings with President Remengesau of Palau, President Christian of Micronesia and others. In the same month, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Horii visited Samoa, etc. and held meetings with Prime Minister Tuilaepa and others. In August, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Horii visited the Cook Islands to attend their 53rd Constitution anniversary ceremony and also visited Tonga, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, etc. He held meetings with Prime Minister Puna of the Cook Islands, Prime Minister Pohiva of Tonga, President Maamau of Kiribati, President Heine

of the Marshall Islands and others. In November, President Christian of Micronesia and Foreign Secretary Robert of Micronesia visited Japan and held meetings with Prime Minister Abe and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe, respectively. In the same month, Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono visited Papua New Guinea to attend the APEC meetings and held meetings with Prime Minister O'Neill and Foreign Minister Pato, respectively. In December, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visited Palau as the head of the Public-Private Joint Economic Mission, attended a trade, investment and tourism seminar and held meetings with President Remengesau and others.

■ Relationship with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

In September, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting was held in Nauru, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii attended the Post Forum Dialogue as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Japan expressed its intention to cooperate with PICs in ensuring free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, the sustainable use of ocean resources, and the management and conservation of the marine environment as priority issues in the region. In addition, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Horii held a meeting with President Waqa of Nauru as well as meetings with leaders and ministers from PICs attending the meeting.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

As part of efforts to bolster the "assistance for human resource development to 4,000 people in three years" as pledged at the PALM7 in 2015, people-to-people exchanges were implemented between students, through JENESYS. Furthermore, from FY2016 Japan commenced the Pacific-Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) for young government administrators of PICs, and in FY2017 the program accepted 41 trainees.

Special Feature

PALM8: The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) took place in Iwaki City in Fukushima Prefecture on May 18 to 19.

The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting is a summit meeting that has been taking place once every three years since 1997 to conduct candid exchanges of opinions on a variety of issues facing the Pacific Islands region at the level of top leaders, for the purpose of contributing to regional stability and prosperity, and strengthening the partnership between Japan and the Pacific Islands region.



It had been held seven times previously. Under the theme "We are Islanders - Partnership Towards Prosperous, Free and Open Pacific," leaders participated from 19 countries and regions including Japan, 14 island countries, New Zealand, and Australia, and in addition, the two regions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia which participated for the first time.



(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

At the summit meeting, Prime Minister Abe delivered the keynote speech in which he explained that the commitments pledged at PALM7 (2015) had been achieved in a form that greatly surpassed the goals and then declared that over the next three years Japan would advance cooperation centered on three areas: (1) free, open and sustainable oceans; (2) sustainable development; and (3) connecting Pacific citizens. Furthermore, he promised that the Government of Japan would listen carefully to the needs of the Pacific island countries, while providing meticulous, high-quality

support both on the tangible and intangible fronts that will truly benefit the people of the island countries and their society, and implement human resource development and people-to-people exchanges for more than 5,000 people centered on these areas over the next three years. The Pacific island countries stated that they highly evaluated the role that PALM had played to date, and Japan and the Pacific island countries agreed to further strengthen the PALM process. Furthermore, the Pacific island countries expressed their gratitude for the contribution of Japan over many years, and expressed strong support for new cooperation and assistance measures for the next three years.

At PALM8, discussions were conducted centered on the four agenda items: (i) a maritime order based on the rule of law, and sustainable oceans; (ii) resilient and sustainable development; (iii) connecting Pacific citizens; and (iv) cooperation in the international arena. The PALM8 Leaders' Declaration was adopted as the outcome of the discussions.

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa Tuilaepa, the co-chair country, expressed his gratitude to each country, in particular Japan, for the success of PALM8, and stated that Samoa intended to further strengthen the partnership between Japan and the Pacific island countries. Finally, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed his determination for Japan and the Pacific island countries to build a partnership together for a new era based on the PALM8 Leaders' Declaration and ensure a prosperous, free and open Pacific together, and then he declared the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting closed.

Establishment of a Liaison Office in Vanuatu

Vanuatu is an island nation located in the Melanesia region of the South Pacific, and it is an important country that has been supporting Japan's position in the UN Security Council reform and in international organization elections. In light of this fact, Japan established a liaison office in Vanuatu in January 2018.

Regional and Inter-regional Cooperation

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the world's growth centers and realizing a peaceful and prosperous region is one of the priority issues in Japan's diplomacy. From this perspective, Japan places a high priority on working with its neighbors to achieve a rules-based "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" based on international law through various regional cooperative frameworks, including Japan-ASEAN, Japan-Mekong cooperation, ASEAN+3 (Japan, China and the ROK), East Asia Summit (EAS), Japan-China-ROK trilateral cooperation and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), while maintaining the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

(1) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

At the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting held in November 2015 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), it was declared that the three councils of the "ASEAN Political-Security Community Council," the "ASEAN Economics Community Council," and the "ASEAN Socio-Cultural, Community Council" (Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Establishment of ASEAN Community) would be established by the end of 2015. Also, "ASEAN2025: Forging Ahead Together" was adopted as a guiding policy for the ASEAN Community for the ten years from 2016 to 2025. In East Asia where ASEAN plays an important role as a center of regional cooperation, a multi-layered regional cooperation

such as ASEAN+3 (Japan, China and the ROK). East Asia Summit(EAS and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is operating with ASEAN at its center, and cooperative relationships in a wide range of areas including politics, security and the economy are built. On the economic front, ASEAN has concluded the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), as well as other EPAs and FTAs with various countries including Japan, China, the ROK and India, which has expanded the ASEANcentered free trade zone. With regard to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the negotiations started in 2013 and are being advanced with the aim to conclude a high-quality agreement in such fields as trade in goods, trade in services, investment, intellectual property and e-commerce.

Since ASEAN is situated in a geopolitically important location and faces important sea lanes for Japan and its stability and prosperity directly affects those of not only the East Asian region but also the international community, it is important for the entire international community, including Japan, that ASEAN advances its integration in accordance with values such as the rule of law.

(2) Issue of the South China Sea

The issue with regard to the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and is a legitimate concern of the international community. The issue is also an important matter of concern for Japan, which depends most of its resources and energy on sea transport and places importance on freedom of navigation and overflight as well as securing safe sea lanes. It is necessary for the international community to cooperate toward the maintenance and development of open and stable seas.

In the arbitration proceedings instituted by the Government of the Philippines as to the disputes between the Philippines and China regarding the South China Sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the

Arbitral Tribunal rendered the final award on July 12, 2016. Japan issued a statement by the Foreign Minister on the same day, stating that, "As the Tribunal's award is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute under the provisions of UNCLOS, the parties to this case are required to comply with the award. Japan strongly expects that the parties' compliance with this award will eventually lead to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea."

In 2018. China continued to conduct unilateral actions to change the status quo that increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, and attempts to make the results of these actions fait accompli. The international community including Japan has expressed serious concern over such actions. Until now, Japan has consistently supported the full enforcement of the rule of law in the South China Sea, and emphasized the importance for all the concerned parties related to the South China Sea to work toward peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law, including UNCLOS. Furthermore, Japan has pointed out that China's claims to "historical rights" over the South China Sea do not have a clear basis under international law, and that China's claims to its baseline in the South China Sea is inconsistent with UNCLOS. In 2018, negotiations commenced on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea between China and ASEAN. Japan has stressed the importance of having such initiatives lead to demilitarization of the area and to realization of a peaceful and open South China Sea.

(3) Japan-ASEAN Relations

ASEAN exerts its centrality and is the engine of various regional cooperation. Therefore, realizing a more stable and prosperous ASEAN is absolutely essential to the stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. Based on this recognition, Japan has announced that it will actively support ASEAN's efforts in accordance with "ASEAN Community

Vision 2025" for further integration even after the establishment of the ASEAN Community, while steadily implementing the "Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation" and the "Joint Statement" that were both adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting held in Tokyo in 2013.

In 2018, Japan and ASEAN confirmed that they would further strengthen their cooperative relationship in a wide range of areas, including advancing the integration of ASEAN, ensuring sustainable economic growth, improving people's lives and ensuring peace and security in the region and the international community, through meetings such as the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August in Singapore, which held the ASEAN chairmanship, and the 21st Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November, which marked the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. At the Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abe congratulated the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Prime Minister Abe referred to the ASEAN-Japan Music Festival held in Tokyo in October 2018 and the upcoming "ASEAN-Japan Day" in 2019, and expressed his hope that such events would serve as an opportunity to further deepen mutual understanding between Japan and ASEAN. At the Summit Meeting, in addition to the usual Chairman's Statement, the Joint Statement of the 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit to Commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was issued with the consensus of all the participating countries. Taking note with satisfaction the excellent development of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation over the past 45 years, Japan and ASEAN Member States expressed their commitment to strengthening Japan-ASEAN cooperation in the four areas of partnership, namely "Partners for Peace and Stability," "Partners for Prosperity," "Partners for Quality of Life," and "Heart-to-Heart Partners," as stated in the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2013.



45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Fostering Heart-to-Heart Relations for the Future

1. 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

At the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Singapore on November 14, 2018, the two sides issued a future-oriented Joint Statement to Commemorate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. The Joint Statement reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN-Japan relationship and called for further advances in ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation ties based on mutual trust through heart-to-heart relations and an equal partnership. It also included an initiative to further strengthen ASEAN-Japan Cooperation and the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership from the four areas of partnerships* in the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, and Shared Future issued in 2013. Additionally, the ASEAN and Japanese leaders agreed to promote a rules-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open in the Joint Statement.

(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

In the field of cultural interaction, numerous events to mark the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and

Cooperation took place in 2018. In particular, Japanese and ASEAN artists assembled in October for the 2nd ASEAN-Japan Music Festival, a major event held in Tokyo. The festival provided an opportunity to deepen interaction between ASEAN and Japan, particularly among young people.

2. History of the 45 years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

The partnership between Japan and ASEAN extends back to establishment of the ASEAN-Japan synthetic rubber forum in 1973. Then-Prime Minister Fukuda proposed the "Fukuda Doctrine" in 1977, which would serve as a fundamental principle for subsequent diplomatic ties with ASEAN, moving postwar diplomacy which mainly focused on problem solving and offering a clear approach. The ASEAN-Japan Summit, which started in the same year, became a regular event and has promoted ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation ever since.

In 2013, which marked the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Prime Minister Abe announced "Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy." In December 2013, the leaders of ASEAN and Japan adopted the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, and Shared Future and its Implementation Plan at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting. In the five years since then, Japan steadily achieved assistance goals in the areas presented in 2013, including official development assistance (ODA), defense cooperation, human resource development, counter-terrorism measures, and people-to-people exchange. Cooperation continues to advance in a variety of areas through the four partnerships.

3. Importance of ASEAN and the Future of the ASEAN-Japan Partnership

The ASEAN population increased from 180 million people when ASEAN was originally established to 650 million people today. Japan has cumulatively extended roughly 17.93 trillion yen in ODA to ASEAN and contributed to economic and social advancement in ASEAN countries so far. ASEAN has also been strengthening its presence as an important partner of Japan in the area of the economy. As of October 2017, 12,000 Japan-affiliated companies had expanded their operations in the ASEAN region (number of business sites). Trade with ASEAN totals about 23.4 trillion yen out of Japan's 153.7 trillion yen in overall trade, making ASEAN the second largest trading partner after China.

It is expected that the ASEAN-Japan Partnership, which commemorated its 45th anniversary in 2018, will further advance in a wide range of areas based on the above-mentioned Joint Statement.

^{*} Japan and ASEAN confirmed to strengthen cooperation in the following four partnership areas: (1) Partners for Peace and Stability (politics and security); (2) Partners for Prosperity (economics and economic cooperation); (3) Partners for Quality of Life (new economic and social issues); and (4) Heart-to-Heart Partners (people-to-people exchanges). The two sides updated the Vision Statement's Implementation Plan in August 2017.

On the security front, Prime Minister Abe stated in regards to defense cooperation that Japan would promote practical cooperation under the Vientiane Vision (Japan's Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN) and strengthen cooperation in the area of cybersecurity. Regarding regional and international affairs. Prime Minister Abe said Japan would continue to work closely with ASEAN Member States to maintain and strengthen a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Concerning the issue of North Korea, Prime Minister Abe stated that it was necessary to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions in order to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea, as stipulated in UN Security Council resolutions. With regard to the issue of the South China Sea, Prime Minister Abe noted that the South China Sea is a lifeline for both Japan and ASEAN, which have enjoyed peace and prosperity through trade in the sea, and that freedom of navigation in the South China Sea is vital to both sides. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's full support of the principles that ASEAN has upheld to ensure freedom of navigation, Japan's appreciation for ASEAN's efforts, including those on the COC negotiations and Japan's hope that these principles be reflected in the COC. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe shared ASEAN's deep concerns over unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the South China Sea, and stated that Japan would support ASEAN's initiatives that seek to pursue demilitarization of the area and maintain a peaceful and open South China Sea.

On the economic front, through ODA and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), Japan has supported the deepening of ASEAN integration in a variety of areas, including support for narrowing the economic disparities within the region by enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abenoted that Japan's assistance to ASEAN has exceeded its 2013 commitment to provide 2 trillion yen over five years, and stated that Japan

would continue to support private investment and advance the development of quality infrastructure in accordance with international standards while respecting ASEAN's unity and centrality. Moreover, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would collaborate with ASEAN to promote the following types of initiatives: (1) Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0; (2) ASEAN-Japan Fourth Industrial Revolution Initiative; (3) promotion of free trade through WTO reforms, etc.; (4) cooperation on smart cities network in partnership with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN); (5) disaster management cooperation, including the ASEAN-Japan Disaster Management Cooperation through utilizing JAIF and collaborating with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre); (6) environmental cooperation, such as the Japan-ASEAN Environment Cooperation Initiative and measures to tackle marine plastic litter; (7) Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative; (8) cooperation in the areas of education and culture, such as the "WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony"; and (9) reforms of the ASEAN-Japan Centre.

At the Summit Meeting, ASEAN welcomed the issuance of the Joint Statement on the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and many ASEAN Member States expressed appreciation for Japan's cooperation in a variety of fields, including disaster management and connectivity enhancement. Many Member States expressed expectations toward Japan's efforts for achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and also raised the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea.

(4) Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting (Participating Countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan)

The Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam), situated in a

Column

10th Anniversary of the Founding of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) is an international organization founded in Jakarta (Indonesia) in 2008, with leadership from the Government of Japan, and marked its 10th anniversary in 2018.

ERIA is now widely known as an East Asian international organization. However, it experienced a number of twists and turns in its history, including finding agreement on its host country and securing the necessary financial contributions, from the ASEAN-Japan Meeting of Economic Ministers in 2006, when the then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Nikai, first proposed a concept of an 'East Asian



ERIA's 10th Anniversary Dinner Reception (October 18, Tokyo; Photo: ERIA)

version of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),' until the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2007, when the establishment of ERIA was officially agreed. ERIA, which began as a tiny organization with three employees located in a single room within the ASEAN Secretariat (Jakarta, Indonesia), has grown into an organization with 83 staff members, including 17 in-house economists, with over 150 researchers annually participating in research projects at ERIA. This is thanks to assistance from the Government of Japan, the largest contributor, and various other East Asian countries, as well as the unwavering support of the late Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan.

ERIA's roles are: (1) research into economic topics with emphasis on 'deepening economic integration,' 'narrowing development gaps,' and 'achieving sustainable economic development'; (2) policy research and recommendations based on requests from the 16 member countries (10 ASEAN countries, Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand); and (3) capacity building aimed at proliferation and utilization of research results. ERIA is continually collaborating with the governments of ASEAN countries and other member countries, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat, to ensure that the research in which ERIA takes a leading role takes into account the policy needs of various countries.



ASEAN@50 High-Level Forum (October 19, 2017, Manila, the Philippines; Photo: ERIA)

Furthermore, the ERIA President attends the EAS Meeting of Economic Ministers and Meeting of Energy Ministers every year, and announces research results and policy recommendations. In 2017, as commemoration of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN's establishment, ERIA worked jointly with the Government of the Philippines, the ASEAN chair country at the time, to publish a five-volume book on ASEAN history and developments and held a high-level forum with participation by summit-class officials. Declarations by ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, including EAS, and various related ministerial meetings annually mention these accomplishments by ERIA.

ERIA has achieved a variety of results in areas such as free trade agreements for East Asia and ASEAN, ASEAN connectivity, infrastructure development in East Asia, energy security, and small and medium-sized enterprises. With regard to new issues confronting ASEAN, such as aging, digitalization, the environment, and development of highly-skilled human resources, it is expected that ERIA will further enhance its value as an international organization that contributes to regional development, while leveraging knowledge and experience from Japan, which had a leading role in its foundation.

* ERIA makes all of its publications available to the public on its website http://www.eria.org/>.

strategic location for land and sea transport, is a promising partner for further growth, which has been achieving strong economic growth. Peace and prosperity in the Mekong region are extremely important to Asia as a whole, including Japan, since it will contribute to narrowing economic disparity and promoting regional integration within ASEAN. The building of hardware infrastructure has progressed in recent years in the Mekong region, and there has been a steady increase in the number of Japanese companies expanding businesses in the region, as well as direct investment from Japan, which testifies to great expectations for the further stimulation of economic activities in the future.

At the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2018, the leaders adopted the "Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation," which sets the course for future Japan-Mekong cooperation. The leaders praised the achievement of Japan's commitment to provide over 750 billion yen in the past three years as ODA, as well as the strengthening of connectivity through quality infrastructure development. The Mekong countries expressed deep appreciation for Japan's assistance over many years through the Japan-Mekong cooperation. Japan will continue to contribute to the prosperity and development of the Mekong region as a trusted partner for Mekong countries.

In 2019, which marks the 10th anniversary of the 2009 "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year" between Japan and the Mekong countries, "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2019" will be held. During the exchange year, exchange programs will be held in wide-ranging fields including politics, economy and culture in Japan and Mekong countries.

(5) ASEAN+3 (Japan, China and ROK)

The Asian financial crisis in 1997 prompted the launch of ASEAN+3, in the form of adding the three countries of Japan, China and the ROK to ASEAN. ASEAN+3 has been developed focusing on areas



ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting (November 15, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

such as finance and food security. It currently covers cooperation in 24 fields, including finance, agriculture and food, education, culture, tourism, public health, energy and the environment. Under the "ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022)" adopted in August 2017, ASEAN+3 member states have been making further progress on cooperation in various fields.

At the 18th ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore in August 2018, Foreign Minister Kono appreciated the progress of ASEAN+3 working-level cooperation over the past 21 years. Foreign Minister Kono also provided a review of the ASEAN+3 cooperation, and explained the future direction focusing on Japan's efforts. Furthermore, he referred to regional and international affairs, including the issue of North Korea.

At the 20th ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting held in Singapore in November, Prime Minister Abe welcomed the timely holding of the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting, referring to his official visit to China in October at which Japan and China shared the view on playing a constructive role for peace and stability of the international community. Prime Minister Abe also stated that ASEAN+3's areas of cooperation is expanding from the initial financial cooperation to other areas, such as food security, poverty eradication, culture, tourism and youth exchange, and announced that Japan will focus its efforts particularly on the environment, disaster risk reduction and healthcare.

Regarding North Korea, Prime Minister Abe stated that the full implementation of UN

Special Feature

10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting

The 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting was held on October 9, 2018 in Tokyo. Attendees included Prime Minister Abe, who chaired the meeting, and leaders of the five Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam). This meeting has taken place annually since 2009 for the purpose of strengthening relations between Japan and the Mekong countries as well as narrowing intraregional disparities and promoting sustainable development in the Mekong region. It is held in Japan once every three years (2018 was one of these years).

The leaders adopted the "Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation" at this commemorative 10th Mekong-Japan Summit, and decided to define the relationship between Japan and the Mekong region as "strategic partners." In accordance with the Strategy's three pillars of "vibrant and effective connectivity," "people-centered society," and "realization of a Green Mekong," it identifies the three concrete targets to promote Mekong-Japan cooperation: of achieving the SDGs; achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific; and coordination with the Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), which is the five Mekong countries' own economic cooperation framework led by Thailand.

At the Summit Meeting, Prime Minister Abe expressed his determination to strongly promote Mekong-Japan cooperation based on the Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation, and emphasized that Japanese companies are playing an important role in the development of the Mekong region. Prime Minister also presented a policy encouraging private-sector investment more than ever before with the utilization of public funds including Official Development Assistance (ODA). Prime Minister Abe

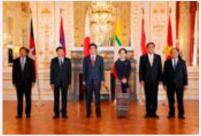


Photo of the Leaders (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Joint Press Announcement (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Summit Meeting (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

then requested the leaders of the Mekong countries to listen to the views of Japanese companies and to steadily develop their countries' investment environments. In response, the leaders of the Mekong countries expressed appreciation for Japan's contribution thus far and hope for future cooperation.

Besides the Summit Meeting in Tokyo, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen visited Kanagawa Prefecture, Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi visited Fukushima Prefecture, and leaders of the Mekong countries also met with business leaders.

2019 is designated as "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2019" and it is expected that the relationship will further deepen, including in cultural aspects, based on the success of the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting.

Security Council resolutions was necessary for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and that Japan will cooperate on measures to counter ship-to-ship transfers prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions.

(6) East Asia Summit (EAS) (participating countries: ten ASEAN countries and Japan, China, ROK, Australia, New Zealand, India, U.S. and Russia)

Launched in 2005, the EAS is a premium forum of the region, which aims to facilitate candid dialogue among leaders on issues of importance to the region and the international community, and to promote leaders-led cooperation in politics, security and economy. Moreover, many democratic nations take part in the EAS, and it is expected that the EAS will contribute to the sharing of fundamental values in the region, including democracy and the rule of law, as well as to strengthening international rules and norms concerning trade and investment.



East Asia Summit (EAS) (November 15, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

A 8th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting

At the 8th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore in August, Foreign Minister Kono stated that since 2017 EAS has proven itself to be an effective mechanism to tackle issues, such as the issue of North Korea, facilitation of maritime cooperation and promotion of free trade. Foreign Minister Kono also explained Japan's initiatives to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and explained Japan's position concerning the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea.

Specifically, regarding the issue of North Korea,

Foreign Minister Kono commended the efforts by the U.S. and the ROK toward "complete denuclearization" of North Korea. Foreign Minister Kono called for close coordination for the realization of the goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He appealed for maintaining and strengthening efforts to close the "loopholes" of sanctions, including "ship-toship transfers." Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kono called for the cooperation of EAS member countries over the abductions issue.

Regarding the issue of South China Sea, Foreign Minister Kono stated that Japan shares with other countries serious concerns over the continued rapid and large-scale building of outposts in the area. Foreign Minister Kono stressed his strong opposition to attempts to unilaterally change the status quo, stating that such moves may undermine freedom of navigation. He also advocated that efforts should be made toward peaceful settlement of disputes, and expressed his expectation that efforts such as the negotiations on the code of conduct in the South China Sea lead to demilitarization of disputed features as well as a peaceful and open South China Sea.

B The 13th EAS

At the 13th EAS held in Singapore in November, leaders reviewed the cooperation within the EAS, and discussed its future direction as well as regional and international issues. Prime Minister Abe stated that, during his official visit to China in October 2018, Japan and China shared the view to play a constructive role for the peace and prosperity of the international community, and expressed his desire for the EAS discussions to proceed in the same spirit. He then expressed Japan's determination to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," the cornerstone of peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region, and stated that this included the principles of ASEAN's centrality and

openness shared by EAS participating countries. Regarding Japan's concrete cooperation, Prime Minister Abe introduced examples of Japan's quality infrastructure projects, and underscored the need for international standards such as openness, transparency, economic efficiency and fiscal soundness of recipient countries. He stated that initiatives that contribute to achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" do not exclude any countries and benefit all countries in the region, and expressed Japan's intention to cooperate with all countries that share these views.

Regarding the issue of North Korea, Prime Minister Abe welcomed the historic U.S.-North Korea Summit and three Inter-Korean Summits as a step toward the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues. Prime Minister Abe advocated the need for full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions in order to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea, as stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions. He highly appreciated the cooperation of countries, including the U.S., Australia, the UK, Canada and New Zealand, to counter ship-to-ship transfers, and expressed Japan's wish to continue to cooperate with these countries. He also sought the understanding and cooperation of the countries toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

Regarding the issue of South China Sea, Prime Minister Abe stated that the disputes should be resolved peacefully based on international law and not by force, and from this perspective, expressed full expectations toward the conclusion of an effective COC. He expressed continued serious concerns over the situation in the South China Sea. In order to realize a peaceful and open South China Sea, he said Japan firmly supports the fundamental principles of "full respect for legal and diplomatic processes," "freedom of navigation," and "the importance of demilitarization and self-

restraint" that ASEAN has upheld, and urged that these principles be conveyed strongly to the international community.

Regarding the situation in Rakhine of Myanmar, Prime Minister Abe commended the dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh. He expressed his hope for the "safe, voluntary and dignified" return of displaced persons in cooperation with the UN, and sought the international community's support for the efforts of both countries.

(7) Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cooperation

Trilateral cooperation among Japan, China and the ROK continues to be vital from the perspective of promoting exchange and mutual understanding among the three countries that enjoy geographical proximity and share deep historical ties. Furthermore, as economies that play a major role in the world economy and serve as the motive force driving the prosperity of the East Asian region, trilateral cooperation among Japan, China and the ROK is one of the areas of cooperation which has huge latent potential in efforts to tackle various issues in the international community.

In May 2018, the Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo under the chairmanship of Japan. At the Trilateral Summit Meeting held for the first time in around two and a half years, the three leaders of Japan, China and the ROK discussed the current status and future direction of the trilateral cooperation. The leaders made a new start on the trilateral cooperation and reaffirmed holding the Summit Meeting on a regular basis. Regarding the trilateral cooperation, the three leaders welcomed steady progress made in various fields and appreciated the efforts made by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to this end. In addition, they discussed the current status and future direction of specific cooperation projects. The three leaders shared the view to advance cooperation in a variety of areas, including people-to-people exchanges through the opportunity of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as finance, energy, environment, disaster risk reduction and ICT. The three leaders also confirmed that they would advance the trilateral cooperation in a more "open and inclusive" manner. Regarding the efforts over the last decade, Prime Minister Abe stated, "We are determined to pursue comprehensive cooperation in a futureoriented manner." He then underscored the spirit of the Joint Statement of the First Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting, and stated that he hoped to make a new start of the trilateral cooperation. Additionally, the three leaders who share a large responsibility for the peace and prosperity of the region discussed regional and international affairs, such as the issue of North Korea and promotion of free trade, taking into account that this Summit Meeting was held at an important juncture prior to the U.S.-North Korea Summit, shortly after the Inter-Korean Summit.

(8) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Consisting of 21 economies (countries and regions) in the Asia-Pacific region, APEC promotes regional economic integration and intra-regional cooperation among the member economies on a voluntary basis. The Asia-Pacific region is positioned as the "world's growth center," so strengthening economic cooperation and relationships of trust in the economic aspect in this region is extremely important in pursuing Japan's further development.

The APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in 2018 was attended by Prime Minister Abe from Japan. Looking ahead to Japan's G20 presidency in 2019, Prime Minister Abe stated that, as the standard-bearer of free trade, Japan would contribute proactively to the prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, the "world's growth center," and that Japan would secure and enhance its presence in the Asia-Pacific region as an proponent of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and the host of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM).

(9) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

SAARC was officially inaugurated in 1985 with multiple objectives such as enhancing the welfare of citizens of the South Asian countries, cooperation and collaboration in economic and social development and cultural areas. As of 2018, SAARC has eight member states (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan) and nine observer countries and institutions including Japan. As a rather loose framework of regional cooperation, SAARC has worked primarily on economic, social and cultural areas, through summit meetings and meetings of the Council at the ministerial level (foreign ministers' meetings). As part of youth exchange between Japan and SAARC, Japan has invited around 3,100 people to date (192 people in FY2018).

Special Feature

Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit: Making a New Start with the First Meeting in Two Years

1. Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit

The Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in Japan in May 2018 was the first summit meeting in two and a half years. Visits to Japan by Premier of China Li Keqiang and President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Moon Jae-in were the first by a Chinese Premier in eight years and by an ROK President in seven years, other than for attendance at multilateral meetings. The Trilateral Summit was held despite the various issues facing Japan-China and Japan-ROK relations, and the three countries reached a consensus to hold Summit meetings regularly. It was a significant outcome to make a new start for the three countries.

2. Background of Japan-China-ROK cooperation

Japan-China-ROK cooperation began as a dialogue among leaders of the three countries in a breakfast meeting format at the ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, and the ROK) Summit Meeting (held in Manila, Philippines) in November 1999 during the Asian currency and financial crisis, as a proposal by then Prime Minister Obuchi. This marked the start of the cooperation process among the three countries, and thereafter Japan-China-ROK Summit meetings took place annually during the ASEAN+3 Summit.



(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Subsequently, in December 2008, the Japan-China-ROK Summit meeting was held individually for the first time in Fukuoka. At the joint post-meeting press conference, then Prime Minister Aso referred to the meeting as the "First Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit" and commented on the "historical necessity" of the leaders of these three countries coming together periodically in an effort to strengthen cooperation. Furthermore, the three leaders issued a declaration of "We are resolved to promote comprehensive cooperation in a future-oriented manner." In 2011, they established the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat as an international organization for the purpose of contributing to further promotion of cooperative trilateral relations.

2018 marked the 10th anniversary since the First Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit. Looking back over the past ten years, trilateral cooperation has steadily advanced. The three countries, which together account for 20% of global GDP, initiated an investment agreement and are currently negotiating a trilateral FTA. These steps are forming a mutually beneficial economic zone. Additionally, the number of people-to-people exchanges has doubled, which led us to create a new goal of elevating the number of people traveling among the three countries up to 30 million people annually. Furthermore, areas of cooperation have expanded too, with 21 ministerial-level meetings being held and over 100 cooperative programs being implemented even during the period between the Sixth and Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summits when no summit was held. Trilateral cooperation is also vital to resolving the North Korean nuclear and missile issue confronting the region and the international community and to realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Based on the discussions at the latest summit, Japan will advance cooperation among these three countries, which are responsible for regional peace and prosperity.

North America

1 United States

(1) Situation of the U.S.

A Politics

Entering the second year of his administration, President Trump delivered his State of the Union Address to a Joint Session of Congress on January 30, 2018. In his address, President Trump highlighted the achievements in the first year of his administration such as tax reform, and showed his determination to build a safe, strong and proud America through rebuilding infrastructure, immigration system reform, strengthening the U.S. military, and more. In addition, he called for solidarity among Americans, and in particular referred to the importance of advancing policies regarding immigration and infrastructure in a bipartisan manner. However, despite this call for solidarity, confrontations were evident on many occasions between the two parties on domestic matters.

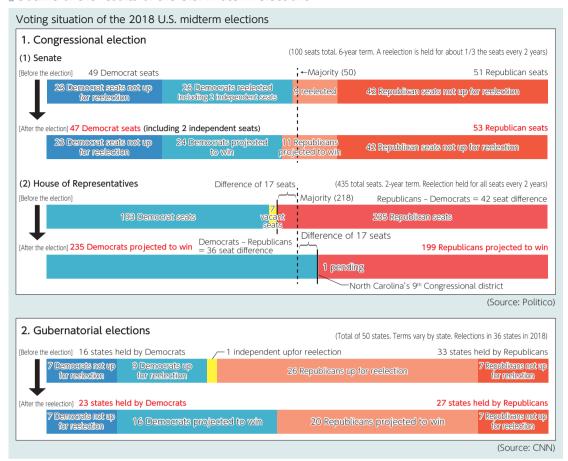
With regard to immigration policy, President Trump continued efforts toward stricter immigration and refugee policies from last year. A "zero tolerance" policy to take legal action against all illegal immigrants captured at the border area was implemented in April, but criticism spread regarding the fact that many illegal immigrants who were minors were separated from their guardians and kept in facilities, and the policy was

altered through a new executive order in June. In addition, firm responses were taken against a migrant caravan leaving Central America headed for the U.S. in October, including dispatching military personnel and temporarily closing checkpoints on the border. In December, following the midterm elections, against the backdrop of President Trump making a strong request for the budget to build walls on the border with Mexico, there was a partial government shutdown when budget discussions could not be settled between the Republican and Democratic parties.

Due to the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy in July, President Trump nominated as his replacement Mr. Brett Kavanaugh, who was previously a Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Mr. Kavanaugh was confirmed by the Senate in October, and assumed the position of Supreme Court Justice. Because the judicial decisions made by the Supreme Court have major effects on society, the nomination and approval process of its Justices receives much attention. Mr. Kavanaugh's case was particularly controversial, as several women alleged that he had taken sexually inappropriate actions in the past. A hearing was held at the Senate and an FBI investigation into the allegations was conducted.

The investigation by Special Counsel Mueller concerning the so-called "Russia-gate," in which Russia is believed to have intervened through

Outline of the results of the U.S. midterm elections



various means in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, began in May 2017 and continued throughout 2018. President Trump consistently denies that there was collusion, but the investigation continues to garner high interest as people related to the Trump campaign indicted for false testimony and other misconduct, and accepted plea bargains.

On foreign relations, many policies with unconventional approaches were pursued, including the first U.S.-North Korea Summit, large-scale tariff measures against China, and withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The approval rate for the president remained relatively stable despite the publication of books critical of the internal conditions of the Trump administration and harsh criticism from the media. Against the backdrop of a bullish U.S. economy, the U.S.-North Korea Summit, and other factors, the approval rate for the President in mid-June was 45%, the highest rate since immediately after President Trump was inaugurated, and the rate has generally stayed at around 40% since the midterm elections. Although over 80% of Republicans support President Trump, support from Democrats is about 10%, which is relatively low compared to past administrations, showing the major gap between the Parties concerning the assessment of President Trump.

The midterm elections took place in November against a backdrop of high interest concerning President Trump's political positions and the pros and cons of his policies. The voter turnout

of estimated 50% was extremely high for midterm elections. In particular, it was pointed out that there was a major increase in the turnout of women, young people, and minorities, which are the support base of the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party took 235 out of 435 seats in the House of Representatives, regaining the majority for the first time in eight years (one House seat was not yet been called). On the other hand, the Republican Party kept its majority in the Senate by taking two additional seats for a total of 53 seats despite severe election results for the incumbent President's party in many midterm elections in the past. In the gubernatorial elections, the Democratic Party recovered the governorships in the states of Wisconsin and Michigan, which voted for President Trump in the 2016 presidential election. It won a total of 16 out of the contested 36 states. On the other hand, the Republican Party won in 20 states and held the governorships in states such as Florida and Ohio, key states in the presidential election.

Although the Republican Party maintained its Senate majority as a result of the midterm elections, the Democratic Party became the majority party in the House of Representatives, meaning that there will be a "divided government" in 2019. The Democratic Party has also set its sights on the 2020 presidential election, and it is predicted that the Democrats will intensify their criticism of the Trump administration by advancing investigations, including those on "Russia-gate," by utilizing their Congressional authority. It has been pointed out that the progress of the investigation concerning "Russia-gate" could greatly affect President Trump's political base.

Attention should be given to future developments under the "divided government" in 2019, in terms of whether the confrontations between the parties will deepen further and how the Trump administration will lead in its third year.

B Economy

(A) Current economic situation

The U.S. economy continued to recover steadily in 2018. The 2018 real GDP growth rate increased by 2.9% year on year. The unemployment rate also continued to improve and dropped to 3.9% in December, falling to a lower level than before the 2008 financial crisis. While the U.S. economy's recovery is expected to continue, attention will need to be paid to future policy moves and their impact.

(B) Economic policy

Since his inauguration in January 2017, President Trump has implemented policies that have had a considerable influence on the global economy. These include: signing of a presidential memorandum concerning withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement: renegotiation of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); initiatives aimed rectifying unfair trade including an investigation into intellectual property infringement based on Section 301 of the Trade Act; declaration of withdrawal from the Paris Agreement regarding climate change; and enactment of a tax reform bill which includes a reduction in the corporate tax rate. Events that took place in 2018 include imposing import restriction measures on steel and aluminum based on Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, starting an investigation concerning automobiles and auto-parts based on the same section, signing of a presidential memorandum regarding measures against China as well as exchanges of imposing additional tariff measures between the U.S. and China, amendment of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS); reaching an agreement on starting negotiations for new trade agreements with Japan, the EU, and the United Kingdom, and signing of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

With regard to monetary policies, the 2007 subprime loan issue led to the incremental lowering of target policy rates, and a zero-interest-rate

policy with target policy rates being set between 0% and 0.25% continued for seven years from 2008. In December 2015 the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) decided to raise the target policy rate and end the zero-interest-rate policy. The target policy rate has been raised eight times since then (in December 2016; March, June, and December 2017; and March, June, September, and December 2018). As of January 2019, the target policy rate range was between 2.25% and 2.50%. When making decisions on future monetary policy, the FOMC takes into account measures of labor market conditions, indicators of inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments.

(2) Japan-U.S. Political Relations

Continuing on from 2017, in 2018 there was frequent policy coordination at high levels between Japan and the U.S., including 14 summit meetings (of which 10 were telephone talks) and 16 Foreign Minister's meetings (of which 6 were telephone talks, and which included meetings with the acting Secretary of State). Under such deep relationships of trust between the leaders and the Foreign Ministers, the Japan-U.S. Alliance has become stronger than ever, and both countries have been closely cooperating on their policies toward resolving various regional and international matters such as the issue of North Korea, and achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

On January 16, on the occasion of the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula jointly held by the U.S. and Canada in Vancouver, Canada, Foreign Minister Kono held a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Dinner Meeting with Secretary of State Tillerson, as well as a Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The ministers reaffirmed Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK would continue to coordinate and lead the international community's efforts to apply maximum pressure on North Korea.

From February 2 to 8, Vice President Pence and his spouse visited Japan before attending the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Olympics. He paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe, and he and his spouse attended a dinner banquet held by Prime Minister Abe and his spouse, Prime Minister Abe and Vice President Pence shared the view to continue applying maximum pressure on North Korea toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and confirmed close Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral coordination to urge North Korea to change its policies. In addition, they confirmed cooperation regarding the East China Sea and the South China Sea, as well as toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

At the Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talk on March 9, President Trump explained that he had received a report from the ROK that the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, had made a firm commitment to denuclearization and that Chairman Kim sought to hold a dialogue with President Trump. President Trump also explained that he was ready to meet with Chairman Kim while closely monitoring the situation. In response, Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan and the U.S. are 100 percent together, and shared the view that Japan and the U.S. would continue to cooperate including on the abductions issue.

Following this, Foreign Minister Kono visited Washington D.C. from March 15 to 17 and paid a courtesy call to Vice President Pence. He also met with Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan (who was serving as Acting Secretary of State in the place of Secretary of State Tillerson, who was due to step down at the time), Secretary of Defense Mattis, and others. In these meetings, Foreign Minister Kono conveyed that there should be comprehensive resolutions of the nuclear, missile, and abductions issues, and confirmed with the U.S. that Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate closely.

From April 17 to 19, Prime Minister Abe visited Palm Beach, Florida and held a Japan-U.S.



Photograph of before the dinner banquet between the leaders of Japan and the U.S. and their spouses (April 17, Florida, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Summit Meeting with President Trump. During the meeting, the leaders closely coordinated their future responses to the North Korea issue, including the U.S.-North Korea Summits, and President Trump agreed that he would raise the abductions issue during the U.S.-North Korea Summit and would urge the early resolution of the abductions issue. In addition, both leaders further built their relationship of trust through playing golf for the third time, attending two social dinners, and more.

While attending the G7 Toronto Foreign Ministers' Meeting on April 23, Foreign Minister Kono met with Acting Secretary of State Sullivan. During the meeting, it was confirmed that a strong message should be sent out as the G7 regarding various issues including North Korea.

Immediately after Secretary of State Pompeo assumed his position on April 26, on April 30, Foreign Minister Kono held the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo when they were both visiting Amman, Jordan. While welcoming the Inter-Korean Summit held on April 27 as a positive move toward the comprehensive resolution of various issues of concern, such as the nuclear issue, Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State Pompeo closely coordinated their policies concerning the North Korea issue including the upcoming U.S.-North Korea Summit Meeting.

On May 23 and 24, Foreign Minister Kono



Japan-U.S. joint press conference (April 18, Florida, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

visited Washington D.C. and held meetings with Secretary of State Pompeo and others. Secretary of State Pompeo, who played the main role in preparing for the U.S.-North Korea Summit, gave explanations including the current status of the U.S. side's preparation for the U.S.-North Korea Summit. Both foreign ministers affirmed the necessity of maintaining pressure on North Korea, and the importance of Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral coordination.

Prime Minister Abe visited Washington D.C. on June 6 and 7, right before the U.S.-North Korea Summit on June 12, and held a summit meeting with President Trump to closely coordinate their policies on the North Korea issue. Both leaders shared the view that Japan and the U.S., as well as Japan, the U.S. and the ROK would continue to cooperate closely to ensure that the U.S.-North Korea Summit would be a historic meeting making progress on the various issues of concern, including the abductions, nuclear, and missile issues. In addition, at the same time as Prime Minister Abe's visit to the U.S., Foreign Minister Kono visited Washington D.C. from June 6 to 8, and held meetings with Secretary of State Pompeo and others, and also attended the Summit Meeting.

On June 11, the day before the U.S.-North Korea Summit, Prime Minister Abe held a telephone talk with President Trump and received an explanation of the latest status of preparation right before the meeting. Furthermore, both leaders reconfirmed



Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 6, Tokyo)

that Japan and the U.S. as well as Japan, the U.S., and the ROK are in complete concurrence on their basic policies.

On June 12, after the U.S.-North Korea Summit ended, telephone talks were conducted between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump, and between Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State Pompeo respectively. During the Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talk, President Trump provided a detailed explanation on the U.S.-North Korea Summit, and the two leaders shared the view that it was highly significant that Chairman Kim once again made a clear promise on his intention toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a written document. The two leaders also reaffirmed the resolute policy of Japan and the U.S. to make a concerted effort with the international community to urge North Korea to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, building on the results of the historic U.S.-North Korea Summit. In addition. Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude to President Trump for conveying a solid message to Chairman Kim on the abductions issue, which is a critical issue to Japan, at the U.S.-North Korea Summit.

Furthermore, Foreign Minister Kono visited Seoul, the ROK, from June 13 to 14 and attended the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting and held a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo. During the meeting, Secretary of State Pompeo provided



Lunch with Nisei (second generation Japanese American) war veterans (August 22, Honolulu, U.S.)

again a detailed explanation on the U.S.-North Korea Summit, and confirmed to coordinate regarding the North Korea issue including the abductions issue.

On July 7 and 8, Secretary of State Pompeo, who was visiting Japan after his visit to North Korea, paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe, and also held a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Kono and a Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was joined by ROK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha. During the courtesy call and meetings, Secretary of State Pompeo provided detailed explanations of the exchanges with the North Korean side during his visit to North Korea. They confirmed the goal of the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. They also confirmed to continue to work together to urge North Korea to take concrete actions toward the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

On August 4, Foreign Minister Kono held a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo during the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings held in Singapore. Both foreign ministers confirmed cooperation on the issue of North Korea, and they also confirmed further advancement of collaboration and cooperation toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" based on the rule of law, in light of the remarks on "America's Indo-



Japan-U.S. Summit Dinner Meeting (September 26, Washington D.C., U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Pacific Economic Vision" given by Secretary of State Pompeo on July 30.

2018 marked 150 years since the first systematic overseas immigration of Japanese people in 1868. Taking this opportunity, from August 21 to 26, Foreign Minister Kono visited the three cities of Honolulu, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, which have the largest Nikkei communities in the U.S. By exchanging views with Nikkei people and visiting facilities deeply related to Nikkei people in all the cities, a message was sent that Japan places importance on its relationship with the Nikkei community, and the foundation of Japan-U.S. relations was strengthened through promoting relations with Nikkei people. Furthermore, in Los Angeles, Foreign Minister Kono attended the grand opening of Japan House Los Angeles.

From September 23 to 28, Prime Minister Abe visited New York to attend the UN General Assembly, and had dinner with President Trump at Trump Tower on September 23 and also held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting on September 26. Both leaders once again closely aligned their policies based on the latest situation concerning the issue of North Korea, confirmed their shared goal of achieving the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and reaffirmed continued close Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK trilateral coordination. In addition, they once again shared the view that Japan and the U.S. would continue to work together toward



Prime Minister Abe Receiving a Courtesy Call from Vice President Pence (November 13, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

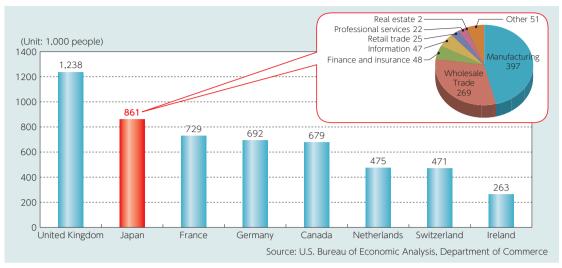
resolving the abductions issue. Furthermore, both leaders praised the concrete cooperation projects implemented in third countries to advance their shared vision to maintain and promote a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and reconfirmed their strong determination to further enhance cooperation in wide-ranging areas in the Indo-Pacific region.

In addition, after Foreign Minister Kono visited New York from September 22 to 28 to attend the UN General Assembly, he visited Washington D.C. from September 28 to 29 to give a speech on Japan's foreign policy, Japan-U.S. relations, and other matters at Georgetown University, where he had studied.

On October 6 and 7, Secretary of State Pompeo visited Japan before his visit to North Korea, and paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe. Secretary Pompeo also held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, during which they aligned their policies regarding the issue of North Korea, including Secretary of State Pompeo's visit to North Korea.

From November 12 to 13, Vice President Pence visited Japan following his visit in February, paying a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and holding a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso. During his courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe, they shared the recognition that the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions continues to be necessary toward the complete denuclearization

Japan ranks second in the world for the number of people employed by Japanese companies in the United States (2016)





The first FFR meeting (August 9 to 10, 2018, Washington D.C., U.S.; Photo: Governmental Headquarters for the TPP of the Cabinet Secretariat)

of the Korean Peninsula, while also confirming close cooperation toward dealing with "ship-to-ship transfers" and the early resolution of the abductions issue. In addition, they confirmed that Japan and the U.S. would continue to provide leadership to strengthen cooperation in achieving the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

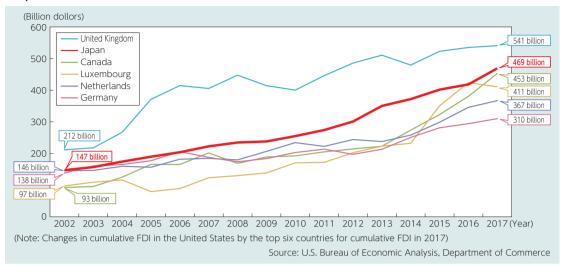
On November 30, Prime Minister Abe, who was visiting Argentina to attend the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting with President Trump. The two leaders closely aligned their policies with regards to the issue of North Korea, and confirmed that Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK would continue to coordinate closely. In addition, Prime Minister Abe gave an

explanation of his visit to China in October, and both leaders shared the recognition that close cooperation is important between Japan and the U.S. to encourage China to play a constructive role. In addition, both leaders held the first Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Modi of India (see 3-1-3(1) on page 149).

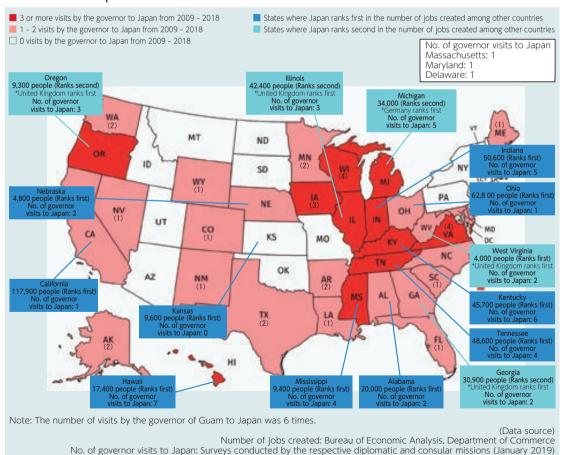
(3) Japan-U.S. Economic Relations

Japan-U.S. economic relations are, together with security and people-to-people exchanges, one of the three pillars of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held on April 17 and 18 in Palm Beach, Florida, both leaders confirmed that it was necessary to safeguard free and fair trade in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition, it was agreed that Mr. Motegi, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, and Ambassador Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, would launch "talks for free, fair and reciprocal trade deals (FFR)" in order to further expand trade and investment between Japan and the U.S., and realize economic development in the free and open Indo-Pacific region based on fair rules so as to benefit both countries. The first and second FFR meetings were held in August and September.

Japan ranks second in the world for cumulative FDI in the United States



Creation of employment by Japanese companies in each state and visits by the governor of each state to Japan



At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held on September 26 in New York, following the outcome of the second FFR meeting, both leaders coucurred on entering into negotiations for a Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement on goods based on the idea that further reinforcing economic ties between Japan and the U.S. would lead to the stable expansion of trade between the two countries and the development of a free and open global economy and issued a joint statement.

At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held on November 30 during the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, both leaders reaffirmed that they would further expand trade and investment between Japan and the U.S. in a mutually beneficial manner and realize economic development of the free and open Indo-Pacific region based on fair rules, in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement agreed upon in September.

Of particular note in Japan-U.S. economic relations is the investment by Japanese companies in the U.S. Currently, Japan's cumulative direct investment in the U.S. is the second highest after the UK (approximately 469 billion U.S. dollars in 2017 (U.S. Department of Commerce statistics)). Direct investment by Japanese companies is contributing to the regional economy of the U.S. in the form of employment creation by Japanese companies in the U.S. (approximately 860,000 people in 2016 (US Department of Commerce statistics)). The strengthening of the multilayered relationship of the two countries through vigorous investment and employment creation has become a rock-solid foundation for Japan-U.S. relations that are better than ever before.

With respect to infrastructure, the Northeast Corridor Superconducting Maglev project is progressing steadily, including through implementation of the Japan-U.S. collaborative survey with a federal subsidy based on the Maglev Deployment Program (MDP) from Maryland and funds allocated by the Government of Japan. Support is also being provided for realization of the Texas High-Speed Rail Project, with a private

U.S. company, Texas Central Partners (TCP), concluding a technical assistance agreement with HTeC, a subsidiary of the Central Japan Railway Company. With regard to the California High-Speed Rail Project, the latest business plan "2018 Business Plan" was released in June.

On the energy front, progress was made in areas where Japan worked on. Since the U.S.-produced crude oil was first imported to Japan in May 2016 after the embargo was lifted with the enactment of FY2016 spending bill, the U.S.-produced crude oil continues to be imported intermittently in the form of a short-term contract. In May 2018, the U.S.-produced Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from shale gas was imported to Japan for the first time based on a long-term contract. LNG import from the U.S. is expected to gain momentum as Japanese energy users plan to purchase 10 million tons of LNG annually from the U.S. It is hoped that more imports of LNG from the U.S. will significantly contribute to Japan's energy security and the stable supply of energy to Japan.

On the technology front, Japan and the U.S. are strengthening cooperation in areas of supporting startups and creating innovation in addition to science and technology fields such as cybertechnology, life sciences, robotics and space. The sixth round of Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue meeting held in July provided an opportunity to discuss Japan-U.S. cooperation including cooperation in the international arena and capacity-building assistance. At the ninth U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy held in the same month at the director-general level, discussions covered issues such as nextgeneration mobile communications systems (5G), secure future internet infrastructure, promotion of cross-border data distribution, effective protection of personal information and response to restrictions on digital trade in third countries.

Furthermore, cooperation with various regions across the U.S. is also advancing. The Government of Japan newly signed a memorandum of cooperation with the City of Chicago in July,

Special Feature

History of the Nikkei People in the U.S.

The first organized emigrants from Japan arrived in Hawaii in 1868. As 1868 was the first year of the Meiji era ("Meiji Gannen" in Japanese), this group of migrants became known as the "Gannenmono." The year 2018 marked the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration and also was the 150th anniversary of the overseas migration of the Japanese people and of the arrival of the Nikkei people in the U.S.

The "Gannenmono" had to take up work and other jobs they were not accustomed to in fields on sugarcane plantations under the blazing sun. The following year, in 1869, groups of samurai from Aizuwakamatsu and others migrated to California on the mainland of the U.S. and attempted to cultivate silkworms and produce tea on a farm known as the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony.

The early migrants faced with language and cultural difficulties struggled to adjust to the new severe conditions of life in the U.S. the U.S. Nevertheless, the Nikkei people the U.S. gradually won the trust of the local community through their hard work, made their living by establishing their own businesses or through agriculture, and carved out a place for their communities in the U.S.

However, the outbreak of war between Japan and the U.S. in 1941 triggered the start of the forced eviction and internment of the Nikkei people. In 1942, the more than 120,000 Nikkei people, including second-generation Nikkei with U.S. citizenship, were detained in internment camps under Executive Order No. 9066 authorized by the President. The Nikkei were deprived of their assets and freedom and forced to live under harsh circumstances and in squalid living conditions. Some Nikkei volunteered to join the army in order to demonstrate their loyalty to the U.S. The 442nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army, composed mainly of Nikkei soldiers, fought bravely on battlefields in Europe and suffered many casualties.

After the end of the war, the Nikkei people in the U.S. gradually regained their standing in society and eventually had their honor and reputation restored with the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This law set out provisions for an official apology for the internment from the U.S. Government, as well as the payment of 20,000 US dollars in compensation to survivors. The perseverance and efforts of Nikkei members of the U.S. Congress including the U.S. Senator, the late Daniel Inouye, and the member of the House of Representatives, Norman Mineta, were instrumental for the enactment of this law.

It is also said that some of the Nikkei people in the U.S. have mixed sentiments about Japan, partly due to the history of internment and discrimination they suffered. In Japan too, the history of the Nikkei people in the U.S. is not so well-known.

However, the roots of the Nikkei people are in Japan, and strengthening the bonds with the Nikkei is

important for building a multilayered and robust relationship between Japan and the U.S. From this perspective, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been engaged in efforts to strengthen the relationship with the Nikkei people through exchange programs, including inviting Nikkei leaders in the U.S. to Japan which started in 2000.

In August 2018, Foreign Minister Kono visited Honolulu, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, three cities with prominent Nikkei communities in the U.S. Through the visit, he deepened the exchange with Nikkei people from various circles and across different generations.



Dinner banquet with the representatives of organizations related to the Nikkei people in Hawaii (August 22, Honolulu, U.S.)

Column

150 Years since the Arrival of Japanese Immigrants in Hawaii

Sal Miwa, Chairman of the Board of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and Co-chair of the Gannenmono Committee

Mass migration of the Japanese people to Hawaii first began in 1868, during the height of the Meiji Restoration. In 2018, various commemorative events were held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of these immigrants to Hawaii. To prepare for the 150th anniversary celebrations, the Gannenmono Committee was launched in December 2017 under the leadership of the Kizuna Group, comprising 20 Japanese-Hawaiian associations, and in close cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu (the Japanese migrants who first came to Hawaii arrived in 1868, the first year of the Meiji era ("Meiji Gannen" in Japanese), and were therefore known as "Gannenmono"). Members of the Gannenmono Committee included the Government of Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu, the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and the University of Hawaii, among others.

About 150 of the "Gannenmono" arrived in Hawaii on the ship from Yokohama and landed on June 20, 1868. For this reason, the Gannenmono Committee planned for the commemorative event to take place in June 2018 in Hawaii, and proceeded with the preparations. At the same time, the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad ("the Association") decided to hold the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad, usually held in Japan, in Hawaii, the land to which the Japanese people first migrated. Hence, it was decided that preparations for the commemorative event would move forward in collaboration with the Association. Incidentally, the Association also held a commemorative event 50 years ago, in 1968, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the "Gannenmono."

After various consultations with the Association, the decision was made to hold the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad on June 6, and the Gannenmono Commemoration Ceremony and Symposium organized by the Gannenmono Committee on June 7, at the same venue in Honolulu. The Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad was attended by about 300 Nikkei people (non-Japanese nationals of Japanese descent) from 15 countries around the world, who engaged in a wide range of discussions about Nikkei people around the world. The Gannenmono Commemoration Ceremony and Symposium held on June 7 drew about 500 participants including the descendants of "Gannenmono," local residents of Hawaii, and participants of the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad. Various activities were held, including an introduction to the history of the "Gannenmono," and the event was a great success. Up to the eighth generation of descendants of the "Gannenmono" were present, counting back from the "Gannenmono" themselves.

These events also coincided with the visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino to Hawaii. Their Imperial Highnesses made addresses at the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad as well as the Gannenmono Commemoration Ceremony, talked to individual participants at the respective receptions, and visited numerous facilities in Hawaii associated with Nikkei people. It was an unforgettable visit for the people of Hawaii. Many elderly Nikkei people who had the opportunity to exchange handshakes directly with Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino were moved to tears.

In 1868, Hawaii had not yet been incorporated into the United States, but there was a growing momentum for accepting migrants from Japan partly because the "Gannenmono" in Hawaii had worked hard and overcome much hardship. Consequently, migration from Japan to Hawaii began in earnest in 1885; by 1924 before the war, about 200,000 Japanese people had migrated to Hawaii, and made up about 43% of the population of Hawaii at one point. For about a century after that, Nikkei people contributed significantly to Hawaii's development to become



Scene at the Gannenmono Symposium (Photo: Gannenmono Committee)

a very hospitable multiethnic society. In the 1970s, Hawaii had a Nikkei governor who assumed office as the first Asian state governor in the whole of the United States, as well as other successful figures in the United States Congress such as the late Daniel Inouye who was a United States Senator. Hawaii and Japan have a very close relationship that goes beyond mere tourism and is deeply rooted in everyday life.

*Position held at the time



Mr. David Ige, Governor of Hawaii, at the Commemoration Ceremony (Photo: Gannenmono Committee)

in addition to previously signed memoranda of cooperation on economic and trade relations with the States of California, Washington, Maryland and Indiana. Moreover, Japan newly signed a memorandum of cooperation concerning reciprocal partial exemptions of driving license tests with the State of Hawaii in December from the viewpoint that it is important to reduce the burden on Japanese citizens associated with acquiring a local driving license at the time of settling down in the U.S. Japan previously signed similar memoranda of cooperation with the States of Maryland and Washington. As a result of these efforts, applicants holding a Japanese driving license are now exempted from the knowledge and skill examination of driving license tests in these states. Japan intends to expand this effort to other areas based on comprehensive evaluations of various factors including traffic conditions.

Based on the understanding that implementing grassroots initiatives that reach members of the general public is an important way to further strengthen Japan-U.S. ties, the "Grassroots Government Taskforce on Strengthening Japan-U.S. Ties" was launched in April 2017. The Taskforce was held three times under Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda and produced an action plan setting out guidelines for the implementation of concrete initiatives. At the 2nd follow-up meeting held in June 2018 under Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura, initiatives implemented in accordance

with the above-mentioned action plan were reported and measures to enhance such initiatives were discussed. Based on the understanding set out in the action plan that a tailor-made approach that accords with the characteristics of each region and the level of interest in Japan of the target regions is necessary, a wide range of initiatives are being implemented in different parts of the U.S. under the cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies. Such initiatives include a "regional caravan" that travels to areas in which multiple Japanese companies operate, combined events that promote understanding of Japan, and sports days. A wide range of all-Japan initiatives will continue to be implemented to further boost Japan-U.S. economic relations and further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

2 Canada

(1) Situation of Canada

The Trudeau administration has been running the Government steadily for three years since November 2015, despite a slight fall in its approval rating.

On the diplomatic front, Canada led the G7 in dealing with various issues among the international community, commencing with holding a series of meetings including the G7 Charlevoix Summit in June as the G7 presidency in 2018. With regard to the issue of North Korea, Canada and the

U.S. co-hosted the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula in January, and issued a statement that the international community would demonstrate solidarity to maximize pressure on North Korea. In addition, Canada is strengthening its participation on security aspects in the Asia-Pacific region, through dispatching patrol aircrafts and frigates to conduct monitoring and surveillance activities of illegal maritime activities including "ship-to-ship" transfers by North Korean-flagged vessels. In terms of bilateral relations, Canada experienced temporary deterioration of relations with the U.S., which is traditionally Canada's closest ally, due to high-level criticism from each other's country concerning interaction after the G7 Summit Meeting. In addition, Canada faced a number of challenges, concerning the human rights issue in Saudi Arabia, as well as the detention of Canadian citizens in China following the arrest of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Huawei.

On the economic front, against the backdrop of favorable economic conditions. Canada implements proactive policies to enhance investment in domestic infrastructures, iucluding through the establishment of the Canada Infrastructure Bank and create employment and wealth for the middle class. On the international economic front, Canada is advancing its basic policy of promoting progressive trade aimed at the creation of employment for the middle class, under which it signed and concluded the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement), signed the USMCA following the NAFTA renegotiations, promoted the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), and strengthened economic relations with emerging markets.

(2) Japan-Canada Relations

Japan and Canada are important partners for each other in the Asia-Pacific region. As



Japan-Canada Summit Meeting (November 18, Papua New Guinea; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

G7 members, the two countries also cooperate closely in a wide range of fields including politics, economics, security, and people-to-people exchanges. 2018, the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada Diplomatic Relations, saw extensive development of bilateral relations, marked by frequent high level talks and increased cooperation in the areas of both security and economy.

At the summit level, Prime Minister Abe visited Canada for the G7 Charlevoix Summit in June and held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau. In addition, they held a Summit Meeting during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Papua New Guinea in November. At the foreign ministerial level, Foreign Minister Kono visited Canada three times: the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Security and Stability on the Korean Peninsula held in Vancouver in January, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Toronto in April, and the Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting (G7 foreign ministers were invited regardless of their gender) held in Montreal in September. In addition, Foreign Minister Freeland paid an official working visit to Japan in March. Both Foreign Ministers held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting during the ASEANrelated Foreign Ministers' Meetings held in August in Singapore. Through such frequent meetings at

a high level, Japan and Canada have coordinated their vision and cooperated closely on various regional and global issues including the North Korea issue.

On the security front, Foreign Minister Kono and Foreign Minister Freeland signed the Japan-Canada Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in April. In addition, Japan and Canada are closely cooperating to respond with monitoring and surveillance activities against illegal maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels. Against the backdrop of the development of security cooperation, at the Summit Meeting in Papua New Guinea in November, the two countries shared the view that they would deepen their strategic relationship in security and defense cooperation. In addition, a Japan-Canada Foreign and Defense Vice-Ministerial Meeting ("2+2") was held in December, during which the two countries welcomed the development of cooperation on diplomatic and security aspects between Japan and Canada, and confirmed that they would strengthen specific cooperation to an

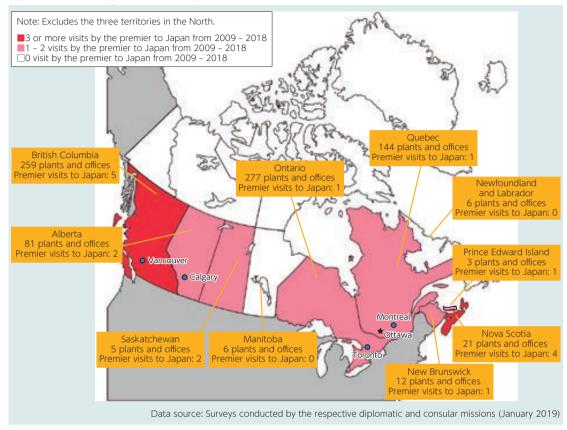


Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Meeting (March 27, Tokyo)

unprecedented level.

On the economic front, Canada signed the TPP11 Agreement with 10 other countries including Japan in March, and concluded it in October. Further deepening of economic relations between Japan and Canada is expected following the entry into force of the Agreement on December 30. In addition, the 28th Meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee was held in Tokyo in June, and discussions were held regarding international trade conditions and priority fields of cooperation.

Number of plants and offices of Japanese companies in each province and visits by the premier of each province to Japan



Section 3

Latin America and the Caribbean

1 Overview

(1) Situations in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin American and Caribbean (hereafter referred to as "LAC") region mostly consists of countries that share values such as democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and has a population of about 640 million and a GDP of about 5.6 trillion US dollars. It is a major production area for natural resources such as minerals and energy as well as food, and has considerable economic potential such as its rapidly growing large market. In 2018, the LAC economy was overall supported by steady increases in domestic demand, and maintained slow growth. In addition, there was a trend of industrial added value through participation in the global value chain (international division of labor in the manufacturing industry), centered on countries along the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, Argentina's currency value plunged from the end of April, and the Government of Argentina requested support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

On the political front, presidential elections were held in six countries in 2018. Amidst a focus on issues of corruption and public security, candidates without a basis in traditional political parties secured victories in Mexico

and Brazil. On the other hand, in Venezuela, where confrontations are continuing between the administration and the opposition parties, a presidential election was held in May amidst a boycott by the main opposition parties and it was announced that President Maduro was reelected. The G7 and many countries in the LAC region have shown strong doubts about the legitimacy of the election. In addition, in the LAC region, there are communities of Japanese immigrants and descendants (the Nikkei community) numbering about 2.13 million, about 60% of the whole world's Nikkei population. This is a bond that is unique to Japan. Contributions by Nikkei people to the local community for more than 100 years have established a traditional affinity toward Japan. On the other hand, due to generations change of the Nikkei community through more than 100 years since the beginning of migration, there is an increase in the young generation with a weak connection to Japan.

(2) Japanese Diplomacy towards Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

Japan's diplomacy toward the LAC region has developed under the guiding principle of the three "Juntos" ("progress together," "lead together," and "inspire together") announced by Prime Minister Abe in 2014.

In 2018, in addition to Prime Minister Abe's



Closing Ceremony for the 120th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Argentina (December 1, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

visits to three Latin American countries, there were over 70 visits to countries in the LAC region by officials from MOFA and other ministries and agencies including the two visits to the region by Foreign Minister Kono. On these occasions, it has been confirmed to resolve various matters in the international arena together with LAC countries based on shared fundamental values.

On the economic front, supply chain connections are strengthening, including by doubling the number of Japanese companies operating in the LAC region over five years, and Japan is working to promote free trade together with LAC countries including through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement), which Mexico, Peru, and Chile are participating in.

In the LAC region, as countries will "graduate" from the status of recipient countries by achieving economic growth, Japan is promoting triangular cooperation with these countries. On the other hand, Japan is developing cooperation in line with other countries' needs in fields where continuous support is required, including responses to climate change and natural disasters.

During his visit to Argentina in December, Prime Minister Abe synthesized such results and announced the concept of the Initiative to Enhance Connectivity between Japan and Latin

America and the Caribbean to show the direction of further enhanced cooperation within Japan-LAC relations. The pillars of this concept are "enhancing connectivity of economies" pursuing free and open economic systems through the promotion of global value chains and quality infrastructure, "enhancing connectivity of values" that involves jointly preserving rules-based multilateralism through political dialogue, and "enhancing connectivity of wisdom" to strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together through exporting innovation.

2 Regional Organizations

collaborating with regional Japan organizations in the LAC region, where policy coordination on various issues is conducted. such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), and other organizations below.

(1) Pacific Alliance

The Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Chile; hereafter referred to as "PA") aims to conclude a comprehensive free trade agreement with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore, and is currently conducting negotiations toward an early conclusion of the agreement. At the summit meeting in July, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Ecuador expressed interest in participating in the negotiations.

Japan places importance on cooperation with the PA, as it is a group with which it shares fundamental values. In September, Foreign Minister Kono held the Japan-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting in New York, U.S., and it was agreed to consider the method for specific cooperation.

(2) Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)

MERCOSUR is a customs union composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia¹, and Venezuela². With a few exceptions, tariffs have been eliminated for all goods traded within the region since January 1995.

Japan has held the "Dialogue to Strengthen the Economic Relationship between Mercosur and Japan" a total of four times since 2012, and conducts exchanges of views on recent trade policies and experiences.

(3) Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM was founded by 14 Caribbean nations for its economic integration and foreign policy coordination. It shows a big presence in the international arena for their coordinated actions. Although CARICOM countries include many countries with relatively high incomes, they are threatened by natural disasters such as catastrophic hurricanes almost every year, and also have vulnerabilities particular to small island states from the small size of their populations and economies.

Japan is leading its diplomacy in accordance with the three pillars for Japan-CARICOM cooperation ((1) Cooperation toward sustainable development. including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to small island states; (2) Deepening and expanding fraternal bonds of cooperation and friendship; and (3) Cooperation in addressing challenges of the international community) announced by Prime Minister Abe in 2014. Japan is also providing support to high income level countries based on their development needs and economic capabilities. In addition to holding the Sixth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference in September, Japan also took a number of other opportunities, such



Sixth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference (September 24, New York, U.S.)

as the Japan-Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Summit Meeting in August and the Japan-St. Christopher and Nevis Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November, to further develop its relationship with CARICOM countries in 2018.

LAC Countries (See 2 (3) Above for Caribbean Countries)

(1) Mexico

Mexico plays an important role in the international community by embracing values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. In the presidential election held in July, the candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who did not belong to any traditional party, won with a historic percentage of votes, acquiring a stable administration base by securing majorities in both the Chamber of Deputies and Senate of Congress. In addition, the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among Mexico, the U.S. and Canada resulted in the signing of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) by the three countries at the end of November. The USMCA has not entered into force yet because the ratification process needs to be completed in the three countries, but this agreement garners public attention because

¹ Accession protocol was signed in December 2012. Ratification by each country's congressional assembly is currently underway.

² Membership currently suspended as of December 2018.



Courtesy Call from Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ebrard of Mexico (before inauguration) on Foreign Minister Kono (October 5, Tokyo)

it will also affect Japanese companies operating in Mexico.

2018 marks the 130th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Mexico, and close political dialogues were celebrated through mutual visits by many authorities and officials, including Foreign Minister Kono's two visits to Mexico and Secretary of Economy Guajardo's visit to Japan. Approximately 1,200 Japanese companies operate in Mexico, making it the biggest economic base for Japan in the LAC region. Furthermore Japan and Mexico have together led free trade in the trans-Pacific region including cooperating toward the signing and entry into force of the TPP11 Agreement.

(2) Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize, and Honduras)

In Central America, Costa Rica and Panama are achieving high economic growth under stable democracies, but on the other hand, the three countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in the northern part of Central America face the issue of an immigration outflow stemming from such issues as public security. In addition, in Nicaragua, a large number of casualties has arisen from issues such as the dispatch of security police against protests by students sparked by social security reform in April. After this, concerns



Special Envoy Takei attends the Costa Rican presidential inauguration ceremony (May 8, San José, Costa Rica)

have been raised in the international community about the series of responses by the Government of Nicaragua against anti-government groups.

Japan supports efforts to establish democracy in Central American countries, and seeks to resolve issues based on various democratic principles. In addition, Japan is strengthening relations with Central American countries through the Central American Integration System (SICA) with a focus on support for regional integration and development cooperation with countries in the region.

(3) Cuba

In April, First Vice President of the Council of State of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel was elected President, succeeding former President Raúl Castro. This was the first time a President of the Council of State was elected who was not one of Castro's siblings, but there have been no major changes in the management and policies of the administration. The administration faces such issues as improving relations with the U.S., attracting foreign investment, and fostering domestic industries have been issues.

2018 marked the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Cuba, and the traditionally favorable bilateral relations developed, including the establishment of the JICA office in Havana in March and agreeing to begin preparatory discussions for an investment agreement at the Third Public-Private Joint Meeting in December.

(4) Brazil

President Temer, who took over the administration due to the impeachment of the former president in 2016, improved efforts for structural reform, but the economic recovery slowed down due to the effects of the truck drivers' strike throughout Brazil in May 2018 and other factors. Issues over corruption continued to cast a shadow in politics, and former President Lula, the front runner for the October presidential election, did not run for the election because he was imprisoned. Instead, the candidate Jair Bolsonaro, who belonged to a minor party and criticized the existing politics, won the presidential election.

Brazil is known as one of the world's most pro-Japanese countries due to the presence of the world's largest Nikkei community, and in 2018, which marked the 110th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil, many mutual visits by officials were realized including mutual visits by both countries' foreign ministers. In May, Foreign Minister Kono, who was visiting São Paulo, gave a policy speech at Japan House São Paulo calling for cooperation toward resolving various issues of the international community, and conveyed the new direction of Japan-LAC relations.

(5) Argentina

For the Macri administration, which has promoted liberal and open policies, economic management has been a major concern in response to the sudden drop of interest rates since spring in 2018, and it requested support from the IMF and drastically raised interest rates.

In terms of relations with Japan, Prime Minister Abe attended the closing ceremony for the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Argentina in 2018 together with President Macri when he attended the G20 Summit held in Argentina, and the two leaders used the opportunity to sign the investment agreement and confirmed to strengthen bilateral relations.

(6) Peru

Under the Vizcarra administration inaugurated in March, the economy of Peru is maintaining steady growth in the fields of domestic consumption, investment, and trade. On the other hand, allegations of bribery from the Brazilian company Odebrecht have continued to shake the Peruvian political community, and in November, Keiko Fujimori, the leader of the largest opposition party, received a three-year imprisonment sentence.

In terms of relations with Japan, respective Foreign Ministers' Meetings have been held coinciding with Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Peru in August and the APEC Meetings in November, and it was concurred to strengthen bilateral relations as well as to cooperate to resolve issues in the international arena.

(7) Chile

President Piñera, who commenced his administration in March four years after his earlier presidency, has been placing importance on economic policies spurring economic growth, and also working on education and pension



Japan-Chile Summit Meeting (November 18, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

110th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Brazil

- Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino's Visit to Brazil

Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino visited 14 cities in five states in Brazil from July 18 to July 28, 2018 at the invitation of the government of Brazil, to attend commemorative ceremonies and other events held in various parts of Brazil to mark the 110th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil.

It is said that as many as 2 million Nikkei people (Japanese descendants) live in Brazil and are active in all circles of Brazilian society. At the same time, approximately 190,000 Brazilians live in Japan, making it the second largest overseas Brazilian community after the United States. In this way, Japan and Brazil share a special bond. This bond dates



Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino delivering an address at the commemoration ceremony in São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil, Photo: Federação das Associações de Provincias do Japão no Brasil (KENREN))

back to June 18, 1908, when "Kasato Maru," the first Japanese ship carrying Japanese migrants to Brazil, arrived 110 years ago at the Port of Santos in São Paulo, Brazil, with 781 passengers.

For many Japanese migrants, life in an unfamiliar foreign country involved a series of hardships and struggles. For the pre-war migrants during the initial wave of migration in particular, everything was a trial and error. There were too many stories of hardship to count; for example, a story of migrants who died from malaria in a migrant community or another story that clouds of locusts ravaged the agricultural land migrants had worked so hard to cultivate.

It is said that one of the things that sustained the spirit of these Japanese migrants throughout the history of their hardship was the presence of the Japanese Imperial Family. For Japanese migrants, their sentiments for their homeland overlap with sentiments for the Imperial Family, and these special sentiments were passed on from generation to generation. The visit by Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino during the milestone year of the 110th anniversary marked a special occasion for the Nikkei community of Brazil, and people of the community worked enthusiastically to prepare for the commemorative ceremonies and other events.

To respond to the sentiments of the Nikkei community in Brazil, Her Imperial Highness traveled widely around Brazil during an 11-day visit and attended the commemorative ceremonies and events held in the respective regions. At each of the migrant communities, Her Imperial Highness expressed sympathy for the sufferings of the Japanese migrants and their descendants, and respect for their successes today. Some of the places that she visited were visited by a member of the Japanese Imperial Family for the first time, including the first migrant destinations in the inland areas of São Paulo (such as Marília, Promissão, Aracatuba), and Tomé-Acu in the Amazon region, which also used to be known as "the remote island on land" or the "green hell." Her Imperial Highness' visits deeply moved every Nikkei community.

The visit by Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino to Brazil to mark the 110th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil, which is a significant milestone in the relationship between the two countries, further promoted the friendly relations of the two countries for the future and consolidated these relations for the coming generations. It was truly a timely event.

system reform. In terms of relations with Japan, in addition to the visit to Japan by Foreign Minister Ampuero in September, a summit meeting and foreign ministers' meeting were held on the side line of the APEC meetings in November and they confirmed cooperation for the success of APEC Chile 2019 as well as close partnership for promoting free trade.

(8) Uruguay

The Vazquez administration has been actively promoting policies concerning society, education, and public health. In terms of relations with Japan, in addition to strengthening economic relations through an investment agreement, the two countries closely cooperate in the international arena. In December, Prime Minister Abe made the first visit by a Japanese prime minister to Uruguay, and confirmed with President Vázquez on strengthening bilateral relations in extensive fields including expanding trade and investment as well as sports exchanges.

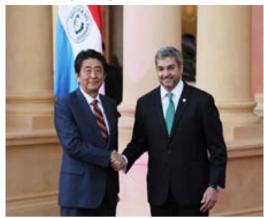


Japan-Uruguay Summit Meeting (December 2, Montevideo, Uruguay; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(9) Paraguay

The Abdo Benítez administration, which is continuing the free and open economic policies of the previous administration, was inaugurated in August. Foreign Minister Castiglioni visited Japan in June before the inauguration, and Prime Minister Abe made the first visit by a Japanese prime

minister to Paraguay in December, confirming further strengthening of bilateral relations.



Japan-Paraguay Summit Meeting (December 2, Asunción, Paraguay; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(10) Colombia

In 2018, President Santos, who realized peace in Colombia, left his administration and, President Duque was newly elected, as the direction of the Colombia peace process gained attention again. In terms of relations with Japan, close relations have been built through commemorating the 110th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and realizing mutual visits by the foreign ministers immediately after the inauguration of the Duque administration in August. In addition, a tax convention was signed during the visit to Japan by Foreign Minister Trujillo in December.

(11) Venezuela

In the beginning of 2018, there was a breakdown of dialogue with opposition parties related to the presidential election upon the expiration of the term, and the presidential election was held in May with the main opposition parties refusing to participate. The international community criticized reelection of President Maduro. On the other hand, accepting refugees became a regional issue as many Venezuelans poured into neighboring countries as refugees due to lack of

Expressing Gratitude to the Nikkei Community in Brazil

Koji Miyashita, President of Mitsubishi Electric do Brasil

When I was a university student, I read a novel titled Sobo ("The People"), which told the story of Japanese settlers who had migrated to Brazil. This novel, written by Tatsuzo Ishikawa, received the inaugural Akutagawa Prize in 1935, in commendation of the work for depicting the setbacks, despair, and hope of Japanese settlers who had migrated to Brazil from Japan before the war, with their dreams and aspirations. Since I did not know much about the history of Japanese migration when I was in university, the story did



Liberdade clean-up project (Photo: Sr. Gabriel Imakawa)

not resonate with me. However, after I was posted to São Paulo in 2014, I re-read the novel and felt a closer connection to it this time.

The author, Tatsuzo Ishikawa, had boarded the migrant ship "La Plata maru" as the supervisor of the migrants and crossed over to Brazil in 1930, and had based his story on his personal experiences of spending a few months in São Paulo and at the Japanese farms. Alongside other materials such as the NHK drama "Haru to Natsu," this novel is an important historical resource for understanding the inconceivable hardships suffered by the Japanese migrants to Brazil.

There are currently an estimated 1.9 million Nikkei people in Brazil. 2018 marked the 110th anniversary of the arrival of Japanese migrants in Brazil. One of the things that I experienced while working in São Paulo is the respect that the Nikkei people, Japanese people, Japanese companies, and Japan itself enjoy in Brazil, thanks to the hard work and successes achieved by the Nikkei people in Brazil so far. The unity and solidarity among the Nikkei community that I have seen at Nikkei hospitals, welfare facilities, and other places in Brazil have left a deep impression on me, and there are many instances where I can feel a sense of the Japanese identity, which many Japanese people have forgotten, within the Nikkei community.

With the intention of giving back to the Nikkei community for these contributions, and as a part of our corporate social responsibility, we have continued to support the Nikkei community and the solidarity between Japan and Brazil by providing support for the Festival of Japan in São Paulo, Japan House São Paulo, Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration in Brazil, and clean-up project at Liberdade (the old Japan town). Naturally, there is the hope that these initiatives will circle back and contribute to our company's business in some way, and we are blessed that this "win-win" relationship is being realized.

Of course, the Nikkei community faces its own issues, and I think that the detachment of young Nikkei people from the Nikkei community is a serious problem. There is an increasing number of young Nikkei people who do not speak any Japanese at all, so we have considered providing support and strengthening

solidarity with young Nikkei people. With the success of the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016 and Mitsubishi Electric being one of the sponsors for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, we came up with the idea of supporting young Nikkei Brazilian athletes based on the motto "From Brazil to Tokyo." As a result of our search for potential athletes, we decided to sponsor three table-tennis athletes and support them in their journey to the Tokyo 2020 Games. Female table-tennis player Bruna Takahashi and male table-tennis player Gustavo Tsuboi already wear



From left, the author, Gustavo Tsuboi, Bruna Takahashi, Hugo Hoyama, and Yasushi Noguchi, Consul-General of Japan in São Paulo (Photo: Mitsubishi Electric do Brasil)

our company logo on their uniforms in their regular games, and we look forward to their success as representatives of Brazil in the Tokyo 2020 Games. Hugo Hoyama, as the coach of the female table-tennis team, is also expected to generate momentum toward the Games and become proof of the friendship between Japan and Brazil.

There are about one and a half years left until the Tokyo 2020 Games, and we are faced with the happy "problem" of having to decide which side to support if these Nikkei Brazilian athletes come up against Japanese athletes.



From left, Hugo Hoyama, Gustavo Tsuboi, Bruna Takahashi (Photo: Mitsubishi Electric do Brasil)

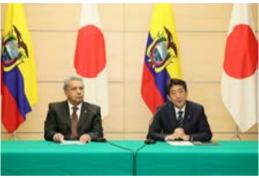
domestic investment and hyperinflation. Japan has been expressing its concerns about this situation and requesting a recovery of democracy in Venezuela, and has been implementing support for the Venezuelan people including those fleeing the country, as well as neighboring countries affected.

(12) Bolivia

The long-running administration of President Morales has continued since 2006, and during this time, an average annual growth rate of about 5% has been achieved thanks to abundant mineral resources. With regard to Japan-Bolivia relations, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato paid a visit to Bolivia in September, and signed an exchange of notes for Japanese grant aid concerning cooperation in the fields of infrastructure and disaster prevention.

(13) Ecuador

Ecuador, where President Moreno has been promoting liberalization of the economy, announced it would withdraw from the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) mainly led by Venezuela in August, and strengthened relations with the PA, which promotes free trade. In 2018, which marked the



Japan-Ecuador Summit Meeting (September 5, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

100th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Ecuador diplomatic relations, there were mutual visits including Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Ecuador in August and President Moreno's visit to Japan in September, and bilateral relations developed including reaching an agreement in principle on a bilateral tax convention.

(14) Collaboration with Nikkei Communities

The Nikkei community has built the foundation for the pro-Japanese sentiment in LAC countries, but the generations have transitioned over 100 years since Japanese immigration to LAC began, and the generation of young people with little connection to Japan is growing in number. Amidst such situation, policies were implemented toward strengthening cooperation with Nikkei

communities, including holding the Forum for the Next Leaders of Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tokyo) with the joint sponsorship of MOFA and JICA in June, and conducting discussions with LAC Nikkei people from the young generation regarding issues of the Nikkei communities in different countries and contributions to enabling development of Nikkei communities.

In addition, during the visit to LAC by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono in 2018, exchange with local Nikkei communities was conducted and the policy to further strengthen

cooperation with Nikkei communities was demonstrated.



Visit to Brazil by Foreign Minister Kono (May 19, São Paulo, Brazil)

Column

100th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Ecuador – Performance by Sada Masashi in Ecuador

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ecuador, and the two countries held a number of cultural and other commemorative events. One of the most prominent events was the performance by singer-songwriter Sada Masashi in Ecuador. The following is his article about this experience.

The beloved country that is far, far away Sada Masashi

In the summer of 2018, which marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ecuador, I visited Ecuador for the first time to realize the worldwide live broadcast of the NHK TV program "Konya mo Nama de Sada Masashi," as well as the "Sada Masashi Concert." This was the first time I had travelled to South America in my entire life. It was the result of the efforts by many people, including Mr. Masahiro Tanabe of Tanabe Farm (a banana farm in Ecuador), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan in Ecuador, and All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd. (ANA). I was so touched that the Japanese Ambassador to Ecuador Noda came and welcomed me even though I arrived at the hotel close to 2:00 in the morning, and grateful to the hard-working staff of Toyota Tsusho Corporation who had prepared a kettle and oxygen cylinder for me onsite, and even bath additives and tea to place in my room. I was touched by their kind care for me, and realized that brotherly love is manifested through such thoughtful acts.

Despite its location almost immediately under the equatorial line, the capital city of Quito felt unexpectedly cold because it stands at an altitude of 2,800m above sea level. Quito, a world heritage site, is a truly beautiful stone-paved town. It is far safer than I had imagined, the people are kind, the food is delicious and rich, and I was surprised at how tasty the chocolate was. Thanks to the full support



100th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Ecuador—"Sada Masashi Concert" ©Masashi



100th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Ecuador—"Japan Festival 2018" ©Masashi

by the national broadcaster of Ecuador, the NHK program "Konya mo Nama de Sada Masashi" was a huge success. At the concert, the lyrics of the songs I was singing were translated into Spanish and displayed on the screen for the audience, so the spirit and sentiments of the Japanese people were communicated to the local audience, and pleased them.

Another unforgettable aspect of this trip was the concert that I held on Isla Santa Cruz of the Galápagos Islands. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts by the staff of the Embassy, as well as Executive Director Izurieta of the local Charles Darwin Research Station, about 500 people attended the concert, and I received a touching standing ovation at the end of the concert. Even now, the memory of all the people who are working hard to preserve the precious environment there remains imprinted in my mind.

Though it was less than 10 days, I had a wonderful trip that far exceeded my expectations. Ecuador has dense forests where the headwaters of the Amazon River are located, crisp and clean air, clear blue skies, history and rich culture, as well as warm and kind people. Although Ecuador is far away, I wanted to go back there right away after I had returned to Japan. That is what Ecuador is like, this distant country on the equatorial line. It has been 100 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. I am grateful to all the people involved in this trip and for the chance to meet them. I will never forget what the local people told me, "Mr. Sada, please come again in the 200th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations." Yes, I will definitely be there if I am still healthy and well.



1 Overview

<The Growing Fluidity of the Situation in Europe>

For Europe in 2018, the economy continued to recover at a moderate pace. Although the number of asylum applicants had decreased sharply in comparison with 2015, there has been a rise of Eurosceptic political parties in the respective countries with a particularly critical stance toward the existing migration and refugee policies. This trend, which has been labelled as "populism," is on the rise, and there are widespread concerns over it, while the unity of Europe appears to be wavering. Hence, with the struggles over Brexit negotiations, the year was marked by an uncertain outlook and a fluid situation.

With regard to Brexit, although the 27 European Union (EU) member countries except for the UK, endorsed the Brexit withdrawal agreement and approved the political declaration on future EU-UK relations at the special meeting of the European Council held in November, deliberations by the UK Parliament were deferred to 2019. As for the issues surrounding migrants and refugees, conclusions that included a certain degree of response measures were adopted by the European Council in June, but the contents of the conclusion retained significant vestiges of the major differences in standpoint among

the member countries. Over the past few years, moves by some member countries to oppose the European Commission with regard to their domestic systems such as judicial reform, were observed within the EU.

With regard to the domestic politics of the respective countries, in the UK, there was a lack of agreement between the parliament and the government, and within the government itself on the direction of Brexit negotiations. In France, there was an opposition movement against President Macron and drop in his approval ratings, as demonstrated by the "yellow vests movement" In Germany, Chancellor Merkel is not able to run in the next elections for the party leader due to the results of local elections. In Italy, political disorder erupted as a result of the change of government.

Furthermore, European countries continue to face with hybrid threats, which involve the combination of multiple means of attack, such as terrorism and cyberattacks. Its relationship with Russia, including the Ukrainian crisis that has serious implications for Europe's security environment, remains a critical issue for Europe. In addition, China is also using the "16+1" framework (a cooperative framework of China and countries in Central and Eastern Europe) under the "Belt and Road Initiatives" to exert influence over Central and Eastern European countries.

<Importance of a Europe that Shares</p> Fundamental Values and Principles>

Despite such unrest, the fact that Europe is an important partner for Japan remains unchanged. The EU and European countries share with Japan fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights, and continue to be proponents of free trade and multilateralism. In economic terms, the 28 EU member countries account for about 21% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In addition, European countries pursue common policies across a broad spectrum of fields that range from diplomacy to security, economy, and state finance, through various frameworks including the EU. They also play a major role in formulating standards in the international community, with some countries among them serving as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, G7 member states, and other member states of major international frameworks. Also, they often adopt a similar standpoint as Japan on a wide range of international issues.

Moreover, Europe also continues to exert considerable influence on international public opinion due to its languages, history, cultural and artistic activities, and prominent media groups and think tanks, among other things.

<Multi-layered and multifaceted European diplomacy>

A Europe that is strongly united benefits the entire international community including Japan, which shares the fundamental values and principles. While continuously supporting such European unity, Japan is, at the same time, also strengthening its cooperative relations more attentively with the EU and the increasingly diverse European countries such as the UK, France, and Germany, from a multi-layered and multifaceted perspective.

With the EU, Japan signed the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)

in July (entered into force/commenced partial application respectively on February 1, 2019). Hence, 2018 was a historical year that saw the significant strengthening of Japan-EU relations. The Japan-EU EPA clearly demonstrates to the world the unwavering political will of Japan and the EU to lead the global economy against the spreading movement of protectionism in the world. The SPA holds extremely great significance, serving as an agreement that sets out provisions toward deepening cooperation across a wide range of areas between Japan and the EU, which share common values.

Through dialogues with the heads of state, foreign ministers and other ministers of the UK, France, and Germany, Japan has also deepened cooperation toward maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order. Japan held summit meetings with the UK at the G7 Summit and G20 Summit, and held the Japan-UK Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in September. In addition, Prime Minister Abe visited the UK in January 2019. With France, the Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") was held in January 2018, while Prime Minister Abe visited France in October. Furthermore, a maritime seminar was held in Tokyo in December with the aim of engaging in discussions on a wide range of maritime policies with France, which is also a Pacific Country. After the seminar, a comprehensive maritime dialogue was established between Japan and France. In these ways, Japan made significant progress in bilateral cooperation with the UK and France, including cooperation to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." With Germany, in addition to the mutual visits of the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Germany and the issuance of a joint declaration in 2018, Chancellor Merkel visited Japan in February 2019 and affirmed Germany's commitment to cooperating with Japan in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan also engaged in careful diplomacy and advanced its cooperative relations with other European countries and regional frameworks in the region, while taking into consideration the situation in each country and region. In January, Prime Minister Abe became the first Prime Minister of Japan to visit the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), as well as Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania. He held the Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue to promote overall cooperation with the three Baltic States, and launched the "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative" to support the economic and social reform of the Western Balkans, which has been seeking accession to the EU. Prime Minister Abe visited Spain in October and elevated Japan-Spain relations to a "strategic partnership." Furthermore, during the visit by Foreign Minister Kono to Italy in November, he became the first foreign minister of Japan to attend the Mediterranean Dialogues organized jointly by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and think tanks. The Second "Visegrad Group (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia) plus Japan" Summit Meeting was held in October after a five-year hiatus, while the sixth GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova) + Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in September.

With the recognition that the security of Asia is indivisible from that of Europe, Japan has also advanced cooperation with regional security organizations including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and further strengthened collaborative relations



Prime Minister Abe attending the 12th ASEM Summit Meeting (October 18 to 19, Brussels, Belgium. Photo: EU)

between Asia and Europe through the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

In addition to the abovementioned efforts, Japan is actively involved in public diplomacy activities including dispatching experts and promoting "MIRAI," a program for personal and intellectual exchange that allows students from Europe and other regions to visit and learn about Japan. Through these efforts, Japan has built myriad connections with European countries and organizations in a broad range of fields from politics to security, economy, education, culture, science, and technology. By providing information about Japan and Asia and promoting mutual understanding through these channels, Japan is working to maintain close, multi-tiered relations with these countries and organizations.

Regional Situations in Europe

(1) European Union (EU)

The EU is a political and economic union consisting of 28 member states with a total population of about 510 million. Sharing fundamental values and principles, the EU is an important partner for Japan in addressing global issues.

(Recent Developments of the EU)

In 2018, the EU has been confronting various challenges continuously since the previous year, including Brexit negotiations, responses to the migration and refugee issue, and the rise of populist forces. Partly because the large amount of time was devoted to addressing these issues, little progress was made in discussions about the future vision of European integration and reform of the EU, which had been gradually growing in momentum since several years ago.

With regard to Brexit negotiations, which commenced in June 2017, challenge was to reach an agreement on framework of their future relationship while avoiding the building of a

physical barrier between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which holds the only land border between the UK and the EU. However, negotiations on matters including measures to maintain an open border did not go smoothly, and there was no prospect of reaching a conclusion even at the meeting of the European Council (EU Summit Meeting) held in October, which had been set as the target deadline for concluding negotiations. An agreement was finally reached on the draft withdrawal agreement on November 14 between the negotiators. Thereafter, it was approved by the British Cabinet, and then by the EU27 excluding the UK on November 25 at the special meeting of the European Council. On the other hand, the House of Commons of the UK rejected a motion to approve the withdrawal agreement in January 2019, and the situation where a concrete breakthrough solution has not found was continued before the scheduled date for the UK to leave the EU at the end of March.

With regard to the migrant and refugee issue, the number of arrivals into the EU fell to an even lower figure than the previous year. However, discussions suggesting that the EU's refugee protection system is not necessarily functioning effectively came under the spotlight once again, with examples such as Italy's refusal to allow boats carrying refugees to enter its ports, and confrontation in Germany over the movement of refugees who first enter other countries in the EU to Germany.

In the area of security, moves to strengthen cooperation within the EU continued to be observed in 2018 from the previous year. In the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), a defense cooperation framework under the Treaty on European Union established in December last year, decisions were made to implement a total of 34 projects in 2018.

The EU also demonstrated growing interest in Asia and took an approach toward strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, with the adoption of a document titled "Deepening EU security cooperation with Asian partners" by the Foreign Affairs Council held in May, and the issuance of "EU Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia" in September.

On the economic front, economic growth rate of the Eurozone for 2018 fell below that of 2017, when it achieved the highest growth rate on record in the past decade. Nevertheless, it continued to stay strong even after the first half of the year.

<Japan-EU Relations>

In 2018, Japan and the EU achieved historical progress to strengthen mutual relations, as marked by the signing of the Japan-EU EPA and Japan-EU SPA at the 25th Japan-EU Summit held in July. The Japan-EU EPA and SPA were adopted by the Diet of Japan in December, and obtained the consent of the European Parliament during the same month. As a result of the mutual notification between Japan and the EU on the completion of domestic procedures within the year, the Japan-EU EPA entered into force while the application of some provisions of the SPA were commenced on February 1, 2019.

In addition to the Japan-EU Summit in July, Prime Minister Abe also took the opportunity of the 12th ASEM Summit in Brussels, Belgium in October and the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in November to hold Japan-EU leaders' meetings, where he exchanged opinions with EU leaders on Japan-EU relations, Brexit, and global economy and trade, among other topics. He consistently requested that transparency and predictability in the Brexit process, as well as legal stability be ensured through the establishment of a transition period, so as to minimize adverse impacts of Brexit on Japanese corporations and the global economy. Close dialogues were also held between the Foreign Ministers. Dialogues between Japanese and EU foreign ministers were also held during the Brussels conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" in April and the ASEANrelated Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August, and a total of four telephone conferences were held.



25th Japan-EU Summit (July 17, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

On the economic front, dynamic efforts were put into coordinating the entering into force of the Japan-EU EPA in 2018. In April, Foreign Minister Kono held a dialogue with European Commissioner for Trade Malmström, during his trip to Brussels, where he affirmed mutual cooperation toward the early entering into force of the same agreement. After the agreement was signed at the Japan-EU Summit in July, a delegation of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade visited Japan in September. They paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Kono and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Miyakoshi, and affirmed their commitment to cooperating toward the early adoption and entering into force of this agreement. European Commission Vice-President Katainen visited Japan in October, and the first Japan-EU High Level Industrial, Trade and Economic Dialogue was held (Co-chairs from the Japan side: Foreign Minister Kono and Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Seko. Chair from the EU side: Vice-President of the European Commission Katainen). In addition to exchanging views on challenges faced by Japan and the EU in areas such as international trade, energy, environment, investment and digital economy, both sides affirmed their commitment toward the early entering into force of the Japan-EU EPA.

(2) United Kingdom

There has been continued disagreement within the UK concerning the direction of Brexit, and the political situation remains unstable, with a number of ministers resigning in protest against the government's Brexit policy. In July after the Cabinet approved the negotiations policy on future relations with the EU, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Johnson and Brexit Secretary Davis resigned. Furthermore, in November after the UK and EU had concluded their negotiations and the Cabinet had approved the draft withdrawal agreement and the political statement on future relations, further four members including Brexit Secretary Raab and other Ministers of State resigned. In January 2019, the UK Parliament rejected the motion to approve the withdrawal agreement with a historic majority. On the other hand, the vote of no confidence submitted to the government was opposed by all the ruling parties and rejected. Thereafter, some newly submitted motions including about a renewed discussion with the EU on the Irish border was carried at the Parliament. However, as of January 2019, the outlook on the situation remains unclear.

The situation on Brexit negotiations are impacting the economy in the form of uncertainty risks. The UK Office for National Statistics has forecasted economic growth rate for 2018 to be 1.4%, the lowest in the past six years. Unemployment rate in October, at 4.1%, reached the lowest level since the mid-1970s, but growth in real wages s stays stagnant. Inflation rate for 2017 was 2.7%, the highest since 2013, while policy interest rate was raised to 0.75% in August 2018.

Both Japan and the UK have strengthened the bilateral relations through policy cooperation and mutual exchange at various levels, including summit and ministerial-levels. Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister May held summit meetings during the G7 Charlevoix Summit, Canada, in June 2018 and G20 Buenos Aires Summit, Argentina,



Japan - UK Summit Meeting (January 10, 2019, London, UK; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

from November to December. Furthermore, in January 2019, Prime Minister Abe visited the UK and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister May. The two leaders affirmed that Japan-UK relations had made significant progress after Prime Minister May's visit to Japan in August 2017, and looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities for the next ten years, issued the "UK-Japan Joint Statement." They also concurred that the two countries should play a leadership role at the G20 and other forums, as well as strengthen cooperation toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and maintaining and expanding an open free trade system based on rules. Prime Minister Abe also requested to Prime Minister May that the UK should avoid a "no-deal Brexit."

Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Johnson held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting during the G20 Buenos Aires Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Argentina, in May. In September, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Hunt visited Japan and the two ministers held the Seventh Japan-UK Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

In the area of security and defense, the British Royal Navy frigate "HMS Sutherland" and the amphibious assault ship "HMS Albion" called at port in Japan in April and August respectively, and carried out joint exercises in southern waters of Kanto with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) . The British Royal Navy frigate "HMS Argyll" also participated in a joint

exercise with the MSDF in the Indian Ocean in September. In May, the British Royal Navy frigate "HMS Sutherland" engaged in monitoring and surveillance activities on illegal maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers by North Korean vessels, and Japan and the UK cooperated through the mutual exchange of information and in other ways. In October, a joint exercise between the ground forces of Japan and the UK was held in Japan, marking the first such bilateral ground exercise apart from Japan-U.S. exercises, and a Japan-UK-U.S. joint exercise in southern waters of Honshu was held in December. These exercises demonstrated progress in Japan-UK security and defense cooperation in their relationship as the closest security partners in Asia and Europe. In the area of cooperation on defense equipment and technology, the two countries have continued to make progress in cooperation, such as the launch in February of a cooperative research project on the certification process for jet engines.

With regard to culture, Japan House London opened in June, and the Grand Opening event was held in September. This was attended by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Deputy Prime Minister Aso from Japan (See Chapter 3, Section 4(1)). Preparations are also moving ahead for the intensive implementation of a wide range of Japan-related events in 2019 and 2020, designated "Japan-UK Season of Culture" to serve as a bridge linking two major sporting events—the Rugby World Cup 2019 and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, as set out in the Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation issued during the visit by Prime Minister May to Japan in August 2017.

(3) France

In May 2017, President Macron, who has been rallying for the unity of the traditionally divided right-wing and left-wing groups, assumed office as the President of France. Backed by a stable majority in the National Assembly, he promoted

reforms on domestic issues. Although he produced a certain degree of results, including improving unemployment rate and fulfilling the requirement of keeping the budget deficit below 3% of the GDP for the Eurozone countries, his approval ratings fell for reasons such as opposition to his reforms as represented by the "yellow vests movement," and successive resignations by key ministers. The Macron administration's reform faces a crucial moment.

The specific domestic reforms that he had addressed include the enactment of the SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer, the national rail of France) reform bill in June, which covers the incorporation of SNCF and reviews of the privileges granted to employees of the rail company, reform of institutions, which primarily involve reform of the parliamentary system, pension system reform, medical system reform, and action plans for corporate growth and innovation. With respect to external affairs, President Macron actively made visits abroad, including visits to China and the U.S. in January and April respectively as a state guest. In November, a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I was held in Paris, and was attended by the heads of state of more than 70 countries (Deputy Prime Minister Aso attended as the Japanese representative). President Macron continued to raise the banner for multilateralism. and exerted his leadership in promoting EU integration as well as addressing climate change and commerce and trade issues.

As for Japan-France bilateral relations, 2018 marked the 160th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Based on a decision between the both governments, a large-scale project featuring Japanese culture, titled "Japonismes 2018," was held from July 2018 to February 2019 (See Column "160th Anniversary of the Establishment of Japan-France Diplomatic Relations – Spreading Japanese Culture Through 'Japonismes 2018'", and Special Feature "Promoting Cultural Diplomacy Through



Joint press declaration by the leaders of Japan and France (October 17, Paris, France; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

'Japonismes 2018'"). With regard to exchanges among key officials, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Le Drian visited Japan in January as a guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, when he participated in the fourth Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2 + 2") and the seventh Japan-France Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Minister Kono and other Ministers. During these talks, he expressed that France welcomes an agreement in principle of the Japan-France Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). During the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (Russia) held in May, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with President Macron, while Foreign Minister Kono visited France on behalf of Prime Minister Abe in July to attend the opening ceremony of "Japonismes 2018" and the Bastille Day parade. On these occasions, foreign minister meetings were held, and the two countries advanced cooperation on security issues, such as with the signing of the Japan-France ACSA with Minister of the Armed Forces Parly. In October, Prime Minister Abe visited France, and together with President Macron, affirmed close cooperation between Japan and France as the respective chairs of G20 (Japan) and G7 (France) in 2019. As a part of the concrete cooperation initiatives put in place by Japan and France to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," a Japan-France maritime seminar was held in Tokyo in December, which encompassed a wide range of maritime policies.



160th Anniversary of the Establishment of Japan-France Diplomatic Relations - Spreading Japanese Culture through "Japonismes 2018"

Tsutomu Sugiura, President of Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris)



KOHEI NAWA | Throne ©Nobutada OMOTE SANDWICH

"Japonismes 2018: les âmes en resonance (the Souls in Resonance)" is an exposition of Japanese culture taking place in Paris and other parts of France that could be described as the largest event of its kind in this century. It is being held from July 2018 to February 2019 to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-France diplomatic relations. In addition to exhibitions featuring art from ancient to contemporary times, other programs are also being held almost every day. These include performances of "Gagaku" (Japanese court music), "Bunraku" (Japanese puppet theater shows), "Noh" and "Kyogen", "Kabuki", contemporary theater, different styles of dances, and "Taiko" (Japanese drumming); programs introducing everyday Japanese culture such as Japanese film features, food culture, and "Zen" culture; and programs introducing the attractions of regional culture such as local festivals.

The event makes us feel as if Paris has been completely transformed into the capital of Japan. The number of participants and visitors for the various programs has exceeded 2.5 million people as of December 31, 2018*. This number includes an estimated 400,000 people who turned up to watch the live illumination of the Eiffel Tower for which His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince pressed the button to unveil the show.

At the same time, the aforementioned number, 2.5 million people, does not include those who saw the massive golden throne sculpture titled "Throne," produced by Kohei Nawa and installed inside the Pyramid of the Louvre Museum. As visitors in the square and passengers outside are able to view this work day and night, the number of people who have seen it is almost immeasurable.

Based on my observations, the impact of "Japonismes 2018" can be summarized by the following two points.

Firstly, the general public, ranging from children to grown-ups, gained greater familiarity with Japanese culture. This was most clearly demonstrated in the "Audelà des limites" exhibition presented by teamLab, and the programs introducing regional attractions such as festivals and dances. The teamLab exhibition is an interactive art featuring projections of digital images such as an 11-meter-high waterfall and water flowing around on the floor, flocks



Exhibition View, teamLab: Au-delà des limites, 2018, Grande Halle de La Villette, Paris ©teaml ab

of crows flying on the four walls, and flowers of the four seasons. These projections respond when coming into contact with visitors, with the water splitting around their feet or the grass withering, for example. The exhibition drew crowds of visitors accompanied by children from as early as the day of the sneak preview. For this reason, the preview had 2,000 visitors for the 1,000 guests originally invited. As for regional attractions, the Tachineputa Festival of Aomori Prefecture, the On Matsuri Festival of Nara Prefecture, the Shingen-ko Matsuri Festival of Yamanashi Prefecture, as well as the Awa-odori dance of Tokushima Prefecture and the Sansa-odori dance of Iwate Prefecture, were held at the spacious Jardin d'Acclimatation located in Bois de Boulogne. These festivals drew 60,000 people over three days, filling the park with immense crowds. A lot of French visitors were putting their children on their shoulders to

see the festivities here and there.

Secondly, "Japonismes 2018" became the talk of the town even among intellectuals. At the November convention of the Institut de France, whose membership comprises the most prominent intellectuals, Mr. Jean-Robert Pitte, Permanent Secretary of the French Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, delivered a 30-minute special lecture on the history of Japan, and touched on "Japonismes 2018" at the beginning of his lecture. Even members of the institute who were not usually familiar with Japan remarked that the lecture gave them a good understanding of Japan. It also seemed to have stirred their

interest in the programs of "Japonismes 2018."



Vitality of Local Cultures and Matsuri

Although these are just a few of the examples, there is no doubt that Japanese culture has spread widely among the citizens of France at an unprecedented scale. As Mr. Pitte said in the closing of his lecture, "the Japanese people know France better than the French people know Japan. The time has come to restore the balance (through "Japonismes 2018"), and we, académie, can and should contribute to the restoration of that balance".

(4) Germany

In Germany, confrontation within the federal grand coalition (Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU), and Social Democratic Party (SPD)) surfaced after summer over issues such as response to the migrant issue and personnel matters related to the head of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution. With the support rate for the ruling coalition party falling under such circumstances, state elections were held for Bavaria (October 14) and Hesse (October 28). In the Bavarian state elections, the independent ruling party CSU



Japan-Germany Summit Meeting (February 4, 2019, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

saw a significant decline in the percentage of votes it gained (from 47.4% in the last elections to 37.2%), while Alternative for Germany (AfD), which advocates an anti-refugee policy, received double-digit votes (10.2%). In the Hesse state elections, the CDU retained its position as the leading party, but along with the SPD, saw the percentage of its votes fall by more than 10% from the last elections. The percentage of votes received by AfD reached a double-digit figure (13.1%), gaining it entry into the parliament of the state of Hesse. As a result, the party was able to advance into all parliaments, including the federal parliament (Bundestag).

On the day after the Hesse state elections (October 29), Chancellor Merkel (leader of the CDU) announced that she will not be standing for the next elections of party leader, a position that she had been holding since 2000, in response to the results of these state elections. (However, she announced at the same time that she will stay on as Chancellor for this parliamentary term lasting till 2021.) In light of this, three CDU members announced their candidacy for the elections of the CDU party leader—CDU Secretary-

^{*} By the point of the closing ceremony in February 2019, the number of visitors had exceeded 3 million.

Column

DAIKU2018: Japan-Germany Exchange through Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Did you know that 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the first full performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which has become a tradition of the year-end season in Japan?

During the First World War, some German soldiers taken captive by Japanese troops in Qingdao of China, a concession of Germany, were held at the Bando Prisoner-of-war Camp in today's Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture. The Head of the Camp, Toyohisa Matsue, treated German soldiers humanely at the camp and let them interact with local residents through cultural, art, and sports activities. The knowledge and techniques for vegetable farming, livestock raising, dairy products and bread baking



possessed by the German soldiers spread to the area via their exchanges with the local residents. Local residents called the German soldiers "Doitsu-san" (with "Doitsu" meaning "Germany" in Japanese) with a sense of familiarity. The movie "Ode an die Freude" starring Ken Matsudaira illustrates such exchanges. One hundred years ago, the orchestra formed by German soldiers at this camp performed the Ninth Symphony in full score for the first time in Japan.

The Governments of Japan and Germany named the year 2018 "DAIKU2018" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first performance of the Ninth Symphony (known as "daiku" in Japanese) in Japan. They approved commemorative projects related to the Ninth Symphony in the two countries and have promoted exchanges and mutual understanding between Japan and Germany through the Ninth Symphony.

In June 2018, as part of the commemorative events, the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's (JGSDF) Central Band visited Germany and held a concert to perform the Ninth Symphony at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Germany, inviting descendants of the former German soldiers and their families. One of the family members in attendance offered to donate a sketch collection (lithographic printing) made by a German soldier. The research on the sketch collection revealed that these sketches were a precious historical resource, not even possessed by the German House in Naruto City that has many historical documents related to the Bando POW Camp. With the family's consent, these sketches were donated to the Naruto German House. These sketches made at the Bando POW Camp found their way back "home" to Naruto, Tokushima after 100 years, thanks to the Ninth Symphony.

The sketch collection depicts a race walk event watched by local residents and a lively image of German soldiers playing billiards, shedding light on their exchanges with local residents and life at the POW camp. Japan hopes that the "return home" of these sketches will contribute to mutual understanding and further advancement of friendly relations between Japanese and German people.



From sketch collection: Race walk scene



From sketch collection: German soldiers playing billiards

General Kramp-Karrenbauer, former chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group Merz, and Federal Minister of Health Spahn. On December 7, at the elections for party leader held during the CDU's Congress in Hamburg in the northern part of Germany, CDU Secretary-General Kramp-Karrenbauer ran a close race in the voting with former chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group Merz, but eventually emerged as the new leader of the CDU.

As for Germany's relations with Japan, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Maas, who assumed office in March, visited Japan in July as the first stop of his first tour of Asia as foreign minister. During his visit, he held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe. In September, Foreign Minister Kono visited Germany. On this occasion. he paid a courtesy call on Chancellor Merkel, and attended a parliamentary group meeting of the ruling party CDU/CSU. He explained Japan's position on issues such as the East Asia situation and the international economic system. and spoke about the importance of furthering the close cooperation between Japan and Germany, both of which have developed as peace-loving nations under a free and open international order after the war, so as to maintain and strengthen international order based on rules. Thereafter, a Japan-Germany Summit Meeting was held on the occasion of the ASEM Summit in Brussels in October. In February 2019, Chancellor Merkel visited Japan for the first time in four years, not to attend any international conferences, but in the context of bilateral relations. During her trip, she held a Japan-Germany Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

(5) Italy

Following the general election held in March, a coalition government led by Prime Minister Conte and comprising the Five Star Movement and the League was formed in June. The new government is tackling the priority issues raised in its manifesto, including measures related to the domestic economy, social security, and migrant.

In June, Prime Minister Abe held the first Japan-Italy Summit Meeting with the newly appointed Prime Minister Conte, on the sidelines of the G7 Charlevoix Summit, during which they exchanged views on the response to the regional situation and global issues. The two leaders also held a summit meeting during the ASEM Summit in October. Foreign Minister Kono and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Moavero Milanesi held a foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September. The two countries, which are members of the G7 and share fundamental values, affirmed to continue close cooperation. Furthermore, in November, a foreign ministers' meeting was also held during Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Italy to attend the Mediterranean Dialogues.



Japan-Italy Foreign Ministers' Meeting (November 23, Rome, Italy)

(6) Spain

In June, a motion of no confidence in the government of Mariano Rajoy's People's Party was passed, and at the same time, Pedro Sánchez, Secretary-General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) assumed office as Prime Minister.

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain, and many commemorative

Other European Regions

Japan places emphasis on its cooperative relationship with the Visegrad Four (V4), a regional cooperative framework comprising the four countries of Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary, with which Japan shares the fundamental values of democracy and rule of law. Efforts were made to strengthen the relationship between Japan and the V4, including the V4+Japan seminar concerning Brexit matters held in February, and the second V4+Japan Summit Meeting convened after a five-year hiatus on the occasion of the ASEM Summit in October.

Poland: Foreign Minister Kono visited Poland in July and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Czaputowicz, during which the ministers affirmed cooperation toward 2019, which marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Poland diplomatic relations. At the press conference held after the foreign ministers' meeting, the logo commemorating the 100th anniversary, produced under the supervision of Junko Koshino, was unwelled.

Czech Republic: The legislative election was held in October 2017 and was won by ANO, the centrist party led by Andrej Babiš. Although the Babiš cabinet was inaugurated in December the same year, a no-confidence motion was put through in the lower house in January 2018. After that, renewed negotiations were carried out on the formation of a coalition, resulting in the inauguration of the Babiš cabinet once again in June based on the formation of a coalition with the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) and support from outside the cabinet from the Czech Communist Party. This cabinet won the confidence of the lower house in July. The Protocol Amending the Agreement Between Japan and the Czech Republic on Social Security entered into force in August, while the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Czech Republic regarding Working Holiday Visas entered into force in November.

Slovakia: By the initiative of Slovakia, which is serving its presidency of the V4 from July, the second V4+Japan Summit Meeting was held in October coinciding with the ASEM Summit. In December,

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe held a meeting with State Secretary of Foreign and European Affairs Parizek during the OSCE Ministerial Council.

<u>Hungary</u>: A general election was held in April. Fidesz, the political party led by Prime Minister Orban, made a landslide victory, winning more than two-thirds of the seats. As a result, the third Orban administration was inaugurated.

[Benelux countries]

The Netherlands: With regard to Japan's relations with the Netherlands, which served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2018, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with Foreign Minister Blok during the G20 Buenos Aires Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May. Prime Minister Abe visited the Netherlands in January 2019. During the visit, he held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Rutte, where they affirmed close cooperation with the Netherlands, which has been invited to the G20 Osaka Summit.

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<u>Belgium</u>: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Reynders visited Japan in October and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. In light of Belgium's appointment as a non-permanent member of the Security Council from 2019, the two ministers affirmed further cooperation between the two countries including on regional affairs. In addition, a memorandum of agreement on the implementation of political talks between Japan and Belgium was also signed, signaling the further deepening of Japan-Belgium relations.

Austria: Foreign Minister Kono visited Austria in February, during which he held a meeting with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Secretary-General Greminger. He also paid a visit to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). Foreign Minister Kono visited Austria again in July, and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kneissl during this trip. The Tax Convention between Japan and Austria entered into force in October. In February 2019, Prime Minister Kurz visited Japan as prime minister for the first time, where he held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

Ireland: Maintaining the momentum of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ireland in 2017, active exchanges continued to take place between the two countries, with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visiting Ireland in January 2018, and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Murphy visiting Japan in March.

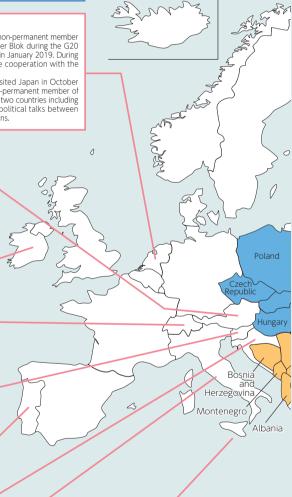
<u>Switzerland</u>: President and Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs Berset visited Japan in April and held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In September, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Switzerland. In November, the third meeting of the Joint Committee established under the Japan-Switzerland Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was held.

<u>Slovenia</u>: Parliamentary elections were held in June. The Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) led by Janez Jansa became the leading party, but met with difficulties in the coalition negotiations. An agreement was eventually reached to form a coalition with the center-left, led mainly by the second party, the List of Marjan Šarec. A new cabinet was inaugurated in September.

Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP): The CPLP Summit and Ministerial Meeting was held on Sal, Cape Verde, in July. Japan participated in this conference as an observer.

<u>Croatia</u>: Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada visited Croatia in October, during which the Tax Agreement between Japan and Croatia was signed.

<u>Vatican</u>: In November, Foreign Minister Kono visited Vatican for the first time since he assumed office. He paid a courtesy call on Secretary of State Parolin and held a foreign ministers' meeting with Secretary for Relations Gallagher. They affirmed that Japan and Vatican will strengthen cooperation toward resolving international issues such as the pursuit of peace, development, human rights, and environmental protection, and also engaged in discussion toward the realization of the visit to Japan by Pope Francis, who has expressed the intention of visiting Japan in 2019.



V4

Malta: In August, Prime Minister Muscat visited Japan, the first visit by an incumbent prime minister in 28 years. He held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe, during which they affirmed that Japan and Malta will cooperate closely in many areas, including the rule of law over the oceans in the two countries, which are both maritime countries, as well as the North Korea issue. During the Mediterranean Dialogues held in November (Rome, Italy), Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Abela.

[Nordic countries]

<u>Denmark</u>: In October, Foreign Minister Kono visited Denmark and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Samuelsen. They welcomed progress in Japan-Denmark cooperation across a wide range of fields, and exchanged views toward further strengthening bilateral relations. In December, the New Tax Convention Between Japan and Denmark entered into force.

Finland: Foreign Minister Soini visited Japan in February and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. They affirmed that Japan and Finland will further develop their strategic partnership toward the upcoming 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2019.

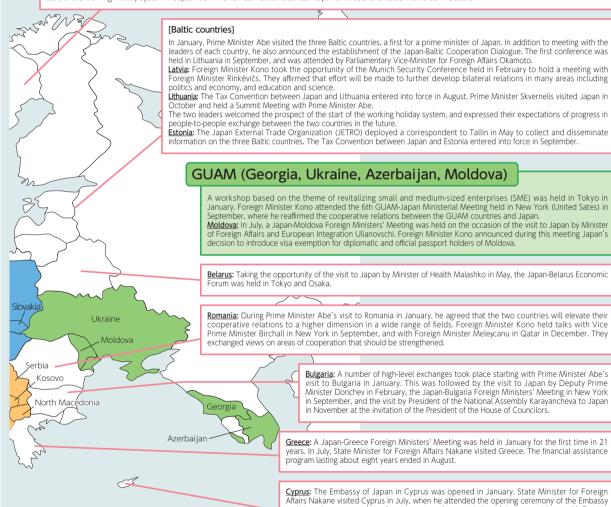
Norway: Prime Minister Solberg visited Japan in February and held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. They concurred on further strengthening future economic

Norway: Prime Minister Solberg visited Japan in February and held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. They concurred on further strengthening future economic relations, as well as cooperating on promoting sustainable development goals. In May, Foreign Minister Soreide visited Japan. She held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, during which they concurred on promoting free trade and investment, and advancing cooperation in areas such as whaling and the Arctic sector.

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Sweden: His Majesty the King Carl XVI Gustaf and Her Majesty the Queen Silvia paid an Official Visit to Japan in April. During their informal meeting with Prime Minister
Abe and his spouse, they spoke about expectations of further development in people-to-people exchanges and economic exchanges between Japan and Sweden, and agreed on further strengthening bilateral relations.

Iceland: Foreign Minister Thordarson visited Japan in May, and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. In October, Foreign Minister Kono visited Iceland as the first foreign minister of Japan to do so. During their foreign ministers' meeting on this trip, they affirmed progress in cooperation in various areas, including welcoming the start of the working holiday system in September. The Tax Convention between Japan and Iceland entered into force in October.



The Western Balkans

Although there still remains ethnic divisiveness, overall progress has been made for stability and development in the Western Balkan region owing to each country's commitment to reforms toward European integration. Prime Minister Abe visited Serbia in January 2018, the first visit ever by a Japanese Prime Minister During the visit, he announced the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiatives designed to advance cooperation with the Western Balkans (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Montenegro), which aims for EU membership: Japan has promoted cooperation with the entire Western Balkans region in areas such as youth and economic exchanges. High-level exchanges took place actively: the visit of Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horli to Kosovo in February, the Japan-Albania Foreign Ministers' Meeting cand Japan-Macedonia Foreign Minister's Meeting cand Humich Security Conference. As for visits to Japan, Kosovo's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pacolli visited in March, Bosnia-Herzegovina's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Brkic visited in May, and Albania's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Bushati visited in June, and Montenegro's Foreign Minister Darmanović visited in November. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada also visited Serbia in October.

Japan-Cyprus Foreign Minister Meeting was held.

and signed a memorandum of agreement on the repatriation of Japanese citizens with Foreign Minister Christodoulides. In October, Foreign Minister Christodoulides visited Japan, and the



Prime Minister Abe exchanging a handshake with Prime Minister Sánchez of Spain (October 16, Madrid, Spain; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Meeting between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Dastis of Spain (January 16, Madrid, Spain)

events were held in the two countries. In January, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Madrid and attended the opening ceremony for the 150th anniversary celebrations. He also held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Dastis. In October, Prime Minister Abe visited Spain. During the visit, he had an audience with His Majesty King Felipe VI and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Sánchez, where the two leaders concurred on elevating bilateral relations between Japan and Spain to a "strategic partnership." Taking the opportunity, the New Tax Convention between Japan and Spain was signed. In November, the 20th Japan-Spain Symposium was held in Yamaguchi City themed on "Beyond the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Spain."

(7) Ukraine

In November, three Ukrainian Navy vessels attempting to navigate through waters near the Kerch Strait, in the eastern part of the Crimean Peninsula, were captured by the Border Service of the Russian Federation. In response, the Ukrainian government imposed martial law for 30 days in some parts of the country, and there were heightened tensions between the two countries. Various countries, particularly in Europe and America, expressed their concerns over this situation, and called for restraint and calm.

In the eastern part of Ukraine, the situation remains unstable as a result of the failure to fulfill the ceasefire agreements. By the end of August, Alexander Zakharchenko, the "head of state" of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic that has been occupied by separatist militants, was assassinated by terrorists. In response, an "election" was held in the occupied territory in the east in November. Japan and other countries in Europe and America do not acknowledge the legitimacy of this "election" as it was not carried out based on an agreement between the relevant parties, including agreements on local elections in the occupied territory in the east (Minsk Agreements). No significant progress has been achieved in talks over implementation of the Minsk Agreements among the nations concerned.

With regard to internal affairs, various reforms have been ongoing under the Groysman Cabinet formed in April 2016. Against this backdrop, a law on the establishment of the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine was adopted in June. During the same month, the Ukraine Reform Conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, and was attended by many high-level officials from Europe and America. In addition to discussing the status of reforms in Ukraine, the respective countries also announced that they will continue to support efforts in this regard. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii attended the meeting as Japan's representative. In his speech, he praised

the outcomes of reforms in Ukraine so far, but appealed for the continued need for reforms, as well as confirmed Japan's continued support toward Ukraine's reform efforts.

With regard to bilateral relations, the Ukraine-Japan Bilateral Consultations on Security Issues were held in October in Tokyo as a new initiative. In January, Japan also decided to provide additional support of about 396 million yen (3.6 million US dollars) to support reform efforts and the stabilization of Ukraine.

Collaboration with European Regional Institutions, and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

(1) Cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

As a military alliance aimed at providing collective defense for its 29 member countries, NATO provides collective defense for its member countries, and engages in crisis management inside and outside of the region that could pose a direct threat to the security of the territories and peoples of NATO member countries. including security-keeping operations in Kosovo, support in Afghanistan, and counter-terrorism efforts. Also, NATO makes efforts in cooperative security through coordination with countries and organizations outside of the region. As a partner that shares fundamental values with NATO, Japan is taking specific steps toward collaboration based on the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP), which Prime Minister Abe signed while visiting NATO headquarters in May 2014. In May, the IPCP was revised to further facilitate smoother cooperation between Japan and NATO, and in July, the Mission of Japan to the NATO was established. To date, Japan has participated as an observer in NATO's crisis management exercises (CMX), as well as training exercises related to cybersecurity and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR). Japan also dispatches female self-defense force officials to the NATO headquarters in order to promote cooperation on matters concerning women, peace and security (WPS). Through the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund, a project that aims to promote arms control and disarmament, as well as democratization and regional stabilization through the utilization of NATO's specialized military expertise, Japan is also providing support for clearing unexploded ordnance in Azerbaijan, removing unexploded ordnance and landmines and conducting explosive ordnance disposal training in Georgia, as well as training women in the military in Jordan.

(2) Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE is a regional security organization with 57 member countries across Europe, central Asia, and North America, that works to bridge differences between member countries and foster trust through conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict recovery and review in these regions through a comprehensive approach. Japan has taken part in OSCE activities since 1992 as an Asian Partner for Co-operation. Japan provides support for preventing terrorism through means such as strengthening border patrol in Afghanistan and central Asia including through the Border Management Staff College (a capacity building organization) and other organizations, and also lends support in conducting election monitoring as well as to the projects that support women's social advancement. OSCE plays an important role in improving the situation in Ukraine. Japan provides financial support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and has been dispatching experts to the SMM since August 2015. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe attended the Ministerial Council in Milan, Italy, in December, where she pointed out that amidst the upheavals in international order, the security of Asia and Europe have a mutual impact on each other. She also refers to the security environment

of East Asia, including the North Korea issue and maritime security, and called for understanding and cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

(3) Cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE)

The CoE is a regional organization comprising 47 member states in Europe. It has played a key role in establishing international standards in areas concerning democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. As the CoE's sole observer country in Asia. Iapan has made active contributions to a range of CoE activities since it began participating in the organization in 1996. In July, Japan provided financial support for the Octopus Conference 2018 (Strasbourg, France), which aims to promote international cooperation against cybercrime. It also dispatched Japanese staff from international organizations to the 7th World Forum for Democracy (also held in Strasbourg) in November, and delivered a statement about Japan's efforts in the area of women's policies.

(4) Cooperation through the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

ASEM was established in 1996 as the sole forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. It currently comprises 51 member states and two institutions, and works through Summit Meetings, Ministers' Meetings, seminars, and other activities focused on three pillars, namely (1) politics, (2) economy and (3) society and culture.

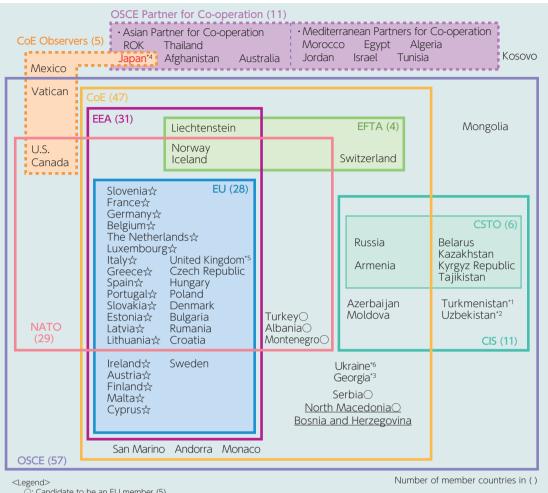
The 12th Summit Meeting was held on October 18 and 19 in Brussels, Belgium. Prime Minister Abe attended the meeting, where he spoke about the need to promote efforts to resolve excessive production capacity and eliminate market-distorting measures with regard to a free trade system, the need to establish international standards for Quality Infrastructure toward

strengthening connectivity and the development of Asia and Europe, and further, emphasized that achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" that Japan is promoting will also contribute to strengthening connectivity between Asia and Europe.

With regard to the North Korea situation, Prime Minister Abe spoke about the need for the international community to work in solidarity and ensure the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. At the same time, he reiterated Japan's determination to resolve the abductions issue at the earliest possible date. With regard to maritime security, he emphasized the need for peaceful settlements of conflicts in accordance with international law, without the use of force or coercion, and reiterated that unilateral changes in the status quo are absolutely unacceptable.

The chair's statement issued at this Summit Meeting set out the importance of peaceful settlement for maritime security conflicts in accordance with international law, and called on North Korea to completely, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantle (CVID) all its nuclear weapons, other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and ballistic missiles as well as related programmes and facilities. Furthermore, it also incorporated a strong message through the declaration by leaders on their determination to support a comprehensive solution of the issue through the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions. The abductions issue was clearly set out in the chair's statement following the previous Summit Meeting and Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In addition, Japan supports ASEM's activities through funds contributed to the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and co-organizing the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism in Jakarta (February) with the Government of Indonesia.

Major Frameworks of Europe



- : Candidate to be an EU member (5)
- ☆: Euro member states(19)
- __: Members of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) (2)
- *1 Turkmenistan has been an associate member of the CIS since 2005.
- *2 Uzbekistan ceased its membership in the CSTO in 2012.
- *3 Georgia notified the CIS of its decision to leave the organization on August 18, 2012, and formally withdrew from the CIS on August 18, 2009.
- *4 Japan is a partner country of NATO
- *5 As a result of the citizens' referendum held in June 2016, the UK is in negotiations towards withdrawing from the EU (as of January 2019).
- *6 Ukraine signed a Presidential Decree in April 2018 to withdraw from the CIS.

<Abbreviations>

CoE (Council of Europe) : (47)

CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States): (10)

CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization): (6)

EEA (European Economic Area): (31)

EFTA (European Free Trade Association): (4)

EU (European Union): (28)

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization): (29)

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe): (57)

Section 5

Russia, Central Asia and Caucasus

1 Russia

(1) Situation of Russia

A Internal Situation in Russia

President Putin secured an overwhelming victory in the March presidential election and began his fourth term in May. Meanwhile, in June, the Government made announcements including a pension reform bill that would raise the beginning age of pensions. Subsequently, protests erupted throughout the country, and President Putin's approval rating, which had remained high at the 80% range since the "annexation" of Crimea in March 2014, dipped to the pre-"annexation" level at the 60% range. President Putin's approval rating has not recovered, even after the bill passed in October.

B Russian Economy

The Russian economy saw sluggish growth since the second half of 2014 from the effects of the fall in international oil prices. The downturn came to a stop in 2016 with the stabilization of oil prices. The country's GDP growth rate in 2018 was positive (forecast: 1.7%), following on from 2017. The unemployment rate decreased (range upper 4% to 5%), and the inflation rate, while increasing slightly, remained at a low level. The fiscal balance was also positive, indicating the economy is on a recovery trend. However, some

factors for economic instability remain, such as the continued sanctions on Russia by the European countries and the U.S.

Russian Diplomacy

Russia's relations with the European countries and the U.S. remain tense, partially due to the attack against a former Russian intelligence officer in the UK in March (Skripal incident), seizure of Ukrainian naval vessels by the Russian Border Service in November, continued sanctions against Russia, and the U.S. announcement of its intention to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), thus no sign of improvement is observed.

Russia continues to develop closer ties with China amid the uncertain outlook for improved relations with the European countries and the U.S. In addition to holding regular interactions between the leaders of the two countries, the Chinese People's Liberation Army participated for the first time in history in "Vostok 2018," a large-scale exercise conducted by the Russian Armed Forces in September.

In the Middle East, Russia exerted influence on the Syrian situation in cooperation with Iran, Turkey, and other countries. Russia has sought to heighten its presence in an increasingly multipolar world, while making use of its traditional cooperative relationship with the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and

multilateral frameworks including BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

(2) Japan-Russia Relations

A Japan-Russia Relations in the Asia-Pacific Region

Bilateral relations between Japan and Russia have the greatest underlying potential. In recent years, Russia places importance on the development of the Russian Far East and East Siberia and has been proactively enhancing relations with the countries in the Asia-Pacific region that is a growth center of the global economy. The development of the relations with Russia as a partner in the Asia-Pacific region contributes not only to Japan's national interests but also to peace and prosperity of the region. Japan and Russia have developed cooperative relations in various fields including politics, security, economy, culture and people-to-people exchange.

On the other hand, the greatest concern between Japan and Russia is the Northern Territories Issue. Holding frequent dialogues between the two leaders and Foreign Ministers, the Government of Japan has been energetically continuing negotiations with Russia to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the territorial issue.

B The Northern Territories and Negotiations for Conclusion of a Peace Treaty

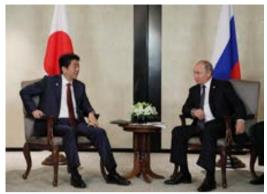
The two leaders share the view that it is an abnormal state of affairs that a peace treaty has not been concluded between Japan and Russia more than 70 years since the end of World War II. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting at the end of 2016, Prime Minister Abe and President Putin declared an earnest determination toward resolving the issue of the peace treaty.

In 2018, active political dialogues took place, including four Summit Meetings and four Foreign Ministers' Meetings. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abe reached an agreement with President Putin to "accelerate negotiations on a peace treaty on the basis of the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration of 1956." Furthermore, at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting held on the margins of the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in December, the two leaders agreed "that Mr. Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be responsible for the negotiations and that the negotiations will be handled by Mr. Mori, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Morgulov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, under the Foreign Ministers' leadership." Thus, in January 2019, serious discussions were held between the Foreign Ministers as the first round of negotiations. Moreover, at the Summit Meeting in the same month, the two leaders welcomed the commencement of concrete negotiations and instructed their further progress. In February 2019, the second round of negotiations was held between the Foreign Ministers.

Regarding the joint economic activities on the Four Northern Islands on which the leaders agreed to begin negotiations during President Putin's visit to Japan at the end of 2016¹, a series of discussions have been held not only between the leaders and Foreign Ministers, but also at vice-ministerial consultations and director-general-level working groups. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in Vladivostok in September, the two leaders approved the "road map" for implementing the five candidate projects². At the "business mission" held in early October, members of the business community from both countries held constructive exchanges of views regarding the five candidate

¹ As a result of the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in December 2016, the two leaders declared an earnest determination toward resolving the issue of the peace treaty, as well as agreed to begin negotiations on the joint economic activities on the Four Northern Islands. In addition, the two leaders agreed on improving procedures for grave visits and so on for the former island residents.

^{2 (1)} Project of propagation and aquaculture of marine products, (2) Greenhouse vegetable cultivation project, (3) Development of tours compatible with the islands' features, (4) Inducement of wind-power generation and (5) Garbage volume reduction measures.



Japan-Russia Summit Meeting (November 14, Singapore; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Airplane departure ceremony for grave visit (July 22, Nakashibetsu Airport)

projects and toured the candidate sites.

As part of the humanitarian measures for the former island residents of the Northern Territories, a grave visit by airplane was conducted in July, following on from the previous year. In the same month, a temporary additional entry/exit point was established on the occasion of the grave visit by ship to the Habomai Islands. Such measures have shortened the travel time to the Four Northern Islands and reduced the physical burden of the former island residents. Japan and Russia have agreed to continue to simplify the relevant procedures.

Under the strong leadership of the Japanese and Russian leaders, the Government of Japan will continue to persistently negotiate with Russia to conclude a peace treaty by resolving the territorial issue.

The Government of Japan is actively working on projects contributing to the improvement of the atmosphere for the resolution of the Northern Territories Issue, such as the four-island exchange program, free visits, and visits to graves. The Government of Japan is approaching and coordinating with the Russian side in order to ensure safe operations of Japanese fishing vessels around the Four Northern Islands and to continue the fishing of salmon and trout using alternative fishing methods to driftnet fishing prohibited by Russia. At the same time, Japan is taking appropriate action against Russia's moves to build up military forces in the Four Northern Islands, on the grounds that such moves are contradictory to the Government of Japan's position regarding the territorial issue.

Japan-Russia Economic Relations

The Japan-Russia trade volume in 2018 continued to record strong growth following on from the previous year, amid the stabilization of oil and natural gas prices, major commodities imported to Japan from Russia, and a significant increase in the amount of automobiles and related components exported from Japan to Russia (trade volume amounted to about 2.5281 trillion yen in 2018 statistics, marking an increase of about 13.7% over the previous year) (Source: Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance).

The volume of direct investment from Japan to Russia increased slightly from 175.7 billion yen (2016) to 178.0 billion yen (2017) (Source: Balance of Payments Statistics, Bank of Japan).

With regard to the Eight-point Cooperation Plan for Innovative Reform in the field of Industry and Economy and a favorable living environment³ of Russia proposed by Prime Minister Abe in May

³ Proposed by Prime Minister Abe at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting held in Sochi, Russia, to which President Putin expressed positive feedback and approval. The eight items are: (1) extension of healthy-life expectancy, (2) development of comfortable and clean cities easy to reside and live in, (3) fundamental expansion of exchange and cooperation among medium-sized and small companies, (4) energy, (5) promotion of industrial diversification and enhancement of productivity in Russia, (6) development of industries and export bases in the Far East, (7) cooperation on cutting-edge technologies, and (8) fundamental expansion of people-to-people interaction.

2016, over 170 private-sector projects have been established as of January 2019, and about half of the projects are in active status in such forms as signing contracts.

Japan participated for the first time as a guest country in the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in May. During the Forum, Prime Minister Abe and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Minister for Economic Cooperation with Russia Seko visited the Japan Pavilion. In addition, active exchanges of views took place between Japanese and Russian companies, including at the Japan-Russia Business Dialogue. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting on the margin of the Fourth Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September, the two leaders welcomed the development of bilateral cooperation under the Eight-point Cooperation Plan, including projects in the Far East region such as the opening of a rehabilitation center and provision of high-speed communications services, and the entry into force of the Japan-Russia Tax Convention in October.

Foreign Minister Kono and Minister of Economic Development Oreshkin co-chaired the 14th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues in Tokyo in December, and bilateral economic relations were discussed comprehensively with the participation of members from relevant ministries and agencies and private companies. The Committee welcomed the issue of Samurai bonds by Gazprom PJSC. It also expected the establishment of an airport terminal by leveraging Japan's technologies and experience, regarding the signing of a shareholders' agreement for participation in a business to operate the Khavabarovsk Airport.

Furthermore, the Japan Centers operating in six cities in Russia carry out business matching between companies from the both countries and hold management courses. To date, a total of some 86,000 Russian people have taken the courses and about 5.400 of them have visited Japan for training.

D Cooperation between Japan and Russia in Various Fields

(A) Security, Defense Exchanges and Maritime Security

In 2018, discussions such as Japan-Russia Strategic Dialogue were held between diplomatic authorities from the two countries in a wide range of areas including disarmament, nonproliferation, and terrorism. As agreed at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in May, a Japanese expert on anti-money laundering measures was dispatched to Russia in June, and training for drug enforcement agents from Afghanistan and Central Asia was implemented in November by opening the training also to managerial-level agents for the first time. In regard to supports for drug detection dog training, a joint document was signed among Japan, Russia, Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in November, in which the parties confirmed their future cooperation (See Column "Combating the drug trafficking in Afghanistan").

In the area of security, Japan-Russia security talks between Foreign Ministries took place in April, and the third Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) took place in Moscow in July. Also, Secretary General Yachi of the National Security Secretariat met with Secretary of the Security Council Patrushev in October. Regarding defense exchanges, Chief of Staff of Joint Staff Kawano of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) visited Russia in October (first visit to Russia by the Chief of Staff of Joint Staff since six years ago by Chief of Staff Iwasaki in 2012). At the working level, in addition to a range of consultations, a Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was held in July, and the first joint counter-piracy exercise between Japan and Russia was held off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden in November. Talks involving the heads of both countries' maritime security agencies were also held continuing on from the previous year.

Special Feature

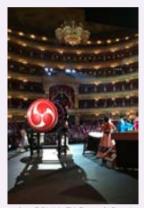
Japan Year in Russia: Deepening Mutual Understanding

What comes to mind when you think of Russia? Perhaps it is borscht and other dishes, or great literary figures such as Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. Some people may think of famous figure skaters such as Alina Zagitova. Slogans for Japan Year in Russia and Russia Year in Japan held in 2018 respectively are "This Is the Japan You Don't Know About." The leaders of both countries agreed to implement the year of exchange when Russian President Putin visited Japan in December 2016, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding between their citizens, by offering an opportunity as a first step for people who are not familiar with Japan and Russia to understand each other's countries as well as by helping those who already have some understanding of the other country deepen their knowledge.

Following this agreement, the two countries held numerous events introducing their respective cultures and customs in various locations during 2018. The opening ceremony held at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in May hosted performances of "Kagamibiraki" (a ceremony in which the lid of the sake barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet) by Nippon Budokan and Japanese drum group DRUM TAO. Thunderous applause from the audience, including Prime Minister Abe and President Putin, kicked off the year of exchange.



©Chekhov International Theater Festival/Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsuza – Scene from "Yoshinoyama" in Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsuza Performance in Russia (September, Mossovet Theatre in Moscow (Russia); Photo: Shochiku)



Performance by DRUM TAO and Russian artists in the opening ceremony (May 26, Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow (Russia); Photo: DRUM TAO)

Among the key events of Japan Year in Russia that elicited strong positive reactions were "Yabusame" (horseback archery), which drew a crowd of more than 10,000 people, Shochiku Grand Kabuki performed by the Chikamatsuza in Russia on the 90th anniversary of their first performance in the former Soviet era, and an exhibition of painting masterpieces from the Edo period at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, which attracted a number of visitors who made a long line to enter the museum.

Looking back on the Kabuki tour of Russia, fourth-generation Ganjiro Nakamura, one of the lead performers, commented that "I was very pleased to see larger crowds than at our previous Kabuki performances in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2003 watching attentively and reacting so favorably." DRUM TAO described their impression of the performance as follows: "We learned about Russia by seeing it for the first time through our own eyes. We experienced Russia through our collaboration with the Bolshoi Ballet. The city and people are sincere and beautiful. The cultures in both countries each have their own unique characteristics. The fusion of our performances was born out of mutual understanding."

Japan Year in Russia and Russia Year in Japan were important steps toward deepening mutual understanding. Shimei Futabatei, who introduced Russian literature to Japan, held a grand ambition after the Japan-Russia War: "there is only one way to avoid future battles" and "people of both countries need to understand each other and we need to communicate the sentiment of Japanese people to Russians." He lived in St. Petersburg but fell ill before he could fulfil his goal and died on the ship home. 2019 marks the 110th anniversary of his death. The deepening of mutual understanding between Japan and Russia, the legacy of Shimei Futabatei, is also one of our missions.



Japan-Russia Youth Forum 2018 (September 25, Ryazan, Russia; Photo: Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center)



Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Program (June 26, Sapporo; Photo: Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center)

(B) Human and Cultural Exchanges

Following agreement at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting of December 2016 that youth exchanges will be expanded to around 1,000 people a year, in 2018 a total of 1,334 people (2017: 1,121 people) participated in the Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Program, where exchanges took place in a broad range of areas.

Japan Year in Russia and Russia Year in Japan were held in 2018 under an agreement between the Japanese and Russian leaders, and an opening ceremony was conducted at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in May attended by both leaders. Furthermore, human and cultural exchanges were conducted actively through nearly 500 events in Russia and nearly 150 events in Japan which took place as part of the accredited events for the exchange years. (See Column "Japan Year in Russia").

Central Asian and Caucasian Countries

(1) Overview

Countries in Central Asia and Caucasus are situated in a location of geopolitical importance that connects Asia, Europe, Russia and the Middle East, and have abundant natural resources such as oil, natural gas and uranium. Each country also has significant importance when seeking the stability of the region as a whole and addressing key challenges which the international community faces such as fighting against terrorism and countering illicit drugs.

Japan continues to work to strengthen bilateral ties with these countries through VIP visits, etc., and will be continuing initiatives to promote regional cooperation using the framework of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue, etc.

(2) Central Asian Countries

Japan supports the "open, stable and selfsustained development" of Central Asia, and is promoting diplomacy, which aims at contributing to the peace and stability of the region. The three pillars of Japan's diplomacy in Central Asia are as follows: (1) steadily strengthening of bilateral relationships; (2) encouraging regional cooperation and contribution to the common issues of the region through the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue; and (3) cooperating in the global arena.

In 2018, following the previous year, active exchanges including VIP visits were carried out. From Central Asian countries, namely, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Uzbekistan Safaev visited Japan in September; President of Tajikistan Rahmon, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Investments of Uzbekistan Kholmuradov and

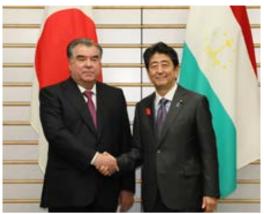
Minister of Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Khodjaev visited in October; and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan Alihanov visited in December, among others.

President of Tajikistan Rahmon visited Japan for the first time in around 11 years. He visited Hiroshima and Kyoto as well as held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. At the summit meeting, the leaders confirmed their willingness to cooperate in the area of human resources development, as well as border control in Tajikistan-Afghanistan border and strengthening bilateral economic relations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Investments of Uzbekistan Kholmuradov and Minister of Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Khodjaev held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe, and others and attended a meeting of the Japan-Uzbekistan Economic Committee. Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Meredov paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe and held talks with Foreign Minister Kono. On the occasion of such VIP visits to Japan, documents pertaining to cooperation projects with Japanese companies were also prepared.

From Japan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane visited Uzbekistan in July and held meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Investments Kholmuradov and other government dignitaries. In December, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada visited the Kyrgyz Republic and held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Aidarbekov.

From the perspective that regional cooperation for resolving common regional issues is essential for the stability and development of Central Asia, in 2014, Japan launched the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue to promote regional cooperation as a catalyst. Under this framework, six Foreign Ministers' Meetings have been held so far, along



Japan-Tajikistan Summit Meeting (October 5, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

with a range of discussions involving experts and members of the business community. More than a decade since its establishment, the framework of recent years has become a forum to discuss more practical cooperation beyond dialogue among participants. The 12th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held in January, which decided to make tourism a new theme of cooperation. This was followed by the fourth Experts' Meeting on tourism held in February. The second business dialogue held in March was participated by more than 100 representatives from Japanese companies and economic organizations. Furthermore, the 11th Tokyo Dialogue (Intellectual Dialogue) entitled "Strategic Outlook on Regional Cooperation and Regional Security in Central Asia" was held in July, and the 13th SOM was held in November.

2018 marked 20 years since the demise of former Associate Professor of Tsukuba University Yutaka Akino in Tajikistan, who was dispatched to the UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) as a political officer. In July, a symposium was held in Tokyo, in the presence of Foreign Minister Kono, which took a look back at the achievements made by Dr. Akino as an academic and discussed what role Japan should play in the area of peacebuilding and international contribution. In Tajikistan, another symposium was held and awards were granted to those who have contributed to the maintenance and management of the memorial

for the UNMOT personnel who lost their lives.

In Central Asia, it is noteworthy that cooperative relations deepened among the countries in the region. The first Central Asian Summit Meeting was held in Kazakhstan in March. Other examples are the increase in reciprocal visits by the leaders of each country, the reopening of border checkpoints and resumption of direct flights. In August, a Caspian Summit Meeting was held in Kazakhstan, and documents including an agreement on the legal status of the Caspian Sea were signed by the five coastal countries (Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan).

(3) Caucasus Countries

2018 was a groundbreaking year for relations between Japan and Caucasus countries.

From Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited the three Caucasus countries of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan in September, and paid courtesy calls on the leaders and held Foreign Ministers' Meetings. It was the first time in history for a Japanese Foreign Minister to pay visits to Armenia and Georgia. The visit to Azerbaijan was the first time in 19 years since Foreign Minister Komura made a visit in 1999.

In Caucasus countries, there still exist disputes over South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia and over the Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan. At the same time, this region has potential to be a gateway connecting Asia, Europe and the Middle East and strategic importance that directly affects the peace and stability of the international community. During Foreign Minister Kono's visit to the Caucasus countries, he announced the Caucasus Initiative, the basic policy of Japan's diplomacy for this region which is comprised of two pillars: (1) assistance for human resources development of architects for state building (human resources development); and (2) assistance for paving the way to "appealing Caucasus" (infrastructure development business environment improvement).

In Azerbaijan, a presidential election was held in April, and President Aliyev was reelected. In May, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiraki visited Azerbaijan to attend an International Caspian Oil & Gas Exhibition and Conference.

A signing ceremony for the Japan-Armenia Investment Agreement was held in February. In



Japan-Armenia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 3, Yerevan, Armenia)



Japan-Georgia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 4, Tbilisi, Georgia)



Japan-Azerbaijan Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 5, Baku, Azerbaijan)

the same month, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii visited Armenia and held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Nalbandian. In May, a large-scale protest took place against the accession of former President Sargsyan to Prime Minister. Without any violent suppression by the government, Prime Minister

Sargsyan resigned and Mr. Pashinyan who was a member of the National Assembly that led the opposition was elected Prime Minister.

In Georgia, a presidential election was held in October. Parliament member Zourabichvili was elected in the final voting in November and was appointed President.

Section 6

The Middle East and North Africa

1 Overview

The Middle East and North Africa are situated in a geopolitically important location at the intersection of Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia. This region contains major international maritime routes for international commerce and is also an important supplier of energy resources, including crude oil and natural gas, to the rest of the world. On the other hand, the region faces a number of destabilizing issues such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other violent extremist groups, the vast number of refugees that are flowing into nearby regions, the prolonged crisis in Syria, the Middle East Peace Process, the tensions between countries in the region, and domestic conditions in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Libya. Achieving peace and stability in this region is of great importance for the world as a whole, including Japan, and Japan is working with the international community to resolve these issues.

Japan relies on the Middle East for more than 80% of its crude oil imports and has developed ties with countries in the Middle East and the North Africa region (hereinafter, "countries in the Middle East") that have centered on the resources and energy sectors. Today, however, beyond these relationships, Japan works to build

more multi-layered ones including wide-ranging economic cooperation, politics and security, and culture and people-to-people exchanges. Specifically, Prime Minister Abe has visited this region seven times since the inauguration of the second Abe administration in December 2012. Foreign Minister Kono has also visited the region eight times since taking his current position in August 2017. High-level visits, meetings, and talks are also held actively.

In particular, Foreign Minister Kono has given strong commitment to this region as one of six pillars of Japan's foreign policy. The "Kono Four Principles¹" that he set forth at the first Japan-Arab Political Dialogue held in Egypt in September 2017 forms the basic principles of his Middle East policy. The four principles are: (1) intellectual and human contribution, (2) investment in people, (3) enduring efforts, and (4) enhancing political efforts. Based on the "Kono Four Principles," Japan provides support for the Middle East Peace Process and dialogues to resolve issues in Syria and other countries. As a part of its efforts to support Palestine, Japan is also advancing the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative and the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) (See Special Feature "Japan's Support

¹ The address given by Foreign Minister Kono, at the First Japan-Arab Political Dialogue in September 2017. URL: http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000288921.pdf

for Palestine (JAIP, CEAPAD)"). In April 2018, the Senior Officials Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society² was held with an aim of stabilizing Iraq after the withdrawal of ISIL (post-ISIL). At the IISS Manama Dialogue held in October, which Foreign Minister Kono attended for the second consecutive year, he emphasized that Japan will make use of its experiences to support reform efforts by the Middle East countries through human resource development and other means. Japan will make full use of its friendly relations with the Middle East countries and its alliance with the U.S. to continue implementing its own initiatives toward realizing peace and stability in the Middle East.

Although the area controlled by ISIL has decreased significantly in size, the Syrian crisis remains unresolved. Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, Japan has provided support worth more than 2.5 billion US dollars in total to Syria and its neighboring countries, including support to Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, which have been affected by an influx of Syrian refugees. Japan will continue to provide humanitarian support for all Syrians who need it, while supporting the Syrian political process led by the United Nations.

Situation in Middle East Region

(1) Iraq

Elections for the Council of Representatives were held in May 2018, which was the first national elections held after the declaration of the liberation of all Iraqi territories from ISIL in December last year (the previous elections were held in April 2014). Thereafter, President Salih was elected in October, and a new government headed by Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi was inaugurated in the same month. (However, as of the time



Senior Officials Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society (April 5; Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of the inauguration of the government, eight ministers out of 22 had not yet been approved.) In the Kurdistan region as well, regional parliament elections were held in September (previously held in September 2013), and the Kurdistan political parties coordinated among themselves toward the formation of a new regional government body.

With the aim of providing support for Iraq's recovery process, Japan continues to contribute to infrastructural reconstruction in the country through yen-loan projects in areas such as water and electricity supply. Furthermore, in Iraq, the return of a large number of internally displaced persons arising as a result of the operations to liberate Iraq from ISIL have become an issue of the highest priority for recovery. In 2018, following up from the previous year, Japan provided support of 100 million US dollars via international organizations, with the aim of realizing the early return and settlement of the displaced persons. Meanwhile, five Iraqi parliamentary members and others visited Japan in February to participate in "Seminar to Share Japan's Experiences and Knowledge" to utilize Japan's experiences for reconstruction and national reconciliation.

With regard to the security matter, ISIL fighters are still hiding in Iraq and engaging in sporadic terrorist activities. And since July, there have been demonstrations by residents in the southern part of Iraq, particularly in Basra Governorate, protesting

² April 2018, Senior Officials Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society (Outcomes)

against the shortage of water and electricity and demanding improvements in public services. In September, the Consulate General of Iran in Basra was set on fire by demonstrators. Although the demonstration calmed down later, dissatisfaction of the residents of the Basra Governorate and other areas remains unsolved, which continues to be a challenge for the new government.

As for Japan-Iraq relations, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato attended the International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq held in Kuwait in February, where he expressed Japan's continuous support to Iraq. The Senior Officials Meeting on Supporting Job Creation and Vocational Training to Facilitate Weapons Reduction for Iraqi Society was held jointly by the governments of Iraq and Japan in April, with the attendance of Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Abadi. During the meeting, Prime Minister Abe advocated international support for the Iraqi government's efforts under a new approach of integrating security and development initiatives. In December, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Iraq, where he conveyed Prime Minister Abe's congratulations on the formation of the new government and affirmed that efforts will be made to promote exchanges between the two countries in 2019, which marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Iraq.

(2) Syria

A Situation

The ongoing Syrian crisis, which began in 2011, has resulted in the deaths of as many as about 500,000 people as well as created more than 5 million refugees and approximately 6.3 million internally displaced persons. It is considered to be this century's worst humanitarian crisis.

Although the power of ISIL has diminished considerably, the Syrian government strengthened its offensive against dissidents in 2018. In April, the East Ghouta district in the eastern part of

Damascus was suppressed by Syrian Government Forces, while the northern part of Homs and the southwestern parts of Syria including Daraa were suppressed by the same Forces in May and July, respectively. Amidst concerns of a possible largescale attack by the Syrian government in the Idlib Governorate in the northwestern part of Syria, a Russia-Turkey Summit Meeting was held in Sochi, Russia, on September 17. During this meeting, the leaders agreed on designating a non-militarized zone in the areas around Idlib, among other matters. As a result of this agreement, a largescale attack by the Syrian government on Idlib has been avoided for the time being; however, there have been reports that forces opposing to the Russia-Turkey agreement are present among the dissidents in this region, making the situation extremely unpredictable as it is not known how long the agreement would last.

In response to the use of chemical weapons in April amidst the strengthening offensive by the Syrian government in the East Ghouta district, the U.S., the UK, and France carried out a missile attack on April 14.

Furthermore, in January 2018, Turkey, which was concerned about the expansion of Kurdish influence in Syria, launched an operation in Afrin in the northwestern part of Syria that is under the control of Kurdish forces. In March, it successfully suppressed the area. Thereafter, although the U.S. and Turkey reached an agreement in June to withdraw Kurdish forces from Manbij, President Erdogan of Turkey announced on December 12 the start of military operations in the regions east of the Euphrates in the northern part of Syria. Hence, the situation in North Syria remains fluid.

Meanwhile, multiple attacks within Syria by Israel have occurred as a result of Israel's concerns over the growing influence of Iran and Hezbollah in Syria. On December 19, President Trump announced that the U.S. military, which had until then been providing support for the Syrian Democratic Forces and engaging in military operations against ISIL, would be withdrawn from Syria.

B Political Process

On January 30, 2018, a wide range of Syrian nationals, armed groups, religious groups, and others were invited to the Syria National Dialogue Congress held in Sochi, Russia, and an agreement was reached on the establishment of a Constitutional Committee to discuss revisions to the constitution. Although the members of this Committee were later selected through the mediation of a special representative from the UN, it ran into difficulties and failed to obtain the agreement of the parties involved. No progress has since been made in the political process.

The Japanese Government's Efforts

Japan has consistently maintained a stance that the crisis in Syria cannot be resolved by any military means, and a political solution is indispensable. At the same time, Japan also attaches importance to continuing support to stave off further aggravation of the humanitarian situation through ongoing assistance. From this standpoint, following the aggravated situation in Syria, Japan has provided assistance worth more than 2.5 billion US dollars to Syria and neighboring countries from 2012 to the end of 2018 for humanitarian assistance. Japan intends to continue its efforts in close coordination with the international community to improve and stabilize the situation in Syria, with focus on humanitarian support, which is Japan's forte.

(3) Iran

Iran is a major Shiite regional power with land of approximately 4.4 times the size of Japan with a population of about 80 million and is blessed with abundant natural resources. Japan has maintained and strengthened a traditionally friendly relationship from the viewpoints of ensuring the stable supply of crude oil and the stability of the Middle East region.

After taking office, U.S. President Trump has adopted the stance that Iran's activities to



Japan-Iran Summit Meeting (September 26, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

destabilize the region should be dealt with strictly. In May 2018, President Trump announced that the U.S. will withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed in July 2015 between Iran and the EU3 (UK, France, Germany and EU) +3 (U.S., China and Russia), and begin reinstating U.S. sanctions on Iran, which had been suspended according to the ICPOA. The U.S. reinstated some sanctions on Iran in August, and in November, the U.S. fully reinstated sanctions on Iran, including in areas such as crude oil imports and others. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been continuously verifying and monitoring Iran's compliance with the agreement's terms, and the agency has reported that Iran is fulfilling its commitments under the agreement even after the announcement by the U.S. on its withdrawal from the JCPOA.

Japan supports the JCPOA, which contributes to strengthening the international non-proliferation system and the stability of the Middle East. To support the fulfillment of Iran's commitment to the JCPOA, Japan conducted a group training on nuclear safety for employees of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran in February, as well as a group training on safeguards for employees of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran in July in cooperation with the IAEA.

After the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Japan made the request to the U.S. on successive occasions, including four Japan-US consultations, that sanctions re-imposed by the U.S. on Iran

should not cause an adverse impact on the stable supply of energy to Japan and the activities of Japanese corporations. In November, the U.S. announced that the "significant reduction exception" provision will be applied to Japan under the National Defense Authorization Act.

At the UN General Assembly held in September, the seventh Japan-Iran Summit Meeting (New York, U.S.) was held since the Rouhani administration came into power. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan has been engaged in cooperation that benefits the people of Iran in areas such as environment, health, and disaster risk reduction, and expressed his hopes to further develop the traditional friendly relations between the two countries in 2019, which marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Iran. At the same time, he reiterated Japan's support for the JCPOA. In Iran-Japan Foreign Ministers' meetings held on three occasions (April, August, and November) and telephone meeting (May), the foreign ministers of Japan and Iran exchanged frank opinions on the JCPOA and the situation in the Middle East, including Yemen and Syria.

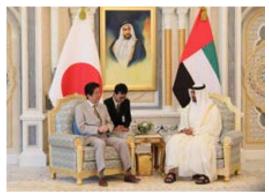
(4) Gulf States (including Yemen)

The Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain) are important partners for Japan from the perspective of Japan's energy security. At the same time, industry diversification and human resources development toward ending reliance on oil have been positioned as their priority issues, and Japan is cooperating with the Gulf States toward the realization of these goals. A good example is the "Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" that can be described as a new compass for bilateral cooperation based on the "Saudi Vision 2030" announced by Saudi Arabia in 2016 and which aims to create employment and end dependence on oil.

In 2018, there were visits to Japan by H. E. Mr.

Marzoug Ali Mohammad Thenayan Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait in March, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates in April, H.E. Mr. Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage in May, and H.E. Dr. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Al Dugm (SEZAD) in September. From Japan, Prime Minister Abe visited the UAE in April, where he proposed bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors beyond energy. Foreign Minister Kono visited Bahrain in October to attend the IISS Manama Dialogue and Qatar in December to attend the Doha Forum 2018. This was the second consecutive year that Foreign Minister Kono attended the Manama Dialogue. In 2017, he spoke about Japan's active role toward stabilizing the Middle East region through the "Kono Four Principles" that represent Japan's Middle East diplomacy policy. In 2018, he expressed that Japan will provide support for reforms in Middle East countries by harnessing Japan's experience and expertise from the process of its own modernization (in particular, in the areas of education, human resource development, and the empowerment of youths). Foreign Minister Kono's attendance at the Doha Forum 2018 also marked the first attendance for a Japanese foreign minister. During the forum, he emphasized the importance of working together in order to address common issues shared by countries around the world. Furthermore, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Oman in September and engaged in consultations focused on the energy, tourism, and defense sectors. Hence, Japan held active exchanges with key officials from the Gulf States in 2018.

With regard to the regional situation, the severance of diplomatic relations by Saudi Arabia,



Prime Minister Abe's visit to United Arab Emirates (April 30, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Speech by Foreign Minister Kono at the Plenary Session, "Stabilisation and Reconstruction in the Middle East," at the 14th IISS Manama Dialogue (October 27, Manama, Bahrain)

UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and other countries with Qatar in June 2017 remains in a deadlock despite diplomatic mediation by Sheikh Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and consultations at the summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in December.

In response to the release of a Japanese journalist detained in Syria in October with cooperation from the Qatar government, Prime Minister Abe expressed gratitude to Sheikh Tamim, Amir Al Thani of the State of Qatar, while Foreign Minister Kono expressed gratitude to Sheikh Mohammed, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar.

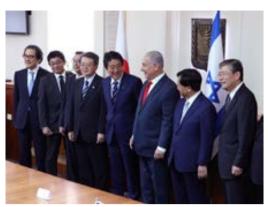
During the same month, a Saudi Arabian journalist was assassinated at the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, and condemnation of Saudi Arabia by the West over this incident spread quickly.

Fighting continues in Yemen between the Houthis, anti-government forces that control the capital Sanaa, the Yemeni military, and the military of the Arab League. Despite a ceasefire agreement concluded in Hudaydah, port city in the western part of Yemen in December, the outlook for peace remains uncertain. In terms of developments in the past year, operations were launched by the military of the Arab League in June to recapture Hudaydah. Amidst the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Hudaydah as a result of the intensification of battles in the city, the U.S. has called for a ceasefire and there is growing momentum toward peace. In December, talks were held between the parties concerned in Stockholm, Sweden, and an agreement was reached on a ceasefire in Hudaydah.

Yemen faces a serious humanitarian crisis that includes food shortage and a lack of medical and health services, and support from the international community is needed. From January 2015 to December 2018, Japan provided assistance worth more than 200 million US dollars through cooperation with international organizations and other agencies. Japan will continue to provide support toward realizing stability in Yemen.

(5) Israel

Israel excels in the development of advanced technology and innovation and holds importance for the Japanese economy. It also plays an important role in the stability of the Middle East region. In recent years, Israel has been expanding its relationship with Asia, including Japan, as a part of its efforts to diversify its diplomacy. As a result, the cooperative relations between Japan and Israel has been strengthened exponentially, particularly in the economic front. Compared to 2013, the number of Japanese businesses in Israel has increased threefold, while the amount of investment has increased by 120 times. The Embassy of Japan in Israel opened the Japan Innovation Center in June under its auspices,



Japan-Israel Summit Meeting (May 2, Jerusalem, Israel; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and is engaged in providing active support for developing relationships between Japanese and Israeli corporations.

On May 2, Prime Minister Abe visited Israel for the first time in three years. During the visit, he held a meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu, welcomed the development of economic relations with Israel in recent years, and affirmed Japan's intention to advance cooperation including in the areas of politics and security. Thereafter, the two countries held their first Politico-Military (PM) Dialogue in October and the Fourth Dialogue on Cyber Issues as well as Bilateral Consultation on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues in November. From 2017 to 2018 alone, eight ministers from Israel visited Japan, and active intergovernmental dialogues are taking place between the two countries in a wide range of areas.

(6) Palestine

Based on the Oslo Accords of 1993 and other agreements, the Palestinian National Authority (PA) began self-government rule in the West Bank and Gaza from 1995. Prime Minister Abbas assumed office as President after the presidential elections held in January 2005. After that, however, relations between the Fatah led by President Abbas and Hamas deteriorated, and Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip by military

force. Through Egypt's mediation efforts, Fatah and Hamas reached an agreement in-principle in October 2017 to transfer power in the Gaza Strip to the PA. However, the agreement has not been implemented and the division remains, with the West Bank still held by Fatah and the Gaza Strip remaining effectively under Hamas control.

On May 1, 2018, Prime Minister Abe visited Palestine for the first time in three years and met with President Abbas. During the meeting, they exchanged views on a wide range of topics related to the Middle East Peace Process, and Prime Minister Abe expressed that Japan will continue to support Palestine in this time of difficulty. The next day, Prime Minister Abe visited the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), the flagship project of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative led by Japan, and inspected the steady progress of Japan's support efforts.

(7) Middle East Peace Process

Developments in the Middle East Peace Process

The Middle East Peace Process has stagnated since negotiations between Israel and Palestine faltered in April 2014. Israel is continuing with its settlement policy, mutual mistrust is firmly entrenched, and a return to talks has not been achieved. Humanitarian situations in the Gaza Strip also continue to be severe.

The U.S. Trump administration announced in December 2017 its position recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018. In response, demonstrations were held by protestors in Palestine, and in the Gaza Strip, more than 50 people died while many were injured as a result of violent clashes with Palestinians and Israeli security forces. After that, tensions have erupted intermittently, such as clashes in the Gaza Strip, the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip, and air strikes by Israeli forces on Hamas bases.

Special Feature

Japan's Assistance for Palestine (JAIP, CEAPAD)

Japan has been implementing unique initiatives concerning peace and stability in the Middle East with the aim of fostering trust among the parties involved, including the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative and the Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD). The Corridor for Peace and Prosperity is a plan developed in 2006 that seeks to promote economic autonomy for Palestine with regional cooperation by Japan, Palestine, Israel, and Jordan as a longer-term initiative. CEAPAD is a framework for regional discussions launched by Japan in February 2013 to support Palestine's nation building by mobilizing East Asia's knowledge and experience with economic advancement.

Below are introductions to Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), a flagship project of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative, and CEAPAD.

1. JAIP

JAIP is a project to build an agro-industrial park as an operational base for Palestinian small and medium enterprises in the suburbs of Jericho. As of December 2018, 13 Palestinian companies are operating at the park (including companies producing supplements made from olive leaf extract, paper towels, soaps, beverages, and other daily goods) and have created about 200 jobs. Another 19 companies have tenancy contracts.

Prime Minister Abe visited JAIP in May 2018. Prior to that, Foreign Minister Kono visited JAIP in December 2017 to attend an opening ceremony of Phase 2 and announced plans to expand the scope of JAIP to include the ICT sector,



Visit by Prime Minister Abe to JAIP (May 2, Jericho, Palestine; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

as well as the facilitation of logistics, as a grade-up strategy of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative. The project is currently under Phase 2 of the three planned phases. Palestine held an ICT business competition in October 2018 and Japan invited five top competition participants to Japan in December.

2. CEAPAD

A ministerial meeting, which was chaired by Foreign Minister Kono and attended by ASEAN countries, the Republic of Korea, and others, took place in Thailand in June 2018. In the meeting, the ministers confirmed areas for future assistance for Palestine and reconfirmed the importance of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Foreign Minister Kono introduced JAIP products at the meeting.

Additionally, Japan arranged a tour of Palestine with ambassadors from CEAPAD member countries (Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc.) and visited JAIP and UNWRA refugee camps in October 2018. Participating countries commented that it was "a very informative visit" and expressed gratitude for Japan's initiative, particularly since some participating countries do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.



Foreign Minister Kono introducing JAIP products at the CEAPAD ministerial meeting (June 27, Bangkok, Thailand)



Palestinian Prime Minister Hamdallah, ministers, and a group of ambassadors and others of countries participating in the tour (October 11, Jericho, Palestine)

B The Government of Japan's Efforts

Japan has been working on political and economic fronts in coordination with the international community toward the achievement of a "two-state solution" that would enable Israelis and Palestine to coexist in peace.

Political dialogue has been conducted at all levels involving the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East Peace, such as the visit by Prime Minister Abe to Israel and Palestine in May 2018. Furthermore, through Japan's unique initiative, the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" (See Japan's Assistance for Palestine (JAIP, CEAPAD)," invitational programs from Israel and Palestine to Japan, and other means, Japan is working for confidence building between the parties concerned and has contributed to creating an environment that is vital toward the realization of peace. In particular, with regard to the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit with Israel, Palestine, and Jordan in April 2018 in Jordan. Japan also took the lead in the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD), which aims to harness the experience and resources of Asian countries to support Palestine, and a CEAPAD ministerial meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June.

(8) Jordan and Lebanon

The situation in Jordan remains relatively stable compared to other parts of the constantly turbulent Middle East region. Jordan has, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, played an important role in the peace and stability of the region, such as with countermeasures against extremists, its acceptance of a large number of Syrian refugees, and active involvement in the Middle East Peace Process. The country's role is highly regarded by the international community.

With regard to Jordan's relations with Japan,

Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II during his visit to Jordan in May. Foreign Minister Kono visited Jordan in April when he served as the co-chair for the Agaba Process Meeting, which is held to discuss counter-terrorism measures. He visited Jordan again in December and held the first Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. From Jordan. Minister of Foreign Affairs Safadi visited Japan in March, and His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah visited Japan in November. Hence, there were more frequent summit meetings and ministerial level visits, and the traditionally favorable relations between Japan and Jordan have evolved further into a strategic partnership. The two countries have agreed to coordinate on bringing stability to the Middle East and to further develop the countries' bilateral relations in a wide range of areas such as diplomacy, security, and economics.

Japan also attaches importance to Jordan, and in 2018, continued to contribute to its social and economic stability through the signing of exchange of notes and exchanges of letters concerning Development Policy Loans for reforms of the business environment, employment, and fiscal sustainability.

Lebanon is a nation with a cultural mosaic consisting of 18 religions/sects, including Christianity and Islam. The former leader of the Free Patriotic Movement Aoun was elected President in October 2016, approximately two and a half years after President Suleiman stepped down in May 2014. With this, the Hariri Cabinet



Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting (November 27, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

was inaugurated in December of the same year. A range of policies are being implemented by the Hariri Cabinet, and in particular, a new electoral law was passed in June 2017. A parliamentary election, Lebanon's first parliamentary election since 2009, was held peacefully in May 2018 in accordance with this law. Although Prime Minister Hariri was nominated as prime minister, coordination between the sects met with difficulty, so a Cabinet has not yet been formed.

Lebanon is facing a range of serious issues including the impact of the situation in Syria. Stability in Lebanon is key to the stability and prosperity of the Middle East. Japan has also provided Lebanon with humanitarian aid for assistance to Syrian refugees and the host communities.

(9) Turkey

Turkey is a geopolitically important large country in the region. As a member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Government of Turkey essentially emphasizes Europe and the U.S. in its diplomacy, including making efforts to join the EU, while proactively pursuing multifaceted diplomacy with states in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Turkey has historically been a pro-Japan country, as typified by episodes such as the Ertugrul Frigate incident in 1890³.

In the Presidential election held on June 24, 2018, President Erdogan was re-elected with 52.59% of the votes (voting rate of 86.24%). In the parliamentary elections held at the same time, the ruling party, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) formed the People's Alliance and won 57.4% of the seats (344 out of 600 parliamentary seats). The AKP was unable to win more than half of the seats on its own.

As a result of these elections, Turkey moved from a parliamentary cabinet system to an executive



Japan-Turkey Foreign Ministers' Meeting (November 5, Tokyo)

presidential system, in which the authority is concentrated on the president. The ministries were also reorganized with the abolishment of the prime minister position, and reduction in the number of cabinet minister positions from 26 to 17 and the number of ministries from 22 to 16. A new Vice President position was also established.

The state of emergency declared by the government after an attempted coup d'état on July 15, 2016, was lifted in July 2018.

On the diplomatic front, Turkey has accepted approximately 3.3 million Syrian refugees while tensions with countries in Europe and North America are rising over response to the refugee issue. With regard to the Syrian situation, Turkey is cooperating with Russia and Iran on, among other things, the creation of de-escalation zones through the Astana Process. Turkey also carried out Operation Euphrates Shield and Operation Olive Branch and is advancing into Syria to ensure the security of the country. Tensions had risen with the U.S. over the issues of the extradition of Fethullah Gulen, residing in the U.S., the provision by the U.S. of weaponry to the PYD and YPG (organizations that are active in Syria in connection with the PKK, a Turkish terrorist organization involved in the Kurdish independence movement), and Turkey's purchase of the S400 anti-aircraft missile system from Russia. Turkey-U.S. relations were further aggravated by its treatment of

³ For more details of the Ertugrul Frigate incident, refer to: http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/turkey/data.html

Andrew Brunson, an American pastor detained in Turkey for his support of groups in relation to the attempted coup d'état, and escalated to the reciprocal imposition of sanctions between Turkey and the U.S., such as additional tariffs. As a result, the Turkish Lira plummeted in August. After that, Brunson was released in October, and the Lira gradually recovered. Tensions between the two countries are easing gradually.

With regard to the relations with Japan, a summit meeting was held in New York, U.S., in September, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December. Foreign Ministers' meetings were held in Singapore and Tokyo in August and November respectively.

(10) Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the Ghani administration is mounting an effort for peace; among other achievements, it realized a temporary three-day ceasefire in June for the first time in history with the anti-government organization, the Taliban. Various countries, including the U.S., are also taking proactive action toward bringing about peace in the country, but none of these efforts have yet culminated in a peace agreement, and close attention is being paid to future trends. Lower house elections were held on October 20 for the first time in eight years. Although the realization of an election amidst the unstable security conditions should, in itself, be commended, there were also challenges such as equipment breakdown at some voting centers that made it impossible for voting to be carried out there. The Geneva Conference on Afghanistan was held on November 28, and attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato as the Japanese representative. At the conference, the international community called for Afghanistan to undertake further reforms on corruption and other areas, while also expressing its continued support toward the country. Afghanistan, on its part, expressed its will to carry out reforms and presented an action plan for peace.

(11) Egypt

Located at the north-eastern edge of the African continent and facing Europe on the other side of the Mediterranean, Egypt is a major country in the region, and plays an important role in the stability of the Middle East and North Africa.

On the economic front, there has been a tendency toward macroeconomic indicators such as foreign currency reserves and foreign direct investment by introducing a floating exchange rate system in autumn 2016 and reforming the fuel subsidy system as well as the introduction of value-added tax.

Steady progress is seen in the Japan-Egypt relations. Since President El-Sisi's visit to Japan in February 2016, steady progress has been made on partnership programs as the construction program of Grand Egyptian Museum and the "Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP)," which includes the introduction of Japanese-style education, an increase in the numbers of Egyptian students and trainees to Japan, and strengthening support for the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST).

Active high-level visits were also carried out between Japan and Egypt in 2018. There were visits to Japan by Minister of Education Shawki in February and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Abdel Ghaffar in October. Furthermore, during the visit by Foreign Minister Shoukry to Japan in October, he held the Japan-Egypt Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Foreign Minister Kono. From Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii visited Egypt in March.

The number of Japanese tourists visiting Egypt is on the rise. In December, direct flights between Japan and Egypt, which resumed last year, increased to two flights a week. Bilateral investments and exchanges are expected to grow accordingly.

The Situation in the North Africa Region (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania)

The Maghreb is at the crossroads to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, and has shared history, culture, and language in common. Recently, it has attracted attention because of this potential. On the other hand, as there is the issue of the return to the region from Iraq and Syria of foreign fighters, as well as the issues of refugees and illegal migrants entering Europe, etc., stabilization of the political system and security situation is a crucial issue.

In Libya, confrontation rooted in tribal society and the worsening of security since the collapse of the Gadhafi administration continues to be serious. Three parallel political forces continue to exist in the country—one in the west (Tripoli) and one in the east (Tobruk), as well as a national unity government that was formed based on mediation from the UN and other parties. In May 2018, a four-party talk was realized under the leadership of France, between Prime Minister Sarrai of the Government of National Accord, Field Marshal Haftar of the Libyan National Army, Speaker of the House of Representatives Saleh, and head of the High State Council Mishri. Although the decision was made to hold an election in December, this was never brought to fruition. Furthermore, a summit-level international meeting was held in December under Italy's leadership, and the importance of convening a General National Congress at the start of the year, as announced by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Salamé, was affirmed. There are plans to hold a citizens' referendum concerning the constitution in February 2019, and it is expected that the elections process will start. The security situation in Libya remains unstable. In August 2018, military conflict led by militia broke out in Tripoli, causing fatalities and injuries among civilians as well. It is hoped that, for the sake of stability within Libya and in neighboring countries, progress will be made with comprehensive political dialogue by Libyans, and



Japan-Morocco Foreign Ministers' Meeting (December 24, Rabat. Morocco)

that a legitimate national unity government can be established.

In December 2018, Foreign Minister Kono visited Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. These were the first visits by a Japanese Foreign Minister, in the context of bilateral relations in 31 years, 15 years, and eight years respectively. These three countries have maintained political stability after the "Arab Spring" and hold strong potential as a region for its geographical advantages and abundant young labor force. At the same time, however, they face economic and social risks such as disparity among regions and high unemployment rates. Foreign Minister Kono's visit promotes cooperation toward economic and social stability, as well as the enhancement of security and counter-terrorism measures, all of which are issues shared by the countries. At the same time, he affirmed efforts to develop frameworks for promoting business and to strengthen political dialogues, in order to further strengthen Japan's partnership with each country.

Although Mauritania shares a long border with the politically unstable Mali, the country is relatively stable compared to other countries in the Sahel Region and has experienced no terrorist attacks since 2012. In January 2017, Mauritania mediated in a peaceful change of government in Gambia and has contributed to regional stability. It also hosted the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in July 2018 in its capital, Nouakchott. Located in sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania is also the westernmost Arabic country.



1 Overview

Africa, with a population of over 1.2 billion in 54 countries, has attracted the interest of the international community, owing to the high market potential and rich natural resources. Also, in the political sphere, Africa's influence in the international community is growing and many countries successfully had democratic transitions in 2018. Progress was made toward economic integration, for example, the signing and establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)¹ by 44 countries in March. In addition, Africa's own efforts are being made to resolve disputes, including efforts toward stabilizing the region by the G5 Sahel (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad), moves to stabilize the Horn of Africa such as the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and South Sudan's new peace agreement by the mediation of organizations such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

On the other hand, in addition to long-standing challenges such as political unrest, severe disparities, and poverty, other challenges have emerged, including the vulnerable health systems, the rise of violent extremism, the lack of employment mainly affecting youth, and the



Speech by Foreign Minister Kono at the opening session of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting (October 6, Tokyo)

deteriorating financial and investment climate due to increasing public debt in some countries. Overcoming these challenges is crucial for peace and stability of the international community as a whole.

In 1993, Japan started the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), under the principles of respect for African ownership and partnership with the international community. Since then, with other co-organizers such as the UN, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank (WB) and the African Union Commission (AUC), Japan has supported Africa's efforts.

At TICAD VI held in August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, Prime Minister Abe announced that for a

^{1 44} countries signed at the extraordinary summit meeting of the African Union (AU) held in Kigali in March. It establishes AfCFTA and could become one of the largest FTAs with a total population of 12 billion and GDP of 2.5 trillion US dollars if it is ratified by the remaining 22 countries. 49 countries have signed as of January 2019.



Speech by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada at the plenary session of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)



Foreign Minister Kono, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji were among those who attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2018. In addition to confirming the progress of initiatives announced at TICAD V and TICAD VI, they reaffirmed to secure international standards in aid, such as debt sustainability and to promote public-private partnership, and held discussions in preparation for TICAD 7, which will be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

Japan has been strengthening its efforts in the field of peace and stability. It continues to deploy staff officers to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) while supporting to enhance UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) capabilities in African countries. Japan and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the Core Group Meeting of Eminent Persons Group on Peace and Stability in Africa in August, where five former African Heads



Remarks from singer MISIA, appointed TICAD 7 Honorary Ambassador (October 6, Tokyo)

of State² were invited. It was also attended by Former Prime Minister Mori and Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. Following remarks from Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono, the participants from both Japan and Africa had discussions on several topics, including challenges which should be tackled by Africa itself in order to ensure peace and stability in Africa, and the participants expressed expectations for Japan's assistance in areas such as institution building.

On the economic front, the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum was held in May in Johannesburg, South Africa, in response to the high expectations of Japanese companies to expand their business activities into Africa. Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Seko, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Takahashi attended the forum. The business opportunities and challenges were discussed between Governments of Japan and African countries, private companies, and international organizations, and 16 memorandums were introduced on this occasion.

Japan dispatched the Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment

² Former President Chissano of Mozambique, former President Soglo of Benin, former President Mkapa of Tanzania, former President Qbasanjo of Nigeria, and former President Mbeki of South Africa participated from Africa.

Special Feature

TICAD7 - Collaboration with host city Yokohama

The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) will be held in the City of Yokohama, Kanagawa on August 28 to 30, 2019. TICAD is an international conference co-organized by Japan with the UN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC). It brings together representatives from African countries, related countries, and civil society to discuss development in Africa.

Various events will take place in Yokohama ahead of TICAD 7. In 2019, the whole city of Yokohama will be filled with a strong atmosphere of Africa in 2019 as Japan's "Closest City to Africa."

This will be the third time that TICAD will be held in Yokohama. In keeping with the city's theme of "Africa and Yokohama, Sharing Passion for the Future" for TICAD 7, Yokohama is working on activities in three areas: expanding international technical cooperation, boosting business support and promoting participation by women, and enhancing civic exchange activities and fostering the future generations.

In international technical cooperation, delegations from various African countries have been coming to Yokohama to learn about areas such as water supply and ports, amid growing interest in urban issues related to rapid population growth. Yokohama participated in the Africities Summit (Morocco) held in November 2018 and delivered a presentation on its experience with urban development to an audience of over 3,000 participants. Additionally, Yokohama conducts seminars to introduce its experience with and technologies for waste management through the African Clean Cities Platform established jointly with the Ministry



Waste management seminar (August 16; Photo: City of Yokohama)

of the Environment, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and various African countries. The Platform is scheduled to hold its second annual meeting in Yokohama at the same timing at TICAD 7.

In business assistance, Yokohama gives a boost to doing business with Africa, for instance, holding seminars that introduce the business environment in Africa and encouraging local companies in the city to receive African students who are studying in Japan through the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) as interns. Through these efforts, some of the participating companies have newly entered the African market and others have employed African students in Japan supported by the ABE Initiative.

In promoting the active participation of women in society, Yokohama cooperated with JICA to implement the Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program from 2014, following discussions at TICAD V, in which female entrepreneurs and government officials from African countries visit Yokohama and exchange views. At the Emerging Women Entrepreneurs Forum, which Yokohama hosted with JICA in August 2018, Mayor Fumiko Hayashi called for action to promote further active participation of women in society.



Seminar for African Women Entrepreneurs (August 23; Photo: City of Yokohama)

With regard to the initiatives to develop the future generation, Yokohama is promoting young people's understanding of and interaction with Africa. The "One School, One Country" program has been conducted as part of such initiatives, and in this program 74 elementary and junior high schools in Yokohama are holding exchanges with 33 African countries (as of December 2018) through school visits by African Ambassadors and other events. In June 2018, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Benin visited Kasama Elementary School during his visit to Japan. He enjoyed a school meal, received a tour of school cleaning activities, and was also greatly impressed by the students' presentations on what they learned about Benin and their performance of Benin's national anthem in French. Yokohama also launched the Student Conference on African Development in Yokohama, a project to discuss issues facing Africa, at which roughly 70 university and graduate students from 17 universities carried out group work on specific issues.

These initiatives by Yokohama are further deepening the connection between Japan and Africa and offer an excellent example of regional collaboration. The Government of Japan will work closely with Yokohama in preparing toward TICAD 7 so as to make the conference even more fruitful, and make efforts for its success.



One School, One Country program on African countries (June 20; Photo: City of Yokohama)



Student Conference on African Development in Yokohama (December 8; Photo: City of Yokohama)

to Rwanda and Zambia in July, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii. In addition, at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishimura hosted a breakfast meeting in which Japanese companies and ministers from eight African countries were invited, where they exchanged views on public-private partnerships in preparation for TICAD 7. Discussions are also underway to conclude investment agreements with eight countries.

Japan is planning to further strengthen cooperation with the African Union (AU) and African countries particularly through efforts such as the establishment of the Mission of Japan to the African Union in the beginning of 2018. Japan is also working to share information and conduct policy coordination with third countries including the U.S., the UK, France, and India, through policy consultations on Africa.

2 East Africa

(1) Uganda

Under President Museveni's long-serving administration since 1986, Uganda has enjoyed sustained economic growth thanks to stable domestic politics and it has contributed to regional stability as one of the important and influential countries in East Africa. Uganda also actively accepts refugees, including South Sudan refugees staying in the northern part of the country.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Okello. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato also visited Uganda in November to meet with President Museveni and to attend a ceremony to commission the Nile Bridge built with the support of Japan.

(2) Ethiopia

With more than 100 million citizens, Ethiopia has the largest population in the East Africa region. Ethiopia plays an important political role in the region and is home to the headquarters of the AU. It is also the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). On the economic front, Ethiopia has been enjoying continuously robust economic growth, and is aiming to become a middle-income country.

Political and economic reforms have advanced in the country since the inauguration of the new Prime Minister, Abiy, in April. Also, in July, Ethiopia announced the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations with Eritrea for the first time in 20 years following a prolonged border conflict and signed the "Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship."³

Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Ethiopia in August. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Aklilu visited Japan in February and Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Seyoum later visited Japan in August. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Afework attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Japan in October and held talks with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji. In November, Arkebe, Head of Economic Planning, Monitoring and Supporting Sector, Office of the Prime Minister, visited Japan to receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

(3) Eritrea

Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993, but a border dispute that broke out from 1998 to 2000 left the two countries in a state of conflict. Then, their relationship improved, and the two countries re-established diplomatic relations for the first time in 20 years in July 2018. The relationship with neighboring countries have also improved, such as the establishment of diplomatic

relations with Somalia in that same month, and in November, the resolution to lift sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council since 2009 was unanimously adopted.

Also, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato and State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Okuno visited Eritrea in August.

(4) Kenya

Kenya plays a central role in the regional economy with its port in Mombasa, the largest in East Africa, serving as a gateway to East and Central Africa. Kenya also contributes to the peace and stability of the region as a stabilizing force in East Africa by engaging in efforts to build peace in Somalia, South Sudan, and elsewhere. On the domestic affairs front, President Kenyatta launched the BIG4 five-year economic development plan consisting of the pillars of (1) manufacturing, (2) food security, (3) universal health coverage, and (4) affordable housing, and is engaged in a new nation building effort.

Minister for Economic Revitalization Motegi visited Kenya in August. Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Juma attended a foreign ministers' meeting during her visit to Japan for the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October. In November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Kenya to attend the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, which was hosted by the Government of Kenya and co-sponsored by Japan.



Japan-Kenya Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)

³ Japan welcomed this and issued a statement by the foreign minister that hoped for the development of relations between the two countries and their contribution to the further stability and prosperity of the Horn of Africa.

(5) Union of Comoros

The Union of Comoros is an island country located in the Indian Ocean. Long-standing political unrest and an agricultural-based economy that is susceptible to climate conditions are obstacles to its economic growth and social development. In July, a constitutional amendment was made by a referendum which allowed for the re-election from Grande Comore, the home of incumbent President Azali, while maintaining the rotating system of presidential elections.

With respect to Japan-Comoros relations, at the foreign ministers' meeting held during Foreign Minister Souef's visit to Japan in February, a Japan-Comoros foreign ministers' joint press statement was issued. Japan also gained support for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" which Japan is promoting. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited the Union of Comoros in August and made a courtesy call to President Azali. It was a year in which a number of high-level bilateral visits were organized. During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Djoumoi held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato.

(6) Djibouti

Djibouti, situated at one of the great trade arteries that passes through the Indian Ocean and connects Europe and Asia, is aiming to be a distribution hub of East Africa. It is a base for international security and is a key country in achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Since 2011, Djibouti has been hosting the installations of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to carry out antipiracy activities, and the two countries have been developing excellent relationship. In August 2018, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Youssouf visited Japan to hold a foreign ministers' meeting

and issued a Foreign Ministers' Joint Press Statement affirming to further strengthen the two countries' bilateral ties and cooperate in the international arena. During his visit to Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ali Hassan held talks with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada.

(7) Seychelles

Although Seychelles has the highest gross national income per capita (GNI) of 14,180 US dollars in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a small island country with vulnerabilities in fields such as climate change and disaster prevention.

There were a number of high-level visits in 2018. In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Seychelles. During his trip to Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, Executive Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs Faure held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato. In December, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs Meriton visited Japan and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which a Japan-Seychelles Foreign Ministers' Joint Press Statement was issued. The Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Seychelles was established in January 2019, and bilateral relations are expected to further develop.



Japan-Seychelles Foreign Ministers' Meeting (December 5, Tokyo)

(8) Somalia

The peace and stability of Somalia is important for regional and global peace and stability, and the international community including Japan supports Somalia's nation building. Although Al Shahab (AS), an extremist faction of the international terror organization Al-Qaeda, remains active and humanitarian crises resulting from the impact of droughts and other causes still remain to be solved, efforts are being made to stabilize the public safety and to achieve economic growth.

During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Secretary of State for International Cooperation Abdulkadir held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato. Also, in December, Foreign Minister Kono made a courtesy call to Prime Minister Khaire during his visit to Qatar.



Foreign Minister Kono's courtesy call on Somalia's Prime Minister Khaire (December 15, Qatar)

(9) Sudan

Sudan is the second largest country by area in Sub-Saharan Africa, and is blessed with crude oil, minerals, as well as water resources and fertile arable land from the Nile River. In recent years, the domestic security situation has been improving, with the situations in South Sudan and Darfur improving. Also, since the U.S. lifted economic sanctions on South Sudan in October 2017, it is expected to have a positive impact on the economy. With regards to the domestic

affairs, the Government of Sudan is currently initiating a national dialogue process toward a comprehensive national reconciliation, and aims to hold a presidential election in 2020 with all parties participating.

In October, Foreign Affairs State Minister Osama Faisal attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato.

(10) Tanzania

Tanzania, which supports the peace and stability in East-South Africa, has sustained high economic growth for many years. In recent years, the private sector's willingness to conduct business in Tanzania is high, and the bilateral relationship with Japan has become closer, especially in terms of economy and economic cooperation. Also, the fifth meeting toward a Japan-Tanzania investment treaty was held in July in 2018.

In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Tanzania and made a courtesy call to President Magufuli and Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Mahiga. Foreign Minister Mahiga attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

(11) Madagascar

Japan-Madagascar bilateral relations are developing rapidly following the President's visit to Japan in December 2017. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Madagascar in August. Minister of Foreign Affairs Dovo and Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Randriarimanana attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and a foreign ministers' meeting was held.

On the economic front, in addition to vanilla, its largest export item, Madagascar's integrated production of nickel and cobalt, for which a Japanese company is the largest shareholder, is

expected to be the driving force of the economy. Japan is providing yen loans to support the extension project of the Toamasina Port, the country's largest resource shipping port.

In addition, as a result of the presidential elections held in November and December, candidate Rajoelina was elected President in January 2019. Member of the House of Representatives Kenya Akiba was dispatched to attend the inauguration ceremony as Special Envoy of Prime Minister. Special Envoy Akiba held talks with President Rajoelina where they agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in areas such as investment and economic cooperation. The economic growth of Madagascar is expected to accelerate as a result of democracy over the past five years.

(12) South Sudan

Turmoil has continued in South Sudan since the clashes in the capital, Juba, in December 2013. Mediation efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are ongoing, and some progress were made in the peace process in 2018. The Khartoum Declaration relating to a permanent ceasefire was issued in June, and President Kiir, former first Vice President Machar, and others signed a new conflict resolution agreement in September. Additionally, a peace ceremony commemorating the signing of the agreement was held in October, and former first Vice President Machar returned to Juba for the first time in about two years. The implementation process of the new conflict resolution agreement is scheduled to start under the guidance of IGAD.

During his visit to Japan for the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Nhial Deng held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

(13) Mauritius

Mauritius celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence in 2018. Under stable political situation, Mauritius actively promotes the diversification of industry into IT and the financial sector, in addition to traditional industries such as sugar production, textiles, and tourism. It maintains a top position in Africa in the World Bank's ease of doing business index, has concluded Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with African countries and India, and aims to be an investment hub in Africa.

Mauritius is the host country of the secretariats for the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). It holds meetings on maritime security and plays an active role in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Mauritius in August. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Canabady attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada.

(14) Rwanda

Under the leadership of President Kagame, who took office in 2000 and was re-elected for a third term in 2017, Rwanda continues to work toward economic development and national reconciliation. Recently, the country is experiencing rapid growth especially in the ICT field, and the number of Japanese businesses expanding into Rwanda is on the rise.

There were a number of high-level visits between Japan and Rwanda in 2018. Minister of ICT Rurangirwa visited Japan in March. In July, Japan dispatched the Public- Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii, to Rwanda.

Column

Japanese UN Officials Working in South Sudan - Challenging and rewarding

Miwako Shiino, Program Officer, Migration Management Unit, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) South Sudan

Reinforcement of border and migration control is an urgent task being actively addressed by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Flows of people into South Sudan through irregular means from neighboring countries and movement of people heading for Libya and Europe through South Sudan continue even now. Implementation of tightened immigration control at airports and borders contributes to protection of public order in the country, promotion of safe and regular movement of people, and prevention of migration related crimes, including human trafficking and smuggling. Enhanced migration management in the country through policy formulation and the capacity building of government officials also supports the protection of vulnerable migrants. My work includes providing assistance to these government initiatives in a variety of ways, including organizing seminars, improving infrastructure, formulating policy, and strengthening collaboration with neighboring countries. South Sudan has established

many structures since gaining its independence. The same is true in the area of border and migration management. I feel highly honored to have had the opportunity to contribute to South Sudan's "nation building" process through this work. It is also extremely fulfilling to make progress day by day, while overcoming difficulties together, and to deliver genuine results by working closely with government officials. I would say that one of the unique contributions of international organizations is working in alignment with government initiatives and providing targeted assistance.



Training on humanitarian border management held for government officials from South Sudan and Uganda (Photo: IOM South Sudan Office)

Naoki Ishikawa, UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Strategic Planning Unit

The real pleasure of working at the UN is to be able to engage in tasks to advance public goods in the international community together with colleagues from various countries. At UNMISS, where I work, we protect civilian populations whose lives are in danger from conflicts and provide assistance to advance the political process for sustainable peace. It is not easy to formulate common goals and strategies, and steadily implement them amid the competing approaches and overwhelming issues related to building peace in South Sudan. Nevertheless, as the staff in charge of strategic planning, it was very satisfying when the strategies were shared, coordination was smoothly advanced across relevant sections of

UNMISS and with other UN agencies, and the activities were successfully implemented as planned. I also learned through my work at the UN that it is important to begin with acknowledging differences and respecting each other in a multinational and multicultural environment. While progress is very incremental, I believe that the steady results produced by UNMISS should contribute to giving hope in the future to the people of South Sudan, the world's newest country, and raising the reputation and credibility of UN peacekeeping that contribute to the maintenance of international peace and safety.



At a UN Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Wau (in north-western South Sudan). Author in the center.

Minister for Economic Revitalization Motegi visited Rwanda in August. Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community Nduhungirehe attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji. Furthermore, President Kagame made an Official Working Visit to Japan in January 2019. While President Kagame was in Japan, he had a Japan-Rwanda summit meeting. His visit also included a dinner hosted by Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe, participation in the Rwanda-Japan Business Forum, and other events. The two leaders issued a joint statement between Japan and the Republic of Rwanda. This visit is expected to further deepen the bilateral relationship that has been developed up to now.



Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting: Announcement at joint press conference (January 8, 2019, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

3 Southern Africa

(1) Angola

Since the inauguration of President Lourenço in 2017, the Government of Angola has been actively promoting economic reforms including recovery of international credibility, strengthening of fiscal discipline, and soundness of the financial system. Angola is also working on diversifying and stabilizing the economy to depart from the existing economic structure that relies on abundant natural resources.

During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October 2018, Japan-

Angola foreign ministers' meeting was held between Minister of External Relations Augusto and Foreign Minister Kono.

(2) Zambia

Zambia has abundant mineral resources and has been working to diversify its economy in recent years to break away from its monoculture economy dependent on minerals. In July, Japan dispatched the Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii, to Zambia. During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Minister of Foreign Affairs Malanji held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. The second round of negotiations of a bilateral Investment Treaty were held in December.

Furthermore, the first official bilateral visit in six years was realized in December. President Lungu visited Japan on an official working visit and held a Japan-Zambia summit meeting. During his visit to Japan, the two countries issued a joint statement. His visit also included a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Abe, a courtesy call from Foreign Minister Kono, and participation in the Zambia-Japan Business Forum, among other events. This visit is expected to further deepen the bilateral relationship that has been developed up to now.



Japan-Zambia Summit Meeting (December 19, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(3) Zimbabwe

President Mugabe, who had held power since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, resigned in November 2017. Former Vice-President Mnangagwa was subsequently inaugurated as president in Zimbabwe, and the first general election under the new administration was held in July. Although the election itself was conducted in a relatively peaceful manner, security forces clashed with protesting opposition supporters several days after the election, which resulted in casualties.

Taking every occasion including Vice President Mohadi's visit to Japan as a presidential envoy in March and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Kazunori Tanaka's (member of the House of Representatives) attendance at the inauguration ceremony of President Mnangagwa in August, Japan has been continuously emphasizing directly to government officials, including the president, about the importance of promoting democracy and economic development in Zimbabwe. Japan expects that President Mnangagwa and administration will promote democracy and steadily implement economic reforms. Furthermore, Special Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Comberbach attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and also held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji.

(4) South Africa

South Africa is the only African country in the G20. It continues to garner attention from overseas companies including Japanese companies as a major economic power in Africa and as a base from which to carry out business expansion. In February, former President Zuma resigned during his term and was succeeded by Vice President Ramaphosa.

President Ramopasa attended the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum held in Johannesburg in May where he delivered a keynote speech. The bilateral economic relationship between the two countries continues to be active, including a visit to Japan by an investment mission in September led by a presidential envoy.

In February, Prime Minister Abe and President Ramaphosa held a telephone talk. During the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in May, Foreign Minister Kono and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Sisulu held a foregin ministers' meeting. The two countries affirmed progress in developing cordial relations through such events.

(5) Mozambique

Mozambique is rich in natural resources especially in the Nacala Corridor region and the private sector continues to show high interest to Mozambique. Several commemorative ceremonies of Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, including the completion ceremony of the Maputo Gas Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant in August 2018 and the construction ceremony of the Nacala Port Development Project in October, were held, which represent the relationship between the two countries. Japan also continues to receive a number of high-level visits from Mozambique. President of the National Assembly Macamo visited Japan in February and had talks with Prime Minister Abe and the Speakers of Houses of Representatives and Councillors. In October, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Pacheco attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and also held a foreign ministers' meeting.

(6) Botswana

Vice President Masisi took the presidency in Botswana in April following the expiration of former President Khama's term of office. Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Yoshitaka Shindo (member of the House of Representatives) attended the inauguration ceremony of President Masisi, and reaffirmed the friendly relationship with Botswana, which was the first country in Africa to adopt Japan's digital terrestrial broadcasting (ISDB-T) system in 2013.

The Government of Botswana, an upper-middle income country, emphasizes breaking away from an economy that relies on diamonds and diversifying its industries. Japan supports Botswana's such efforts through technical assistance, human resources exchange, and other activities, and also continues to cooperate with Botswana in the international arena on matters such as the reform of the UN Security Council. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dow attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and also held a Japan-Botswana foreign ministers' meeting.

4 Central Africa

(1) Gabon

Following the death of Former President Omar Bongo, who served as president for 41 years, a presidential election was peacefully held in August 2009 and the son of the former president, Ali Bongo, was elected (he was reelected in 2016). However, there was an attempted coup d'état by a faction of the military in January 2019.

On the economic front, reform of the country's economic structure, which is dependent on oil and other natural resources, is a pressing issue. Efforts are being made to diversify the country's industries and to increase added value to products.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ogushi visited Gabon in July and held a meeting with Prime Minister Issoze. Minister of Water and Energy Eyogo Edzang attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and also held a foreign ministers' meeting.

(2) Cameroon

In October, President Biya won his seventh presidential election that determined the continuation of a long-serving government since 1982. In November, he announced the establishment of the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) in order to stabilize in the far north region under the influence of Boko Haram and stabilize English-speaking territories where the residents are seeking independence.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Cameroon in May where he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Yang and made a visit to the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES).

(3) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Following President Kabila's remaining in office after the end of his second term in December 2016, a presidential election was held on December 30, 2018, and President Tshisekedi took office on January 24, 2019.

After the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Equateur Province in June 2018, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid and also dispatched Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team to counter the epidemic. Japan also provided emergency relief goods through JICA in August in response to the epidemic in North Kivu.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited in October to make a courtesy call to President Kabila and have talks with other officials, and they affirmed to strengthen friendly bilateral ties.

(4) Chad

Chad was one of the poorest countries with an economy primarily based on the cotton and livestock industries, but it has made progress in exploiting its oil resources in the south in recent years and began exporting oil in 2003. On the political front, a stable government continues under the long-serving administration of President Déby Itno, who has been in office since 1991.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Chad in May 2018 for the first time as a government minister of Japan. In addition to paying a courtesy call to the president, he also made a visit to the headquarters of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which was created to fight against the Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram.

(5) Central Africa

President Tuadera, who was democratically elected in March 2016, has continued efforts to rebuild the country with the cooperation of the international community. In the AU-led "Africa Initiative" mediation process started in July 2017, the AU signed an agreement with 14 armed groups in August 2018 that included the requirements for each group in order to start negotiations between the government and the armed groups.

Japan is supporting the efforts of Central African government to rebuild their state, and the National Strategy to Prevent Radicalization (2018-2021), formulated through the UNDP, was announced in July.

In May, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Central Africa. Minister of Foreign Affairs Doubane visited Japan in May and also for the TICAD Ministerial Meetings in October, and discussed bilateral relation and cooperation in the international arena with Foreign Minister Kono.

5 West Africa

(1) Ghana

The Akufo-Addo administration is working on restoring fiscal soundness, diversifying industry, and other measures under the banner of the "Ghana Beyond Aid" concept.

Minister of Energy Agyarko, Chairman of the Ghana-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association Acheampong, and Minister of Finance Ofori-Atta visited Japan between February and April 2018. Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura, and State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visited Ghana in April and in September respectively.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Botchwey visited Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and also had lunch with Foreign Minister Kono.

President Akufo-Addo visited Japan in December and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe where they agreed to elevate bilateral relations. The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Embassy of Ghana in Japan held an investment forum to promote investment in Ghana.



Foreign Minister Kono's courtesy call on President Akufo-Addo of Ghana (December 11, Tokyo)

(2) Côte d'Ivoire

At the international seminar held in Abidjan in January, the Corridor Development for West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan, created under Japanese technical cooperation, was announced to strengthen the connectivity of West Africa and approved by Côte d'Ivoire and other countries involved. Abidjan is also a pilot city for Japan-France cooperation.

Minister of Economic Infrastructure Kouakou

Column

Ghana's Host Town "Inawashiro Town" - Birthplace of Hideyo Noguchi

Inawashiro

President Akufo-Addo of the Republic of Ghana visited Inawashiro Town in Fukushima Prefecture on December 13, 2018. This was the third visit to the town as president of the Republic of Ghana and the first in 16 years since 2002. While his stay in the town was only for three hours including lunch and a tour of the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Museum, the town made all-out efforts to prepare, including a welcome by children from local Okinashima elementary school.

The town office held a welcome ceremony and Mayor Zengo presented the President with a Nakanosawa kokeshi doll, a local traditional craft product, as a gift. Due to the special features of this kokeshi doll – its large eyes and nose



Gift of a Nakanosawa kokeshi doll (Photo: Inawashiro Town)

- the locals affectionately call it "tako-bozu," meaning an octopus with a monk's shaven head.

President Akufo-Addo explained that the government named the road in front of the Embassy of Japan in Ghana after Dr. Hideyo Noguchi and hopes to apply Japanese technologies in paddy rice production and agricultural product processing.

Inawashiro Town is the birthplace of Dr. Noguchi, and Ghana was where he died due to disease while conducting research on yellow fever. Both countries still recognize Dr. Noguchi's contributions and have continued to engage in exchanges in a variety of ways.

With special cooperation of the "Ghana Yosakoi Support Association," which supports the Japan study tour by Ghanaian high school students, a visit to Inawashiro Town was added to the student's study tour schedule in 2007. Now, lively interaction through homestays between the students from Ghana and Inawashiro high school students takes place, and the Ghanaian students even participated in the sports event for town residents in FY 2018.



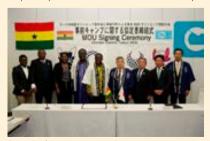
Interaction with Inawashiro high school students (Photo: Inawashiro Town)

Inawashiro is also registered as Ghana's host town for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and has been selected as the pre-games training camp site.

Mr. Ben Nunoo-Mensah, President of the Ghana Olympic Committee, and Ms. Abigail Kwashi, Minister at the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana, visited the town in December 2018 for a tour of athletic facilities and a signing ceremony for an agreement on a pre-games training camp.

The Government of Japan has also established an award to commemorate Dr. Noguchi's accomplishments – the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize managed by the Cabinet Office. Award reception events were held in Yokohama for the first round of awards in 2008 and the second round of awards in 2013. A researcher from the UK and others received awards in the fields of medical research and medical care activities. The third awards ceremony is scheduled for August 2019, during which awards will be granted for excellent results in Africa and Dr. Noguchi's accomplishments will be commemorated again.

While the words of Dr. Noguchi, "I will never be back without achieving my goals," which are carved on a beam at his house, are well known, there is another message that he has left behind, which is "purpose, honesty, and patience." Town elementary and middle schools use this as their educational slogan. Hopefully, these children will someday further broaden the scope of exchange with Ghana.



Signing of a pre-games training camp agreement (Photo: Inawashiro Town)



At the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Museum (Photo: Inawashiro Town)

visited Japan in February. Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Côte d'Ivoire in April, followed by State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visiting in August. Minister of Planning and Development Kaba attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato where they affirmed to work to further strengthen economic relations.

(3) Sierra Leone

The new Bio administration that began in April after the election is focusing on building a stable, peaceful, open, and pluralistic democracy, and is prioritizing fields such as job creation and high-quality education. Japan dispatched Japan-African Union (AU) Parliamentary Friendship League Chairman Aisawa to the inauguration ceremony of the president in May as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, where he made a courtesy call to President Bio and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kabba.

State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara and House of Representatives member Makishima Karen visited Sierra Leone in August where they paid a courtesy call to Vice President Jalloh. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kabba visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October where he held a foreign ministers' meeting and expressed Sierra Leone's gratitude for Japan's support.

(4) Senegal

Interest in Senegal from Japanese companies is increasing due to the country's stable domestic situation and position as a gateway to West Africa. The Japan-Senegal Public-Private Conference for Infrastructure was held in Dakar in January with the participation of about 20 Japanese companies. At

the meeting, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Makino and Minister of the Infrastructure, Land Transport and a Better-Connected Nation Diallo signed a memorandum promoting "quality infrastructure investment" and continuing the cooperative bilateral relationship.

State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Okuno visited Senegal in August, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited in November to attend the fifth Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad Kaba visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which Japan and Senegal affirmed to work together to conclude a bilateral investment agreement to support the expansion of Japanese companies into the country.

(5) Togo

In Togo, under the long-serving administration of President Nasashinbe who won a third term in 2015, in advance of the presidential election in 2020, opposition parties are against the existing constitution not having a clause that bans reelection. This has affected the security situation due to clashes between protesters and security forces that has resulted in casualties. On the other hand, Togo held the presidency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) until July 2018. In addition to improving political tensions in Guinea-Bissau, it also held an ECOWAS-ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States) joint summit meeting and ECOWAS summit meeting in Lomé at the end of July.

State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visited Togo in August, which included a courtesy call to President Gnassingbe.

(6) Nigeria

Nigeria has high economic potential and many Japanese companies have great interest in expanding into the country, but the country is plagued by the problem of terrorist acts by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, mainly in the northeastern region.

President Buhari became the new president of ECOWAS in July. He offered support for the Guinea-Bissau parliamentary election and dispatched the president of the ECOWAS Commission Brou with the main focus being the peace and stability of the region. Nigeria also promoted efforts toward introducing a single currency in the region and organizational reform of the secretariat.

State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Akimoto visited Nigeria in September, and signed a memorandum of cooperation with Minister of Transportation Amaechi for promoting quality infrastructure investment.

(7) Burkina Faso

Domestic politics in Burkina Faso had been unstable flux since the uprising in 2014, but the political situation has been comparatively stable since the inauguration of President Kaboré in 2015. On the other hand, Islamist radicals entering from Mali has become an issue because of the worsening security situation in neighboring Mali. There were several terrorist attacks in March 2018, such as the attack by a terror group on the military headquarters in the capital Ouagadougou.

Burkina Faso had been one of two countries in Africa keeping diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, in May, it severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and restored them with China.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad Alpha Barry visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting. President Kaboré and his spouse visited Japan in November on an official working visit. He held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe and affirmed the strengthening of friendly bilateral ties.



Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting: Photograph of the salute and the guard of honor ceremony (November 19, Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(8) Benin

Benin is said to be a model of democratic country in West Africa and witnessed the peaceful transition of the presidency presidents since the 1990s. President Talon, a former entrepreneur, has set countering corruption as his administration's highest priority. His administration has been operating stably since its inauguration in 2016.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Agbénonci visited Japan in June and during the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and held foreign ministers' meetings during each visit. At the meetings, bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena were discussed.



Japan-Benin Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)

(9) Mali

Ever since gaining independence, Mali has had to deal with conflict with the Tuareg group in the north of the country. Implementation of the agreement of peace and reconciliation signed in 2015 between Mali's Government and the northern armed groups continues to be a challenge even after three years has passed.

The entering into the country of Islamist radicals from the north and the spread of terrorism into the central and southern parts of Mali as well as into neighboring countries has become a serious problem. France's Operation Barkhane and the G5 Sahel Joint Force consisted of the G5 Sahel countries (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad) have been deployed to respond to the security problem.

Japan provides the Malian police forces and law enforcement authorities with equipment to help them maintain security. Japan has also coordinated with UN organizations to provide support for the Peacekeeping School in Mali.

During the presidential election held in August, incumbent President Keita defeated the opposition candidate and was re-elected.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kamissa Camara visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which she discussed security measures in Mali and cooperation in the international arena with Japan.

(10) Liberia

In Liberia, after former President and 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate Sirleaf served two terms in office as the first female head of state ever to be democratically elected in Africa, she was succeeded in the December 2017 election by a former professional soccer player Weah who had also served as a manager of a Japanese soccer team. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato attended the inauguration ceremony of President Weah in January as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, and paid a courtesy call to the new president.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Findley visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which Liberia expressed its gratitude for Japan's support.

Chapter 3

Japan's Foreign Policy to Promote National and Global Interests

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Section 1

Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community

1 National Security Initiatives

(1) "Proactive Contribution to Peace"

Based on the Principle of International
Cooperation

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming more testing and uncertain at a remarkably faster speed. Changes in the balance of power in the international arena are accelerating and becoming more complex, and uncertainty over the existing order is increasing. Against such a backdrop, prominently emerging are inter-state competitions, in which states seek to shape global and regional order to their advantage as well as to increase their influence. What is more, in the international community, there is a broadening and diversifying array of security challenges that cannot be dealt with by a single country alone. With respect to space and cyber domains, establishing international rules and norms has been a security agenda. In maritime domain, there have been cases where country unilaterally claims its entitlements or take actions based on its own assertions that are incompatible with existing international order. These have generated undue infringement upon freedom in high seas. In addition, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles as well as worsening international terrorism remain grave challenges for the international community. Against such background, qualitatively and quantitatively superior military powers concentrate in Japan's surroundings where clear trends are observed in further military build-up and increase in military activities.

Facing such a security environment and other factors, it has become indispensable for Japan to make more proactive efforts in line with the principle of international cooperation.. Japan cannot secure its own peace and security by itself, and the international community expects Japan to play a more proactive role for peace and stability in the world, in a way commensurate with its national capabilities. Japan will continue to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation, and as a major player in world politics and economy, contribute even more proactively in securing peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, while achieving its own security as well as peace and stability in the region, as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

(2) Enforcement of the "Legislation for Peace and Security," and Initiatives Based on the Legislation

In order to adapt to the changes in the security environment surrounding Japan and to secure the lives and peaceful livelihood of its people, it is important to advance vibrant diplomacy to create a stable and predictable international environment. In addition, it is important to enable seamless responses to any situation, and to contribute even more proactively to the peace and stability of the international community under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. To achieve these objectives, the "Legislation for Peace and Security" took effect in March 2016.

This legislation aims to solidify Japan's orientation as a peace-loving nation, including adherence to its exclusively defense-oriented policy. Moreover, the legislation strengthens the Japan-U.S. Alliance and enhances the deterrence capability of Japan, thus enabling Japan to prevent conflicts beforehand, and to further contribute to the international community.

Japan has taken advantage of a variety of opportunities to thoroughly explain the "Legislation for Peace and Security" to foreign countries. Not only the U.S., but also a number of countries and organizations including Australia, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, European countries, Central and South American countries, and the UN have expressed their understanding and support for this legislation. This clearly demonstrates that the "Legislation for Peace and Security" is legislation that contributes to the peace and security of the world.

(3) Territorial Integrity

Maintaining territorial integrity is a fundamental responsibility of the Government. Japan's policy to resolutely protect its land, sea, and airspace remains unchanged. Japan will continue to maintain its stance of responding firmly but in a calm manner. Based on this, the relevant government agencies are working in close

cooperation to advance measures to ensure a seamless and adequate response to any form of unlawful acts. At the same time, the Government of Japan engages in proactive efforts to promote awareness of Japan's position on territorial integrity among the international community, making use of the contacts and knowledge of our diplomatic missions overseas.

2 Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

(1) Overview of Japan-U.S. Security Relationship

Under the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe and uncertain at a remarkably rapid pace, it is indispensable to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and to enhance the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance not only for the peace and security of Japan, but also for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. The Japan-U.S. Alliance has become more solid than ever under the relationship of trust between their leaders. Given this, Japan and the U.S. are further enhancing their deterrence and response capabilities under the Guidelines and the Legislation for Peace and Security. Through such efforts, Japan and the U.S. have been expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas, including ballistic missiles defense, cyberspace, outer space, and maritime security. Japan and the U.S. have been working closely on the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma and of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa to Guam and other locations in order to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

(2) Japan-U.S. Security and Defense Cooperation in Various Fields

Efforts Under the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the "Guidelines")

Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation announced at the April 2015 meeting of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2"), reviewed and updated the general framework and policy direction of the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation. Through the Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) established under these Guidelines. Japan and the U.S. have shared information closely, established a common understanding of the situation, and provided "seamless" responses from peacetime to contingencies. In the "2+2" meeting held in August 2017, four cabinet-level officials from Japan and the U.S. concurred on moving forward on identifying measures to further strengthen the Alliance, including through reviewing the roles, missions, and capabilities of each country. At the same time, they reaffirmed the Alliance's commitment to the security of Japan through the full range of capabilities, including U.S. nuclear forces. There have been active interpersonal exchange between high-level officials, with visits to Japan by Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army General Milley in February 2018, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command Admiral Harris in April, Secretary of Defense Mattis and Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Davidson in June, and Commandant of the Marine Corps General Neller in August. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue was held in March and October, in which Japan and the U.S. had candid discussions about ways to secure the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Through these multilayered efforts, Japan will continue to promote security and defense cooperation with the U.S., further enhancing the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance.

Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)

Japan has been making steady efforts to develop and engage in the production of the BMD system, such as the decision to introduce a ground-deployed Aegis system (Aegis Ashore) reached in 2017, while continuing cooperation with the U.S., which includes the steady implementation of joint development and joint production of the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3 Block IIA) since 2006. Japan has been fully prepared to protect the lives and property of its citizens from the threat of ballistic missiles from North Korea under any circumstances.

Cyberspace

The two countries held the sixth Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue in July in Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Based on the necessity for cross-government efforts by both Japan and the U.S., participants from both sides had a follow-up discussion on matters including the outcome of the fifth dialogue held in July 2017. They also engaged in wideranging discussions on Japan-U.S. cooperation in cyberspace, including awareness about the situations, cyber countermeasures in both countries, cooperation in the international arena, and support for capacity building, and issued a joint press release after the dialogue.

Outer Space

Japan and the U.S. have held discussions on a wide range of cooperation on space at the July Comprehensive Dialogue on Space and the Space Security Dialogue. Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate on space security, including through mutual exchanges of information in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and others, concrete examinations of cooperation over hosted payloads (which refers to sending equipment and materials for missions along on artificial satellites), and more. In October, for the first time ever, Japan took part in the Schriever Wargame, which is a multinational tabletop exercise hosted by U.S. Air Force Space Command.

E Trilateral Cooperation

Japan and the U.S. place importance on security and defense cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. In particular, the two countries are steadily promoting trilateral cooperation with Australia, India, and the ROK. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in June and November as well as other meetings, the leaders affirmed that such trilateral cooperation with these countries promotes the shared security interests of Japan and the U.S., and contributes to improving the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, at the first Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting held in November, it was affirmed that cooperation between the three countries is of the utmost significance when it comes to ensuring the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. They also agreed to continue to strengthen their trilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of maritime security and enhancing regional connectivity.

Information Security

Information security plays a crucial role in advancing cooperation within the context of the alliance. Based on this perspective, both countries continue to hold discussions designed to enhance their cooperation regarding information security.

G Maritime Security

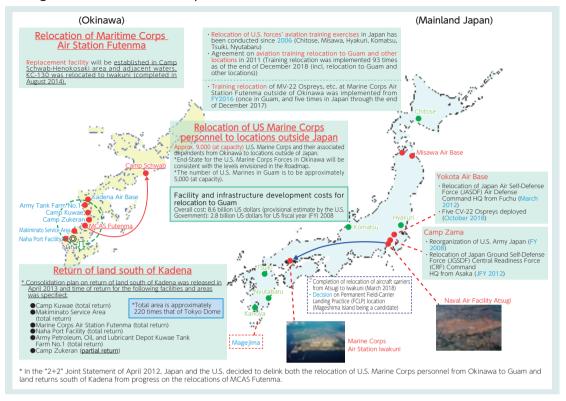
In fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS), Japan and the U.S. stress the importance of solving maritime issues in accordance with international law. The Guidelines announced in April 2015 also provide that Japan and the U.S. will cooperate closely with each other on measures to maintain maritime order in accordance with international law, including the freedom of navigation. What is more, the two countries are undertaking various projects and forms of cooperation within the countries of the Indo-Pacific region in order to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

(3) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan

In the joint statement issued by Japan and the United States in February 2017, the two Governments affirmed, for the first time in a document at the summit level, that constructing the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at the Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution to avoid the continued use of MCAS Futenma. Furthermore, in the "2+2" joint statement in August 2017, at the Japan-U.S. Working Lunch and Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in November 2017 as well as the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2018, Japan and the U.S. reaffirmed their commitment to implement the existing arrangements, which aim to maintain operational and deterrent capabilities, while also mitigating the impact on local communities, and enhancing support from local communities for the presence and operations of U.S. forces in Japan. Japan and the U.S. will also continue to work closely on the steady implementation of the relocation of approximately 9,000 U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to outside the country such as Guam, which will begin in the first half of the 2020s, and on the return of land south of Kadena based on the April 2013 "Consolidation Plan for Facilities and Areas in Okinawa."

In addition to the return of a major portion of the Northern Training Area (NTA, approximately 4,000 hectares) in December 2017 and the return of West Futenma Housing Area of Camp Zukeran (approximately 51 hectares) in March 2018, the return of land along the eastern side of MCAS Futenma (approximately 4 hectares) was achieved in July 2017 along with the return of land along National Route No. 58 in the Makiminato Service Area (approximately 3 hectares) in March 2018. As a result of the return of these lands, if National Route No. 58, which serves as a major arterial traffic route through the southern part of Okinawa, were to be widened, then this would contribute to the alleviation of traffic congestion that hinders the local residents in their everyday lives, and to

Realignment of U.S. forces in Japan



the improvement of the living environment for a great many prefectural residents.

Additionally, regarding the relocation of carrier air wing squadrons from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni that commenced in August 2017 based on the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation of May 2006, the relocation of all aircraft units was completed in March 2018. This relocation will mitigate the problem of noise and other issues that residents living near Naval Air Facility Atsugi, which is located in a densely populated area, have long tolerated. In addition, when it comes to the relocation of functions for receiving aircraft from MCAS Futenma during emergencies at Nyutabaru Air Base and Tsuiki Air Base pursuant to this roadmap, an agreement was reached on the installation of the facilities needed to transfer this functionality in October 2018.

In March 2018, the First Think of Okinawa's Future in the United States (TOFU) Program was held, in which 20 high-school / university students and other young people were dispatched from Okinawa Prefecture to the U.S. The goal of this program was to provide opportunities for young people from Okinawa to witness for themselves what the U.S. is truly like and the role that Japan plays in the international community. It was also designed to work toward promoting mutual understanding by having them interact with local important officials and young people in English.

The Government of Japan will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, by soundly promoting the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, including the prompt relocation to Henoko and the return of MCAS Futenma, while still maintaining the deterrence capabilities of said forces.

(4) Host Nation Support (HNS)

Under the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe and uncertain at a remarkably rapid pace, from the standpoint that it is important to ensure smooth and effective operation of the U.S. Forces, Japan bears the rent for USFJ facilities and areas and the Facility Improvement Program (FIP) funding stipulated within the scope of the Status of U.S. Forces Agreement. In addition to this, under the special measures agreements, Japan also bears labor costs, utility costs, and training relocation costs for USFJ.

Based on the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and special measures agreement that came into force on April 1, 2016, the Government of Japan bears Host Nation Support (HNS) from FY2016 to FY2020.

(5) Various Issues Related to the Presence of U.S. Forces in Japan

To ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the stable presence of USFJ as the linchpin of these arrangements, it is important to mitigate the impact of U.S. Forces' activities on residents living in the vicinity and to gain their understanding and support regarding the presence of U.S. Forces. In particular, the importance of promoting mitigation of the impact on Okinawa, where U.S. Forces' facilities and areas are concentrated, has been confirmed mutually between Japan and the U.S. on numerous occasions, including the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting from April 2018. The Government of Japan will continue to work to address the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan. At the same time, the Government of Japan has been making its utmost efforts to make improvements in specific issues in light of the requests of local communities such as preventing incidents and accidents involving U.S. Forces, abating the noise by U.S. Forces' aircraft, and dealing with

environmental issues within USFJ facilities and areas, including the sound implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Stewardship concluded in 2015 and the Agreement on Cooperation with regard to Implementation Practices relating to the Civilian Component of the United States Armed Forces in Japan concluded in 2017.

(6) United Nations Command (UNC) and U.S. Forces in Japan

As the Korean War broke out in June 1950, United Nations Command (UNC) was established in July of the same year based on UN Security Council Resolution 83 and Resolution 84. Following the ceasefire agreement concluded in July 1953, UNC Headquarters was relocated to Seoul, South Korea in July 1957, and UNC (Rear) was established in Japan. UNC (Rear) placed in Yokota Air Base currently has a stationed commander and three other staff and military attaches from nine countries who are stationed at embassies in Tokyo as liaison officers for UNC.

Based on Article 5 of the Agreement Regarding the Status of the United Nations Forces in Japan, UNC may use the U.S. Forces' facilities and areas in Japan to the minimum extent required to provide support for military logistics for UNC. At present, UNC is authorized to use the following seven facilities: Camp Zama, U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, U.S. Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Yokota Air Base, Kadena Air Base, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and White Beach Area.

3 Global Security

(1) Regional Security

The security environment surrounding the Asia-Pacific region is becoming increasingly severe due to various reasons such as the shift in the global power balance. Meanwhile, it would be difficult to say that the framework of regional security

cooperation is sufficiently institutionalized because of the diversity of political, economic and social systems in the region. Therefore, Japan has been making efforts to realize a desirable regional security environment for Japan, by strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and combining bilateral and multilateral security cooperation at multiple levels. Japan also strives to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" from the perspective of promoting the stability and prosperity of the extensive region stretching from the Asia-Pacific, passing through the Indian Ocean, to the Middle East and Africa, by treating this region as an integrated whole and securing the free and open international maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

Japan is working to further strengthen deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, as well as to enhance security cooperation with various countries other than the U.S. In relation to ASEAN Member States, through such efforts as providing patrol vessels, Japan continuously supports the efforts toward enhancing the coast guard capabilities of the Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia and other countries. In relation to India, in the Japan-India Vision Statement issued when Prime Minister Modi of India visited Japan in October, the two leaders iterated their unwavering commitment to working together toward a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." At the Summit Meeting, the two leaders shared the view on the commencement of official negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). In relation to Australia, at the eighth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations ("2+2") held in October, the Ministers confirmed their commitment to further deepening the security and defense cooperation between Japan and Australia, two countries with the will and capability to contribute proactively to the stability and prosperity of the region. At the Summit Meeting in November, the leaders affirmed that the two countries share a vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and shared the view on working

together for regional stability and prosperity. In relation to the UK, at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting in January 2019, the two leaders shared the view that Japan-UK security cooperation has developed significantly and has entered a new chapter, and that they would further advance concrete cooperation toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In relation to France, ACSA was signed in July. At the Japan-France Summit Meeting in October, the two leaders welcomed the signing of ACSA, the foundation of defense cooperation, and shared the view on further building up concrete cooperation between Japan and France toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In relation to Canada, the two countries signed ACSA in April. At the Japan-Canada Summit Meeting in November, the leaders shared the view that they would deepen the strategic relationship between Japan and Canada, including security and defense cooperation. Their fourth Foreign and Defense meeting ("2+2") Vice-Ministerial Dialogue was held in December. In relation to the ROK, based on the recognition that cooperation on the North Korea issues is important, the two countries held, inter alia, Japan-ROK Summit Meetings (February, May and September), Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meetings (March, April, June, July, August and September [twice]) and Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meetings (January, June and July), and confirmed that they would work closely together between Japan and the ROK, as well as between Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

In addition to strengthening the bilateral cooperation mentioned above, Japan has also been promoting cooperation in the following various frameworks in order to build a network for peace and prosperity in the region: the Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting (November), the Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (January, June and July), the Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Strategic Dialogue (August) and the Japan-U.S.-Australia-India Consultations (June and November).

Furthermore, it is also important to enhance the relationships of trust with China and Russia for the stability of the security environment surrounding Japan. The Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships, and Japan is striving to develop stable relations of friendship and cooperation from a broad perspective, under the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests." As China's military trend is a major concern for Japan, Japan is making efforts to build multilayered channels for dialogue and exchanges in the field of security with China, including the Japan-China Security Dialogue. Alongside with such efforts to communicate effectively in the policy aspect, Japan is also encouraging China to improve transparency. The Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China signed in May has great significance in the sense of promoting mutual understanding and confidence and avoiding unexpected collision. At the same time, Japan is striving to promote mutual relations of trust through high-level dialogues. including between leaders and foreign ministers. Regarding Japan-Russia relations, while holding political dialogues at various levels, including four Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers' Meetings respectively in 2018, Japan has been energetically continuing negotiations with Russia to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the territorial issue. In the area of security, the Japan-Russia "2+2" Ministerial Meeting and Security Consultations took place in July. The two countries also held candid discussions on defense and security on such occasions as the visit to Russia by Chief of Joint Staff Kawano in October.

Furthermore, Japan held the first Politico-Military (PM) Dialogue with Israel (October), as well as the 6th PM Dialogue with Pakistan in April, the 14th PM Dialogue with Thailand in September and the 21st PM Dialogue with France in December. Japan also held the 3rd Security Dialogue with Qatar (March) and the 11th Security Dialogue with the ROK (March), as well

as the first Security Consultations with Turkey (January) and Ukraine (October).

In addition, Japan has actively participated in and contributed to multilateral frameworks in the region, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in order to strengthen security cooperation in the region. Among these, the ARF aims at improving the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region through dialogues and cooperation on political and security issues. The ARF is an important security dialogue framework in that it is participated in by various entities including North Korea and the EU and also focuses on confidence building through various initiatives. In August, the 25th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held, where participating Ministers candidly exchanged views mainly on regional and international affairs, including the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea. Additionally, at the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies which Japan established jointly with Malaysia and Singapore, the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), including the ones proposed by Japan, were adopted. Japan is making a proactive contribution through, for example, twice co-chairing the ISM on Maritime Security.

Furthermore, in addition to government-to-government dialogues (track 1), Japan actively utilizes frameworks where participants from both public and private sectors (track 1.5) exchange opinions and explain their security policies. Japan participates in various conferences, including the IISS Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) (Singapore). Also Foreign Minister Kono attended the Regional Security Summit (Manama Dialogue) (Bahrain) in December as well as the Munich Security Conference (Germany) in February 2018, as a part of Japan's efforts to promote other countries' understanding of Japan's security policies, and to facilitate cooperation and confidence-building in the region.

(2) Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

A On-the-Ground Initiatives

(A) UN Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKOs)

Traditionally, UN PKOs are positioned between parties to a dispute, and by monitoring ceasefires and the withdrawal of troops, they help calm the situation or prevent the recurrence of hostilities with the aim to support the settlement of the dispute through dialogue between the parties involved. However, following the changes in the international environment since the end of the Cold War, including an increase in civil wars, UN PKOs have multifaceted mandates in addition to its traditional mandates such as monitoring of ceasefires. These new mandates include support in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, elections, human rights, and the rule of law as well as the promotion of the political process and the protection of civilians. As of the end of October 2018, 14 UN PKO missions were deployed, primarily in the Middle East and Africa. with a total of over 100,000 military, police and civilian personnel deployed to these missions. In response to the increasing complexity and scale of the mandates and the associated shortages of personnel, equipment and financial resources, discussions on more effective and efficient implementation of UN PKOs are underway in various fora, primarily within the UN.

Based on the Act on Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act), Japan has dispatched more than 12,500 personnel to a total of 27 missions including UN PKO since 1992. More recently, Japanese staff officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2011, while the engineering units have been dispatched there since 2012. The engineering units in the South Sudanese capital of Juba and the surrounding areas have undertaken such activities as developing infrastructure such as roads, supporting displaced persons through the provision of water supplies,

as well as site preparation, and concluded their activities in May 2017. On the other hand, four SDF officers are currently still on active duty at the UNMISS Headquarters. Japan will continue to contribute in various ways to peace and stability in South Sudan. Under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," building on the past experiences of peacekeeping operations and making use of its own strengths, Japan will also continue to contribute proactively in the field of international peace cooperation in the future such as through dispatching units and individuals, as well as enhancing capacity building.

(B) ODA and Other Cooperation to Facilitate Peacebuilding

Japan attaches importance to peacebuilding as part of its international cooperation and it is positioned as one of the priority issues in Japan's Development Cooperation Charter.

In the area of addressing humanitarian crises, it is effective to combine coordination between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, with peacebuilding. It is important to fundamentally enhance measures to address the root causes of conflict, not only by taking post-conflict responses but by focusing more on the prevention of conflicts and their recurrence through nation-building and social stabilization measures during peace time. Japan places great importance on such "humanitarian, development and peace nexus," and has been providing support for peacebuilding particularly in the following countries and regions.

a Middle East

Japan has provided comprehensive supports for peace and stability in the Middle East. For example, Japan provides food and refugee assistance in collaboration with international organizations for countries affected by conflicts, including Syria and its neighboring countries, Yemen and Afghanistan. In addition, Japan supports the development of human resources engaged in

nation building. In 2018, Japan accepted 25 people from Afghanistan, including government officials who are expected to contribute to such fields as agricultural and rural development and infrastructure development for the reconstruction of the country. Japan also accepted 29 students from Syria to offer education to young people who were deprived of opportunities to attend school due to the Syrian crisis. Furthermore, in February, Japan decided to provide supports for holding fair and peaceful elections in Afghanistan.

From the perspective of humanitarian-development nexus, for example, in Jordan, Japan provided employment supports at the Zaatari Refugee Camp for Syrian refugees by, inter alia, offering technical guidance on electric power. Japan also contributed to improving the living conditions in the camp, for instance, through maintenance of electric power facilities of surrounding shelters conducted by the beneficiaries of Japan's technical guidance.

b Africa

Japan has contributed to laying the foundations for peace and stability in Africa, including providing supports for "Promoting social stability for shared prosperity," one of the priority areas identified at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016.

For example, Japan has conducted criminal justice training since 2014 for police officers, prosecutors, judges and others from eight Francophone African countries, and has supported stabilization of the Sahel region through capability strengthening of investigation and judicial bodies. Japan has also contributed to consolidation of peace through fair elections, such as by assisting the registration of voters for general elections in Zimbabwe in summer 2018 (presidential, upper and lower house and local elections). In addition, in 2018, Japan decided to

provide security equipment to countries including Burkina Faso and Mali to strengthen their capacity for security against frequent terrorist attacks and transnational crimes.

In 2018, Japan provided assistance for developing the capacity and rehabilitating the facilities of centers for disaster and emergency rescue, such as fire departments, in Côte d'Ivoire, which reemploy ex-combatants of anti-government militias. In the Central African Republic, Japan provided assistance including vocational training and livelihood improvement supports for returnees and ex-combatants of armed forces, contributing to promoting peace, security and reconciliation in post-civil war countries.

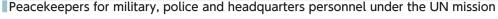
Japan supports PKO training centers operated by African countries. Between 2008 and 2018, Japan contributed a total of 52 million US dollars to such centers in 13 countries and contributed to building up the peacekeeping capabilities of Africa.

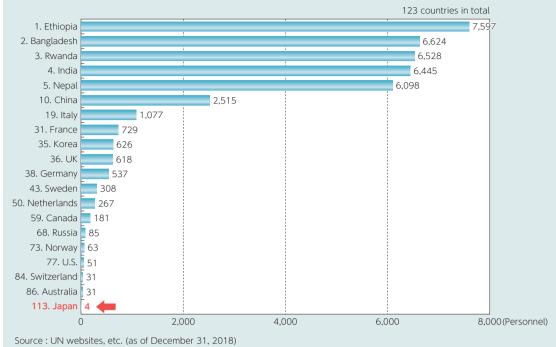
Initiatives within the UN (Peacebuilding)

Based on the understanding that many regional conflicts and civil wars are rekindled even after the conflict has ended, and that, it is extremely important to provide appropriate support in the post-conflict period, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was established in 2005 with the aim of offering advice on integrated support, from conflict resolution to recovery, reintegration, and reconstruction. The PBC conducts discussions to identify priority issues and formulate peacebuilding strategies in the agenda countries¹. Japan has served as a member of the Organizational Committee since the PBC's establishment and contributed to its activities.

Two resolutions were adopted in April 2016: the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/70/262) on the "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" including the PBC,

¹ Five countries of Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic, and Liberia.





and the UN Security Council Resolution 2282. These resolutions recommended the improvement of the efficiency and flexibility of the PBC, along with the strengthening of cooperation between the PBC and the UN Security Council as well as other organizations. In accordance with the General Assembly Resolution, the UN Secretary-General issued a report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43) in 2018. The report makes a variety of proposals for, inter alia: enhancing financing for peacebuilding; increasing operational and policy coherence of PBC; strengthening UN leadership, accountability and capacity; and boosting partnerships with international organizations and the civil society.

At the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace held in April, Japan expressed support for the Secretary-General's initiatives in the area of peacebuilding. At the meeting, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/72/276), which includes a request to the Secretary-General to present an interim report regarding his proposals

to the General Assembly during its 73rd session (Security Council resolution 2413 of the same content was also adopted).

Japan has contributed proactively to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) since its establishment in 2006. Announcing its aim to allocate 10 million US dollars in September 2016, Japan has contributed a total of 50.5 million US dollars (2.0 million US dollars in 2018) and ranks sixth among the major donor countries as of December 2018.

Human Resource Development

(A) The Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development

While civilian experts with a high level of skill and expertise have a substantial role to play in the field of post-conflict peacebuilding, the number of those who are capable of fulfilling the role is insufficient, and therefore, the development of relevant human resources remains a major challenge. Japan has been implementing programs for human resource development in

order to cultivate civilian experts who can play a leading role in the field of peacebuilding and development. As of the end of the FY2018, a total of about 750 people have been trained. The trainees who completed the programs have gone on to play an active role in the field of peacebuilding and development worldwide in such countries as South Sudan and Afghanistan, and have received high acclaim from both the UN and other countries.

In the FY2018 program, a training course for human resources and a training course for mid-career practitioners with experience in the field of peacebuilding and development were implemented. In addition, a new course was implemented to assist those who have certain professional and transferable experience in this field in order to start building up their new careers at international organizations.

(B) Training for United Nations Peacekeepers of Various Countries

Japan has been supporting peacekeepers from various countries participating in UN PKOs to enhance their capabilities. From 2015 to 2018, Japan has dispatched 125 JSDF instructors for training 211 future engineering personnel from eight countries in Africa that have expressed their intention to dispatch engineering units to UN PKOs (the UN Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities). These instructors conduct



Trial training of UN Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities (RDEC) in Asia and the surrounding regions

training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment. UN Secretary-General Guterres commended Japan's supports for this project during his visit to Japan in August 2018. At the High-level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) in September 2018, Secretary-General Guterres also remarked that this project represents an innovative approach to addressing the urgent challenge of improving peacekeeper capabilities. A decision was made to expand this project to Asia and the surrounding regions, and trial training was conducted in Viet Nam from November to December, Japan also dispatches instructors and other personnel and provides financial assistance to PKO Training Centers in Asia and African nations.

Furthermore, Japan and the UN co-organized a training course in Japan for capacity enhancement of Women's Protection Advisers engaged in the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence in UN PKO missions and at other levels.

(3) Initiatives to Combat Security Threats

▲ Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Measures

While operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) carried out in Iraq and Syria had effectively reduced the areas dominated by ISIL, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism is spreading throughout the world, including Asia, as a result of the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) who were under the influence of ISIL to their home countries or to third countries. In May 2018, terrorist bombings occurred against churches in Surabaya City, Indonesia, causing over 13 deaths, including of six bombers, and injuring over 40 people. ISIL claimed responsibility for the terror attack.

In the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism" compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Japan stressed the importance of the following points: (1) concrete

counter-terrorism measures including the utilization of Interpol databases and passenger name records (PNR); (2) promoting tolerance through dialogues aimed at preventing violent extremism; and (3) support for capacity-building in developing countries. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in 2018, the leaders reaffirmed that the G7 would continue to work together to counter terrorism. With regard to (1), which includes the utilization of advance passenger information (API) and PNR possessed by airlines and biological data, as a measure to address FTFs returning or relocating to their home countries or to third countries from areas dominated by ISIL, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2396 in December 2017 which introduces some obligations on Member States to utilize and share such information. Japan, as a co-sponsor of the resolution, contributed to its adoption. With regard to (2), namely, measures to counter violent extremism, which is the root cause of terrorism. Japan considers it important to build tolerant societies that do not exclude but are receptive to different values. From this perspective, Japan has given priority to community supports through promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue and empowering women and youths (capability enhancement and advancement).

With regard to (3), Japan's counter-terrorism assistance places particular emphasis on Asia. As one of the initiatives to strengthen comprehensive counter-terrorism measures, Japan announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2016 that it would provide support of 45 billion Japanese yen and develop 2,000 personnel in the next three years. Japan has already largely exceeded this target by providing support of 80 billion Japanese yen and developing approximately 2,600 personnel for counter-terrorism in the first two years after the announcement. More specifically, to strengthen protection from terror attacks during the 18th Asian Games held in Indonesia in 2018, Japan provided counter-terrorism equipment made in Japan (such as facial recognition system) for the main stadium of the Games. In September 2018, Japan also held a workshop for practitioners from ASEAN countries using such equipment, as part of efforts to promote the use of facial recognition and other biological data.

As another initiative, Japan has continued the invitation program for Islamic schoolteachers for 15 years, arranging interfaith dialogue, cultural visits and school visits for the participants. Japan will continue to implement such initiatives moving forward, in order to contribute to promote moderation and to create more tolerant societies that are receptive to different values.

Japan also implements counter-terrorism measures through international organizations. Japan has contributed about 66 million US dollars (supplementary budget for FY2017) to international organizations and funds, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), thereby providing support for individual projects to counter terrorism and violent extremism through these organizations.

In addition, Japan held bilateral counterterrorism consultations in 2018 with the UK, Tunisia, Russia, China and Turkey to exchange information on terrorism situations and confirm the strengthening of coordination.

The Government of Japan has promoted counter-terrorism measures in collaboration with relevant countries and organizations. Based on the view that information gathering is critical for combating terrorism, the Government established the Counter Terrorism Unit - Japan (CTU-J) in December 2015 and has been making concerted efforts to gather information with the Prime Minister's Office serving as the control tower. A Japanese national who had been detained in Syria for over three years was released in October 2018. This was the outcome of the principal role exercised by the CTU-J in requesting the cooperation of relevant countries and dealing with the situation by making use of Japan's information network.

It is also significant that the Consular Affairs Bureau and the CTU-J fully acknowledge each other's roles and have worked together closely to execute their important responsibility of securing the safety of Japanese nationals overseas. In light of this experience, Japan will continue to further enhance its information gathering through the CTU-J and take all possible measures to counter terrorism and ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas.

B Criminal Justice Initiatives

The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ("Congress") and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are in charge of shaping policy on crime prevention and criminal justice in the international community. In April 2020, the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held in Kyoto ("Kyoto Congress" [See Opening Special Feature "Focusing on 2019-2020"]). Japan is making preparations to host this meeting in collaboration with relevant countries, organizations, ministries and agencies and others. Under the overall theme of "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda," the Kyoto Congress is expected to adopt a political declaration concerning measures on crime prevention and criminal justice as well as approaches for international cooperation, and discussions are underway on the content to be included in the declaration.

Furthermore, Japan provides support to improve prosecution capabilities of law-enforcement authorities in Southeast Asia and to enhance capacities related to measures against cybercrime by providing financial contributions to UNODC and through financial contributions from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

In July 2017, Japan concluded the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), in order to prevent transnational organized crime including terrorism more effectively, and to promote cooperation to fight

against such crime, which establishes a global legal framework to tackle this problem. Japan advances international cooperation including investigation assistance, in accordance with UNTOC.

Anti-corruption Measures

As a state party to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which sets out provisions for international cooperation and measures to tackle acts of corruption, such as bribery and embezzlement of property by public officials, Japan has actively participated in discussions for strengthening international cooperation on prevention and eradication of corruption at conferences of the state parties of the convention and other occasions. In addition, Japan has been conducting training for anti-corruption authorities indeveloping countries with the aim of strengthening their investigation and prosecution capabilities, by making financial contributions to UNODC. In 2018, Japan contributed approximately 120,000 US dollars to UNODC to support the operation of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. which reviews the status of implementation of the Convention by each state party.

Within the context of the G20, Japan, as the incoming G20 presidency, actively took part in the activities of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and contributed to the discussions for developing deliverables, including the High-Level Principles for Preventing Corruption and Ensuring Integrity in State-Owned Enterprises.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) Working Group on Bribery verifies each state party's implementation status of the "Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions" to prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials. Japan is an active participant in this program. Japan has also supported the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative promoted jointly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the OECD as part of its contributions toward enhancing anti-

corruption measures in the region.

Measures to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

In terms of measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an international framework that establishes the international standards that countries should implement, as well as mutually examines their implementation status. As a founding member, Japan has actively participated in these discussions. In recent years, the FATF has been engaged in initiatives to prevent the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has issued the FATF statement that calls for the eradication of illegal financial activities by North Korea.

Japan provides capacity building assistance to Iran and the ASEAN countries in areas such as the development of legal systems, in cooperation with UNODC to promote international efforts to disrupt money laundering and stem the flow of funds to terrorists.

■ Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

has strengthened its domestic mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, and also proactively provides assistance to developing countries, based on "Japan's 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons." This Action Plan was developed in order to effectively tackle trafficking in persons, which involves increasingly sophisticated and latent methods. For example, in 2018, Japan launched some new training programs through IICA to deepen mutual understanding and promote more effective regional cooperation on human trafficking countermeasures (especially prevention, protection and support to restore the autonomy of victims) of stakeholders in Asian countries, including Japan. With respect to cooperation with international organizations, in 2018, through funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan continued to provide assistance for the safe repatriation of foreign victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan and carry out social rehabilitation support programs to prevent the repetition of trafficking after returning to their countries. Japan also funded training programs for law-enforcement authorities in Southeast Asian countries through projects organized by UNODC.

As a state party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Japan has also further deepened its cooperation with other countries with a view to eradicating trafficking in persons.

Measures to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking

Japan works in cooperation with UNODC to investigate and analyze synthetic drugs such as amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances in the Asia-Pacific region, provide support for improving container control capacity of regulatory authorities at air and sea ports, and put in place measures against illicit drug trafficking that is spreading across borders. In relation to Afghanistan, which is the world's largest region for the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, Japan has contributed 5 million US dollars to UNODC in order to strengthen border controls, promote alternative development to drug crop cultivation and enhance capacity building of narcotics agents in cooperation with the neighboring countries. Furthermore, at the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held in March 2018, Japan, Russia, Central Asian countries and UNODC co-organized a side event on law enforcement capacity-building to counter narcotic drugs in West and Central Asia. Japan appealed its proactive supports for the region, including the "Domodedovo Project" being implemented among Japan, Russia and UNODC (See Column "Combating the drug trafficking in Afghanistan - Establishment of a Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan under the Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, the Russian Federation and UNODC").

Column

Combating the Drug Trafficking in Afghanistan

- Establishment of a Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan under the Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, the Russian Federation and UNODC -

Hideki Hosaka, Project Coordinator Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The cultivation of illegal opium poppy is through the roof in Afghanistan against the backdrop of country's unstable security situation and prevalence of poverty. Opium and heroin, which have many addicts in the world, are derived from opium poppy and today, it is said, Afghanistan accounts for about 90 percent of world's production of illegal opium poppy. Countering the drug problems is one of the important missions for stability of Afghanistan and its neighbours. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) takes various initiatives in this field with Member States, which include opium survey, capacity building of counter-narcotics authorities, improvement of the criminal justice system, development of alternative crops, drug abuse prevention, medical care of the addicts and rehabilitation support.

As part of such activities UNODC has been implementing the "Domodedovo Training Project" since September 2012 in coordination with Japan and Russia. In this project, counternarcotics officers of Afghanistan and the five Central Asian countries are invited to take part in the specialized training conducted in the suburb of Moscow under the curricula of the "Domodedovo Training Centre" – a professional and vocational institution of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the financial contribution of Japan. In this project, Japan



provides not only project fund but also visible technical support, dispatching experts of Narcotics Control Department of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan to every training course.

The "Domodedovo Training Project" received support from beneficiary countries, namely Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries. In the past seven years, a total of 195 counter-narcotics officers were trained, contributing to the enhancement of operational activities in the countries. This is unique cooperation format, involving three Partners – Japan, Russia and the UN – on board, working together to support the counter-narcotics efforts of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. It can be regarded among one of the practices to meet the "Shared Responsibility" declared in the Outcome Document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 2016.

In October 2018 the "trilateral cooperation" expanded its field with a new project for establishment of the "Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan" with the support of another important partner: the Government of Afghanistan. The police dogs (K9) for drug detection are reliable assistants to tackle the smuggling and illicit trafficking of drugs, and they are recruited in police agencies and customs authorities in all over the world including Japan. The introduction of counter narcotics K9 is the first attempt in Afghanistan.



UNODC will address this mission step by step, utilizing know-how of Russia in the field of education of K9 and handlers as well as the financial and technical assistance of Japan. First step was already made: in October 2018, one-month training course for managers, chief handlers and administrative officers in future K9 Unit was conducted in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation.

In November 2018, the representatives of UNODC, Afghanistan, Japan and Russia met in Vienna and signed a declaration to show their mutual commitment for further cooperation, highlighting the past achievements as well as the new development for introduction of counter-narcotics K9. It is expected that the four partners will continue their cooperation under the trilateral cooperation format, making use of the advantage of each country.

^{*} The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

(4) The Oceans and Seas

Japan is a maritime nation that has achieved economic growth through maritime trade and development of marine resources, and has pursued "Free, Open and Stable Seas." For Japan, maritime rights and interests, which are the basis for economic survival, including the freedom of navigation and overflight, and development of marine resources, are of great importance toward securing peace, stability and prosperity. To ensure these maritime rights and interests in the long-term and in a stable manner, it is indispensable to maintain and strengthen a maritime order and ensure safe maritime transport.

Furthermore, "Free, Open and Stable Seas," which are upheld by a maritime order governed by law and rules and not by force, are essential for peace and prosperity not only of Japan, but also of the international community as a whole. To maintain and develop "Free, Open and Stable Seas," Japan contributes actively to maintaining and strengthening maritime order and ensuring safe maritime transport toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

However, in recent years, there has been an increasing number of cases where the interests of countries clash with each other from the perspective of securing resources and national security. In particular, in the seas of Asia, there has been an increasing number of cases of tension arising from friction between countries, and the international community is closely monitoring these cases with much interest. Against this background, at the 13th Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) held in Singapore in May 2014, Prime Minister Abe stated that it is necessary to fully uphold the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" (See 6(2)). At the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Toronto in April 2018, the ministers stressed the importance of a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law, expressed concerns over the situation in the East and South China Seas. and expressed their commitment to addressing issues such as combating illegal activities at sea, including acts of piracy, and capacity building assistance, including maritime domain awareness (MDA), and promoting cooperation. Furthermore, outside the framework of the G7, Japan has also utilized fora that are related to the East Asia Summit (EAS), including the ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), to actively show the importance of "Free, Open and Stable Seas" and disseminate Japan's stance and initiatives in the area of maritime security.

Combining various assistances by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard, including capacity building assistance, defense equipment and technology cooperation, and MDA, Japan seamlessly supports coastal states mainly in Asia and Africa to enhance maritime law enforcement capabilities through providing patrol vessels, technical cooperation and human resource development, among other forms of assistance. In this way, Japan has been contributing to establishing and promoting the rule of law at sea.

A Order at Sea

(A) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Related Japanese Initiatives

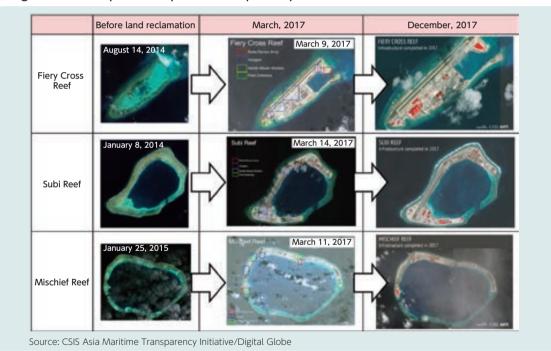
Also known as the "Constitution for the Seas," UNCLOS is the very basis of a maritime order governed by the rule of law. Japan regards a maritime order, with the Convention at the core, as the cornerstone to ensure Japan's maritime rights and interests and to facilitate maritime activities. As such, Japan actively contributes to discussions at conferences including the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention and to the activities by relevant international organizations in order to ensure that the Convention will be even more widely applied and implemented appropriately (see 6(2)).

Uotsurijima of the Senkaku Isands



Photo: Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty, Cabinet Secretariat

Large-scale and rapid development of outposts by China in the South China Sea



(B) A Challenge to the Maritime Order and Response by Japan and International Community (see Chapter 1, 1(2), Chapter 2, Section 1, 3(1) and Chapter 2, Section 1, 7(2))

a Situation surrounding the East China Sea

In the East China Sea, Chinese Government vessels have continued to intrude into Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in

2018, and active operations by Chinese military vessels and aircraft have been observed. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral resource development in areas where the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelves are pending delimitation. In recent years, Japan has found the Chinese side conducted a number of research in the waters surrounding

Japan such as the East China Sea. Many of the research were conducted without Japan's consent or in a manner which Japan did not consent to. Given China's continued attempts to change the status quo unilaterally in the East China Sea, Japan will carefully monitor the trends and movements around its air and sea spaces, continue to respond in a firm but calm manner while making claims that should be made, and at the same time, promote cooperation with the relevant countries including the U.S. in order to achieve peace and stability in the East China Sea.

b Issues surrounding the South China Sea

In the South China Sea, China has been further conducting unilateral actions to change the status quo that increase tensions such as large-scale and rapid building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes, and attempts to create a fait accompli. The international community including Japan has expressed grave concern over such China's actions. Until now, Japan has consistently supported the full enforcement of the rule of law in the South China Sea, and emphasized the importance for all the concerned parties related to the South China Sea to work toward peaceful settlement of disputes based on international law. With regard to dialogues between China and ASEAN concerning issues surrounding the South China Sea, Japan's stance is that the easing of tensions through such initiatives should lead to demilitarization of the area and to a peaceful and open South China Sea.

With regard to the arbitration proceedings based on UNCLOS concerning the conflict between the Philippines and China over the South China Sea, lodged by the Government of the Philippines, the Arbitral Tribunal made its final arbitral award on July 12, 2016. On the same day, Japan released a statement by the Foreign Minister. The statement explains that as the Tribunal's award is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute under the provisions of UNCLOS, the parties to this case are required to

comply with the award, and that Japan strongly expects that the parties' compliance with this award will eventually lead to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.

The issue with regard to the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and constitutes a legitimate concern of the international community. The issue is also an important matter of concern for Japan, which depends most of its resources and energy on sea transport and places importance on freedom of navigation and overflight, as well as securing safe sea lanes. Cooperation within the international community is of great importance to maintain and develop "Free, Open and Stable Seas." From this perspective, Japan supports the U.S. Freedom of Navigation Operations.

B Ensuring Safe Maritime Transport

Japan actively contributes to ensuring the freedom of navigation and overflight and safe maritime transport, through anti-piracy measures in Asia and Africa, as well as close partnership and cooperation with other countries.

(A) Anti-piracy Measures in Asia

To encourage regional cooperation in the fight against piracy cases in Asia, Japan was at the forefront of efforts to formulate the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), which entered into force in 2006. Each of the contracting parties provides information and cooperates on piracy cases in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and other regions, via the Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP-ISC) established in Singapore under the Agreement. Japan supports the activities of ReCAAP-ISC through personnel (dispatching the Executive Director and an Assistant Director) and financial contributions. From May 19 to 25, to further strengthen regional coordination and cooperative relations, Japan, in cooperation with ReCAAP-ISC, organized the "Second Capacity

Building Executive Programme on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia" in Tokyo and Kanagawa for participants from all contracting parties. In addition, Japan is implementing capacity building programs for coastal countries in Asia to enhance maritime law enforcement and maritime surveillance, which is highly appraised in the international community.

According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the number of piracy cases in the seas of Southeast Asia was 76 in 2017 and 60 in 2018. In recent years, there have been cases of crew abduction in the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea in Southeast Asia, posing a threat to vessels navigating in these waters. In view of this situation, Japan announced at the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in November that it would provide steady support of 15 billion Japanese yen over two years toward the realization of "Asia resilient to terrorism," through comprehensive initiatives for improved safety in the southern part of the Philippines, the Sulu Sea, and the Celebes Sea. Based on these initiatives. Japan will continue to actively support capacity building for maritime safety.

(B) Anti-piracy Measures Off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

a Current status of piracy and armed robbery cases

According to the IMB, the number of piracy and armed robbery cases (hereinafter referred to as "piracy cases") off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden was 237 at its peak in 2011, but has since been on a decline, dropping to a low level (zero in 2015, two in 2016, nine in 2017 and three in 2018). Despite sustained efforts in maritime law enforcement activities by the navies of countries, self-defense measures by merchant ships, the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia remain unresolved. Pirates off the coast of Somalia still have the intention and capability to carry out acts of piracy, which requires a careful watch on the situation.

b Extension of anti-piracy operations and record of escort activities

Since 2009, Japan has been conducting antipiracy operations, without any interruption to the operations, by deploying Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and P-3C maritime patrol aircrafts to the Gulf of Aden. On November 9, 2018, the Government of Japan decided to extend anti-piracy operations based on the Act on Punishment and Countermeasures against Piracy for another year. The deployed destroyers protected 38 merchant ships on 29 escort operations between January and December 2018, while the P-3Cs carried out 237 mission flights, in which they conducted surveillance, information gathering and provided information to naval vessels of other countries.

c Promotion of international cooperation in anti-piracy measures

Japan has been making multi-layered efforts, including support for enhancement of maritime law enforcement capacity of Somalia and neighboring countries as well as for stability of Somalia, in order to solve the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia. Japan has assisted the establishment of Information Sharing Centres in Yemen, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Center (DRTC), through contributing 15.1 million US dollars to a fund established by the IMO. At DRTC, Japan and France co-organized a seminar on maritime security in October 2017. Japan has also supported seminars in DRTC aimed at capacity building for maritime law-enforcement authorities and others. Moreover, Japan has contributed 4.5 million US dollars to an international trust fund managed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), through which it assists Somalia and neighboring countries in improving courts and training judicial officers, as well as repatriation to Somalia of those found guilty of piracy in the neighboring countries including Seychelles. In December 2015, Japan provided two patrol vessels to the Djibouti Coast

Guard, for which JICA provides capacity building support through its technical cooperation. In February 2018, Japan and Djibouti exchanged notes regarding the provision of vessel for maritime surveillance. With a view to promoting stability in Somalia, Japan has provided a total of 468 million US dollars since 2007 aimed at supporting improvement in basic services and public security through support for the police, and revitalization of domestic economy through vocational training and job creation, among other measures.

(5) Cyber

Year by year, as cyberspace is becoming an essential platform for people's socioeconomic activities, the scale and the influence of cyberattacks are expanding. As the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 approaches, cybersecurity is a matter of urgent priority.

Furthermore, cyberattacks are characterized as being highly anonymous, advantageous to the attacker, less affected by geographical constraints and able to cross national borders easily. For these reasons, cyber security is an issue that is difficult for a single country to address alone. As such, coordination and cooperation of the international community are essential.

Against this backdrop, in light of the "Cybersecurity Strategy" that was revised in July 2018, Japan has conducted cyber diplomacy based on three pillars: "promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace"; "development of confidence-building measures"; and "cooperation on capacity building."

In respect of "promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace," from its standpoint that existing international law is applicable to cyber activities, Japan has taken active roles in discussions in the international community through the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and other fora. At the UN General Assembly in December, a resolution submitted by the U.S. and co-sponsored by Japan on the establishment of a

sixth GGE was adopted by a majority vote (138 votes in favor and 12 against with 16 abstentions).

In addition, Japan collaborates with other likeminded countries in taking initiatives to deter malicious cyber activities. In December, Japan issued a statement expressing resolute condemnation of a group conducting cyberattacks based in China known as APT10, and urged all the G20 members including China to take responsible actions as a member of the international community.

As regards countermeasures against cybercrime, Japan, as the first country from Asia to become a party to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), which is the only multilateral treaty on the use of cyberspace, has actively participated in meetings related to the Convention and sought to increase the number of states party, especially in the Asian region.

Regarding the "development of confidencebuilding measures," to prevent unforeseen situations stemming from cyber activities, it is necessary to deepen understanding of each other's views and heighten confidence in each other. Japan has held consultations and dialogues with 14 countries and regions such as the U.S., the UK, France and Australia. In addition, within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, Japan, together with Malaysia and Singapore, co-chaired the first ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) in April. Through these consultations, Japan strives to exchange information about cyber-related policies and initiatives, deepen mutual understanding and foster confidencebuilding measures with other countries.

Regarding "cooperation on capacity building," due to the nature of cyberspace, the lack of incident handling capacity of some countries and regions may pose a risk to the entire world. Therefore, capacity building for developing countries is important for ensuring Japan's security as well. Japan has been providing support, including the capacity building of CSIRT

(Computer Security Incident Response Team)² and the relevant administrative agencies mainly in ASEAN countries. Based on the "Basic Strategy of Cybersecurity Capacity Building for Developing Countries" formulated by the Government as a whole in October 2016, Japan will continue to provide strategic and efficient assistance on an All-Japan basis.

(6) Outer Space

In recent years, outer space has become congested due to the diversified use of outer space and increasing number of countries using space. In addition, increase of space debris caused by Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests, collisions of satellites, etc., has posed a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

In order to cope with this situation, Japan has engaged in mission assurance for space systems, and is implementing measures to ensure the stable use of outer space, including efforts in cooperation with other countries, notably, Japan's ally the U.S.

Based on the environmental changes related to outer space, the international community has been discussing the necessity of formulating new rules for outer space. Japan has also been actively involved in these discussions with the aim of establishing the rule of law in outer space. For example, Japan has actively participated and contributed to discussions at international meetings and other fora, such as the development of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) Guidelines for the Longterm Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and has played a major role in international rulemaking. Prof. Setsuko Aoki of Keio University Law School will serve as the Chair of the COPUOS

Legal Subcommittee in 2020 and 2021. At the COPUOS session in June 2018, a symposium and high-level segment (meeting among key representatives of member states) of a meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) were held, as an opportunity to consider the future course of international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space. At the events, participants confirmed the future course of international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space and the role of outer space as a driving force for sustainable development. A resolution concerning UNISPACE+50 was adopted at the UN General Assembly in October. With regard to the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), a Group of Governmental Experts was established by the resolution submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2017 and its first meeting was held in January 2018 (attended by experts from 25 countries including Japan).

■ International Dialogues and Consultations on Outer Space

An increasing number of various bilateral and multilateral dialogues and consultations on outer space have been held with the aim of facilitating international cooperation and information sharing from a broad perspective and promotion of international cooperation, reflecting the growing interest of the international community concerning outer space. Japan also promotes dialogues in the fields of security, science and industry with major space-faring nations and other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Fifth Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space was held in Tokyo in July. The two sides exchanged comprehensive views on space cooperation from a broad perspective on civil and security topics,

² A general term which refers to a group to deal with computer security incidents. In order to minimize the damage caused by computer security incidents, they collect and analyze incident-related information, vulnerability information and predictive information of cyberattacks, consider solutions and measures, and cope with the incidents.

and issued a joint statement as an outcome document. In November, Prime Minister Abe and Vice President Pence of the U.S. confirmed that the two countries would strengthen space cooperation in the areas of security, exploration and industry, including considering in a concrete manner cooperation of Hosted Payloads (offering the excess capacity on a satellites to accommodate additional payloads owned and operated by the third party) and the lunar orbital platform, the Gateway. In October, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi of India reiterated their commitment to promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and decided to start an annual space dialogue for enhancing bilateral cooperation on outer space. With respect to multilateral meetings, the 25th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-25) was co-organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA) in November in Singapore, to enhance the framework on space cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Space Science and Exploration, Overseas Development of Japanese Space Industry, and Contributions to Global Challenges

The progress of space exploration and application for peaceful purposes is a common benefit for all humankind, and is also significant in terms of diplomacy. In particular, the International Space Station (ISS) is an epic project in which 15 countries participate, and has become a symbol of international cooperation in the field of outer space. The Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" is capable of releasing nanosatellites, and is also used to release satellites on behalf of many emerging and developing countries with the aim of providing support for capacity building in the space field. For example, through a JAXA-UN collaboration program (KiboCUBE) that provides opportunities to deploy nanosatellites from

Kibo, Kenya's first nanosatellite was deployed in May. In March, Japan also hosted the Second International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF2). The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hayashi served as the Chair of ISEF2, which was attended by ministers and heads of space agencies from 45 countries and international organizations. Topics, on the significance of space exploration, significance of international cooperation, and future forms of cooperation were discussed. Outcome documents were issued, including the "Tokyo Principles for International Space Exploration," which will serve as a foundation to advance implementation of international space exploration.

It is an important challenge for Japanese space industries to tap into the growth of the expanding market of space development and applications, primarily in emerging countries. Both the public and private sectors are working together to promote entry into the foreign market of the Japanese commercial of space, especially in the Asia Pacific region by utilizing top-level-sales (heads of governments and companies carry out sales activities themselves), diplomatic missions, and utilization of the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System "Michibiki" which commenced operations in November, such as supporting oversea demonstrations of automated driving agricultural machinery, etc. Furthermore, Japan has been contributing to addressing global issues such as climate change, disaster management, forest conservation, marine fisheries resource management, energy resource issues, supporting capacity building in the field of space in emerging countries through international cooperation by space technology utilization. For example, Japan and Indonesia have commenced a joint development of a high precision fisheries resource management system in Indonesia using a Japanese Earth observation satellite. In addition, Japan has started pilot programs related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy³

(1) Nuclear Disarmament

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during the war, Japan has the responsibility to take the lead in efforts by the international community to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

In recent years, the global security environment has been severe, and as seen in discussions over the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted in July 2017, apparent divergence of views on the ways of advancing nuclear disarmament exists not only between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, but also among non-nuclear-weapon States that are exposed to the threat of nuclear weapons and those that are not. Considering these circumstances, it is necessary to persevere in realistic and practical measures with the cooperation of nuclear-weapon States in order to advance nuclear disarmament.

Japan continues to pursue bridge building between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclearweapon States with the aim of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons, through measures such as holding meetings of the "Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament," submitting a draft resolution for the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly, and utilizing the framework of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and individual consultations. Moreover, Japan intends to carry out realistic and practical measures that also involve nuclear-weapon States, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Japan places importance on maintaining and strengthening the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. At the NPT Review Conference, which is held once every five years with the aim of achieving the goals of the Treaty and ensuring compliance with its provisions, discussions that reflected the international situation of the time have been held since the Treaty entered into force in 1970. At the Review Conference held in 2015, discussions regarding the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction and other issues could not reach a consensus, and the conference ended without document of consent. Against this backdrop. there is growing importance of efforts toward the next NPT Review Conference, to be held in 2020, which marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty.

Foreign Minister Kono attended the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, which was held in Geneva from April to May in 2018, and in addition to introducing recommendations from the "Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament," he stated that Japan believes the way toward abolishing nuclear weapons is to accumulate realistic and practical efforts in cooperation with both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States.

B Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament

The "Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament," was launched in 2017 with the goals of rebuilding trust among countries with divergent views on how to proceed with nuclear disarmament

³ For more details about Japan's policy in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, please refer to "Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy" (7th Edition) published in 2016 by MOFA.

and of obtaining recommendations that will contribute to the substantive advancement of nuclear disarmament. The Group compiled its recommendations based on discussions in the first meeting in November 2017 and the second meeting in March 2018. At the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in April, Foreign Minister Kono introduced the contents of the recommendations. transparency, verification. including interactive discussions, and called for concrete actions of the international community. The third meeting was held in Nagasaki in November, and, based on its recommendations, discussions were held from a medium- and long-term perspective on the issues including hard questions regarding the relationship between nuclear disarmament and security that should be resolved on the way to eliminating nuclear weapons.

The Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)

The NPDI, which is a group of non-nuclear-weapon States from various regions established under the leadership of Japan and Australia in 2010, has served as a bridge between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, and is leading in efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through its realistic and practical proposals, based on the involvement of the Foreign Ministers of its Member States.

Followed by the submission of the six working papers to the First Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in 2017, at the Second Session of its Preparatory Committee held from April to May in 2018, the NPDI submitted a total of four working papers, including a working paper on transparency, and held a side event on transparency and reporting. It also contributed to concrete discussions by carrying out joint statements and engaging in dialogues with nuclear-weapon States, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries, and the New Agenda Coalition (NAC).

■ Initiatives Through the United Nations (Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament)

Since 1994, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly. This draft resolution incorporates issues of the time related to nuclear disarmament, as well as concrete and practical measures toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The 2018 resolution aimed to provide common ground on which the international community can work together toward a world free of nuclear weapons, even in the current severe international security environment. As a result, this resolution was adopted with the wide support of 162 countries at the UN General Assembly in December. 69 countries, including the UK, a nuclear weapon State, co-sponsored the resolution. The resolution received wide support from many countries, including 101 out of 122 countries that had voted in favor of the resolution that established a mandate for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted in July 2017. Japan's draft resolution enjoyed the support of a larger number of states in comparison with other draft resolutions. It has also maintained the wide support of states with divergent views in the international community for more than 20 years.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Japan attaches great importance to promoting the entry into force of the CTBT as a realistic measure of nuclear disarmament where both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States can participate. Starting with a meeting with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Asif in January 2018, Foreign Minister Kono has continued diplomatic efforts to urge countries to sign and ratify the CTBT, whose ratifications are required for its entry-into-force, In addition, Foreign Minister Kono visited Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna in February and exchanged views on the CTBT verification system. Furthermore, at the Second

Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference held from April to May and at the G20 Buenos Aires Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May, Foreign Minister Kono urged North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT. In addition, in order to make the CTBT universal, he clearly emphasized the importance of the CTBT at the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) in May. Foreign Minister Kono met with Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary, Provisional Technical Secretariat, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-ban Treaty Organization in July in Vienna and called for the promotion of entry into force, the universalization and the reinforcement of verification regime of the CTBT, including calls on North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT. In September, in addition to Thailand ratifying the Treaty and Tuvalu signing it, the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (held every other year in years which do not have a meeting for promotion of the CTBT) was held at the UN General Assembly High Level Week. Foreign Minister Kono co-chaired with Australian Foreign Minister Payne and issued a Foreign Ministers' Statement calling for the promotion of entry into force, the universalization and the reinforcement of verification regime of the CTBT, including calls on North Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT: Cutoff Treaty)⁴

The FMCT has great significance from the perspectives of both disarmament and non-proliferation, as it prevents the emergence of new states possessing nuclear-weapons by banning

the production of fissile materials (such as highlyenriched uranium and plutonium) that are used in nuclear weapons, and at the same time, limits the production of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States, However, for many years, an agreement has not been reached on the commencement of negotiations of the treaty in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). In view of this situation, it was decided at the 71st UN General Assembly in December 2016 to establish an FMCT High-Level Experts Preparatory Group, Japan actively participated in the Group's discussions, and through discussions in the 1st meeting (August 2017) and the 2nd meeting (June 2018), a report was adopted that includes possible options for the outline of a future treaty and content to consider in negotiations. The report was submitted to the 73rd UN General Assembly.

© Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan places great importance of education on disarmament and non-proliferation. Specifically, Japan has been actively engaged in efforts to convey the realities of the devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons to people both within Japan and overseas, through activities such as translating the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors into other languages, invitations for young diplomats from other countries to go to Hiroshima and Nagasaki through the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament⁵, providing assistance for holding atomic bomb exhibition overseas through its diplomatic missions overseas⁶, and commissioning atomic bomb survivors who have given testimonies

⁴ A treaty concept that aims to prevent the increase in the number of nuclear weapons by prohibiting the production of fissile materials (such as enriched uranium and plutonium, etc.) that are used as the materials for the production of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

⁵ Implemented since 1983 by the UN to nurture nuclear disarmament experts. Participants of the program are invited to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and efforts are made to promote understanding of the realities of atomic bombing through tours of museums and talks by victims about the experience of atomic bombing, etc.

⁶ Opened as a permanent exhibition about atomic bombing in New York (U.S.), Geneva (Switzerland) and Vienna (Austria), in cooperation with Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City. In 2018, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition was held in Caen (France), Ypres (Belgium), and Porto (Portugal).



Youth Participation for the CTBT Ministerial Meeting

Jaona Andriamampandry (Madagascar)

Invited by the CTBTO to attend the 2nd Science Diplomacy Symposium, I participated in a presentation contest about the youth vision of the CTBT. Then, I won the contest, and I was invited to make a statement at the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT on September 27, 2018.

In the years between Article XIV Conferences, Foreign Ministers of the "Friends of the CTBT" particularly dedicated to entry into force of the CTBT, meet on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September. The aim of these meetings is to sustain and generate further political momentum for the entry into force of the treaty. To that end,



The Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT on September 27, 2018, New York.

the ministers adopt and sign Joint Ministerial Statements that are open for adherence by other countries.

The initiative for these meetings was taken by Japan in cooperation with Australia and the Netherlands, who organized the first "Friends of the CTBT" Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2002. Today, the group also includes Canada, Germany and Finland.

Since I became a member of the CTBT Youth Group (CYG), I have witnessed my fellow members make every possible effort to encourage their representatives to support the CTBT. While this might be a tiny step, I believe this tiny step contributes to the global effort in establishing a legally binding CTBT. With the little knowledge I had about the existence of the ministerial meetings, I knew it would be a great opportunity to share the importance of youth involvement with regards to the CTBT. The youth are a source of enthusiasm and inspiration in finding original ways to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

As a scientist and a youth from a developing country, I also knew that this would be THE opportunity to raise the attention of African leaders regarding the importance of the Treaty.



Speech at the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT (author) (Photo credit: CTBTO)

"We are all equally affected, regardless of nationality, religion or economic status" when it comes to the consequences of the nuclear testing. (Statement by Jaona Andriamampandry at the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT)

During my presentation at the science diplomacy symposium, I emphasized the importance of education to promote entry into force, because some of the African leaders do not even know about the CTBT. The voices needed to bring the CTBT into force would grow through education.

The meeting was remarkable and my first reaction was that I wanted to do it again. My expectation for Japan and the CTBT is that in future ministerial meetings, more of my fellow members would be granted with the same opportunity as I had. There are several CYG members with different backgrounds and ideas that are worth listening to in order to promote the entry into force.

This initiative gave me the opportunity to be heard by the entire world. This is why it was an unforgettable experience for me and I would like to express my gratitude to Japan and the CTBTO for this wonderful experience.

of their atomic bomb experiences as "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons."

Additionally, with the atomic bomb survivors aging, it is becoming increasingly important to pass on the current understanding of the realities of the use of atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki across the generations and borders. In this regard, since 2013 and until the present, Japan has named more than 300 youths within Japan and overseas as "Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons." In November 2017, the 3rd Forum of Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons was held in Hiroshima, with the aim of revitalizing the activities of the Youth Communicators, and strengthening their networking within Japan and overseas. Youth Communicator alumni from Japan and overseas attended the Forum.

(2) Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security

A Japan's Efforts of Non-Proliferation

Japan has been making efforts to strengthen non-proliferation regimes. In particular, as a measure on nuclear non-proliferation, Japan has made various efforts, including supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a member of the IAEA Board of Governors designated by the Board. Japan, for example, enhances the understanding and implementation

capabilities of safeguards of other countries. based on the view that the IAEA safeguards are a core of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. In addition, Japan encourages other countries to conclude the Additional Protocol (AP)8 to the IAEA safeguards agreements by supporting the IAEA's regional seminars, as well as through other fora. As a part of such efforts, the second training course on the implementation of safeguards hosted by the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) was held for Iran in July 2018. This was held with support through the IAEA's Nuclear Nonproliferation Fund⁹, to which Japan contributes independently.

Furthermore, Japan actively contributes to regional and international efforts to strengthen safeguards through the IAEA's Safeguards Symposium held in Vienna from October to November 2018, and through the Annual Meeting of Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN), which the IAEA participates in.

In addition, Director General of the IAEA Amano, who has been serving as Director General since 2009 (the term of office is from December 2017 to the end of November 2021), has made efforts to deal with issues such as enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards, North Korea's nuclear issue and the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)" 10

- 7 13 countries designated by the IAEA Board of Governors. Japan and other countries such as G7 members with advanced nuclear energy capabilities are designated.
- 8 A protocol concluded between a respective country and the IAEA in addition to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, etc. The conclusion of the Additional Protocol expands the scope of nuclear activity information that should be declared to the IAEA, and gives the IAEA strengthened measures to verify the absence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities. As of December 2018, 134 countries have concluded the Additional Protocol.
- 9 A special contribution that Japan makes independently to the IAEA, with the aim of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. The Fund was established in 2001 based on arrangements between Japan and the IAEA.
- 10 Sets forth detailed procedures for imposing constraints on Iran's nuclear activities while ensuring that they serve peaceful purposes, and for lifting the imposed sanctions.
 - <Main measures undertaken by Iran>
 - Constraints on enriched uranium-related activities
 - Limits the number of centrifuges in operation to 5,060 units
 - Upper limit of enriched uranium at 3.67%, and limit on the amount of stored enriched uranium at 300 kg, etc.
 - ●Constraints on Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor, and reprocessing
 - Redesign/remodeling of the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor such that it is not able to produce weapon-grade plutonium, and transfer of spent fuel out of the country
 - · No reprocessing including for research purposes, no construction of reprocessing facilities, etc.

concerning Iran's nuclear issue. Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono have exchanged views on various challenges such as these issues through meetings with Director General Amano.

Japan also actively contributes to export control regimes. They are coordinating frameworks for countries supporting appropriate export controls and capable of supplying respective weapons and related dual-use items and technologies, and they have become an important part of the international non-proliferation regime. Each export control regime, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Zangger Committee on nuclear weapons, the Australia Group (AG) on chemical and biological weapons, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on missiles¹¹ and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on conventional weapons, establishes a list of dual-use items and technologies which contribute to development of weapons. Participating countries to the regimes implement export control measures on the listed items in accordance with their domestic laws. In addition, the export control regimes also conduct information exchanges on trends in countries of proliferation concern and outreach activities to non-participating countries to the regimes in order to strengthen their export control. Japan actively engages in such international rule-making and application of rules, and makes various contributions. In particular, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna serves as the Point of Contact of the NSG.

In addition, Japan actively participates in the activities of the Proliferation Security Initiative

(PSI)¹². Japan hosted the Maritime Interdiction Exercise "Pacific Shield 18" in Yokosuka City, off the Boso Peninsula and the Izu Peninsula in July 2018. Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the ROK, Singapore, and the U.S. participated in the exercise with their assets and personnel, and 19 countries from the Indo-Pacific region and other countries sent observers. As a result, each country and related organizations worked to strengthen cooperation with each other and demonstrated the strong will of the international community to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Japan also holds the Asia Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)13 and the Asian Export Control Seminar¹⁴ in order to promote understanding of the non-proliferation regimes and strengthen regional efforts mainly in Asian countries. At the 14th ASTOP, held on January 31, 2018, India joined it for the first time, and the meeting had discussions on North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, strengthening export control, the universalization of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), and the PSI. Furthermore, officials responsible for export control from 33 countries/ regions participated in the 25th Asian Export Control seminar, which was held from February 27 to March 1, 2018, to build their capacity through discussions on the role of export control to prevent terrorism and efforts to strengthen export control in Asia.

Furthermore, Japan actively contributes to strengthening the implementation of UN Security

¹¹ Apart from export control regimes, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), which includes the principle of exercising restraint in their development and deployment, addresses the issue of ballistic missiles. 139 countries have subscribed to the HCOC.

^{12 105} countries have endorsed the PSI as of December 2018. In the past, in addition to hosting PSI maritime interdiction exercises in 2004, 2007, and 2018, and air interdiction exercises in 2012, Japan also hosted an Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in 2010 in Tokyo. Japan has also participated in events hosted by other countries, including rotation exercise in the Asia-Pacific region and the Mid-Level Political Meeting in the U.S. in January 2016. Japan participated in the High-Level Political Meeting of the PSI on its 15th anniversary held in France in May.

¹³ A multilateral Director-General-level meeting hosted by Japan to discuss various issues related to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime in Asia among the ten ASEAN Member States, China, India, the ROK, as well as the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and France, which have common interests in Asian regional security. The last ASTOP was held in March 2019.

¹⁴ A seminar hosted by Japan to exchange views and information to strengthen export controls in Asia, with the participation of export control officials from Asian countries and regions. It is organized annually in Tokyo since 1993. The seminar was most recently held in February 2019.



Simple inspection of chemicals by Kanagawa Prefectural Police at the PSI exercise (July 26, Yokosuka)

Council Resolution 1540¹⁵, which was adopted in 2004 with the aim of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (missiles) to non-state actors. For example, Japan's contributions are used to support efforts to strengthen non-proliferation systems in Asian countries, which contributes to the maintenance and strengthening of international non-proliferation regimes.

B Regional Non-proliferation Issues

North Korea has not carried out the dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with a series of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and there has been no essential change in North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.

A historic U.S.-North Korea Summit was convened in Singapore in June 2018, where U.S. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un agreed on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in February 2019. It is important

that the international community remains united to support the process between the U.S. and North Korea toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, taking into account the results of the summits.

On the other hand, the IAEA Director General's Report in August pointed out that there were indications of operation at North Korean nuclear facilities and that the continuation and further development of North Korea's nuclear program are a cause for grave concern and these activities are clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions. Also, at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in November, the IAEA Director General pointed out that further activities were observed at Yongbyon in North Korea since August.

Japan has been affirming close cooperation with the IAEA on various levels with regard to the North Korea's nuclear issue. For example, in the meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Director General Amano in July, they exchanged views on the North Korea's situation and Director General Amano gave an explanation about the measures of establishing the stringent verification system in light of the past experiences of the IAEA, and they reaffirmed the cooperation between Japan and the IAEA.

Japan will continue to coordinate closely with related countries, including the U.S. and the ROK, and international organizations such as the IAEA toward the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, from the viewpoint of the full implementation of sanctions based on the UN Security Council resolutions, Japan will work on capacity building for export control particularly in Asia.

¹⁵ Adopted in April 2004, Resolution 1540 obliges all countries to: (1) refrain from providing support to terrorists and other non-state actors attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction; (2) adopt and enforce laws prohibiting the development of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and other non-state actors; and (3) implement domestic controls (protective measures, border control, export controls, etc.) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The resolution also establishes, under the UN Security Council, the 1540 Committee composed of Security Council members, with a mandate to review and report to the Security Council the status of the implementation of Resolution 1540 by member states.



Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and IAEA Director General Amano (July 5, Vienna, Austria)

As for Iran, the IAEA has continuously monitored and verified Iran's implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) since January 2016. In May 2018, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the JCPOA, and sanctions against Iran were reapplied in August and November. Under these circumstances, Director General Amano stated at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in November that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA and it is essential that Iran continues to fully implement those commitments.

With regard to Syria's implementation of the IAEA safeguards, in order to clarify the facts, it is important for Syria to cooperate fully with the IAEA, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol, as well as to implement it.

Nuclear Security

With regards to nuclear security which aims at the prevention of acts of terrorism such as those using nuclear and other radioactive materials, the IAEA, the UN and like-minded countries have strengthened international cooperation on nuclear security through various efforts. They include the Nuclear Security Summit, which was launched by then U.S. President Obama and held four times between 2010 and 2016, and the International conference on Nuclear Security, organized by

the IAEA. Japan actively participates in and contributes to these efforts.

In February 2018, in the presence of Foreign Minister Kono and Director General Amano, the "Practical Arrangements between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency on Cooperation in the Area of Support to the Implementation of Nuclear Security Measures on the Occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games" was signed. The set of arrangements establishes a framework for cooperation, including support by the IAEA experts in events related to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games, information exchanges related to nuclear security issues, and the rental of equipment for detection of radioactive materials.

(3) Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

A Multilateral Efforts

Along with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are considered to be one of the three pillars of the NPT. According to the Treaty, it is the "inalienable right" for any country that meets its obligations to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to develop nuclear research, production and use for peaceful purposes. Against a backdrop of the expansion of international energy demand, many countries use or are planning to use nuclear power¹⁶.

On the other hand, these nuclear materials, equipment and technologies used for nuclear power generation can be diverted to uses for military purposes, and a nuclear accident in one country may have significant impacts on its neighboring countries. For these reasons, with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is vital to ensure the "3S"17: (1) Safeguards; (2) Nuclear Safety (measures to ensure safety

¹⁶ According to the IAEA, as of December 2018, 454 nuclear reactors are in operation worldwide and 54 reactors are under construction (see the IAEA website).

¹⁷ IAEA's Safeguards, typical measures for non-proliferation, and Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security are referred to as the "3S" for short.



IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology

Jun Hatazawa, Professor, Department of Nuclear Medicine and Tracer Kinetics, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine

I had an opportunity to attend the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held from November 28 to 30 in Vienna, Austria. The conference theme was nuclear science and technology as the foundation of "Atoms for Peace and Development" advocated under the leadership of IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. Japan co-chaired the meeting with Costa Rica. Panel discussions by experts in the fields of health and medicine, agriculture and food, environment, water resources, and gender equality were conducted and speeches by member country representatives



were delivered over three days. The Ministerial Declaration affirmed joint global awareness of the importance of nuclear science and technology and IAEA activities.

I delivered a report on nuclear medicine, the point of overlap between nuclear science and medicine. Radionuclides play an important role in medical examinations for cancer, heart disease, and dementia. In this field, technologies, medical equipment, and methods originating in Japan have spread and taken hold worldwide. Japan also engages in advanced initiatives on patient and medical staff safety management. In the future, nuclear medicine will serve as a bridge between nuclear science and medicine based on the standpoint of further "application of nuclear power to medicine."

During the conference period, the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology and the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine presented materials at a booth at the site. With more than 400 government representatives from various countries and conference participants coming to the booth, it was an excellent opportunity to explain Japan's advanced technologies in medical and health/welfare fields. In particular, there was great interest shown in radioactive therapies, an area in which Japan excels and which alleviate the burden on patients and enable quick recovery after treatment, such as heavy ion therapy, boron neutron capture therapy, and alpha therapy. The top priority in leveraging nuclear science in society is human resources development. The Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine formed a human resources development consortium with the participation of 11 universities and medical institutions nationwide to promote the international proliferation of nuclear medicine and concluded an agreement with the IAEA during the conference. The consortium plans to accept human resources from various countries with the aim of improving the quality of medical care in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other regions and cultivate experts in nuclear medicine. This form of agreement is also the first such attempt for the IAEA, and it is expected to produce great outcomes.

I strongly felt Japan's influential presence at the conference. It made me very proud to observe the active participation of Director General Amano, who gave the opening speech, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji, who managed the conference as the representative of the co-chair country and delivered a speech, Mr. Mitsuru Kitano, Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, who oversaw the Ministerial Declaration, and Japanese officials working at the IAEA. I intend to make further contributions through my work in medicine, technology development, and education.

to prevent a nuclear accident, etc.); and (3) Nuclear Security. As the country that experienced the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, it is Japan's responsibility to share with the rest of the world its experiences and lessons learned from the accident and to contribute to strengthening global nuclear safety. In this regard, Japan and the IAEA are working in cooperation. The IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC) was designated in Fukushima in 2013, where workshops were held in July and August in 2018 for Japanese and foreign officials to strengthen their capabilities in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

Decommissioning. contaminated water management, as well as decontamination and environmental remediation have been progressing steadily at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. However, this work continues to be difficult in ways that are unprecedented in the world, and efforts are being made to tackle the tasks through the technology and collective knowledge of the world. Japan has been working closely with the IAEA since the occurrence of the accident. In 2018, Japan hosted an expert mission of the IAEA on marine monitoring (October) and IAEA international peer review mission on the reactor decommissioning (November). In addition, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) published a report on the levels and impact of radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2014, and since 2018 the report has been revised to carry out an assessment based on the latest information.

It is necessary to disseminate appropriate information at an appropriate time in order to deal with the aftermath of the accident and move forward on reconstruction, while gaining support and correct understanding of the international community. From this perspective, Japan periodically releases a comprehensive report through the IAEA, covering matters including the progress of decommissioning, contaminated water



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji celebrating adoption of the Ministerial Declaration as co-chair at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology (November 27, Vienna, Austria)

management at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, results of the monitoring of air dose rate and radioactivity concentration in the sea water, and food safety. Briefing sessions are held for diplomatic corps, and information is also provided through diplomatic missions overseas.

Nuclear energy is applied not only to the field of power generation, but also to areas including human health, food and agriculture, environment, and industrial applications. Promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in such non-power applications, and contributing to development issues, are becoming increasingly important as developing countries make up the majority of NPT member states. As Director General Amano upholds "Atoms for Peace and Development," the IAEA also contributes to technical cooperation for developing countries and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Japan has been providing active support, to the IAEA's activities, through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and other means. At the NPT Review Conference held in April 2015, Japan announced that it would be contributing a total of 25 million US dollars over the five years to the PUI. In 2018, Japan provided support through the PUI for projects, including on measures against infectious diseases, strengthening cancer treatment capacity, and water resource management in developing countries.

In November 2018, the first IAEA Ministerial

Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology was held with the objective of promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs and the application of nuclear science and technology. The Ministerial Declaration was adopted with the attendance of Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji, who co-chaired with Costa Rica.

B Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements are concluded to secure a legal assurance from the recipient country, when transferring nuclear-related materials and equipment such as nuclear reactors to that country, that the transferred items will be used only for peaceful purposes. The agreements especially aim to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensure non-proliferation.

Moreover, as Japan attaches importance to ensuring the "3S," recent nuclear agreements between Japan and other countries set out provisions regarding nuclear safety and affirm mutual compliance with international treaties on nuclear safety, while facilitating the promotion of cooperation in the field of nuclear safety under the agreements.

Numerous countries continue to express that they have high expectations for Japan's nuclear technology even after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. While taking into account the situation and intentions of the partner countries desiring to cooperate with Japan in this field, Japan can continue to provide nuclear-related materials, equipment, and technology with the highest safety standards. Furthermore, as bilateral nuclear cooperation, Japan is called upon to share with other countries its experience and lessons learned from the Fukushima Daijchi accident and to continue cooperating with other countries on improving nuclear safety. When considering whether or not to establish a nuclear cooperation agreement framework with a foreign country, Japan considers the overall situation in each individual case, taking into account such factors as non-proliferation, nuclear energy policy in that country, the country's trust in and expectations for Japan, and the bilateral relationship between the two countries. As of the end of 2018, Japan has concluded nuclear cooperation agreements with Canada, Australia, China, the U.S., France, the UK, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), Kazakhstan, the ROK, Vietnam, Jordan, Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and India.

(4) Biological and Chemical Weapons

A Biological Weapons

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)¹⁸ is the only multilateral legal framework imposing a comprehensive ban on the development, production, and possession of biological weapons. However, the question of how to reinforce the convention is a challenge, as there is neither a provision regarding the means of verifying compliance with the BWC nor an implementing organization for the Convention.

Since 2006, decisions were made to establish the Implementation Support Unit (fulfilling the functions of a secretariat), and to hold intersessional meetings twice a year in between the Review Conference held every five years; progress has been made in initiatives toward strengthening the implementation of the BWC.

It has been agreed to discuss the five topics of international cooperation, review of developments in the field of science and technology, national implementation, assistance, response and preparedness support, and institutional strengthening of the Convention in the inter-sessional meetings until the 9th Review Conference, scheduled to be held in 2021.

B Chemical Weapons

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)19 imposes a comprehensive ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and stipulates that all existing chemical weapons must be destroyed. Compliance is ensured through the verification system (declaration and inspection) and hence this Convention is a groundbreaking international agreement on the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The implementing body of the CWC is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is based in the Hague, the Netherlands. Along with the UN, the OPCW has played a key role in the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. Its extensive efforts toward the realization of a world free of chemical weapons were highly appraised, and the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. Japan has provided financial support for OPCW activities concerning the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria. In addition, Japan, which has a highly developed chemicals industry and numerous chemicals factories, also accepts many OPCW inspections. Apart from these, Japan cooperates actively with the OPCW in concrete ways, such as measures to increase the number of member States, and strengthening national implementation measures by States Parties with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the Convention.

Moreover, under the CWC, Japan aims to complete, as soon as possible, the destruction of chemical weapons of the former Japanese Army abandoned in territory of China by working in cooperation with China.

(5) Conventional Weapons

A Cluster Munitions²⁰

Japan takes the humanitarian consequences brought about by cluster munitions very seriously. Therefore, in addition to taking steps to address this issue by victim assistance and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance²¹, Japan continues its efforts to increase the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)²².

B Anti-personnel Mines

Year of 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty)²³ has entered into force. To date. Japan has continued to promote comprehensive measures with a focus on the effective prohibition of anti-personnel mines and strengthening of support for mine-affected countries. As well as calling on countries in the Asia-Pacific region to ratify or accede to the Convention, Japan has, since 1998, provided support worth over 71 billion Japanese yen to 51 countries and regions to assist them in dealing with the consequences of land mines (for example, landmine clearance and victim assistance).

In November 2018, the 17th Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty was held in Geneva. At this meeting, Japan looked back on its efforts to universalize the Ottawa Treaty in Japan to date, as well as its initiatives and achievements in supporting mine action. It also expressed

¹⁹ Enacted in April 1997. The contracting states number 193 (as of December 2017)

²⁰ Generally speaking, it refers to a bomb or shell which enables numerous submunitions to be spread over a wide area by opening in the air a large container, which holds those submunitions. It is said that there is high possibility that many of them do not explode on impact, which creates problem of accidental killing or injury of civilian population.

²¹ See the White Paper on Development Cooperation for specific efforts in international cooperation regarding cluster munition and anti-personnel mine.

²² Enacted in August 2010, it prohibits the use, possession, or production of cluster munitions, while obliging the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions, and the clearance of cluster munitions in contaminated areas. As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions is 104, including Japan.

²³ While banning the use and production of anti-personnel mines, the Convention, which came into force in March 1999, obliges the destruction of stockpiled mines and clearance of buried mines. As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions is 164, including Japan.

Japan's continuous resolve to play a positive role with the aim of realizing a mine-free world.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)24

The ATT, which seeks to establish common standards to regulate international trade in conventional arms and prevent illicit trade in them, came into force on December 24, 2014. As one of the original co-authors of the UN General Assembly Resolution that initiated a consideration of the Treaty, Japan has taken the lead in discussions and negotiations in the UN, and contributed actively to discussions in Conference of States Parties after the Treaty entered into force. In August 2018, Japan hosted the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty as the first chair country elected from the Asia-Pacific region.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)²⁵

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) prohibits or restricts the use of conventional weapons that are deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects and comprises a framework Convention that sets forth the procedural and other matters, as well as five annexed Protocols that regulate the individual conventional arms, etc. The framework Convention came into force in 1983. Japan has ratified the framework Convention and the annexed Protocols I to IV, including the amended Protocol II. Against a background of concerns in the international community about the rapidly advancing military applications of science and technology, meetings of Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) on the CCW framework have been held.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

Described as "weapons of mass destruction" in

terms of the carnage they cause, small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate due to the ease of obtaining and operating them, and are one of the causes behind the drawing out and escalation of conflict, as well as hindrance to the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Since 1995, Japan has been making an annual submission to the UN General Assembly of a resolution on small arms and light weapons. Japan supports various projects to tackle small arms and light weapons across the globe, including weapons collection and disposal programs and training courses.

Japan's Efforts at the United Nations (UN)

(1) Japan-UN Relationship

The UN is an international organization with a universal character, in which almost all the countries in the world hold membership (193 countries as of December 2018). With a high level of expertise, it addresses various challenges that the international community faces in diverse areas, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, development, human rights, environment and climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

Today, the international community is confronted by a wide range of challenges across borders including conflicts, terrorism, refugees, poverty, climate change, and infectious diseases, and the UN has to fulfill an expanding role. Under the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, Japan is further strengthening cooperation through the UN and is taking an even more proactive approach toward tackling these issues as well as achieving diplomatic targets which cannot be

²⁴ As of November 2018, the number of contracting states and regions to Army Trade Treaty (ATT) is 99. Japan signed the Treaty on the day that it was released for signing, and in May 2014 become a contracting state.

²⁵ As of November 2018, 125 countries and regions have ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).



UN Headquarters (Photo: UN Photo/ Manuel Elias)



Prime Minister Abe attending the UN General Assembly (September 25, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

realized by efforts of one country alone. Japan has also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 11 times, the most frequent among the Member States, fulfilling a key role in the maintenance of peace and security in the international community. Japan will also continue to be proactively engaged in the UN reform, including the reform of the Security Council, so that the UN can cope more effectively with the various issues faced by the international community.

In September, Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono attended the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

Prime Minister Abe delivered a speech at the General Debate for six years in a row. In this speech, he declared Japan's resolve to focus on preserving and enhancing the free trade system, and clearing away the post-war structures in Northeast Asia. Furthermore, he asserted the importance of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and stated his conviction that the Japanese people would serve as powerful leaders with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), bearing in mind the international conferences to be held in Japan in 2019 (G20 and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD 7)).

In addition, Prime Minister Abe attended a high-level meeting entitled "A Call to Invest: Investing in Youth Jobs in Africa." There, he touched on the fact that since the launch of TICAD in 1993, Japan has supported Africa's selfreliant development based on the principals of ownership (self-help efforts) on the part of African countries and partnerships (coordination) with the international community. In relation to the job creation of young Africans, he introduced Japan's initiatives related to promoting human resource development and private investment, including the ABE Initiative²⁶, job training support, the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum²⁷, and more. He went on to add that, Japan will continually invest for the future of Africa under public-private partnership with a view toward TICAD 7 to be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

On the margins of the UN General Asembly, Prime Minister Abe held Summit Meetings with UN Secretary-General Guterres, the U.S., Turkey, the ROK, and Iran and met with leaders of Panama and the UK to engage in lively exchanges of opinions over various challenges facing the

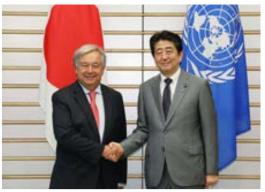
²⁶ This aims to select young, outstanding African human resources who will serve as bearers for the future of business between Japan and Africa, offer them the opportunity to study abroad at Japanese universities and to intern at Japanese companies, and foster sophisticated industrial human resources who can serve as guides to Japanese companies entering African markets

²⁷ Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in 2016. It is a forum where officials from the private and public sectors in Japan and Africa take part and exchange opinions with the goal of promoting cooperation between private companies in Japan and Africa and the business activities of Japanese companies in Africa.

international arena, such as the issue of North Korea, as well as bilateral relationships and more.

In the meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres, the two reached a shared recognition concerning the importance of achieving UN reform, including the reform of the UN Security Council. In addition, they also affirmed the importance of having the international community continue to ensure the complete and total implementation of UN Security Council resolutions aimed at achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. In addition, Prime Minister Abe once again sought understanding and cooperation with respect to the early resolution of the abductions issue, to which UN Secretary-General Guterres expressed his support. Foreign Minister Kono either hosted or co-chaired the Sixth GUAM-Japan Ministerial Meeting (GUAM consists of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova), the Sixth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference, the Japan-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting, the High-Level Side Event on Promoting Quality Infrastructure, the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Ministerial Meeting on United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In addition, he also attended the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 on United Nations Security Council Reform, and other meetings totaling 18 multilateral meetings. He also held 14 Foreign Minister's Meetings, including Japan-India and Japan-China, taking the opportunity of the UN General Assembly to strengthen mutual trust with his counterparts from other countries.

These examples show how Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono took full advantage of the opportunity of the UN General Assembly, where important leaders gathered from around the world, to demonstrate Japan's leadership when it comes to resolving the various challenges confronting the international community. In addition, they also vigorously engaged in bilateral



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with UN Secretary-General Guterres (August 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

talks with leaders from different countries in aiming to strengthen bilateral relations, and assertively conveyed Japan's policies and positions to the international community.

In August, UN Secretary-General Guterres visited Japan for the second time after assuming office as the Secretary-General in January 2017. where he became the first UN Secretary-General to attend the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony at Peace Park. In the meeting with Prime Minister Abe held prior to this, the two held detailed exchange of view concerning North Korea, UN reform, disarmament and nonproliferation as well as global issues, and they concurred to continue to work closely together. Specifically, with regard to the issue of North Korea, the two reached a shared recognition regarding the need to adhere to the complete and total implementation by the international community of measures based on UNSC resolutions designed to elicit specific behaviors on the part of North Korea. As for disarmament and nonproliferation, Prime Minister Abe declared that Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, would continue to act as an intermediary between those states with nuclear weapons and those without them in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, and concurred with UN Secretary-General Guterres over continuing to cooperate with the UN on this issue. Moreover, Prime Minister Abe raised the urgent need to promote

the reform of the UN Security Council in parallel with UN reform, and expressed his hope that UN Secretary-General Guterres would show strong initiative in this regard. Foreign Minister Kono held a breakfast meeting with UN Secretary-General Guterres in Nagasaki, where the two exchanged opinions over issues such as disarmament and nonproliferation, the issue of North Korea, and UN reform. In addition, UN Secretary-General Guterres met with survivors of the atomic bombing, and toured both the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

Moreover, at the end of August, President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly Espinosa Garcés visited Japan right before assuming office of the president of the UN General Assembly in September, where she paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe. She also exchanged a wide range of opinions with Foreign Minister Kono regarding UN Security Council reform, the North Korea situation, the SDGs, gender, and other challenges at the global level.

(2) United Nations Security Council and its reform

M United Nations Security Council

The UN Security Council holds the primary responsibility within the UN for maintaining international peace and security. Its activities, including Peacekeeping Operations based on UN Security Council resolutions, are diversifying and the Council's role is expanding year by year, encompassing the efforts to address new threats such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

Japan served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 11th time from January 2016 to the end of December 2017, having served more frequently than any other UN Member State, and contributed proactively to discussions on topics such as country-specific situations and peacebuilding. During its term on the Council, which was its 11th such term. Japan made every effort to resolve North Korea's nuclear and missile issues; those efforts included contributions to drafting and the adoption of six UN Security Council resolutions in response to North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and three nuclear tests conducted in January and September 2016, and September 2017. At a UN Security Council Briefing on the denuclearization of North Korea held as part of High-level Week of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly. Japan led discussions related to maintaining international peace and security, such as by calling for solidarity among member nations with a view toward achieving the complete denuclearization of North Korea.

B Reform of the United Nations Security Council

For more than 70 years since the establishment of the UN, while the structure of the international community has changed significantly and despite the UN's functions having grown increasingly diverse in this day and age, the composition of the UN Security Council has basically remained unchanged still to this today. There is broad recognition of the necessity of promptly reforming the UN Security Council in a way that reflects the reality of the international community in order to improve its legitimacy, effectiveness, representativeness, and transparency.

Japan has contributed proactively to the international community in areas such as disarmament and non-proliferation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and "human security," among others. To play an even more proactive role toward the realization of world peace and security through the UN, Japan has been making efforts to convince other countries in pursuit of the early realization of the UN Security Council reform, with the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats, and Japan's admission as a permanent member.

Recent activities regarding the UN Security Council reform

Since 2009, in the UN General Assembly, Member States have been engaging in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the UN Security Council reform. At the Inter-governmental Negotiations during the 72nd session of the General Assembly (held a total of five times from February to June 2018), the Co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (UN Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Georgia) worked to revise the document from the previous session based on the opinions of each country and group. The decision to pass on the existing documents, which include the document compiled at the 72nd session, to the 73rd session (from September 2018 to September 2019) was adopted with a consensus at the UN General Assembly in July 2018.

In addition, President of the UN General Assembly Espinosa Garcés reappointed the UN Permanent Representative from the United Arab Emirates to continue serving as a Co-Chair of the Inter-governmental Negotiations as a carryover from the 72nd session, while also appointing the UN Permanent Representative from Luxembourg to serve as a new Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. In addition, Japan also places great importance on strengthening its initiatives as a member of the G4 (Japan, India, Germany, and Brazil), a group that cooperates on promoting the UN Security Council reform. Foreign Minister Kono attended the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries that was held along with the UN General Assembly Highlevel Week in September. At the Meeting, the Ministers agreed to enhance initiatives designed to launch text-based negotiations at the Intergovernmental Negotiations during the current session, and on this point, also to support moves to reflect the African shared position into the textbased negotiations. They also agreed to instruct those at the working level from each country to perform examinations related to future initiatives



Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) on the United Nations Security Council Reform (September 25, New York, U.S.)



UN Security Council Ministerial-Level Meeting on the denuclearization of North Korea (September 27, New York, U.S.)

geared toward advancing reform of the UN Security Council.

Japan will continue to engage proactively in the process for realizing the UN Security Council reform, in close cooperation with reform-oriented countries.

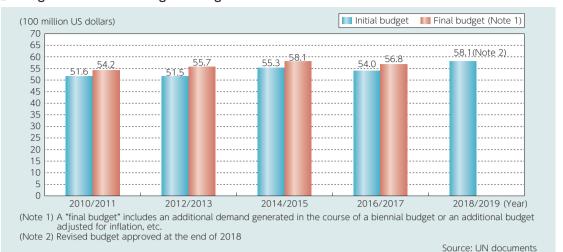
(3) Administrative and Budgetary Issues of the United Nations

A Budget of the United Nations

The UN budget is mainly composed of the regular budget which is a biennial budget for the period from January to December of the next year, and the peacekeeping budget which is an annual budget for the period from July to the following June.

With regard to the regular budget, a revised budget for the biennium 2018-2019 amounting

Changes in UN biennial regular budgets



The scale of assessments for the UN Regular Budget by major Member States

| Ranking* | Country | 2016-2018 | 2019-2021 | Increase/decrease by points |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | U.S. | 22.000% | 22.000% | ± 0 |
| 2 | China | 7.921% | 12.005% | + 4.084 |
| 3 | Japan | 9.680% | 8.564% | - 1.116 |
| 4 | Germany | 6.389% | 6.090% | - 0.299 |
| 5 | UK | 4.463% | 4.567% | + 0.104 |
| 6 | France | 4.859% | 4.427% | - 0.432 |
| 7 | Italy | 3.748% | 3.307% | - 0.441 |
| 8 | Brazil | 3.823% | 2.948% | - 0.875 |
| 9 | Canada | 2.921% | 2.734% | - 0.187 |
| 10 | Russia | 3.088% | 2.405% | - 0.683 |

Changes in the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) Budget and the number of PKO missions (2003-2019)



| Ranking* | Country | 2018 | 2019 | 2020-2021 |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | U.S. | 28.4344% | 27.8912% | 27.8908% |
| 2 | China | 10.2377% | 15.2197% | 15.2195% |
| 3 | Japan | 9.6800% | 8.5640% | |
| 4 | Germany | 6.3890% | 6.0900% | |
| 5 | UK | 5.7863% | 5.7900% | 5.7899% |
| 6 | France | 6.2801% | 5.6125% | 5.6124% |
| 7 | Italy | 3.7480% | 3.3070% | |
| 8 | Russia | 3.9912% | 3.0490% | 3.0490% |
| 9 | Canada | 2.9210% | 2.7340% | |
| 10 | ROK | 2.0390% | 2.2670% | |

■The scale of assessments for the UN Peacekeeping Budget by major Member States

*The numbers refer to the rank for 2019-2021.

to approximately 5.8 billion US dollars was approved in December 2018 at the UN General Assembly (an increase of approximately 7.7% from the initial budget for the biennium 2018-2019). The budget for peacekeeping operations for the 2018-2019 period was approved in July 2018 (approximately 7.02 billion US dollars in total, a decrease of approximately 4% from the previous period).

Furthermore, the scale of assessments, which is to be reviewed every three years, was negotiated in 2018. As the current methodology was maintained, Japan's scale of assessments for the period from 2019 to 2021 decreased to 8.564% (a 1.116-point decrease from the scale 9.680% for 2016-2018), which was the largest decrease among all Member States. In contrast, as China's scale rose substantially, Japan's scale of assessment for the regular budget became the third largest after the U.S. and China. As for the scale of assessment for the UN peacekeeping budget, Japan remained the third largest after the U.S. and China.

B Japan's Contribution

The UN budget, which supports the activities of the organization, is composed of assessed contributions duly paid by Member States and voluntary contributions paid in accordance with the policy need of Member States. With regard

to the assessed contributions, Japan contributed approximately 235.3 million US dollars to the UN regular budget for 2018, ranking second after the U.S. Its contribution to peacekeeping operations for 2018 was approximately 478.78 million US dollars, coming third after the U.S. and China. As a major financial contributor, Japan has been encouraging the UN to make more efficient and effective use of its resources.

Secretary-General Guterres places priority on reforming the management of the UN (management and administration), along with addressing issues related to peace and development, and is engaged in efforts to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions of the Secretariat. Japan, while supporting the objectives of reform, is urging the UN to advance its reform without additional financial burdens to Member States. Based on the General Assembly resolution adopted at the end of December 2017 on the policies for management reform, draft proposals on the organization and budget to implement reform were discussed in May 2018, and in January 2019 it was decided that a new organizational structure would be launched. It is expected that, under the new structure of the secretariat, the efficiency of the financial, budgetary, and human resource management of the UN will be strengthened.

The Rule of Law in the International Community

The rule of law is the concept that recognizes the superiority of the law over all forms of power; it is the basis of the international order that consists of friendly and equitable relations between states, as well as an essential cornerstone of a fair and just society within a country. The rule of law is also an important factor in ensuring the peaceful settlement of disputes between states and in promoting "good governance" in each state. Based on this view, Japan promotes the bilateral and multilateral rule-making and proper implementation of these rules in various fields, such as security, economic and social affairs, and criminal justice. Furthermore, in order to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and the preservation of international legal order, Japan actively cooperates with international judicial organizations such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the International Criminal Court (ICC), to strengthen their functions via contributions both in terms of human and financial resources. In addition, Japan has been working to enhance the rule of law in the international community including Asian countries via provision of legal technical assistance, participation in international conferences, exchanges of views with various countries, and hosting of events on international law.

(1) Japan's Diplomacy Strengthening the Rule of Law

Strengthening the rule of law is one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy. Japan opposes unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, and strives to maintain its territorial integrity, secure its maritime and economic

interests, and protect its citizens. Examples of Japan's efforts in this regard include the consistent affirmation of the preservation and enhancement of a free and open international order based on the rule of law at various fora, including international conferences such as the UN General Assembly and meetings with relevant states, to promote the rule of law in the international community. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada) held in June and the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings (Singapore) in November, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the rulesbased order in the maritime domain based on the principles of international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to the peaceful settlement of disputes including arbitration. From the perspective of promoting the rule of law in the international community, Japan has been contributing to the peaceful settlement of inter-state disputes based on international law, formation and development of a new international legal order, and the development of legal systems and human resources in various countries.

A Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

In order to encourage peaceful settlement of disputes via international judicial institutions while striving to comply faithfully with international law, Japan accepts²⁸ the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and constructively contributes toward the establishment of the rule of law in the international community, via cooperation in terms of human and financial resources to numerous international courts. For example, Japan is the biggest financial contributor to ITLOS, the ICC, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). In terms of human resources, there have been a number of Japanese judges serving on international judicial bodies, such as Judge Shunji

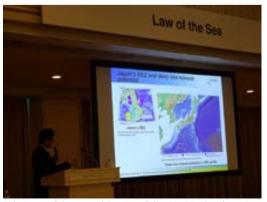
²⁸ A declaration that states parties to the Statute of the ICJ recognize the jurisdiction of the ICJ as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other state accepting the same obligation, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2 of its Statute. Only 73 countries, including Japan, have deposited such declaration to date.

Yanai to ITLOS (incumbent since 2005, President of ITLOS from October 2011 to September 2014) and Judge Kuniko Ozaki to the ICC (incumbent since 2010, Second Vice-President of the Court from March 2015 to March 2018) along with Judge Tomoko Akane (appointed in December 2017, incumbent since March 2018). With regard to the ICI, following the retirement of Judge Hisashi Owada (who served from February 2003 until June 2018, including a term as President of the ICJ from March 2009 until June 2012). Japanese candidate Yuji Iwasawa, Professor of the University of Tokyo, was elected at the byelection of an ICI judge in June 2018. He thus became the fourth Japanese ICJ judge to assume its duties. Through these contributions, Japan strives to enhance the effectiveness and universality of international courts and tribunals. To further strengthen the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in dealing with international litigations, efforts are ongoing to enhance expertise on international judicial proceedings as well as to build up strengthened networks with lawyers in and outside Japan, especially by the International Judicial Proceedings Division established in the International Legal Affairs Bureau in April 2015.

B International Rule-making

International rule-making to respond to the issues the global community faces is one of the important efforts to strengthen the rule of law. In developing international rules, Japan has participated actively in negotiations in specific fields and has taken initiatives in rule-making processes from the planning phase, in order to reflect Japan's own principles and views in crosssectoral initiatives in the UN, etc., and to realize the development of international laws. Specifically, Japan has been actively involved in the rule-making processes within various international frameworks including the codification work in the field of public international law at the International Law Commission (ILC) and the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the

preparation of conventions and model laws in the field of private international law at forums such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). In the ILC. Dr. Shinya Murase. Professor Emeritus of Sophia University, serves as a Special Rapporteur on the topic of "Protection of the Atmosphere," contributing greatly to the development of international law through the deliberation of draft texts of guidelines and other documentation. Japan also dispatches government representatives to various meetings of the HCCH. UNCITRAL, and UNIDROIT, taking an active lead in discussions. In addition, Professor Hideki Kanda from Gakushuin University was re-elected at the governing council member election in December at UNIDROIT. Furthermore, at the election of member states of UNCITRAL held that same month, Japan was once again elected as a member state since the establishment of the commission. In addition to this, Japan also cooperates with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), the only intergovernmental body in the Asian-African regions on the international law, by providing human and financial resources. In particular, Japan hosted the 57th Annual Session of AALCO in Tokyo in October 2018, and representatives from Japan actively led the discussion on important topics such as peaceful



Side Event of the Annual Session of the AALCO (October 10, Tokyo Prince Hotel)



Organizing the AALCO's 57th Annual Session in Tokyo, Japan

Prof. Dr. Kennedy Gastorn Secretary General Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

From October 8 to 12, 2018, I have had the honour to organize the 57th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in Tokyo, Japan. It was my second Annual Session to organize in my capacity as Secretary General of AALCO, while it was the fifth time that AALCO's Annual Session was hosted by Japan, following the last one in 1994.

AALCO started in 1956 to serve as an advisory body to Member States in the field of international law and as a forum for Asian-African cooperation in legal matters of



common concern. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, and being a sole intergovernmental organization in international law that covers both Asia and Africa, its activities have been gradually broadened to keep pace with the needs and requirements of its Member States. The membership of the Organization has grown from a mere seven countries to the current 47, and nowadays the role of the Organization has become increasingly important, especially in promoting the rule of law in these two regions. As one of the founding members of AALCO, Japan has supported the activities of the Organization since its creation. The Annual Session was highly attended by almost 200 representatives from 38 out of 47 current Member States, 6 Non-Member States and 6 International Organizations, as well as 4 AALCO Regional Commercial Arbitration Centres.

The Chief Guests of the Annual Session, H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Takashi Yamashita, Minister of Justice of Japan, recalled the contributions of AALCO towards the progressive development of international law and highlighted Japan's proactive engagement in the Organization since its establishment. Also, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, received a courtesy call from high-level delegations participating in the Annual Session.

For this Annual Session, Japan, in coordination with the AALCO Secretariat, carefully provided a platform for Member States to deliberate on important topics of international law such as the law of the sea, peaceful settlement of international disputes, international trade and investment law, selected items on the agenda of the International Law Commission, international law in cyberspace and international legal issues related to the question of Palestine. In addition, a number of side events were hosted by the Government of Japan on such topics as the Law of the Sea and the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) as well as the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 (hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Japan).

The deliberations on the substantive agenda items were focused and rich in content, and included insights and experiences shared by Member States. It is noteworthy that a new agenda item of "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes" was introduced for the first time to the agenda of an Annual Session of AALCO at the proposal of Japan. The inclusion of this new topic was highly appreciated in light of the current international trend and will provide a new thrust to the Organization. The Session was also path breaking as it gave the mandate to the Secretary-General, by virtue of recommendations adopted by Member States, to implement the Organization's annual work plan with greater flexibility so that it can better meet the evolving needs of the Member States.

Also noteworthy is that, as a new initiative for this Annual Session, prominent scholars and practitioners in the field of international law were invited as expert speakers to facilitate deliberations. The speakers included, among others, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs.

Amongst other notable developments, AALCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Sea Bed Authority (ISA). Also, the Government of Japan announced that it would launch a new programme starting next year to support the capacity building of AALCO Member States in the area of international law. I welcome these developments as they directly respond to the capacity building needs of the Member States.

This year's Annual Session was a remarkable one in that it introduced many aforementioned initiatives to engage the Member States in active discussions on international legal issues of great relevance to them. I believe this has been an important milestone in the path of AALCO realizing its full potential as a sole advisory body in international law in Asia and Africa, and look forward to supporting the Member States.

settlement of disputes and the law of the sea from the perspective of international law experts.

Development of Domestic Legislation and Other Matters

Japan not only takes steps to appropriately improve its own national laws so as to comply with international law, but also actively supports the development of legal systems especially in Asian countries, and undertakes international cooperation related to the rule of law in order to further develop the rule of law. For example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Society of International Law, supported by the Nippon Foundation, co-organize the "Asia Cup," an international law moot court competition for students from Asia with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes, nurturing future generations in the field of international law, and strengthening exchange and communication among them. The occasion of its 20th session in 2018 recorded participation from 65 universities in 19 countries. Here, university students from 15 countries (Japan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, the ROK, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) took part in oral proceedings round held in Tokyo. They competed in written and oral pleadings in English on the themes of fictional international disputes on exercising the right of self-defense versus non-nation-state actors and the law of the sea.



International law moot court competition, "2018 Asia Cup" (August, Tokyo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

(2) Initiatives in the Maritime Sector

For Japan, as a maritime nation, maintaining and strengthening maritime order based on the rule of law is an issue of the utmost importance. In his keynote address at the 13th Asia Security Summit (Shangri-La Dialogue) in May 2014, Prime Minister Abe proposed the "Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea" ((1) making and clarifying claims based on international law; (2) not using force or coercion in trying to drive their claims; and (3) seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means). Ever since then, Japan has consistently advocated these principles. For example, at the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in November 2018, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law forms the cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

UNCLOS serves as a foundation for the rule

of law in the seas. This Convention has been concluded by 167 countries, including Japan (as well as some regions not officially recognized as nations by Japan), and the EU. The Convention comprehensively provides principles governing the sea, including the freedom of navigation and overflight over the high seas. It also stipulates the rights and obligations under international law on the development of marine resources and so on. In particular, the provisions of this Convention related to areas such as territorial waters and exclusive economic zones are widely accepted as established customary international law. In addition, the recognition that activities conducted on the seas ought to be carried out according to the provisions of this convention is widely shared among the international community. As this indicates, the Convention provides a comprehensive foundation for the stability and development of maritime order.

Under UNCLOS, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) was established in 1996 in Hamburg, Germany for the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and maintenance and development of the legal order at sea. The ITLOS deals with a wide range of cases, including the delimitation of maritime boundaries in recent years in particular, and the importance of the Tribunal has been growing. Japan attaches importance to the role played by the ITLOS, and since its establishment it has dispatched two Japanese judges successively to the Tribunal and has also been the largest financial contributor.

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) established pursuant to UNCLOS also plays an important role in the operation of the system for defining the outer limits of the continental shelf. Since the establishment of the CLCS, Japan has continued to cooperate with the Commission in terms of both human and financial resources, such as by continuously sending members (Japan's current member of the Commission is Professor Toshitsugu Yamazaki from the University of Tokyo). Another recent

development was the deliberation for formulating fair rules on exploitation started in 2018 under the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which was also established pursuant to UNCLOS for the primary purpose of managing deep seabed mineral resources. Japan actively takes part in negotiations in order to reflect its standpoint in these rules. It has also traditionally provided support for capacity building to developing countries with deep sea-bed related technologies, and has been appreciated as a leading country in rule-making in deep sea-bed. Japan organized "Forefront of deep sea-bed resources development technology" as a side event to the AALCO Annual Meeting in October 2018. Prominent scholars of international law and practitioners were invited from overseas to the event, and technologies for exploration of the deep sea-bed resources or environmental impact assessments developed by Japan were exhibited to other member states.

Moreover, the decision was made to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was adopted via resolution 72/249 of the UN General Assembly in December 2017. The first meeting of the IGC was held in September 2018. The Government of Japan actively takes part in discussions in order to ensure that Japan's perspective is reflected in a new international agreement by putting its emphasis on striking a balance between the dual aspects of conservation and sustainable use of the BBNJ.

(3) Initiatives in the Political and Security Fields

Acquisition and Cross-Serving Agreements (ACSA), which set out the settlement procedures and other matters on the mutual provision of supplies and services between the JSDF and foreign armed forces, were signed with Canada and France. Furthermore, in order to develop a

foundation for promoting international cooperation in the field of security, Japan is advancing efforts to negotiate agreements concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technologies, which set out provisions on the handling of defense equipment and technologies to be transferred, as well as agreements on measures for the protection of information that will form the basis for the sharing of classified information on security with the relevant countries. Japan has also concluded the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the EU and EU member states to serve as the legal foundation for future cooperation in political and security fields among others. Japan is also continuing negotiations toward the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia, which is a key issue.

(4) Initiatives in the Fields of the Economy and Society

The conclusion and implementation of international agreements that bring legal discipline to cooperative relationships with other countries in the economic sphere is becoming increasingly important in order to promote the liberalization of trade and investment, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and to strengthen the foundations for the overseas activities of Japanese citizens and companies. The agreements that Japan signed or concluded with various countries and regions in 2018 include tax conventions, investment treaties, and social security agreements. Japan also worked on negotiations with the Asia-Pacific region and Europe for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), actively advancing negotiations on broader regional economic partnership such as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among Japan, China, and the ROK, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement) was signed by 11 countries in November, and entered into force in December. Moreover, the

Japan-EU EPA was signed in July, and following an exchange of diplomatic notes in December, the agreement entered into force in February 2019.

Furthermore, with a view to protecting and enhancing the livelihoods and activities of Japanese citizens and companies, Japan is working on the proper implementation of existing international agreements as well as utilizing the dispute settlement system of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In social fields such as human rights, environment, fisheries, maritime affairs, aviation, labor and social security, which are closely linked with the daily lives of the people, Japan actively participates in negotiations of international agreements to ensure that Japan's positions are reflected and also concludes such agreements. For example, in the fisheries field, Japan signed the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean in October. In addition, in the field of environment, Japan concluded the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in December.

(5) Initiatives in the Field of Criminal Justice

The ICC is the first-ever permanent international criminal court for prosecuting and sentencing, in accordance with international law, individuals who have committed the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Since becoming a State Party to the ICC Rome Statute in October 2007, Japan has consistently supported the ICC's activities and cooperated with the Court in various ways. Fiscally, Japan is the largest contributor to the ICC, accounting for approximately 16.5% of the entire assessed contributions to the Court as of 2018. With regards to human resources, Japan has consistently produced judges since its accession to the ICC. Japan's candidate in the election of ICC judges held in December 2017, Tomoko Akane, Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation and Public

Prosecutor of Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Iapan, was elected. In addition, Hitoshi Kozaki of the Committee on Budget and Finance was re-elected, Motoo Noguchi continued to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, and Hiroshi Fukuda continued to serve on the Advisory Committee on Nominations of Judges. These developments have demonstrated Japan's active cooperation for the activities of the ICC. As the ICC evolves as a fullfledged international criminal justice institution, it is imperative to secure cooperation with the ICC, establish the principle of complementarity, and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of its judicial procedures. Japan engages in addressing these challenges through its participation in Assembly of States Parties, including continuing to serve as Co-chair for the Study Group on Governance and Focal Points (Contact Point) for non-cooperation issues.

Besides the aforementioned efforts related to the ICC, in the face of an increase of cross-border crimes in recent years, Japan is further working on ensuring the mutual submission of necessary proof with other countries. Japan is also actively engaged in improving legal frameworks for promoting international cooperation in the field of criminal justice. Japan has been working on negotiations toward concluding international agreements such as the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT)²⁹, the Treaty on Extradition³⁰ and the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons³¹.

7 Human Rights

(1) Initiatives within the UN

A UN Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council was established in 2006 as a restructured version of the UN Commission on Human Rights in order to strengthen the UN's ability to address human rights issues as part of a movement toward mainstreaming human rights in the UN. The Human Rights Council holds sessions throughout the year in Geneva (three regular sessions per year, lasting about ten weeks in total) to discuss issues and make recommendations concerning the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Japan served as a member of the Council from June 2006 to June 2011 (the first and the second terms) and January 2013 to December 2015 (the third term). Most recently, Japan was elected in the elections held in October 2016, and currently serves as a member of the Council from January 2017 to December 2019 (the fourth term). Japan is running for the 2019 election aiming to continue to serve as a member of the Council from January 2020.

At the high-level segment (meeting of the main representatives of each country) of the 37th Session in February and March 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii delivered a statement. In his statement, he expressed that 2018 is the milestone year of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Japan will continue to work to protect and promote human rights worldwide. He also raised the importance of the early resolution of the abductions issue. He also stated that Japan would co-table a draft resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's

²⁹ A legal framework that allows for an efficient and prompt cooperation with legal authorities of other countries in criminal investigation and procedures.

³⁰ A legal framework having comprehensive and detailed provisions regarding the extradition of criminals to enable more effective cooperation for repressing crime.

³¹ A legal framework aiming to facilitate the social rehabilitation of foreign prisoners by giving them the opportunity of serving their sentences in their own countries.

Republic of Korea (DPRK) together with the EU at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council, and requested the understanding and support of the other countries. Furthermore, after the delegation of the Republic of Korea (ROK) mentioned the comfort women issue, he rebuffed the statement by the ROK and explained Japan's position on the issue.

During the same Session, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, co-tabled by Japan and the EU, was adopted without a vote (adopted for 11 consecutive years). This resolution, based on the 2017 Human Rights Council resolution, urges North Korea to take immediate steps to end all human rights violations, including the abductions issue, and recalls the 2017 UN General Assembly Resolution that emphasized serious concerns concerning the report of abductions and other human rights violations by North Korea. Furthermore, the resolution notes the importance and urgency of the abductions issue and the immediate return of all abductees, and expresses the expectation toward the resolution of all issues related to the Japanese nationals, in particular the return of all abductees, to be achieved at the earliest possible date. It also strongly encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to expedite the process for strengthening its capacity decided by the Human Rights Council resolution in March 2017, and requests OHCHR to strengthen advocacy and outreach initiatives. Japan will continue to be actively engaged in discussions in the UN Human Rights Council to resolve human rights issues in the international community.

The UN Human Rights Council conducts the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that periodically reviews the human rights situations of all UN Member States. Japan was reviewed for the third time in 2017. As progress since the previous review (2012), Japan explained that it has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention,

the Palermo Convention, and the Trafficking in persons protocol as well as the measures toward realizing "a society in which all women shine" and a "society with the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens," and Japan's wide range of efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights in the international community. Japan also explained its stance and policy concerning remarks made by each country.

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly is, along with the Human Rights Council, the UN's main forum focused on human rights. Generally, in October and November, the Committee discusses a wide range of issues, including social development, women, children, racial discrimination, refugees, crime prevention, and criminal justice, as well as the human rights situations in North Korea, Syria, and Iran, among others. Resolutions adopted by the Third Committee are then adopted by a plenary session of the General Assembly, contributing to the development of international norms.

Every year since 2005, Japan and the EU have co-tabled the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK at the UN General Assembly. In 2018, Japan and the EU again cotabled the resolution at the Third Committee in November and Plenary Session in December of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, which was adopted without a vote. The content of the resolution, based on the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2017, condemns North Korea's gross human rights violations, strongly demanding an end to the violations, and noting the urgency and importance of the issue of international abductions and of the immediate return of all abductees as well as the long years of suffering experienced by abductees and their families, and expects the resolution of all issues related to Japanese nationals, in particular the return of all abductees, to be achieved at the earliest possible

date. Furthermore, it strongly encourages the OHCHR to expedite the process for strengthening its capacity decided by the Human Rights Council resolution in March 2017, and requests OHCHR to strengthen advocate and outreach initiatives.

In addition, Japan also actively participated in discussions on the human rights situations in individual countries, such as Syria, Iran, Myanmar, as well as discussions on various human rights issues (social development, the rights of the child, and etc.). Japan participated actively in discussions in the international community toward protecting and promoting human rights, in cooperation with civil society, such as by dispatching a female representative of a Japanese NGO to serve as the Alternate Representative of Japan at the Third Committee of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, as it has done previously.

70th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948 as "a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations" without opposition by any country (48 in support, 0 in opposition, 8 abstained 2 absent). Various meetings were held in 2018 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the UDHR. At a symposium commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Commissioner for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights system jointly held with the Ministry of Justice on December 1, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki gave a speech, demonstrating Japan's efforts for human rights diplomacy both at home and abroad, including at the UN.

Ending Violence Against Children

In February 2018, the first-ever "Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit" was held in Stockholm jointly by the Global

Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPeVAC) and the Government of Sweden. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii attended the Summit representing Japan, and stated Japan would be actively engaged in ending violence against children, including by becoming a "Pathfinding Country." Japan's membership of GPeVAC was approved in May 2018, and Foreign Minister Kono was appointed a member of the Board of GPeVAC. Moreover, with its contribution of 650 million yen in the FY2017 budget, Japan became the first country to contribute to the humanitarian window of the Fund to End Violence Against Children that supports the Partnership's activities, and realized humanitarian aid projects by earmarking funds to protect children affected by conflicts in Nigeria and Uganda. Japan will continue to cooperate with the international community to promote initiatives both within Japan and abroad to end violence against children.

■ National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights

Japan is committed to the implementation of the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework (UNGPs)" that was endorsed at the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council. As part of it, Japan is working toward formulating a NAP pertaining to respect for human rights in the context of business, which is becoming a new global standard for business conduct. As the first step of the NAP formulation process, Japan conducted a baseline study to capture the landscape of the existing legislation and policies regarding the protection of human rights in the course of business activities. Through formulating the NAP, Japan aims to contribute to promoting and protecting human rights in the field of business and human rights. Japan will continue to drive the process while taking into account discussions with various stakeholders.

(2) Initiatives Concerning International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

A International Human Rights Law

At the 36th Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights held at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2018, an election of the members of the Human Rights Committee was held, and Japanese candidate Shuichi Furuya, professor of Waseda Law School, was elected. From 1987 to the present, Japan continuously produced members to the Human Rights Committee, and Professor Furuya is the third member from Japan. Periodic review on the status of the domestic implementation of the various human rights treaties that Japan has concluded is carefully and thoroughly examined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant treaties. Japan's periodic reports were examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial

Column

Japanese Experts Working in the Human Rights Area in the International Community (1)

On my selection to be a member of the Human Rights Committee

Shuichi Furuya, Professor, Waseda University

In June 2018, I was elected to be a member of the Human Rights Committee established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It was 70 years ago when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It then adopted the ICCPR in 1966 to embody the ideal of the declaration. The ICCPR obliges State Parties to guarantee rights and freedom such as rights to life, liberty and security of persons, implementation of fair trials, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, rights to participate in



elections and public affairs, and equality before the law, each of which is essential for realizing democracy and rule of law.

The Human Rights Committee's main task is to review the reports on the guarantee of said rights that are submitted periodically by the States Parties to the Committee, as well as accepting and examining the petitions from victims who complain of the infringement on these rights. While the Committee is often seen as a watchdog monitoring the implementation of the ICCPR because of its aforementioned role, my understanding is that it watches over the efforts of States Parties to implement the ICCPR, gives suitable advice and encourages improvements. Human rights are universal and must therefore be guaranteed equally everywhere in the world and in all cultures, histories, and religions. Meanwhile, each country has its own political system, economic conditions and cultural traditions. I feel that working out how to promote and realize the universality of human rights, while taking such circumstances duly into consideration, makes the work of the Committee members so difficult and also so rewarding.

I met with representatives from over 140 countries in the election campaigns that lasted for four months. Through these meetings, I became keenly aware of the importance of properly listening to the voices of a wide range of stakeholders, not only the States Parties, but also victims who complain of the infringement of their human rights and members of civil society, and repeatedly engaging in persistent dialogues. Listening to the opinions of others in a sincere manner regardless of their position, and patience to pursue common understanding – those are the ways to form the foundation of democratic society as advocated by the ICCPR, and also the approach that I intend to firmly follow as a member of the Committee.

Discrimination in August 2018, and by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances in November 2018 in Geneva.

B International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

In the intergovernmental process on IHL in Geneva, Japan participated actively in discussions on strengthening the respect for IHL. Moreover, as part of its efforts to promote awareness and understanding of IHL, MOFA dispatched a lecturer to the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as it did in 2016 and 2017.

(3) Initiatives Undertaken via Bilateral Dialogue

In addition to initiatives within the UN and other multilateral frameworks, Japan recognizes the importance of bilateral dialogues, in order to protect and promote human rights. The 5th Japan-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue (Nay Pyi Taw) was held in February 2018, while the 9th Japan-Cambodia Human Rights Dialogue (Phnom Penh) was held in May. In addition to exchanging information on their respective initiatives in the field of human rights, the participants in these dialogues exchanged opinions concerning cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN.

(4) Contribution to Refugee Issues

From the perspective of international contribution and humanitarian aid, Japan started accepting refugees from Myanmar who were temporarily residing in Thailand, under a resettlement program that ran from FY2010 to FY2014 (the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to a third country that agrees to accept them for long-term settlement).

In addition to accepting refugees from Myanmar who were residing temporarily in Malaysia since FY2015, the Government of Japan allowed



Resettled refugees receiving orientation on lifestyle, safety, and other matters (Photo: Refugee Assistance Headquarters)

accepting eligible family members of those who are already resettled in Japan, based on the premise of mutual aid with those who remain in Thailand. From FY2010 to FY2018, 174 people from 44 families have come to Japan under this program.

Until now, the main destinations for refugees to be accepted for resettlement have been Western countries. Japan, as the first Asian country to accept resettled refugees, has attracted both high praise and high hopes from the international community in regard to its proactive efforts to address refugee issues. While local governments in the Tokyo Metropolitan region have played a central role until now in operations concerning the resettlement destinations for refugees upon their arrival in Japan, proactive efforts are being made to resettle refugees in municipalities outside of the Tokyo Metropolitan area, from the perspective of promoting nationwide understanding of the refugee issue. From April 2018, resettlement for the eighth group commenced in Kure City in Hiroshima Prefecture and Fujisawa City in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Since the start of implementation of this method in FY2015, there have been major changes in the international situation concerning refugees. Based on such background, in order to discuss expansion of acceptance to resettlement programs, Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council for Refugee Issues decided to establish a review meeting

concerning expanding acceptance programs for refugees through the resettlement in October 2018 for the purpose of discussing such issues. This review committee hears the views of experts, and holds discussions between the ministries, agencies, and experts to consider whether it is necessary to expand the acceptance, and if so, to what extent.

8 Women

(1) G7 Charlevoix Summit

At the G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada), gender was taken up as a cross-cutting theme. The Summit Communiqué affirmed continuation of efforts toward gender equality, and there was adoption of the "Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries" and the "Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts." Japan took this opportunity to announce support of 200 million U.S. dollars for high-quality education and human resources training support for girls, adolescent girls, and women in developing countries.

(2) G20 Buenos Aires Summit

At the G20 Buenos Aires Summit (Argentina), there were discussions regarding women's empowerment from viewpoints including promotion of women's labor participation, eliminating the gender gap in participation in digital and science fields, access to jobs and childcare leave, and continuous support for women entrepreneurs. The Leaders' Declaration incorporated welcoming continued text implementation of the Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative (We-Fi), whose launch was announced at the G20 Hamburg Summit (Germany) in July 2017 and to which Japan has contributed 50 million U.S. dollars.

(3) World Assembly for Women (WAW!)

Japan has held the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014 to communicate, both domestically and abroad, Japan's initiatives for promoting women's empowerment, and to provide an opportunity for discussions regarding various matters concerning women by top leaders from Japan and abroad who are active in pioneering politics, economics, and social fields. The 5th WAW! was held in March 2019 concurrently with the W20, one of the G20 engagement groups (groups composed of stakeholders from the international community that are independent of governments).

The theme of the 5th WAW! was "WAW! for diversity," and discussions were centered on women's viewpoints regarding current issues faced by modern Japanese society and the international community, under the recognition that it is important to incorporate diverse



Malala Yousafzai giving a speech at the Fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (March 23, 2019, Tokyo)



Photograph of a discussion at the Fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (March 23, 2019, Tokyo)

viewpoints toward realizing a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive society that "leaves no one behind," which is stated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Discussion topics included "Leadership for Regional Development and Job Creation," "Media and Contents to Nurture Diversity," "Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Post Conflict Recovery," "Diversity for Growth: Corporate Management and Working Environment," and "Future of Family: Getting Support, Utilizing and Sharing."

In addition, there were discussions at the W20 regarding "Closing the Gender Gap for New Prosperity: Enhancing Governance for Women's Empowerment," "Creation of New Market Value by Women Entrepreneurs," "Gender Lens Investing: Emerging Global Trends," "Towards the Gender Equality in the Digital Era," "Women as Patients and Caregivers: Improving Gender Equity and Labor Inclusion by Addressing Healthcare Disparities," and "Closing the Gender Gaps at Work: Leading a Happy Work and Life."

(4) International Cooperation for the Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries

In May 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced the "Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment," formulated as one of the new thematic policies under the Development Cooperation Charter, and declared that measures would be implemented to train about 5,000 female government administrative officials and to improve the learning environment for about 50,000 girls over the three years from 2016 to 2018. This was steadily implemented. At the Third World Assembly for Women (WAW! 2016) held in December 2016, Prime Minister Abe promised to provide support amounting to more than 3 billion U.S. dollars for women in developing countries until 2018 focusing on: (1) promoting women's and girls' rights; (2) creating an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potential; and (3) advancing women's leadership in politics, economics, and other public fields. These measures were steadily implemented. In addition, support was announced for 200 million U.S. dollars for high-quality education and human resources training support for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries at the G7 Charlevoix Summit.

(5) Initiatives in the UN

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was held in March, and Japan sent a delegation consisting of Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office Yamashita as the Chief Delegate, Japan Representative Yumiko Tanaka, representatives from various government ministries, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and NGOs. At the conference, there were discussions on the priority theme of "challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls." In her remarks during the General Discussion, Representative Tanaka appealed for domestic initiatives for promotion of family management agreements with decisions on salaries and days off based on family discussions, and introduced international support such as gender awareness activities in Africa. At the ministerial round table. she emphasized the importance of efforts toward eliminating violence against all women including women in agricultural communities and regions.

UN Women

Japan contributed approximately 23.66 million U.S. dollars in 2018 to UN Women and the contributions are used in ways such as empowering Syrian refugee women (enhancing their capabilities and social position) and measures to counter violent extremism in Africa.

UN Women has been implementing the HeForShe Campaign to call for the involvement of men and boys in gender equality. Prime Minister Abe was selected as one of ten champions to accelerate the campaign. Japan will continue to deepen its cooperation with UN Women.

Dealing with sexual violence

Sexual violence as a tactic of war must not be overlooked, and it is important to put an end to impunity for perpetrators and to support victims of violence. To make the 21st century a world with no human rights violations against women, Japan is actively engaging in efforts in this field, and places importance on cooperating with international organizations including UN Action and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as participating in international discussions.

In 2018, Japan provided financial support of 1.1 million U.S. dollars to the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, contributing to strengthening the police and judicial capabilities of Iraq and countries in the Middle East and Africa. Furthermore, Japan continues to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), earmarking approximately 550,000 Euros out of a cumulative contribution of about 750,000 Euros for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Through such contributions, Japan engages in efforts to support victims of sexual violence in conflicts.

■ Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

In order to realize a peaceful society more effectively, it is important to secure women's participation in all stages in conflict prevention,

conflict resolution, and peace keeping and peacebuilding with integration of gender perspective. Japan formulated a national action plan in 2015 to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and other relevant resolutions on women, peace and security. The action plan has been effective since 2016, and monitoring and evaluating of the implementation is conducted. As a result, the second annual report was published in July 2018. The plan also clearly targets a revision to be conducted in three years following its formulation, and the revised version was formulated in March 2019. In accordance with the national action plan, Japan has made contributions in the WPS field through financial supports to international organizations, mainly UN Women and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. At the G7 Toronto Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Canada in 2018, the G7 foreign ministers agreed to establish the G7 Women, Peace and Security Partnerships Initiative. With Sri Lanka as its partner country, Japan will contribute to implementing the WPS field in Sri Lanka from 2019.

■ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Since 1987, Japan has continued to provide members for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). At the 20th meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held at the UN Headquarters in New York in June 2018, there was an election for the members of the CEDAW and Professor Hiroko Akizuki of Asia University was elected to a member of the Committee.



Japanese Experts Working in the Human Rights Area in the International Community (2)

On my selection to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Hiroko Akizuki, Professor, Asia University

2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. I feel highly honored to have been elected to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in these important years and to have begun this work.



My hope is to build a world in which all women and girls can choose for themselves their desired way of life and become who they want to be. However, even 40 years after the adoption of the Convention, women continue to face discrimination around the world. I want to contribute to revealing the nature of the problem from the perspective of de facto equality, not just legal equality, and ensure substantial and effective implementation of the Convention.

The main mission of CEDAW is assessing reports submitted by signatory countries to review their progress in implementation of the Convention. Signatory countries are primary agents in carrying out the Convention, while CEDAW members provide assistance to their implementation. As a member, I aim to listen carefully to updates from signatory countries on the status of implementation of the Convention in their countries, and difficult problems if any exist. At the same time, I intend to discuss and communicate with each signatory country through constructive dialogues that women and girls also possess rights and therefore it is necessary to empower women and girls by providing education on rights and freedom, and to ensure participation of women in policy decisions to adequately reflect the opinions of women. Furthermore, I will strive to present balanced and fair opinions by obtaining sufficient information through dialogue with civil society and directly hearing from women and girls.

As a CEDAW member, I will make efforts so that I can contribute to building a free and equal society in terms of dignity and rights for everyone, and especially women and girls.

Section 2

Japan's International Cooperation

(Development Cooperation and Response to Global Issues)

1 Development Cooperation (ODA, etc.)

 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 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 has become even more important to bring together the 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. Taking into consideration recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA held under the leadership of Foreign Minister Kono in 2018, it is also necessary to put unremitting efforts into reviewing the approach to the implementation of ODA, so as to enable diverse entities including NGOs and corporations from the private sector, to put greater effort into resolving development issues. On top of that, it remains vital to establish 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. For 2018, in particular, Japan made use of ODA to advance cooperation with various countries with a view to maintaining and promoting a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and took the opportunities of the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in September and the

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

Japan-India Summit Meeting in October to present concrete examples of cooperation. With the vast demand for infrastructure that currently exists in the world, especially in Asia, it is vital to secure various elements including economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs and debt sustainability of 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 the 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 2018" (revised in June 2018) and "Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy" (revised in June 2018), 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 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.

(2) The Current Status of ODA

FY2018 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 promotion of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" and Japan's implementation guidelines for the SDGs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has positioned the following (items (A) to (C)) as priority issues for FY2018, and tackles these challenges while strengthening cooperation with various entities.

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

Japan will engage in cooperation in fields such as strengthening maritime security capability and developing legal systems, in order to ensure the rule of law and freedom of navigation with a view to achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Japan is committed to improving connectivity within and outside the region from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean, in order to secure stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. Japan contributes proactively to the realization of peace and stability in the international community including through peacebuilding, support for refugees, countermeasures against terrorism and violent extremism, while at the same time strengthening the collaboration between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. 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.

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

Japan promotes cooperation with various countries toward achieving the SDGs, in ways

ranging from the formulation of national strategies and plans to the implementation of individual projects, in fields such as health, food, women (gender), education, disaster risk reduction and tsunami countermeasures, water and hygiene, and climate change and global environmental issues. In particular, Japan shares the experience it has built up as a developed country facing emerging challenges with the leaders of developing countries, thereby nurturing pro-Japanese groups of the future while making it possible to work together with various countries to address international issues with a more strategic approach.

(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, Japan also contributes to the growth of Japan alongside with the developing countries, and to regional revitalization in Japan. In particular, Japan works to improve the business 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 global expansion of "quality infrastructure," including the promotion of "Japanese style" technology, systems, and knowhow that Japan has an edge in, such as energy-saving infrastructure, information and communications technology (ICT), and next-generation motor vehicles. Furthermore, Japan takes full advantage of human resources developed for industries in developing countries, as well as the networks that have been established through them.

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 toward 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 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 MOFA. 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. Since then, these have been steadily implemented by MOFA and JICA.

As a responsible major power, Japan will continue to ensure the safety of personnel engaged in international cooperation projects, while contributing proactively to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community.

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

A Japan's ODA Performance

In 2017, Japan provided approximately 18.46 billion US dollars in ODA², 9.8% more than the previous year on a gross disbursement basis. Japan ranks third 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. and Germany. In terms of net disbursements generally used for international comparison, the amount was about 11.46 billion US dollars, up 10.0% from the previous year, and ranking fourth after the U.S., Germany, and the UK. The ODA/GNI ratio based on net disbursements was 0.23%, ranking 19th among member states of the DAC.

B Approaches to Major Regions

(A) Southeast 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 helped resolve various development issues including poverty reduction, by promoting economic growth and human security in the region through development cooperation, and

contributed to the development of the region.

Approximately 59.7% of the total bilateral ODA of Japan went to the Asia region in 2017. A large portion of it comprised of support for Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan not only provides support toward 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, following up from the "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative" that aims to train 40.000 industrial human resources in three years, including experienced technical experts, engineers, and human resources for research and development, as announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Malaysia) held in November 2015, during the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Singapore) held in November 2018, Japan has announced a new plan to undertake human resource development for about 80,000 people in the next five years, including in the digital field such as AI, under the "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0." In order to contribute to the strengthening of ASEAN's unity and centrality through technical cooperation, Japan also took the opportunity of the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to confirm an agreement in principle on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement. Furthermore, for the purpose of establishing a free and open international order, Japan actively provides support for capacity building in the area of maritime law enforcement for Southeast Asian countries located along Japan's sea lanes, through such means as the provision of patrol vessels and equipment including coastal monitoring radar, and human resource development through the long-

² The main forms of ODA from Japan are: grant aid, namely, bilateral fund donations; loan aid for development in developing regions; technical cooperation; and 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.

term dispatch of experts. From this perspective, Japan has been providing consistent 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, as announced at the East Asia Summit (EAS) held in the Philippines in November 2017. In addition, Japan is also providing consistent support to eradicate domestic and regional disparity, and support for the creation of a sustainable society in areas including disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, and energy.

At the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2018, Japan summarized the results of the New Tokyo Strategy 2015 and the Japan-Mekong Connectivity Initiative adopted at the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held three years ago, and announced its aim to further advance cooperation with the Mekong region in line with the Tokyo Strategy 2018, which sets out future guidelines for Japan-Mekong cooperation. By strengthening connectivity from three aspects: the hardware aspect that includes promoting "Quality Infrastructure," the software aspect that includes cooperation in the digital field, and the industrial aspect that includes promoting investment and developing special economic zones, Japan aims to continue to contribute to the realization of "vibrant and effective connectivity" in the Mekong region.

(B) Southwest Asia

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



Ceremony for signing and exchange of documents (October 29, Prime Minister's Office. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

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 Modi's visit to Japan in October 2018, notes concerning the provision of ODA loan were exchanged, related to seven projects including the construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, and the construction of a bridge in India's North Eastern Region. Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude for the ODA provided by Japan, while Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intentions to continue supporting India's efforts for social and industrial development, including through key quality infrastructure projects and capacity building.

With regard to Bangladesh, alongside with the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in camps for displaced persons from the northern part of the Rakhine state of Myanmar as a result of the large-scale influx of displaced persons over a short period of time, the situation has also had a severe impact on the living environment of the surrounding host communities. In response to this situation, Japan provided support through international organizations and NGOs in the areas of water and hygiene, health and medical care, education, and environmental conservation. Japan is also actively offering cooperation under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative, in areas such as strengthening connectivity and improving the investment environment.

Column

Wattay International Airport - Operation of International Flights

Completed the handover ceremony for a yen loan project for the expansion of an existing airport building
Masaaki Takahashi, Port & Airport Department,
Transportation & Urban Development Division, International Consulting Operations, Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.

Construction area of this project (Construction area is shown with the red line, 2014) (Photo: Hazama Ando Corporation)

Japan concluded a yen loan contract worth 9.017 billion yen in 2014 for a project that addresses rapidly growing demand at the Vientiane Wattay International Airport in the capital city of Laos, and started expansion of the international passenger terminal building, construction of a new domestic passenger terminal building, and work on related facilities (parking lot, airport road, and guidance lights). The implementing agency was the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA). The project consultants were Nippon Koei Co.Ltd., Azusa Sekkei Co.Ltd. and Lao Consulting Group. Hazama Ando Corporation began construction work in December 2015. I performed project manager as a representative of the main

consulting firm. The core policy for the project was continuation of airport operations with a careful approach to enhance stakeholder's convenience, efficiency, and safety. In simple terms, a project manager's job is overall supervision and management of the project. During the peak phase in the second half of 2017, project work took place continuously day or night, 24-hour-a-day, and involved up to 1,200 people. Water leaked on the second-floor renovation and soaked some airline offices on the first floor directly below during renovation work on the existing building, calling into question the management responsibility of both the builder and consultants. Intensive workdays continued to ensure smooth construction. Besides having to make steadfast efforts to manage the project, one of my major tasks as the consulting project manager was to provide updates to high ranking officials. In 2018 alone,

I provided a briefing on the construction to Foreign Minister Kono (April 7) and JICA Executive Senior Vice President Koshikawa (May 16), as well as State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Somdy, and Minister of Public Works and Transport Bounchanh at the handover ceremony on August 9. It was very rewarding to listen to comments and receive words of appreciation and encouragement from each official. I intend to continue contributing to gaining greater approval from customers and society, and help further expand our overseas airport business.



Site visit after the handover ceremony. Author giving an explanation to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Somdy (Photo: Hazama Ando Corporation)

Aiming for a world-class international airport.

Lao-Japan Airport Terminal Services Co., Ltd. (L-JATS), Vice President, Koshi Hayashi

L-JATS, which operates the international passenger terminal at Vientiane Wattay International Airport, located in the capital city of Laos, was established in 1999 as a joint venture between the Government of Laos and a Japanese company, and has been running the terminal building for about 20 years. This is the first privatization project of overseas airport terminal operation that a Japanese company has worked on. Furthermore, a basic agreement has been reached on extending the operation contract for ten years from March 2019 to March 2029. This airport expansion project is to address increasing demand from the steadily growing number of passengers at the airport. L-JATS aims to further enhance and expand facilities and improve passenger service in order to make this an excellent and pleasant international airport that can be a source of pride as the country's capital city airport.

Specifically, various works are scheduled to be implemented one by one through to next year, including large-scale renovation of restaurants, cafés, bars, and other related sites as well as duty-free shops, convenience stores, and gift shops, new construction of a lounge, and a new parking area to alleviate congestion in front of the terminal building. My sincere hope is that direct flights from Japan will begin service in the near future to provide more opportunities for many Japanese people to learn about the attractive tourism sites in Laos as soon as possible.

With regard to Sri Lanka, on the occasion of President Sirisena's visit to Japan in March, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will work to strengthen connectivity, enhance cooperation in the maritime sector, and put full effort into supporting Sri Lanka's growth through the development of "Quality Infrastructure" in areas such as ports, transportation, and energy, while at the same time providing support that is rooted in the lives of Sri Lanka's citizens. The two leaders also exchanged a note on the provision of ODA for the supply of advanced medical equipment.

(C) Central Asia and the Caucasus

The Central Asia and the Caucasus are geopolitically important areas surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Their stability and development are important for all in the whole of Eurasia, including Japan. Japan supports the "open, stable, and independent" development of Central Asia and the Caucasus region, 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, while also taking into account broad-based views covering neighboring regions including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In September when Foreign Minister Kono



Japan-Georgia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 4, Tbilisi, Georgia)

visited three countries in the Caucasus region (Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan), he unveiled the "Caucasus Initiative" that emphasizes support for people-development with a view to nation building, and support for the development of an attractive Caucasus region through the development of infrastructure and the business environment. This initiative is based on the concept of promoting cooperation between Japan and the Caucasus, with the aim of realizing the independent growth of the Caucasus region that plays an important role as a gateway connecting Asia and Europe.

(D) 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 exceeding 5 trillion US dollars. On the other hand, as many countries in the region are confronted by problems such as 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. For example, Japan and Bolivia exchanged notes in August on the provision of Japanese grant aid toward road



Training on urban first aid and rescue techniques in the Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile. Photo: JICA)

development in the Okinawa settlement, with the aim of improving logistics in Bolivia which has a road paving rate of 8.5%. In September, Japan exchanged notes with Ecuador on a dollardenominated loan to support projects such as the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks for expanding and strengthening national power transmission and distribution networks, and promoting energy conservation, through the Co-financing for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CORE) program implemented jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Japan also exchanged notes with Suriname, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (in October) on the provision of a grant for fishery equipment to contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, and with Paraguay (in December) on the provision of a grant for medical equipment to improve health and medical services.

Central and South America is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, and tackling these problems is a challenge. For example, Japan exchanged notes with Cuba and Haiti in February and October respectively to provide grant aids for made-in-Japan equipment related to the development of road, parks and infrastructure, with the aim of contributing to their recovery and reconstruction from the large-scale hurricane damage that the two countries have been faced with in recent years, as well as to improving their ability to cope with such disasters. As for Chile, Japan aims to undertake the development of human resources (target of 4,000 people) who can contribute to disaster risk reduction in Central and South America, through the KIZUNA Project (Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program for Latin America and the Caribbean) and based on the Japan-Chile Partnership Program (JCPP) 2030, a trilateral cooperation program for disaster risk reduction and other areas.

(E) The Middle East

Securing peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa regions, which are key

geopolitical regions, is crucial not only for the energy security of Japan but also for the stability of the world. From these standpoints, Japan has steadily provided comprehensive support at a sum of about 6 billion US dollars to stabilize the Middle East, as it announced at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, with a view to achieving peace and stability in the region.

With regard to Syria, where civil war has been ongoing, Foreign Minister Kono announced during the UN General Assembly in September the provision of support of about 10 million US dollars to strengthen the health sector, with the aim of helping to cope with the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Furthermore, Japan decided in December to provide humanitarian recovery support through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). From 2017 to March 2019, 57 students have arrived in Japan for fostering human resources expected to contribute to the recovery of Syria in the future.

To support the stability of Jordan, which is accepting a large number of Syrian refugees, Prime Minister Abe took the opportunity of his visit to Jordan in May 2018 to announce support toward improving the health and hygiene environment of refugees and improving the waste disposal system. During the visit by King Abdullah II of Jordan to Japan in November, the two leaders agreed on the implementation of support for improving Jordan's fiscal situation.

Based on the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity



Children participating in classroom discussion at the Egypt-Japan school (Cairo, Egypt. Photo: JICA)

initiative that is implemented through cooperation between Japan, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan with the aim of promoting economic and social development for Palestine, Japan is engaged in efforts to develop the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP). The progress in these efforts were welcomed by the participants at a meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit hosted by Foreign Minister Kono in April 2018, Prime Minister Abe also visited JAIP in May and inspected the products of the companies in operation (See Special Feature "Japan's Assistance for Palestine (JAIP, CEAPAD)").

Human resource development is vital to realize stability in the Middle East in the medium- to long-term, and the "Kono Four Principles" which sets out Japan's basic policy toward the Middle East, also highlights the importance of investing in people. In February 2018, Japan decided to provide an ODA loan for promoting the introduction of Japanese-style education in Egypt. Since September, new Egypt-Japan schools that adopt Japanese-style education have been opened, and such cooperation programs were also highly appraised by Foreign Minister Shoukry of Egypt during his visit to Japan in October.

In Yemen, where the crisis is still ongoing, Japan is cooperating with international organizations to provide humanitarian support such as food aid. To support the reconstruction effort by Afghanistan, Japan is providing assistance to encourage the growth of a self-reliant economy and poverty reduction in the country. Attending the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan in November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato introduced Japan's assistance provided to Afghanistan in 2018 in the areas of health, agriculture, and irrigation. He also announced Japan's decision to provide emergency grant aid of 13 million US dollars to help Afghanistan tackle drought.

(F) Africa

Africa has been gradually recovering from the economic depression caused by the rapid drop in

resource prices around 2014, and backed by its abundant natural resources and a rapidly growing population, continues to attract the attention and anticipation of the international community as a potential market. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) processes that Japan has been leading for a quarter of a century since 1993 further strengthen relations between Japan and Africa, and have been highly appraised by African countries. At TICAD VI held in August 2016, Japan announced that it will be investing a total of 30 billion US dollars jointly from the private and public sectors toward Africa's future, in the following three priority areas: (1) diversification and industrialization of the economy; (2) promotion of resilient health systems; and (3) stabilization of society with a view to sharing prosperity. Based on this, Japan has been steadily providing support to Africa.

For example, from the perspective of investing in "Quality Infrastructure" for the diversification and industrialization of the economy, Japan provided support for the formulation of the West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan, a wider regional development strategy, which is one of the three priority regions announced at TICAD VI. In January 2018, a seminar bringing together the relevant countries and donors was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Furthermore, as a part of the concrete support provided to the region, Japan agreed on providing support for the repair of major arterial roads in Ghana during the visit by President Akufo-Addo to Japan in December, and on providing support to Côte d'Ivoire for traffic facilitation in Abidian, Japan's support for the West Africa Growth Ring and its importance were recognized in the Japan-Burkina Faso Joint Statement issued when President Kaboré of Burkina Faso visited Japan in November, and in the Japan-Ghana Joint Statement issued in December.

From the perspective of human resource development, Japan has also accepted more than 1,200 trainees to Japan through JICA under the



Addressing the Largest Postwar Humanitarian Crisis

- Efficient and effective assistance using data, advanced technologies, and development cooperation experience -

Currently, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has risen to the highest level since the Second World War at 68.5 million people. Humanitarian assistance needs are steadily growing. In this environment, Japan promotes efficient assistance that leverages data and advanced technologies and takes advantage of experience in development cooperation accumulated over many years to contribute to the stability and development of host regions.

Data is important for refugee assistance too! – Effective assistance to refugees and host countries based on a needs survey

Toshinori Katsumata, Special Advisor, Office for Peacebuilding and Reconstruction, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

It has become even more important to learn and analyze challenges and needs in refugee-hosting countries and regions to alleviate burdens from rapidly increasing refugees and IDPs.

One example is JICA's data collection and a needs survey in a refugee-hosting region in the northern Uganda. JICA has started development assistance to northern Uganda since 2000s. In July 2017, in response to the massive influx of refugees from South Sudan (totaling about 800,000 people as of the end of 2018), JICA began a new survey to collect basic social infrastructure information of the region.

Based on the idea that medium and long-term development perspective needs to be incorporated into emergency humanitarian assistance for the region, JICA thoroughly surveyed social infrastructure in the region and identified the needs on the ground. Furthermore, by utilizing strong connections with local governments, ministries and agencies, JICA collected, analyzed, and integrated information on both refugees and host communities from various organizations in each region. Using such data, JICA developed integrated geographical information system (GIS) map and formulated a list of potential assistance projects.

JICA's survey results and map data were highly welcomed by the Ugandan government, local governments, international organizations, NGOs, and many development partners since JICA TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TOT

Map of health and medical facility locations in Yumbe District in northern Uganda. It helps identify facilities with strong assistance needs by combining location data on refugees with information of the local population and facility location (Photo: JICA)

it was virtually the first integrated data encompassing both refugees and host communities. Many parties in refugee-hosting areas have been utilizing the survey results and map data as basic information while collaborating and coordinating to support Uganda. Japan also considers a variety of initiatives and encourages the international community to tackle serious refugee issues as a whole, rather than leaving them to the concerned countries alone.

Utilizing blockchain technologies to assist refugees - Application of cutting-edge technology on the frontline of humanitarian assistance

Naoe Yakiya, Director, World Food Programme (WFP) Japan Relations Office

The World Food Programme (WFP) provided about 7 billion US dollars in assistance to 90 million people struggling with starvation in over 80 countries in 2017 as the world's largest humanitarian assistance agency.

Food assistance is closely linked to international security concerns amid the growing number of people suffering from starvation around the world due to conflicts and climate change. WFP's assistance goes beyond just saving lives – various support projects such as support for school meals, and livelihood and disaster prevention assistance to promote self-resilient communities are being implemented in

cooperation with local governments, NGOs, and the private sector to save the futures of the affected countries.

Furthermore, with the aim of improving assistance, WFP launched an Research and Development (R&D) facility in Munich, Germany, to utilize innovative cutting-edge technologies in pursuit of completely eliminating starvation. The R&D facility calls for ideas widely from the WFP employees and the private sector.

Through this effort, WFP introduced a cash support platform that employs blockchain technologies* at a refugee camp in Jordan. The platform has reduced costs that had been previously incurred for bank transactions and enabled safe and highly transparent management of data



Syrian refugees using a cash support platform that employs blockchain technologies at a refugee camp in Jordan (Photo: WFP@Shaza Moghraby)

on food purchases by refugees receiving assistance. Building on its success, in addition to the broad deployment of this technology, WFP continues its various initiatives, such as assisting market access by small farmers using an IT app, implementing R&D on agricultural products with high nutritional value that utilize hydroponic techniques, and improving the efficiency of assistance, utilizing a natural disaster earlywarning system that uses a combination of AI and drones.

Enabling humanitarian assistance effectively utilizing experiences accumulated in development cooperation – Supplying safe water to displaced persons from Myanmar (DPFM)

Ryuichi Katsuki, Programme Advisor (Agriculture, Rural Development), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office

Following the deterioration of conditions in Rakhine State (Myanmar) in August 2017, more than 700,000 people fled into the southern part of the Cox's Bazar District in Bangladesh, resulting in increasing the total number of DPFM in the area to over a million including those who were already there.

Thousands of shallow wells were dug to meet rapidly increased demand for water due to this unprecedented influx of people into the DPFM camp. As they were dug without any advance planning on their locations, depth and so forth, this led to various problems such as groundwater depletion and contamination by E. coli.

To improve the situation, JICA utilized well-digging equipment provided as a grant aid project by the Government of Japan and dug a well with a depth of 400 meters at the camp site for securing safe water. It was also confirmed that this deep well could steadily supply safe water appropriate for drinking.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Bangladesh's Department of Public Health Engineering, which handles rural water supply, have been working on the development of a water supply with a piped network. By around April 2019, it is expected to supply safe water to about 30,000 people.

Key factors that enabled the swift commencement of this significant project were as follows: quick implementation of local needs surveys by JICA experts involved in providing technical assistance to the Department of Public Health Engineering and its officials, arrangements for a site for digging by JICA expert dispatched to the country's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief which is responsible for DPFM acceptance and repatriation, and continuous interaction as well as other collaboration between JICA and international organizations.

JICA will continue to support initiatives by the Government of Bangladesh for both DPFM and host communities in light of the expected protraction of displaced persons issues.



Deep-well drilling operation at the camp for displaced persons from Myanmar in Bangladesh (Photo: JICA)

^{*} Distributed ledger (database) technology enables the handling of important data transactions over the Internet and other open networks, which requires a high level of trust. Utilization of this technology makes it possible to prevent falsification and tampering without working through a third-party entity (intermediary), which incurs costs.

assistance of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE initiative) since its launch in 2014 until 2018.

From the viewpoint of promoting a resilient health system, Japan decided in April 2018 to provide support to improve regional referral hospitals in Uganda. During the visit of President Lungu of Zambia to Japan in December, an agreement was concluded for Japan to provide support for the veterinary department of the University of Zambia.

As for social stabilization, Japan provided food aid, supplied security equipment, and provided support in cooperation with international organizations for large numbers of refugees and internally displaced people as a result of conflict and terrorism in the Sahel region, South Sudan, Somalia, and the surrounding countries. In addition, Japan decided to provide electoral support to Guinea-Bissau in cooperation with LINDP in December 2018.

Looking ahead to TICAD7 to be held in Yokohama in August 2019, a TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held in Tokyo in October 2018. Foreign Minister Kono, who served as co-chair of this meeting, affirmed the importance of providing assistance based on international standards such as debt sustainability. He also stated that Japan will strengthen connectivity through the development of "Quality Infrastructure" in order to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" that connects Asia and Africa, and provide support for the transformation of Africa's economic structure as set out in the African Union's (AU) "Agenda 2063."

(4) Approaches to Appropriate and Effective Implementation of ODA

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, MOFA holds the Development Project Accountability Committee in public and decides whether studies should be implemented upon reviews and discussions conducted with external experts. Furthermore, after the implementation of the project, IICA publishes on its website the expost 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 MOFA, an ex-post evaluation system has also been introduced since FY2017. Internal ex-post evaluations are carried out for projects over 200 million Japanese ven or more, and the results of the evaluation are published, while third-party expost evaluations are conducted for projects over 1 billion Japanese ven or more. The matters pointed out in such ex-post evaluations are applied to the formulation of future ODA projects.

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, in Sri Lanka, seasonal torrential rains from the monsoon pose a serious problem causing landslides and the collapse of steep slopes particularly in mountainous and hilly regions. To resolve this problem, Japan provides support through Grant Aid for the development of a meteorological observation radar system, as well as support through ODA loans for construction works to shore up steep

slopes in major national highways that face a high risk of landslides. Japan has also provided support through technical cooperation, aimed at improving design and construction management capability in Sri Lanka in the area of construction works to counter landslide disasters. At the Japan-Sri Lanka Summit Meeting held in March 2018, Japan announced that it will provide technical cooperation with Sri Lanka to further improve its capability to implement measures for countering landslides, such as the building of early warning systems for landslide disasters.

Efforts with regard to International Discussions on ODA

Japan also contributes actively to international discussions on ODA. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD is advancing efforts to modernize ODA based on an agreement concluded at the High-Level Meeting held in 2014. This includes changing the ODA accounting rules for ODA loans, formulating ODA accounting rules for expenses related to migrants and refugees as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, and efforts to promote the mobilization of privatesector funds. Japan also strives to ensure that ODA programs are aligned with the modern times, and that efforts by donors are reflected accurately. In addition, Japan has been serving on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) since September 2015. The GPEDC serves as a framework that various entities participate in with the aim of improving the effectiveness of development cooperation. These entities are not limited to the governments of various countries, but also include civil society, the private sector and so on. Japan has also been introducing its initiatives in areas such as investment in quality infrastructure and triangular cooperation at the GPEDC.

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

The understanding and support 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, these included publicity through participatory type events such as "Global Festa Japan 2018" (September 29), Japan's largest



Global Festa Japan 2018 (September, Tokyo)



Go! ODA-Man"



Goodwill Ambassador for KUSANONE, Penalty (October, Tokyo. Photo: Yoshimoto Kogyo)

event for international cooperation, in Odaiba, Tokyo, and "One World Festival" (February) in Osaka City, as well as the production of a short anime program "Go! ODA-Man" based on the popular anime "Eagle Talon." This animated film simply introduces Japan's ODA projects around the world such as maritime security projects in ASEAN and education support projects in Kenya. The film was also broadcasted on the Tokyo Metro's train channel and BS TV to reach a wide audience. Publicity activities were also implemented with the comedy duo "Penalty" serving as Goodwill Ambassadors to publicize the 30th anniversary of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (KUSANONE). 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 also cover Japan's cooperation, and issues PR pamphlets in English and local languages.

In order to improve the quality of ODA, it is necessary to feed recommendations and lessons-learned from the evaluation of the implementation status and effectiveness of ODA back to the decision-making and program/ project implementation. MOFA mainly conducts policy and program evaluations by external experts, and the results are shared and used by stakeholders. At the same time, the evaluation results are published on MOFA's website in order to fulfill the accountability to the public. From the viewpoint of improving transparency of the JICA's projects, JICA publicizes the current status and achievements of each project on its "ODA Mieruka Site" (a website for the visualization of ODA). As of the end of December 2018, a total of 4,322 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) formulated in 2001. The 2030 Agenda sets out the international development goal of realizing a society that is sustainable, diverse, and inclusive, and where "no one is left behind." by 2030.

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. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Japan first built a foundation for the implementation of the SDGs by establishing the SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all cabinet ministers as members, formulating the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles to serve as Japan's guidelines in the implementation of the SDGs, and establishing 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 six 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 toward the promotion of the SDGs, measures

Special Feature

Learn More About Japan's ODA Activities that Contribute to the World! "Go! ODA-Man"



Foreign Minister Kono commissioned "Yoshida-kun," the main character in the Eagle Talon animated series, as ODA-Man to represent the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September 2018 and help raise awareness of ODA among the Japanese people. This led to the creation of "Go! ODA-Man" a series of animated videos that are full of jokes introducing Japan's ODA activities that contribute to the world.

Not many opportunities are available for the people of Japan to learn about Japan's ODA activities, which mainly assist the advancement of developing countries through local projects. That is why many people seem to feel that they are not clear as to what ODA is all about, despite having heard about the term, even if they do know not to pronounce it "Oda (a common Japanese family name)." Some might wonder whether it is necessary to use Japanese Government funds, in other words taxpayer money, to assist other countries.

Actually, Japan was also a recipient of ODA activities in the past. Japan's important infrastructure that still supports its society, such as the Tokaido Shinkansen, highways in the Tokyo metropolitan area, and Kurobe Dam in Toyama Prefecture, was built using ODA funds from overseas after the Second World War. Japan recovered at an unprecedented pace while receiving such assistance and, from 1954, switched to the side of helping other countries through the provision of ODA and started contributing to global peace and stability.

The world is likely to become more peaceful if countries around the world become prosperous and everyone can lead healthy and better lives. Everything is linked globally. Japan's peace and prosperity are only possible with global peace and prosperity. Answering calls for Japanese assistance from around the world also raises trust in Japan and boosts the country's presence globally. ODA helps developing countries and at the same time also benefits Japan!

Of course, no matter how enthusiastic this explanation may be, this, in and of itself, will not foster a full understanding of ODA. "ODA-Man" was born to help provide a clear explanation of the meaning, purpose, and importance of ODA, which uses precious tax payer money, and facilitate greater understanding of ODA among the Japanese people. The "Go! ODA-Man" video series introducing Japan's ODA activities in Asian countries, Kenya, and other countries around the world aired on Tokyo Metro's train channel and Japanese satellite broadcasting in September and October 2018. A manga version of it has been distributed on the LINE app too. In addition, a costumed ODA-Man is also actively involved in this initiative, making appearances at various events.



ODA-Man appearance at Global Festival JAPAN 2018, an international cooperation event, together with FROGMAN, the author of ODA-Man and a voice actor (September 29, Tokyo)





Please give your support to ODA-Man as he continues his efforts to deepen interest in and understanding of ODA among Japanese people!

Videos and manga of "Go! ODA-Man"* are available for viewing on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website! (*Japanese version only)

SUSTAINABLE G ALS DEVELOPMENT G ALS



Logos of all 17 goals under the SDGs (Source: UN Information Center)



The sixth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (December 21, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

for the empowerment of women and the next generation, and strengthening cooperation with the international community.

To date, six meetings of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters have been held. At the sixth meeting held in December 2018, the Expanded SDGs Action Plan 2019 was unveiled, covering the main initiatives to be undertaken by MOFA as well as other relevant government ministries toward the achievement of the SDGs. This Action Plan established three pillars for Japan's SDGs initiatives: (1) the promotion of Society 5.0 that is tied in with the SDGs and achieved through efforts by the public and private sectors; (2) regional revitalization driven by the SDGs; and, (3) empowerment of the next generation and women as the future leaders who will take up the role to realize the SDGs. In line with these, efforts will be further advanced toward the achievement of the SDGs, in both the aspects of domestic implementation and international cooperation. This Action Plan also clearly sets out Japan's contribution to the building of a resilient and environmentally-friendly nation and to "human resource development" in the world based on the notion of human security, as well as the main SDGs themes that Japan will exert its leadership for in the international community as the chair of the G20 in 2019.

On the same day as the sixth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the conferment ceremony for the second Japan SDGs Award was held to commend companies and organizations that have put in place excellent initiatives toward the realization of the SDGs. This year, the Japan Food Ecology Center, Inc. received the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chief (Prime Minister's) Award for its efforts toward the effective utilization of food waste.

Through opportunities such as TICAD7 and the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, which has put the world's attention on Japan, Japan is exerting its leadership and presenting to the international community its stance as a strong leader in the promotion of the SDGs. Japan will further promote and strengthen its concrete initiatives, in order to present its achievements as the G20 chair at the SDG Summit scheduled for September 2019.

To achieve the SDGs by 2030, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that it is necessary to overcome a funding gap of as much as approximately 2.5 trillion US dollars (approximately 280 trillion yen) every year. To contribute to revitalizing discussions about innovative financing mechanisms, including an international solidarity tax, so as to overcome this funding gap, Japan assumed position as the chair of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development in January 2019, a group that is made up of voluntary countries and organizations.

A Human Security

Human security is a concept aiming at creating a community in which people can fully develop their potential through protecting all individuals, and at the same time empowering them to solve their own problems. Japan identifies human security as one of its diplomatic pillars, and has positioned it as a guiding principle that lies at the roots of Japan's development cooperation in the Development Cooperation Charter approved in 2015. To date, Japan has led discussions in the United Nations and other fora, and supported the dissemination and implementation of human security by UN organizations through the contribution of a cumulative total of about 46.8 billion yen to the UN Human Security Trust Fund established in 1999 by Japan's initiative. In the area of bilateral cooperation, Japan has also put effort into the dissemination and implementation of this concept through support for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. The 2030 Agenda is also based on principles such as "people-centered" and "leave no one behind," and its core reflects the concept of human security.

Approaches in the Area of Disaster Risk Reduction

200 million people around the world are affected by disasters every year (90% of the victims are citizens of developing countries) and the annual average loss incurred by natural hazards extends to 250 to 300 billion US dollars. Disaster risk reduction is essential for realizing poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Japan makes use of the knowledge of disaster risk reduction and mitigation, built up through its numerous experiences with disasters, to promote international cooperation. At the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in March 2015, Japan took the lead in the adoption of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030," a guideline for efforts by the international community. Japan announced the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" which includes provision of 4 billion US dollars toward cooperation and training of 40,000 people 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 has been hosting the High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" since 2016. Held three times to date, high school students from countries around the world are invited to this event, and through practical learning about Japan's history of tsunami, recovery from earthquake disasters, and preparations for the Nankai Trough earthquake, the participants make proposals for future challenges and implementation in their home countries.

The first High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" was held in Kuroshio Town, Kochi Prefecture on November 25 and 26, 2016, and the second one was held in Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture, on November 7 and 8, 2017. The third event was held in Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture, on October 31 and November 1, 2018, and was attended by about 380 high school students from 48 countries including Japan. 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.

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" in September 2015. This 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). At the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in June 2018, Japan announced that it will be providing 200 million US dollars in support for human resource development and quality education for girls and women in developing countries.

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 with the aim of addressing new challenges in the agricultural sector such as increase in food demand and abnormal weather conditions. At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May the same year, the G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition was unveiled.



Japan's Project for Supporting Rice Industry Development in Tanzania "TANRICE"/Inspection of the local site by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato (August 2, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania)

Approaches in the Area of Water

Japan has continuously been the largest supporting country 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 to human security. Japan advocates human security, as a foundation of the "Proactive Contribution to Peace," and has acted in support of that principle. Japan regards health as a central element of human security. Japan has become a society of the most healthy and active ageing and is further expected to play a proactive role in the area of health. Japan aims to realize an international community that improves people's health as well as ensures the right to health through assistance in the area of global health.

Under this principle, Japan has achieved remarkable results in overcoming health issues such as infectious diseases, 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), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT).

Japan demonstrated leadership and took the lead in international discussions based on the "Basic Design for Peace and Health," a themebased 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 a life for everyone.

Leaders and ministers of various countries as well as heads of international organizations participated in the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB in September, and affirmed the political commitment to promoting measures for achieving the target set out in SDG 3, Target 3.3 (target for infectious diseases, etc.) to end tuberculosis by 2030. The political statement was approved at the opening ceremony, clearly setting out efforts to strengthen measures to end tuberculosis, secure funds for these measures, strengthen research and development, and strengthen frameworks to verify progress. Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare Kato, who participated in this meeting, introduced Japan's long track record in engaging in international technical cooperation in tackling tuberculosis as well as providing financing support to international organizations, and expressed Japan's intentions to continue contributing in this area going forward.

(3) Labor and Employment

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 centenary year in 2019.

In view of this, Japan is also engaged in development cooperation in the field of labor. In 2018, Japan offered technical cooperation to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, including support for the urgent creation of employment in the aftermath of a natural disaster,

the development of labor laws, and improvement of enforcement systems for labor, health and safety, by making voluntary contributions to the ILO and providing support to networks of international labor organizations.

In June, the first Japan-ILO Annual Strategic Consultation Meeting (Geneva, Switzerland) was held. During this meeting, Japan and the ILO affirmed the following three key points, among other matters: (1) further strengthening cooperation on the "Future of Work" initiative; (2) Japan's financial and human resource contributions to supporting development cooperation in the labor sector to date, and further strengthening of the partnership; and (3) taking concrete, joint action toward further increasing the number of Japanese staff in 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 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.

(A) Conservation of the Marine Environment

The problem of marine plastic litter is a pressing issue that has a potential impact on marine ecology, tourism, fisheries, and human health. In recent years, it has become increasingly important to address this issue. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit held in June, Prime Minister Abe spoke about the need to tackle this issue as a challenge to the entire world, including developing countries, as well as the vital need to spread countermeasures such as 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and capacity

building for waste disposal internationally. He also declared that Japan will address this issue at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019.

Furthermore, at the ASEAN Plus 3 (Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea) Summit held in November, Prime Minister Abe advocated the "ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative," which was welcomed by all the countries. Under this initiative, Japan, in cooperation with China and the ROK, will provide support for measures against marine plastics debris undertaken by ASEAN countries. This support will take the form of capacity building and infrastructural development related to 3Rs and waste disposal, and support for the development of action plans by individual countries. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit held in November, Prime Minister Abe also announced the expansion of support for ASEAN countries toward tackling the problem of marine plastics litter.

From the perspective of contributing to the realization of the SDGs, the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy was established under the leadership of Norway to engage in discussion about the conservation of the marine environment, the fishery industry, and the utilization of marine resources, among other topics. The leaders of 12 maritime nations, including Prime Minister Abe, are participating in this Panel. In September, the first meeting of this Panel was held in New York, U.S. In the message that Prime Minister Abe delivered at this conference, he pointed out the importance of tackling the issue of marine plastic litter, responding to the impact of climate change on the oceans, and putting in place measures to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In October, the 23rd Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Intergovernmental Meeting was held in Moscow, Russia. The NOWPAP framework is a cooperative framework for the conservation of the marine environment of the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, and involves Japan, China, the ROK, and Russia. During the

meeting, a discussion was held on matters such as the evaluation framework for the medium-term strategy from 2018 to 2023, and NOWPAP's contribution toward the achievement of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources).

(B) Conservation of Biodiversity

In recent years, illegal trade of wildlife, including 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. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe attended the fourth International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade held in London, UK, in October, and introduced Japan's proactive efforts in tackling the illegal trade of ivory, which the international community has shown particular concern for. Specifically, Japan tightened its regulations on the domestic ivory transactions in June, and announced that it will continue to enforce stringent management of domestic ivory transactions at a level on par with major countries. It was also announced that Japan promotes support for anti-poaching measures of elephants in range countries.

In conjunction with the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) in October, which addressed the importance of conserving wetlands against pressures of urbanization and climate change, Japan designated two new wetlands under the Convention at Shizugawa Bay in Miyagi Prefecture and Kasai Beach Park in Tokyo.

In November, the 54th Session of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Council was held in Yokohama, to promote sustainable forest management.

In November, the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. During the meeting, it was

decided that an open-ended working group and regional workshops will be convened as a part of the process toward the review of global goals on biodiversity after 2020, scheduled to be adopted at COP15 in 2020. In addition, discussions were held on a wide range of topics including digital sequence information on genetic resources and synthetic biology.

(C) International Management of Hazardous Chemicals / Hazardous Waste

In November, the 30th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, was held in Quito, Ecuador. At the meeting, discussions were held on the related matters including the implementation of the amended Protocol that added hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) to the list of controlled substances, which would enter into force on January 1, 2019. In December, the Government of Japan deposited the Instrument of Acceptance of the amended Protocol with the United Nations, thus became a party to the amended protocol at the time of its entry into force.

In November, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Japan, as a member of the Bureau responsible for the management of the Convention representing the Asia and Pacific Region, contributed to the smooth implementation of the meeting, and was actively engaged in the international rule-making on mercury management including by submitting three draft resolutions together with EU and the U.S.

B Climate Change

(A) The Paris Agreement, and the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)

Global efforts are 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. The Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 held in Paris in December 2015. The Paris Agreement is a fair and effective framework that provides that parties communicate their nationally determined contributions to greenhouse gas emission reductions and undertake efforts toward the achievement of such goals regardless of whether they are developed or developing countries. The Agreement entered into force in November 2016, and has been ratified by more than 180 countries including Japan (as of December 2018). In June 2017, the U.S. announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, but it has continued to participate in climate change negotiations at COPs and other fora.

Upon the adoption of the Paris Agreement, negotiations commenced on the implementation guidelines of the Agreement toward its full implementation after 2020. The implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement were adopted at COP24 held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018 based on discussions on each agenda item such as mitigation, adaptation, transparency frameworks, market mechanisms, and finance. Japan actively participated in the negotiations for each item, and contributed to the establishment of common rules for all countries in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement. At COP24, the Talanoa Dialogue³ was held as a ministeriallevel discussion to stocktake the status of efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide while aiming to enhance ambitions. Minister of Environment Harada participated as Japan's representative, and actively introduced Japan's technology as well as its track records in international cooperation.

^{3 &}quot;Talanoa" is a Fijian word (Fiji is the chair of COP23) meaning comprehensive, participatory, and transparent dialogue process.

(B) Efforts in Supporting Developing Countries

Developed countries including Japan have provided various supports for developing countries so that those countries can implement sufficient climate change measures. Those supports include financial cooperation, capacity building, and technology transfer. From such perspectives, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) also plays an important role as a multilateral fund that provides support to developing countries for greenhouse gas emission reductions and adapting to the impact of climate change. Japan has contributed funds based on the Act on Contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Accompanying Measures enacted in 2015, has sat on the board to the GCF, and has participated actively in its management including the selection of support projects. By December 2018, the GCF Board has approved 93 support projects.

(C) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

The JCM is a mechanism for contributing to worldwide global warming measures, by quantifying contributions of Japan to GHG emission reductions or removals, and using them to achieve Japan's own emission reduction targets, through the application of its excellent low carbon technologies, as well as the implementation of measures in developing countries. As of December 2018, 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 2018, the initiative has steadily produced results, such as through the issuance of credits from projects in Mongolia, Viet Nam, Palau, Indonesia, and Thailand.

(D) Japan's efforts in Climate Change and Fragility Risk

The view that climate change can have an impact on the stability of economies and societies in each country has been growing increasingly prevalent in recent years, alongside with growing interest in its impact on security such as conflicts

and peacebuilding. Discussions have also been held at fora including the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting process, on the theme of climate change and fragility. As a part of its initiatives on the fragility risk of climate change, Japan held the International Conference on Climate Change and Fragility in the Asia-Pacific Region in July 2018 in Tokyo, where it shared with participants the trends in international discussions on climate change and security as well as business, and deepened discussions on the fragility to climate change in the Asia Pacific region, crisis management by implementing corporations, impact on investment, and approaches that should be taken by governments, local governments, and corporations toward risks that could arise in the future.

(E) Climate Change Measures by Non-State Actors

Measures by non-state actors such private corporations, local governments, and NGOs are also important in tackling climate change, in addition to actions taken by national governments. This importance has also been raised in past COP decisions. In Japan as well, corporations have made further progress in their efforts, as demonstrated by keen activities of the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (Japan-CLP), a corporate group that aims to take proactive action in the area of climate change, as well as the increase in the number of Japanese corporations participating in the international initiative "RE100," whose member corporations have established the goal of procuring 100% renewable energy for the electricity required in the operation of their businesses. Backed by this heightened momentum in Japan, climate change initiatives in Japan are showing further progress, such as with the launch of Japan Climate Initiative (JCI) in July, a network of non-state actors that aims to realize decarbonization. Japan aims to advance climate change diplomacy in cooperation with such initiatives by non-state actors.

Launch of the Japan Climate Initiative (JCI)! - Communicating the activities of Japanese companies, local governments, and NGOs worldwide

Teruyuki Ohno, Japan Climate Initiative Secretariat, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Institute

Since the establishment of the Paris Agreement in 2015, growing attention has been paid to "nonstate actors," diverse agents besides nations that can work to realize a decarbonized society, including companies, local governments, and NGOs. This is because these actors have a decisively important role to play toward attaining the ambitious goal of effectively zero emissions of greenhouse gases by the middle of this century, given their central presence in actual economic activities and people's daily lives.

On July 6, 2018, Japan Climate Initiative, a network organization for these non-state actors, was established. At the time of its establishment, there were 105 participating entities, including major Japanese companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who underpin regional economies, various local government organizations from large cities to rural areas, consumer groups, and environmental NGOs. Membership has steadily risen since then and already more than tripled by the end of 2018.

The requirement for a JCI membership is to accept the founding declaration to "Join the front line of the global trend for decarbonization from Japan." The declaration states that members will strengthen their efforts to "demonstrate global leadership in achieving the well-below-two-degree target through our own activities," and enhance Japan's commitment to climate efforts in the international community.

JCI held its first domestic event, "Japan Climate Action Summit," on October 12, 2018. Many key people on the front line of climate change measures, such as corporate executive officers and top local government officials, engaged in enthusiastic discussions about bolstering future activities. The Summit also included a Top Leaders Session with corporate top executives and local government heads, and more than 700 attendees from around Japan were able to experience the vibrant atmosphere for themselves.

Communicating the activities of Japan's non-state actors to the world is one of JCl's important missions. Many JCI members participated in the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) held in San Francisco in the U.S. in September and COP24 in Poland in December, and introduced activities by Japanese companies and local governments in presentations at various events during these conferences.

Following Japan's example, non-state actors in other countries, such as Mexico and Argentina, have formed their own networks as well. Meanwhile, the U.S. has the "We Are Still In" network that promotes measures for tackling climate change, against the Trump administration's intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. In 2019, Japan is hosting the G20 Summit, which will turn the world's attention to Japan. JCI aims to collaborate with such networks in various countries and strengthen initiatives for realizing decarbonized societies in Japan and worldwide.



JCI founding press conference (July 6; Photo: JCI)



Japan Climate Action Summit (October 12; Photo: JCI)

(5) Arctic and Antarctic

A Arctic

(A) Current State of the Arctic, and Japan's Arctic Policy

There is a risk that rapid changes in the Arctic environment caused by global warming 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 have been growing economic opportunities such as the use of the Northern Sea Route and the development of resources.

Japan's Arctic policy is based upon "Japan's Arctic Policy," approved by the Headquarters for Ocean Policy in 2015. The Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, adopted by the Cabinet in May 2018, established a specific section on the Arctic Policy for the first time and positioned it as one of the main measures in Japan's ocean policy.

(B) Japan's International Activities on the Arctic

In October, Foreign Minister Kono attended the Arctic Circle⁴ for the first time as the Foreign Minister of Japan, and delivered a keynote speech on Japan's Arctic Policy at the meeting.

Japan's Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs attended the Senior Arctic Official meetings of the Arctic Council (AC), and the international conferences on the Arctic organized by Finland, Norway, Poland, China, and the Republic of Korea, and presented Japan's engagements and thoughts over the Arctic. Furthermore, he held consultations with relevant countries, including bilateral Arctic consultations with Denmark and the EU. The third Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic among Japan, China and the ROK was held in June in Shanghai. The dialogue was



Keynote speech by Foreign Minister Kono at the Arctic Circle (October 19, Reykjavík, Iceland)

launched at the Sixth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in 2015. In this meeting the Joint Statement reaffirming the importance of promoting trilateral Arctic cooperation (particularly in the field of scientific research) was adopted. Japan also participates actively in establishment of international rules on the Arctic. One good example is the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, signed by nine countries and one organization including Japan in October 2018.

Furthermore, Japan promotes international cooperation on the Arctic with the relevant countries including the Arctic countries. Through the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) project launched in FY2015, Japan promotes international cooperation for research and human resource development at research and observation stations in the U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Greenland (Denmark). Japan also sent its researchers to the AC working groups specialized in specific themes, where they present outcomes of their research on the Arctic and contribute to discussions.

In the area of economic use, Japan encourages more Japanese companies to pay attention to Arctic business in order to take advantage of the Northern Sea Route. As demonstrated by the

⁴ Established by former Iceland President Grimsson and others in 2013, this international conference is attended by about 2,000 participants including government representatives, researchers, and business people. It is the Arctic version of the Davos Summit. Japan has been participating since the first conference with the attendance of the Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs and other delegates. In addition to presenting speeches at the plenary session, Japanese researchers also presented the outcomes of their scientific research at the breakout session.

Special Feature

Foreign Minister Kono's Attendance at the Arctic Circle 2018 – Japan's initiatives for realizing an "Ideal Arctic"

The Arctic Circle is an international meeting founded by former Iceland President Grímsson and other leaders in 2013, attended by government officials, researchers, business people, and others. In October 2018, Foreign Minister Kono attended the Arctic Circle for the first time as the Foreign Minister of Japan, and delivered a keynote speech on Japan's Arctic policy.

In the speech, Foreign Minister Kono emphasized the particular importance of clarifying the mechanism of environmental changes in the Arctic and understanding its



Arctic Circle

impact in order for the international community to appropriately address the Arctic "issue" of adverse impact on the ecosystem, while also recognizing the "opportunities" emerging in the Arctic, such as development of natural resources. Furthermore, he proposed the idea of an "Ideal Arctic" for the international community that consists of (1) clarifying the mechanism of environmental changes and sharing the responses within the international community, (2) pursuing sustainable economic use while respecting the ecosystem and the life of indigenous people, and (3) promoting international cooperation in a peaceful and orderly manner based on the rule of law. Foreign Minister Kono delivered a message that Japan will promote cooperation with all stakeholders to realize an "Ideal Arctic." Foreign Minister Kono also presented the following three aspects in Japan's specific efforts and direction for realizing an "Ideal Arctic" – (1) scientific research (promotion of the "Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS)" project, cooperation with Arctic countries on mitigating black carbon emissions), (2) sustainable economic use (encouraging Japanese companies to pay more attention to Arctic businesses (Hokkaido is a gateway from Asia to the Northern Sea Route), comprehensive energy development cooperation with Russia in the Arctic region, and active participation in the formulation process of international rules for the Arctic), and (3) rule of law (confirmation of "a rule-based maritime order").

"Japan's Arctic Policy" was formulated in 2015 and Japan has been actively promoting efforts in the Arctic. The Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, adopted by the Cabinet in May 2018, established a specific section on the Arctic Policy for the first time and positioned it as one of the main measures in Japan's ocean policy. With regard to the Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting, which was held in October with the aims of promoting research and observations and responses to major social issues in the Arctic, as well as further promoting scientific cooperation among relevant countries and with groups of indigenous peoples, it was decided that the next meeting would be held in Japan in 2020 co-chaired by Japan and Iceland. This would be the first meeting held in Asia.

Based on these engagements, Japan will steadily implement the message delivered to the international community by Foreign Minister Kono and contribute to solving global issues related to the Arctic, while securing the interests of Japan and the international community.

Yamal LNG project in Russia, Japan is advancing comprehensive energy development cooperation with Russia in the Arctic Region while giving full consideration for the Arctic environment.

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 41st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 41) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2018, discussions were held on recent issues, including the impact of the increase in the number of tourists on the Antarctic environment, taking into account the yearly increase in the number of travelers to the Antarctic region for tourism and other purposes.

(C) Japan's Antarctic Observation

As for Japan's Antarctic observation activities, based on the 9th six-year plan of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (2016 to 2021), Japan is undertaking efforts to elucidate the role and impact of the Antarctic region on the global system in the past and future, and in particular, to elucidate the actual conditions of global warming and its mechanisms. 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

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements for peace and prosperity that support socioeconomic development, and play a vital role in ensuring safety and security. By harnessing its own advanced science and technology, Japan promotes science and technology diplomacy, thereby contributing 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. As part of this effort Japan places emphasis on initiatives implemented through the activities of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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 capabilities, while strengthening partnerships with Japanese and foreign stakeholders in the fields of science and technology.

In 2018, the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, chaired by Prof. Kishi, as well as Study Group Meetings were held. As a result of these discussions, recommendations on the utilization of science and technology on the Arctic, under the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, were submitted by Prof. Kishi to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane in March. In May, he also submitted the Recommendation on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to Achieve the SDGs and its Guiding Tool, the STI Roadmap, as the means for that, to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane.

In June, Prof. Kishi took the rostrum as a panelist in the Third STI Forum⁵, where he presented Japan's initiatives based on the recommendations related to the STI roadmap as well as the Recommendation for the Future, which was drawn up in 2017, toward the implementation of the SDGs. He also proposed to formulate an STI roadmap by each country.

Furthermore, Prof. Kishi has also implemented

⁵ UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, held at the UN Headquarters in New York on June 5 and 6, 2018.

a project to publicize science, technology and innovation through cooperation with the Cabinet Office and MOFA in various countries, with the aim of enhancing Japan's capability of disseminating information about its prominent scientific and technological strength. The project was implemented in Qatar in November, and he discussed the potential for future cooperation with the relevant organizations and researchers from Qatar.

The Advisor also attends various international conferences alongside with the science and technology advisors of other countries including the U.S., the UK, and New Zealand, where he engages in exchanges of opinions, and strives to build and strengthen networks. The Advisor widely publicizes Japan's efforts in science and technology diplomacy at various fora in Japan and abroad. He attended the Foreign Ministries Science and Technology Advisors Network (FMSTAN) and International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) held in Japan in November, where he delivered lectures on Japan's science and technology diplomacy efforts. 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 EU.7. Based on these agreements, it organizes regular joint committee meetings with these countries to engage in intergovernmental dialogue. In 2018, joint committee meetings were held with the



International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) (November 6 and 7, Tokyo)

Czech Republic, Israel, Switzerland, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Norway, China, and Sweden respectively. Attended 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.

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 to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of nuclear fusion energy.

⁶ 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).

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 (country name at the time), Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro on different dates.

Column

Achieving the SDGs through Science, Technology and Innovation – as Co-Chair of the 3rd UN STI Forum

Dr. Toshiya Hoshino, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

I was a professor at a university teaching United Nations diplomacy when I was appointed Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in New York in the summer of 2017. On June 5 and 6, 2018, I had the opportunity to co-chair the 3rd UN STI Forum¹ held at UN Headquarters with Mr. Sandoval, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico. The STI Forum brings together governments, scientists, the business community, civil society, and entrepreneurs to discuss the promotion and use of science, technology and innovation (STI) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN.



Why is STI important now? The SDGs, which were adopted by the UN in 2015 with the slogan, "Leave no one behind," is a master plan that aims to achieve a sustainable society worldwide by the year 2030. As part of the initiatives to achieve the SDGs, STI could serve as a trump card that would optimize and expand finite resources. One example is electricity. It is said that even today, roughly 20% of the world's population lives without electricity. In these areas, efforts are being made to place solar panels on top of kiosks scattered around villages and to lend out LED lights that can be used for longer hours with less power, replacing firewood and kerosene lamps. With this improved lighting, children are relieved of the burden of carrying firewood and are able to spend more time on their education and with family at home. In towns, new business opportunities for local residents have opened up. This is a clear example of the power of science and technology literally "lighting up" and improving the quality of people's lives.

In this way, science and technology aid in the realization of a sustainable society. However, for many people, "STI for SDGs" is not a familiar concept or experience yet. Japan, a nation founded on science and technology, can contribute in many ways. My goal as co-chair of the STI Forum was to make the forum concrete and action-oriented, while providing Japan's leadership.

Japan is advocating for a human-centered vision of a future society, "Society 5.0", and working on resolving social issues through the practical applications of STI. Meanwhile, it is important that countries around the world formulate initiatives to achieve the SDGs in accordance with their own circumstances and incorporate them into their national development strategies. However, such efforts will be ineffective if countries and stakeholders around the world only work independently. If there were a roadmap (progress schedule) for people to work together toward common goals, we would be able to implement more systematic efforts and thereby achieve shared progress and results. In line with this thinking, at the 3rd STI Forum, which was attended by about 1,000 participants from various sectors, Prof. Teruo Kishi, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, proposed the formulation of an 'STI Roadmap' that visualizes ways forward for each country to utilize STI as a means to further develop the SDGs. This proposal received strong support. I realized through this experience that the international



3rd UN STI Forum (June 5-6, New York, U.S.)

In drawing up this roadmap, it is hoped that Japan will lead the way for other nations. Japan is expected to leverage its presidency of the G20 Osaka Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in 2019 to contribute to the international community. Japan has a major role to play in expanding "STI for SDGs" on a global scale and realizing a world where no one is left behind.

community truly needs Japan's intellectual leadership.

1 Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Economic Diplomacy

1 Overview of Economic Diplomacy

The global economy continues to be robust and the overall resilience of emerging markets has been strengthened, but on the other hand, major risks, such as financial weakness and geopolitical concerns, are partially manifested in some emerging economies. Under such circumstances, in order to dispel market unrest and develop a free and fair economic order, it is necessary to continue monitoring market trends and support strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. Japan will contribute to this as a member of the G7 and the G20, and as the world's second largest developed economy.

Japan's prosperity is based on maintaining and strengthening the free and open international economic system, which also leads to the stability and growth of the global economy. With this in mind, Japan has promoted the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP12), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). As a result, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) entered into force on December 30, and the Japan-EU EPA also entered into force on February 1, 2019. We can say that 2018 is a year in which Japan's efforts thus far have gradually come to fruition. We will steadily implement these agreements and proceed with negotiations on the conclusion of a comprehensive, balanced, and high-quality agreement on RCEP and other agreements.

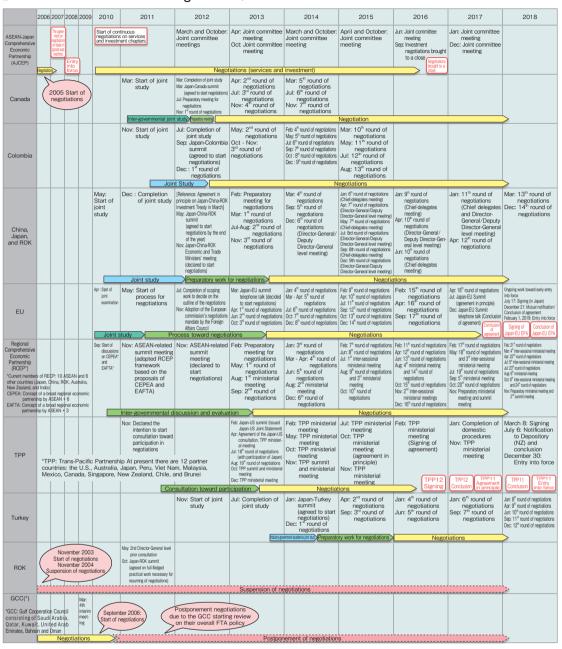
Japan has advanced initiatives with the aim of further accelerating the promotion of economic diplomacy as one of the priority areas of Japan's diplomacy, centered around the following three aspects: (1) rule-making to bolster free and open global economic systems by promoting the various economic agreements as described above; (2) supporting the overseas business expansion of Japanese companies through promotion of public-private partnerships; and (3) promoting resources diplomacy along with inward investment toward Japan.

Rule-Making to Bolster Free and Open Global Economic Systems

(1) Promotion of Economic Partnerships

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) help capture the vitality of the growing market overseas and strengthen the basis of the Japanese economy, through measures such as the reduction or elimination of tariffs on goods as well as barriers on trade in services, and through rule-making for trade and investment. The Government of Japan has signed and brought into force 18 EPAs with 21 economies to date. The FTA ratio in Japan's trade

Current Status of EPA/FTA Negotiations, etc.



(the ratio of trade value with countries which have FTAs already signed or entered into force with Japan to the total trade value) was 51.6% at the end of December 2018, will be 85.8% when including the trade amount of economies with which Japan is currently negotiating EPAs. 11 countries signed the TPP11 Agreement in March 2018, and it entered

into force on December 30. In addition, active and tireless negotiations spanning many long years have also borne fruit, as exemplified by the signing of the Japan-EU EPA in July 2018, and its entry into force on February 1, 2019.

Japan, as a champion of free trade, will work toward the steady implementation of the JapanEU EPA and the steady implementation and expansion of the TPP11 Agreement and will continue to promote global trade liberalization through negotiations of other EPAs.

A Multilateral Agreements

(A) TPP11 Agreement

The TPP11 Agreement is an effort to establish new trade and investment rules in a wide range of areas, including tariffs, services, investments, intellectual property, and state-owned enterprises in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region. It will provide Japanese companies an opportunity to be more active in markets overseas and will be a major driving force for the economic growth in Japan. Furthermore, the strengthening of the rule of law in economic terms with countries that share fundamental values through the TPP11 Agreement has strategic significance that contributes to Japan's security and to stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

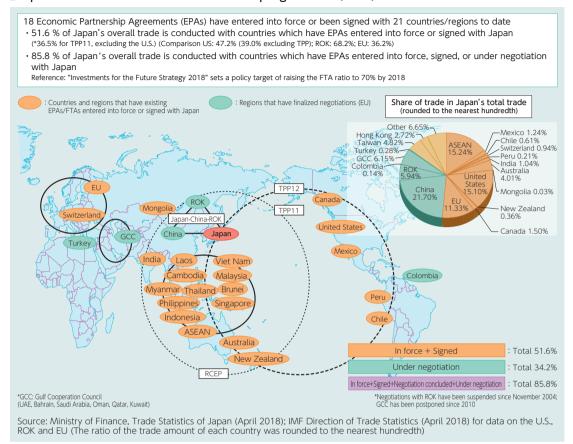
The 12 countries of Japan, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the U.S., and Viet Nam signed the TPP12 Agreement in February 2016, but the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the TPP12 Agreement in 2017. As such, in order to bring about the early realization of TPP as soon as possible among the 11 countries, Japan proactively led the discussions. As a result, at the TPP Ministerial Meeting held in Da Nang, Viet Nam in November 2017, the Ministers agreed to move forward with the TPP11 Agreement among 11 countries, by incorporating the articles of the original TPP12 Agreement drawn up by the 12 countries into the new TPP11 Agreement, while exceptionally suspending the application of certain articles (agreement in principle). Later, in March 2018, the TPP11 Agreement was signed in Santiago, Chile. Japan completed domestic procedures second, following Mexico, and in July notified New Zealand, which is designated as the Depositary of the Agreement, of the completion of its domestic procedures. Subsequently, as a result of Japan's active efforts in pushing the countries which have yet to complete its domestic procedures, the six parties required for the Agreement to enter into force completed the necessary procedures, and the Agreement entered into force on December 30 of the same year, based on Article 3 of the TPP11 Agreement.

Amidst the spread of protectionist sentiments around the world, this sends a strong message of promoting free trade from Japan to the world and is a major step toward extending free, fair, and modern trade and investment rules in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will continue to lead discussions in the implementation and expansion of the TPP11 Agreement, through the hosting of the 1st TPP Commission at ministerial level in January 2019, and other measures.

(B) Japan-EU EPA

Japan shares fundamental values with the EU. which is one of Japan's most important partners in terms of trade and investment. In March 2013, Japan launched negotiations with the EU for an EPA. In July 2017, after four years and four months of the negotiations, an agreement was reached in principle and later in that year, in December, the negotiations were finalized. In the first half of 2018, work was carried out intensively to finalize the text and on July 17, 2018 at the EU-Japan Summit Meeting, the agreement was signed by Prime Minister Abe, European Council President Tusk and European Commission President Juncker. The agreement had originally been scheduled to be signed in Brussels where the EU is headquartered. However, due to the heavy rain disaster which shook western Japan, Prime Minister Abe's visit to Europe was canceled so that he could stay in Japan to put all possible rescue measures in place. Considering the urgency, European Council President Tusk and European Commission President Juncker changed their respective schedule in a short time and travelled to Japan. Thus, the signing ceremony took place successfully in Tokyo.

Japan's Initiatives on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs)



After the signing, Japan and the EU quickly embarked on preparing for certain domestic procedures with a view to bringing the agreement into force at an early stage. In September 2018, members of the International Trade Commission, who are responsible for deliberating the agreement before European Parliament, visited Japan to meet with Foreign Minister Kono and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Miyakoshi, among others. It was confirmed at this meeting that the agreement had not only economic significance but also great strategic importance, and that they should continue to cooperate for an early approval and entry into force of the agreement. Later in 2018, Japan and the EU further confirmed to cooperate for the purpose of an early entry into force of the Japan-EU EPA at the Japan-EU Summit Meeting held at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in

October and at the Japan-EU Summit Meeting during the G20 Summit in Argentina in December. Consequently, the Japanese Diet approved the Agreement during the extraordinary session in the autumn, while the EU completed its procedures in the same year. In December, Japan and the EU notified each other of the completion of their respective domestic procedures. On February 1, 2019, the agreement entered into force.

(C) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

The RCEP is a pillar of East Asian economic integration, aimed at realizing the establishment of an integrated economic zone that covers approximately half of the world population, and about 30% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and total trade amount. Since the launch

of negotiations in May 2013, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states and their FTA partner states (six countries, namely Japan, China, the ROK, Australia, New Zealand and India) have been working together to advance negotiations toward a comprehensive and highlevel agreement in areas that include trade in goods, trade in services, investment, competition, rules of origin, intellectual property, electronic commerce, and customs procedures and trade facilitation. As of December 2018, 14 ministerial meetings and 24 rounds of negotiations have been held. At the 2nd RCEP Summit held in November 2018, coinciding with the ASEAN Summit, the leaders of RCEP negotiating countries issued the "Joint Leaders' Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Negotiations." This Joint Leaders' Statement welcomed the substantial progress made in RCEP negotiations in 2018 and expressed their determination to conclude a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP in 2019.

(D) Japan-China-ROK FTA

The Japan-China-ROK FTA is a negotiation with Japan's major trading partners: China and the ROK. The negotiations were launched in March 2013, and 14 rounds of negotiations were held by December 2018. The three countries have been engaged in discussions over a wide range of areas including trade in goods, investment, trade in services, competition, intellectual property and electronic commerce, with the shared objective of pursuing a comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial FTA.

(E) Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) Concept

Regarding eventual realization of the FTAAP, discussions are being held at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on next-generation trade and investment issues that need to be addressed, and capacity building programs mainly for developing economies are being implemented.

While the 2018 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea welcomed the progress made in implementing the Lima Declaration on the FTAAP adopted at the 2016 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, further progress was sought to enhance the ability of APEC economies (countries and regions) to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreements in the future, and officials were instructed to report progress to leaders in 2020.

Following 2017, Japan held a workshop on competition policy in 2018 in order to build capacity for developing economies, and discussions were conducted to identify desirable and optional elements that are essential to future competition chapter in FTAs/EPAs.

The fact that the TPP11 Agreement entered into force in 2018, and the progress in negotiations toward the early conclusion of the high quality RCEP Agreement can be regarded as significant from the viewpoint of achieving a comprehensive and high quality FTAAP.

Bilateral Agreements and Other Agreements (Arranged in Chronological Order According to the Time at which Negotiations Started)

(A) Republic of Korea (ROK)

Japan and Korea are the third largest trading partners with each other. Based on the recognition that EPA negotiations with the ROK will provide both countries with a stable economic framework and bring about mutual benefits for the future, both countries launched negotiations in 2003 but they have been suspended since 2004.

(B) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

For Japan, the GCC member states (the six countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) constitute one of the most important regions as an oil and gas supplier and, a market for exporting infrastructure and others. The Japan-GCC FTA negotiations were launched in 2006 to reinforce economic ties with GCC member states, but they have been suspended

since 2009 on the grounds of the GCC side. Japan has been calling for an early resumption of the negotiations with the aim of further strengthening economic ties with the GCC.

(C) ASEAN

The ASEAN-JAPAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP), concluded with 10 ASEAN countries, is Japan's first multilateral EPA. Since the launch of negotiations in 2005, based on the agreement between the Leaders in 2004, 11 formal negotiations have been conducted, and the conclusion of negotiations was confirmed among the Leaders in 2007. Since 2008, the Agreement has entered into force in each participating country. The Leaders confirmed the conclusion of negotiations on trade in services and investment, which started in 2010, with the former ending in 2015 and the later concluding in 2016. After that, various legal and technical confirmations and adjustments were made to the text, with the aim for the signing and entry into force of the agreement in 2019.

(D) Canada

In 2012, Japan launched EPA negotiations with Canada, with which Japan shares fundamental values and has a complementary economic relationship. Seven rounds of negotiation meetings had been held by November 2014, in order to achieve an EPA that can contribute to the stable supply of energy, minerals and foodstuffs to Japan.

(E) Colombia

In 2012, Japan started EPA negotiations with Colombia, a country rich in resources and that has accomplished a high economic growth rate. By December 2015, 13 rounds of negotiations had been held.

(F) Turkey

Japan agreed to launch EPA negotiations with Turkey, a country with high economic

potential, which promotes an open economy, at the Japan-Turkey Summit Meeting in 2014, and began negotiations the same year. 12 rounds of negotiations had been held by the end of December 2018 and negotiations are accelerating.

Existing EPAs

The existing EPAs contain provisions concerning the joint committee, which is a body that discusses the implementation of the agreements, and a process to review the agreements after a certain period of time since their entry into force. In addition, a variety of consultations are being held in order to smoothly implement the existing EPAs.

Movement of Natural Persons

In accordance with the EPAs, Japan has been accepting candidates for nurses and certified careworkers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. In 2018, 329 Indonesians (31 nurses and 298 careworkers), 322 Filipinos (40 nurses and 282 careworkers), and 219 Vietnamese (26 nurses and 193 careworkers) were accepted into Japan. In 2018, 78 nurses (29 Indonesians, 31 Filipinos, and 18 Vietnamese) and 213 careworkers (62 Indonesians, 62 Filipinos, and 89 Vietnamese) passed the national examination.

Investment Treaties / Tax Conventions / Agreements on Social Security

(A) Investment Treaties

Investment treaties constitute an important legal basis to promote investments, by stipulating the protection of investors and their investment property, enhancement of transparency in regulations, expansion of investment opportunities, procedures for investment dispute settlement, etc. In order to promote the improvement of the investment environment overseas and to attract foreign investment to the Japanese market, Japan has actively engaged in concluding investment treaties.

In 2018, investment treaties were signed with Armenia in February, the United Arab Emirates

in April, Jordan in November, and Argentina in December. As of the end of December 2018, there are currently 42 investment-related treaties that have entered into force (29 investment treaties and 13 EPAs), and six (four investment treaties and two EPAs) that have been signed but not yet entered into force, bringing the total to 48, covering 76 economies. Including investment-related treaties that are currently under negotiation, they will cover 93 economies, and around 94% of Japan's direct investments overseas (as of the end of December 2018).

The "Action plan aiming to facilitate an investment environment through promoting the conclusion of investment-related treaties" was formulated in May 2016. It stipulated the goal to sign and enact investment-related treaties with 100 economies by 2020. Japan aims to actively advance investment-related treaties with resource producing countries such as the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America in order to achieve the Action Plan's goals. The Middle East is a major supplier of energy resources for Japan. In addition to abundant resources and promising markets, Africa has shown high economic growth rates in recent years. Many countries in Central and South America share fundamental values, such as Mexico, Chile, and Peru, with which Japan cooperated to promote the TPP11 Agreement, and their economic relationship with Japan is further deepening. Japan will continue to actively advance investment-related treaties from the perspective of incorporating the growth of emerging economies through overseas investment and attracting foreign investment into the Japanese market.

(B) Tax Conventions

Tax conventions are intended to eliminate international double taxation in cross-border

economic activities (e.g., to reduce or exempt withholding taxes imposed on investment income such as dividends, etc.), or to prevent tax evasion or avoidance, and provides an important legal basis for promoting sound investment and economic exchanges between two countries. Japan is actively working in line with the government's policy that "The Government will expand tax treaty networks, both in terms of quality and quantity, that are necessary for supporting sound overseas business expansion of Japanese companies, through concluding new treaties with countries/regions where investment relations with Japan are expected to develop, as well as amending existing treaties." ("Growth Strategy 2018" (Cabinet decision, June 15, 2018))

In 2018, the tax convention with Lithuania (August), the tax convention with Estonia (September), the new tax convention² with Russia (October), the new tax convention with Austria (October), the tax convention with Iceland (October), the amendments to the agreement for the exchange of tax information with the Bahamas (December), and the new tax convention with Denmark (December) came into force. Deposition of an acceptance letter (September) was made for the "Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting" (Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS). Additionally, a new tax convention with Spain (October), a tax convention with Croatia (October), and a tax convention with Colombia (December) were signed. Furthermore, negotiations on the conclusion of a tax convention with Ecuador (September), a tax convention with Argentina (December) and a tax convention with Jamaica (December) have reached substantial agreement. As of the end of 2018, Japan has signed 74 tax conventions, etc., which apply to 127 economies.

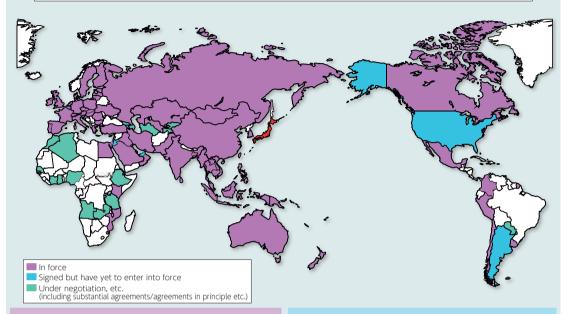
^{1 &}quot;Regional balance of Direct Investment (Assets)," Ministry of Finance (All regions) (As of the end of 2017)

² The new tax convention is to completely revise the existing tax convention.

Current Status of Investment Related Treaties

Status of Negotiations on Investment Related Treaties (*) (*) Investment treaties and EPA/FTA including investment chapters

- · In force: 43 (29 investment treaties and 14 EPAs)
- 76 countries/regions covered · Signed but have yet to enter into force: 5 (4 investment treaties and 1 EPA)
- · Under negotiation: 24 (19 investment treaties and 5 EPAs) -If these treaties enter into force, 94 countries and regions are covered.



■IN FORCE (excluding treaties that have ended) (): Year treaty entered into force *Treaties based on liberalization Investment treaties

1 Egypt (1978) 16 Kuwait (2014)* 2 Sri Lanka (1982) 17 Iraq (2014) 3 China (1989) 18 Japan-China-ROK (2014) 4 Turkey (1993) 19 Myanmar (2014)* 5 Hong Kong (1997) 20 Mozambique (2014)* 6 Pakistan (2002) 21 Colombia (2015)* 7 Bangladesh (1999) 22 Kazakhstan (2015) 8 Russia (2000) 23 Ukraine (2015) 9 ROK (2003)* 24 Saudi Arabia (2017) 10 Viet Nam (2004)* 25 Uruguay (2017)* 11 Cambodia (2008)* 26 Iran (2017) 12 Laos (2008)* 27 Oman (2017) 13 Uzbekistan (2009)* 28 Kenya (2017) 14 Peru (2009)* 29 Israel (2017)*

15 Papua New Guinea (2014)

Note: Japan has a Japan-Taiwan Private Investment arrangement based on liberalization in 2011.

EPAs including investment chapter

1 Singapore (2002)* 8 The Philippines (2008)* 2 Mexico (2005)* 9 Switzerland (2009)* 3 Malaysia (2006)* 10 India (2011)* 4 Chile (2007)* 11 Australia (2015)* 5 Thailand (2007)* 12 Mongolia (2016)*

6 Brunei (2008)* 13 Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TPP (2018)

7 Indonesia (2008)* 14 EU (2019)*

■Under negotiation Investment treaties

1 Angola 11 Senegal 2 Algeria 12 Kyrgyz Republic 3 Qatar 13 Nigeria 4 Ghana 14 Zambia 5 Morocco 15 Ethiopia

6 Tanzania 16 Tajikistan 7 Cote d'Ivoire 17 EU* 8 Bahrain 18 Paraguay 9 Turkmenistan 19 Azerbaijan

10 Georgia

EPA/FTA including investment chapters

4 RCEP*** 2 Canada 5 Turkey

3 Japan-China-ROK

*Negotiations on investment protection provisions and investment dispute resolution

**AJCEP: ASEAN-JAPAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership

***RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

■Signed but have yet to enter into force

- TPP (signed in February 2016 and approved by the Diet) (EPA)*
- · Armenia (signed in February 2018 and approved by the Diet)*
- · United Arab Emirates (signed in April 2018, not yet approved by the Diet)
- · Jordan (signed in November 2018, not yet approved by the Diet)
- · Argentina (signed in December 2018, not yet approved by the Diet)*
- *TPP: TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

As of February 2019

(C) Agreements on Social Security

The purpose of agreements on social security is to resolve the issues of double payment of social security insurance premiums and no refund of annuity insurance. It is expected to facilitate people-to-people exchange and strengthen further bilateral relations including economic exchanges, by reducing the burden on Japanese companies and citizens working overseas. The total number of countries that have concluded or signed such agreements with Japan now stands at 21 as of the end of 2018. In addition, in 2018, Japan held negotiations for new agreements with Sweden, Viet Nam, and Finland.

(2) Initiatives with International Organizations (WTO, OECD, etc.)

Morld Trade Organization (WTO)

(A) Features

Japan has achieved its present prosperity as the largest beneficiary of the free trade system. The WTO is the core of the multilateral trading system, and its functions act for (1) a place for negotiations for trade liberalization and rule formation, (2) monitoring the implementation status of the WTO Agreement by the Members, and (3) operation of a system³ to settle trade disputes among Members in accordance with the WTO Agreement.

(B) Development after the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference

At the 11th WTO Ministerial Meeting (MC11) in December 2017, in addition to deciding on a work plan for fishery subsidies, etc., under Japan's initiative, one result was that 71 WTO Members, including the U.S., the EU, and many

developing country Members, joined to issue a joint statement saying that they will undertake exploratory work for future WTO negotiations on the trade-related aspects of e-commerce. On the other hand, it did not lead to the issuance of a Ministerial Declaration by all participating Members, once again showing the difficulty of unanimous agreement at the WTO.

At the informal Swiss government-sponsored ministerial meeting held at Davos in January 2018, about one month after MC11, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto, who attended on behalf of Japan, and other countries voiced opinions that MC11's results are not entirely satisfactory and that there is room for improvement in the way in which work is conducted at the WTO. At the informal ministerial meeting held in March in Delhi, under the Indian government's initiative to promote frank opinion exchanges at the ministerial level, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto and other WTO Members spoke on the importance of flexibility when engaging in negotiations and discussions, and on the need to improve WTO functions. In addition, on the problems with regard to trade and development, many Members brought up the importance of flexible responses, such as not treating all developing countries uniformly, but handling each country according to differences in its economic scale and development level.

Continuing at the informal ministerial meeting in Paris in May, there were frank discussions on how to proceed with negotiations at the WTO in the future and how to strengthen the WTO system. Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seko and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto from Japan attended, advocating for how important it is to work on updating and

³ The dispute settlement system is positioned as a pillar that gives the WTO system stability and predictability. If a dispute is not resolved through the consultations process the dispute settlement procedures provide for, the disputing member may refer the disputed measure at issue to a panel for addressing, inter alia, the consistency of the measures concerned with the WTO Agreements. A party dissatisfied with a finding by the panel may appeal to the Appellate Body to contest the panel's findings. Since the establishment of the WTO in 1995 through to December 6, 2018, Japan was involved as a party in 40 out of 572 disputes (the number of cases for which requests for consultation were made). The Appellate Body is composed of seven Members and the term of Members is four years (Members may be reappointed once). To date, three Japanese nationals have served as Appellate Body Members.

strengthening WTO rules so that they conform to today's economy, for the work toward better functioning of the WTO such as the enhancement of performance monitoring functions through compliance with and enhancement of reporting obligations and solutions of issues with the WTO dispute settlement system through discussions.

(C) WTO Reform Debate

While the WTO's roles are being debated, 20 years have passed since the establishment of the WTO, and there is a growing sense of crisis among the Members that the WTO may not be sufficiently adapting to structural changes even though the state of the world economy has changed significantly due to the rise of emerging countries and the digitization of the economy. Coupled with the problem that the selection process for the Appellate Body Members of the WTO dispute settlement system has not been started, there is growing awareness and momentum among Members regarding the need for WTO reform and modernization. For example, the Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué released in June states that "We commit to modernize the WTO to make it more fair as soon as possible." There are various opinions and proposals from Members on which functions of the WTO should be reformed. The discussions are mainly about (1) enhancement of the agreement performance monitoring function, (2) reform of the dispute settlement system, and (3) revitalization of the negotiation function.

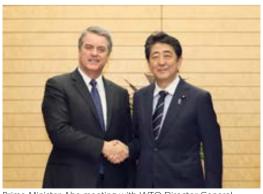
Japan also actively contributes to the maintenance and strengthening of the multilateral trading system through WTO reform, and there was agreement among leaders of the U.S. (September), the EU (October), China (October), etc. to proceed with the WTO reform discussions. At the 4th Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of the U.S., Japan, and the European Union held in September, it was agreed that the three countries and regions would make joint proposals for WTO reform. Furthermore, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seki and

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuii attended the Ottawa Ministerial on WTO Reform, hosted by the Canadian Government in October, and contributed to discussions regarding reform, considering the most effective responses according to the nature of each individual problem, and pointing out that it is important to take an approach of first doing what is feasible to implement. As for individual issues, they actively contributed to discussions regarding, for example, (1) a proposal on strengthening transparency and reporting in November together with the U.S., the EU, etc., (2) leading discussions with Australia, Singapore, etc. in efforts to create new rules in the field of e-commerce, and (3) reform of the dispute settlement system.

In December, the G20 Leaders' Declaration at the G20 Buenos Aires Summit stated that "We therefore support the necessary reform of the WTO to improve its functioning" and decided to confirm progress at the G20 Osaka Summit under Japan's Presidency.

(D) Visit by WTO Director-General Azevêdo to Japan

While WTO reform discussions are intensifying, WTO Director-General Azevêdo visited Japan from November 7 to 8. Japan's active promotion of a free and fair rule-based trading system and its active contribution to the maintenance and strengthening of a multilateral trading system



Prime Minister Abe meeting with WTO Director-General Azevêdo (November 8, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

through WTO reform were conveyed to Director-General Azevêdo through a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and a dinner with Foreign Minister Kono. In response to this, Director-General Azevêdo expressed his appreciation for the role that Japan plays in maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system and, bearing in mind that Japan will be acting as the Presidency of the G20 in 2019, expressed that he wanted to further cooperate with Japan.

(E) Dispute Settlement in International Trade

The WTO dispute settlement system is a quasi-judicial system among WTO Members for resolving disputes regarding the WTO Agreements in accordance with the dispute settlement procedures. It serves as a pillar in providing security and predictability to the WTO system. Japan has been involved as a party in the following cases:

The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s import bans on Japanese fishery products: A panel was established in September 2015. In February 2018, a panel report finding the ROK's measures are inconsistent with the WTO Agreement was circulated. In April 2018, the ROK, dissatisfied with the panel's report, appealed to the Appellate Body. The Appellate Body proceedings are currently under way.

Brazil's measures concerning taxation: A panel was established in September 2015. In August 2017, a panel report that found inconsistencies of Brazil's measures with the WTO Agreement was circulated. In September 2017, Brazil, dissatisfied with the panel report, appealed to the Appellate Body. The Appellate Body's proceedings are currently under way. In December 2018, a report by the Appellate Body finding that Brazil's measures are inconsistent with the WTO Agreement was circulated.

The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s measures imposing anti-dumping duties on pneumatic valves produced in Japan: A panel was established in

July 2016. In April 2018, a panel report finding the ROK's measures are inconsistent with the WTO Agreement was circulated. In May 2018, Japan appealed to the Appellate Body regarding several points in the panel report, and in June 2018 the ROK, dissatisfied with the panel's report, also appealed to the Appellate Body. The Appellate Body proceedings are currently under way.

India's safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products: A panel was established in April 2017. In November 2018, a panel report that found inconsistencies of India's measures with the WTO Agreement was circulated. India, dissatisfied with the panel's report, appealed to the Appellate Body in December 2018. The Appellate Body proceedings are currently under way.

The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s anti-dumping duties measures for stainless steel bars produced in Japan: A panel was established in October 2018. The panel's proceedings are currently under way.

The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s measures affecting trade in commercial vessels: In December 2018, Japan held bilateral talks with the ROK under the WTO Agreement.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

(A) Features

The OECD is the "world's largest think tank" covering a wide range of economic and social fields such as macro economy, trade and investment, agriculture, industry, environment, science and technology. The OECD makes policy recommendations and forms international norms including through discussions at relevant committees. Japan acceded to the OECD in 1964 as the first non-European and non-American country. Since then, Japan has been actively engaged in the OECD initiatives through discussions at relevant committees as well as through contributions in terms of financial and human resources.

(B) Visit by OECD Secretary-General Gurria to Japan

During the visit by Secretary-General Gurria to Japan in April 2018, he had meetings with Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Kono, and other high-level officials. They reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system, as well as the importance of the future membership of Southeast Asian countries. They also affirmed cooperation toward the 2019 G20, of which Japan was to be its presidency. Secretary-General Gurria also attended the Seminar on Promoting Quality Infrastructure and emphasized the importance of promoting cooperation with Japan for spreading international standards on high quality infrastructure.

(C) The 2018 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting

The OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) was held in May, chaired by France and under the theme of "Reshaping the foundations of multilateralism." At the MCM, Japan emphasized fighting protectionism, the importance of maintaining and strengthening free and open trade and investment, and developing quality infrastructure with open and fair access. Japan contributed to discussions in the OECD, as exemplified by the incorporation of its views into the outcome documents. Additionally, the membership of Lithuania and Colombia was decided, and Thailand's Country Program⁴ was officially launched. Furthermore, the member countries expressed their expectations for the G20 in 2019, confirming the importance of the collaboration between the OECD and the G20.

(D) Initiatives in Various Sectors

For the issue of steel excess capacity, following the G20 Summit held in Hangzhou, China in 2016, the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) was established with the participation of China, which accounts for approximately half of the global production volume of crude steel. The Forum adopted a report summarizing concrete policy solutions at the 1st Ministerial Meeting in November 2017 (Berlin, Germany), and then in September 2018 at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting (Paris, France), and compiled a report on the achievements that each country had made. Since December 2018, Japan, as the Presidency of the G20, has assumed the role of Chair of the Forum, exerting strong leadership toward and playing an active role for resolving this issue.

Furthermore, regarding excessive tax avoidance strategies, by multinational enterprises, the "Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project" was launched in 2012. The BEPS Final Reports were released in 2015. Based on the report, in November 2016, the Multinational Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to prevent BEPS was adopted. 67 countries and jurisdictions, including Japan, signed the Convention in June 2017, and in July 2018, the Convention came into effect for the five countries which had in advance deposited letters of acceptance. As of December 2018, 83 countries/jurisdictions have signed, and 17 countries/jurisdictions have concluded. The Convention came into force for Japan on January 1, 2019 after deposition of an instrument of acceptance in September 2018.

(E) Strengthening Relations with Asia

In view of the growing importance of Southeast Asia as a center for the growth of the global economy, OECD places importance on strengthening relations with the region. At the first Ministerial Conference of the Southeast Asia Regional Programme, held in Tokyo in March 2018, discussions regarding "connectivity" and inclusive "participation" (human resource development, education and skills, gender, small and medium size enterprises, etc.) were held under the theme of

⁴ A framework to support specific non-member countries to participate in OECD standards and practices in strategic areas in the medium- and long-term, based on the development plans of each target country.

"Inclusive ASEAN." From Japan, Foreign Minister Kono attended and stressed Japan's determination to promote cooperation through this program in view of future OECD membership from Southeast Asia.

(F) Contributions in Terms of Financial and Human Resources

Japan was the second largest financial contributor to the OECD after the U.S. in 2017, covering 9.37% of the OECD's mandatory contributions (Part I Budget). Moreover, Japanese nationals have successively served as the Deputy Secretary General (currently Deputy Secretary-General Masamichi Kono), the second-highest position at the OECD Secretariat. Japan and Germany are the largest contributors (2018) to the OECD Development Centre and a Japanese national has been serving as a Deputy Director (Deputy Director Naoko Ueda) of the centre. As described above, Japan supports the OECD through contributions in terms of financial and human resources.

(3) Initiatives in International Meetings (G7 and G20 Summits, APEC, etc.)

A G7 and G20

G7 and G20 Summits continue to play an essential role in providing an opportunity to show Japan's own efforts to the international community and to form a global economic order desirable for Japan.

(A) G7 Charlevoix Summit (Canada)

In the context of the deepening interdependence of the global economy, anxiety and dissatisfaction with regards to globalization are giving rise to the temptation toward protectionist movements, sometimes causing conflicts of interest between countries, the G7 Charlevoix Summit, held in June 2018, confirmed the promotion of a rule-based international order, continuation of fighting against protectionism, and the importance of

the rule-based international trading system, and agreed on various measures to promote level playing field. Prime Minister Abe strongly urged the G7, which shares universal values as a driving force in the international community, to play an even more important role and lead discussions on trade, innovation and employment, and North Korea.

- ①Regarding trade, there were discussions mainly on free and fair trade, improvement of WTO functions, and market-distorting measures such as non-tariff barriers and industrial subsidies.
- ②Regarding innovation and employment, the leaders shared an awareness of the problem of how to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth while the new technology advances
- ③Regarding the situation surrounding North Korea, Prime Minister Abe led the discussions and the leaders agreed on the necessity to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all of its weapons of mass destruction (WMD), ballistic missiles, as well as its related facilities by North Korea, to call for full implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) by North Korea to this end, and to urge North Korea to take concrete actions. Moreover, support was expressed to Prime Minister Abe's call for understanding and cooperation toward an immediate resolution of the abductions issue, the most important issue of all.
- Regarding gender, cross-disciplinary discussions including the perspective of gender were



2018 G7 Charlevoix Summit (June 8, Charlevoix, Canada; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Special Feature

G20 Osaka Summit - Hosting the G20 Summit for the first time

Japan is hosting the G20 Summit for the first time on June 28 to 29, 2019. This Special Feature introduces what the G20 is and what Japan's priority issues are ahead of the G20 Osaka Summit.

The G20 Summit is officially known as the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy. It is an international meeting held annually with participation by leaders of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UK, the U.S., and the EU. Besides the G20 leaders, heads



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with President Macri of Argentina at the closing ceremony of the G20 Buenos Aires Summit (December 1, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of invited guest countries and representatives of invited guest international organizations also participate in the Summit every year.

The host country of the G20 Summit leads the group over the course of one year from December through the following November as the G20 presidency. The G20 presidency also organizes relevant ministerial and working group meetings.

The G20 has aimed to promote the strong growth of the global economy as the "premier forum for international economic cooperation," representing more than 80% of the global GDP. As globalization progresses and various issues become more intricately intertwined, the recent G20 Summits have focused not only on macroeconomy and trade, but also on a wide range of global issues which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees. The G20 has sought to realize an inclusive and sustainable world through its contributions toward resolving these global issues.

At the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan is determined to lead global economic growth by promoting free trade and innovation, achieving both economic growth and reduction of disparities, and contributing to the development agenda and other global issues with the SDGs at its core. Through these efforts, Japan seeks to realize and promote a free and open, inclusive and sustainable society.

In addition, we will lead discussions on the supply of global commons for realizing global growth such as quality infrastructure and global health. As the presidency, we will exert strong leadership in discussions aimed toward resolving global issues such as climate change and ocean plastic waste.

Furthermore, we will discuss how to address the digital economy from an institutional perspective and issues that arise from an aging society. We will introduce Japan's efforts, including the productivity revolution amid a "Society 5.0" era, toward achieving a society where all individuals are actively engaged.

There will be many delegations and journalists from all over the world who will be visiting Japan on the occasion of the Osaka Summit and these ministerial meetings. We will take this as an opportunity to exhibit Japan's "Omotenashi" spirit (hospitality) and introduce the unique aspects and attractiveness of Japan and the host cities to the world.

- conducted on all topics, and gender mainstreaming was further accelerated following the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, etc.
- (5) Regarding climate change, these were discussions that it is important for the international community to advance the realization of a low-carbon society, in addition to emissions reductions, and that these are not negative for the economy but could go along with growth. In addition the view was presented that they intend to cooperate toward implementation of the Paris Agreement and realization of a circular economy.
- ®Regarding the ocean, active exchanges of opinions were held on the topic of building resilient coasts, strengthening the health of the oceans, and addressing ocean plastic waste. Prime Minister Abe insisted that the knowledge accumulated about disaster risk reduction be used for the people of the world, and that it is necessary to cope with marine debris as a global issue, including developing countries.

(B) G20 Buenos Aires Summit (Argentina)

At the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, held from November to December 2018 and under the main theme of "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development," the leaders held frank exchanges of views and the Buenos Aires Leaders' Declaration was adopted in the face of risks such as the growing tension in trade relations and the vulnerability of emerging economies.

In adopting the Buenos Aires Leaders' Declaration, Japan led the discussion among leaders as the Lead Speaker at the retreat⁵ and the session on global economy, and spoke in all sessions. Through the summit meetings and preparatory meetings with each country, Japan as the following G20 presidency had been actively engaged in coordinating different positions and views within the G20 based on the flow of the discussion, and contributed significantly to



2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit (November 30, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

sending the G20's unified strong message through adopting the Leaders' Declaration.

The main points in the Leaders' Declaration were as follows:

- ①Work together to improve a rules-based international order.
- ②Recognize the contribution that the multilateral trading system has made and support the necessary reform of the WTO. Confirm progress at the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit. Also, call on all members to implement the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) recommendations and commitments (e.g., removal of market-distorting support measures).
- ③Support the free flow of information and continue to work on AI and other emerging technologies.
- ①Look forward to progress in 2019 on quality infrastructure. Take steps to address debt vulnerabilities in low income countries and work toward enhancing debt transparency and sustainability.
- ⑤Promote women's empowerment by reducing gender differences in labor participation rates and expanding participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- ⑥Work on addressing anti-microbial resistance (AMR), realizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and strengthening capacities for response to public health emergencies.
 - At the closing session, Prime Minister Abe

assumed the G20 presidency from President Macri of Argentina, and stated his enthusiasm to discuss simultaneously achieving economic growth and addressing disparities, promoting the realization of an inclusive and sustainable future society, advancing the discussion toward a human-centered society in which all stakeholders play an active role by utilizing AI, etc., and in addition his desire to discuss quality infrastructure, global health, climate change, marine plastics, etc.

B Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC is a framework of economic cooperation in which 21 economies (countries and regions) in the Asia-Pacific region participate. The Asia-Pacific region is the "world's growth center", accounting for about 40% of the world's population, about 50% of trade volume, and about 60% of GDP. APEC, in order to liberalize and facilitate trade and investment in the region, conducts activities such as promoting regional economic integration, implementing high-quality growth strategies, and enhancing economic and technical cooperation. The Asia-Pacific region, which thrives by liberalizing trade and investment and strengthening connectivity in accordance

with international rules, is the core of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" that Japan has been promoting. Japan's contributions to APEC's development are of great significance to Japan's own economic growth and development and to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

In 2018, Papua New Guinea chaired APEC for the first time, and the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was held from November 17 to 18 in its capital, Port Moresby. At the Meeting, under the overall theme of "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future," there were discussions on the three priorities of (1) increasing connectivity and deepening regional economic integration, (2) promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, and (3) strengthening inclusive growth through structural reform. Prime Minister Abe attended the meeting and regarded the TPP11 Agreement as the basis of 21st-century rules for trade and investment, and stated that he would aim for early conclusion of the RCEP. He also emphasized the importance of the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its center, and pointed out that the WTO reform should be supported by APEC. In this way, ahead of Japan's presidency of the G20 in 2019 and as a standard-

Key points of "The Chair's Era Kone Statement" for the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

| The Statement of The Chair reflects the chair's assessment of the prevailing views of all APEC member economies. | |
|--|--|
| | Key points of the Chair's statement |
| Embracing the Digital Future | Recognize the increasing benefits of the <u>digital economy</u> Emphasize the importance of <u>enabling the free flow of information and data, recognizing legitimate domestic public policy objectives</u> |
| Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration | Urge to advance trade in the region in a free, fair, and open manner Welcome the progress of quality infrastructure initiatives Welcome progress to date to implement the Lima Declaration on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), and urge further progress to enhance APEC economise ability Recognize the contributions of the multilateral trading system Work together in order to improve the functioning of the WTO |
| Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth | Emphasize the importance of improving the business environment for <u>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</u> (<u>MSMEs</u>) and of the <u>empowerment of women and girls</u> , and welcome the implementation of further initiatives |
| Structural Reform | Recognize the importance of <u>structural reform</u> |
| Looking Forward | Thank the APEC Business Advisory Council (<u>ABAC</u>) for its advice and support Look forward to meeting again in <u>Chile in 2019</u> |
| Annex: The APEC Action Agenda on the Digital Economy | |



Public and Private Partnership in Japan's Economic Diplomacy – Example from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Hideaki Omiya, Chairman of the Board at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

Have you heard of the APEC Business Advisory Committee (ABAC)? ABAC is APEC's only official private advisory group, composed of representatives from the business world nominated by the leaders of the 21 economies (countries and regions) participating in APEC. In Japan, there are three members¹ including myself, who were nominated by Prime Minister Abe. ABAC discusses priority business challenges at four meetings a year and submits policy recommendations to APEC leaders each year. In 2018, we deepened the discussion on the theme "Digitization and Innovation" at the meetings held in New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

By obtaining widespread support from the Government of Japan, economic organizations, and relevant companies, the conference held in Japan in April 2018 was the first to be held in Tokyo in 11 years, with more than 200 people attending.

On this occasion, working in cooperation with East Japan Railway Company, we guided the ABAC members to the Tokyo Shinkansen (bullet train) Rolling Stock Center and Tokyo Station, and had a tour of shinkansen vehicles. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism gave an explanation of the shinkansen system's safety, reliability, life-cycle cost, and contribution to economic development. It was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of Japan's high-quality infrastructure. After that, with Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., we provided a tour of the Marunouchi area, and introduced initiatives of public-private partnership for sustainable development.

In addition, at the "Women's Luncheon (Lunch Session on Women's Economic Participation)" hosted by the economy (country and region) where the conference was held, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment Seiko Noda introduced the efforts and results of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Japan. In the panel discussion that followed, which explored the theme of "women's empowerment in STEM2," we had Vice Chair of the Board of Councilors at Keidanren Haruno Yoshida, astronaut Naoko Yamazaki, co-founder of H2L Inc. Emi Tamaki and Head of the OECD Tokyo Centre Yumi Murakami conducting active discussions on the proliferation of role models and the encouragement of male cooperation. This event attracted interest from committee members of economies (countries and regions) who face issues in women's active participation in this area, while Japan's efforts were highly praised too.

Every fall at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, ABAC members are given the opportunity to propose policies directly to the heads of each economy (country and region) during the ABAC Dialogue with APEC Leaders. In 2018, the Economic Leaders' Meeting took place in Papua New Guinea, the chair economy. As the facilitator for Prime Minister Abe, I attended along with a group of leaders from countries that included Malaysia, Singapore, and Mexico, and exchanged views on supporting the multilateral trade system and developing policies for the digital age.

We intend to continue to cooperate with the Government of Japan, economic organizations, and relevant businesses to make policy recommendations for boosting Japanese industry.



Women's Luncheon (April, Tokyo; Photo: ABAC)



Dialogue between ABAC members and APEC leaders (November, Papua New Guinea-Port Moresby; Photo: ABAC)

Note: All job titles are as of the time this column was written.

¹ ABAC Japan members: Hideaki Omiya, Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., Motomu Takahashi, Counselor at Mitsui & Co., Ltd., and Nobuhide Hayashi, Chairman of Mizuho Bank, Ltd. Alternate member: Koji Hasegawa, Executive Corporate Adviser at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (as of December 2018, order of appointment).

² Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics



2018 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea (November 18, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (Representative photo); Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

bearer of free trade, he declared that Japan would actively contribute to the prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, which is the "world's growth center." Furthermore, emphasizing the importance of promoting quality infrastructure for enhancing connectivity, Japan, as a proponent of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and organizer of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM), announced that it would secure and strengthen Japan's presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the process of drafting of the Leaders' Declaration, there was no convergence of views on issues such as on support for the multilateral trading system and the fight against protectionism, the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was the first time since 1993 that a Leaders' Declaration was not adopted, and the Chair's Statement was issued reflecting the Chair's assessment of the prevailing views of all APEC economies. Nonetheless, the Chair's statement, issued on November 23 includes Japan's priorities such as the contributions made by the multilateral trading system, improving the functioning of the WTO, advancing a free, fair, and open trade, and quality infrastructure.

Chile will host APEC in 2019.

(4) Intellectual Property

Strengthening the protections of intellectual property is extremely important for the promotion of technological innovation, and eventually for the development of the economy. Japan has actively participated in multilateral consultations, such as APEC, the WTO (TRIPS Council), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and is working to develop an environment to ensure that Japanese intellectual property is appropriately protected and utilized overseas. As part of that, in October 2018. Japan deposited its instrument of accession for the "Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled" to the WIPO, and the Treaty came into force in Japan in January 2019. For EPAs as well, Japan strives to establish regulations on intellectual property rights and thereby to ensure the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property. The Japan-EU EPA came into force on February 1, 2019, and the TPP11 came into force on December 30, 2018, and both incorporate contents on further promotion of the protection and use of intellectual property. Moreover, MOFA, for the purpose of rapidly and efficiently providing assistance for Japanese companies that have suffered from counterfeit and pirated goods, appoints Intellectual Property Officers at almost all of the diplomatic missions overseas, so that they can advise Japanese companies and make inquiries with or requests to their counterpart governments. Japan is also engaged in efforts to improve the capacity of government employees in developing countries to counter the spread of counterfeit and pirated goods, and to strengthen the protection of intellectual property, such as by dispatching experts through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

⁶ Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

- Support for Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion in Promoting Public and Private Partnerships
 - (1) Promotion of Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Accompanying Diplomatic Missions Overseas

The number of branches for Japanese companies holding overseas branches has increased in recent years, reaching 75,5317 as of October 2017. One of the reasons behind this is that many Japanese companies, which underpin the economic development of Japan, have embarked more actively than ever before on expansion overseas, with the aim of further cultivating foreign markets. To incorporate vigorous economic growth abroad, mainly in Asia, into the Japanese economy, support for Japanese companies by the Government has become more important.

In light of this situation, MOFA is actively engaged, alongside the diplomatic missions overseas, in supporting Japanese companies in their efforts to expand their businesses overseas. At the diplomatic missions overseas, all staff, including those responsible for Japanese business support, provide Japanese companies with information, and lobby foreign governments under the leadership of ambassadors and consuls-general, with the aim of providing meticulous and specific support that corresponds with the conditions in the respective regions, and under the motto of being an "open and responsive government office." They also offer information through seminars and consultations, etc. about local legal systems. In FY2018, these were provided at 18 diplomatic missions in 11 countries, with a focus on Asia.

Among the activities implemented at diplomatic missions overseas in addition to consultations about business problems, the promotion and publicity of the "Japan Brand" for products, technologies, services, and agricultural, forestry, and fishery products by Japanese companies at receptions to celebrate the Emperor's birthday and various other events and exhibitions, also forms an important part of their support for Japanese companies. They actively offer the embassies and official residences of the Ambassadors as publicity and advertising spaces for Japanese companies to hold product exhibitions or local governments to hold local products exhibitions and food-tasting events, as spaces for conducting seminars on business expansion, and as spaces for exchanges with local companies and the relevant organizations. A wide range of publicity activities are being implemented, from countries that already have a strong affinity with Japan, to countries that have not had much contact with Japan until now.

From the perspective of public-private cooperation and support for companies, it is important not only to support Japanese businesses which are seeking to expand their businesses overseas, but also to support those which already have business interests overseas. In June 2016, the UK held a national referendum on whether to remain or leave the EU, and on March 29, 2019, Britain was to leave the EU. As actions taken by the UK and the EU and the results of their negotiations could have a significant impact on Japanese businesses and the global economy, the Government of Japan launched the Government Task-force regarding the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU8, chaired by

⁷ MOFA "The Statistics on the Japanese Nationals Residing Overseas"

⁸ The Government Task Force regarding the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU, chaired by Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda, was established in July 2016. It compiled concerns and requests of the business community, especially Japanese businesses operating in Europe, through the relevant Ministries and Agencies (the Cabinet Office, Financial Services Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, and the Personal Information Protection Commission Secretariat). 11 meetings (including opinion exchanges with businesses) have so far been held (the 1st meeting was held on July 27, 2016, the 2nd on August 18, the 3rd on September 2, the 4th on January 19, 2017, the 5th on March 30, the 6th on August 28, the 7th on December 18, the 8th on March 26, 2018, and opinion exchanges with businesses on May 29, the 9th on September 12, and the 10th on November 26).

the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, in July 2016. Information was consolidated across all sectors of the government, and Japan's message to the UK and the EU9 was summarized at the third meeting of the Task-force, and efforts have been made to urge the UK and the EU to work on the issue. The Task-force has held 12 meetings so far and in May 2018 conducted an exchange of views, based on the withdrawal negotiations between the UK and the EU, between business people associated with the food, pharmaceutical, electrical and electronic, automotive, railway, nuclear power, telecommunication, finance, and information industries.

(2) Promotion of Overseas Business Expansion of Japanese Infrastructure System

In order to respond to infrastructure demands mainly in emerging countries and promote infrastructure exports by Japanese companies, a "Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation," consisting of relevant cabinet ministers with the Chief Cabinet Secretary serving as chair, was established in 2013 and a total of 41 meetings have been held (as of February 2019). In addition to discussions on the revisions to and follow-ups of the annual "Strategy for Exporting Infrastructure Systems," discussions are also held on issues in the respective fields as well as issues in specific regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus and soft infrastructure (35th meeting) and disaster prevention (40th meeting).

The first edition of the Infrastructure System Export Strategy was drawn up in May 2013, and the revised edition for 2018, in addition to strengthening the competitiveness of Japanese

companies, taking into account international contributions from quality infrastructure, further expanding business investment, etc., sets out guidelines to promote specific policies based on the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy," under the four pillars of (1) strengthening the competitiveness between public and private sectors, (2) international contributions by promoting quality infrastructure, (3) expansion of infrastructure investment utilizing Japanese technology and knowledge, and (4) efforts for a wide range of infrastructure.

Japan has also been driving forward the dynamic development of trade promotion by the Government, and systemic improvements aimed at the strategic use of ODA loans and overseas loans and investments, and has steadily produced results. As a result, at the Japan-Ecuador Summit Meeting in September 2018, the Inter-American Development Bank exchanged a letter regarding loan aid assistance for a total amount of up to 70 million US dollars to promote energy savings and expansion and enhancement of the power distribution network in Ecuador. In addition, at the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October, with both leaders present, results have steadily been achieved, such as a high-speed railway construction project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad (second phase) and six others, and an exchange of letters for an ODA loan of a total amount of up to 310 billion yen.

Furthermore, with regard to diplomatic missions overseas, MOFA has appointed "officers in charge of Infrastructure Projects," who gather and consolidate information on infrastructure projects, in the diplomatic missions overseas in countries of focus (192 personnel, at 94 diplomatic missions overseas in 73 countries as of the end of February

⁹ The main points of Japan's message to the UK and the EU are as follows: (1) Japan expects to continue cooperating and collaborating closely for the peace, stability and prosperity of the UK, the EU and the international community, (2) Japan expects the maintenance of an open Europe with its free trade system, and an agreement in principle on the Japan-EU EPA during the year, (3) Japan requests securing of predictability in the Brexit negotiations through an uninterrupted and transparent process, (4) Japan requests the UK and the EU to heed the voices of Japanese businesses to the fullest extent and to do their utmost to cooperate in taking the necessary measures, and (5) Japan would like to cooperate with the UK and the EU so that the process of negotiations for the UK's withdrawal will not cause a major disturbance to the world economy.

2019). This initiative has also proven to produce results.

(3) Promotion of the Export of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Food

The Government of Japan has set a goal of expanding the value of the export of Japanese agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food to 1 trillion yen by 2019 ("Economic Measures for Realizing Investment for the Future" (Cabinet decision, August 2016)). MOFA, in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies. Japanese companies, local governments, etc., and by utilizing the function and facilities of diplomatic missions, unique connections, etc. all over the world, is energetically promoting the attractiveness of Japanese products. In particular, Japanese business support officers (in charge of the food industry) have been assigned to 58 diplomatic missions overseas in 54 countries and regions to strengthen initiatives to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and food.

Although eight years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Dajichi Nuclear Power Plant, some countries and regions have continued to place import restrictions on Japanese agricultural and fishery products and food. MOFA is requesting these countries and regions to consider the abolition of import restrictions as soon as possible based on scientific evidence, by providing them with timely and accurate information and using WTO frameworks in collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies. MOFA is also working hard to disseminate information about the safety of Japanese food products in countries and regions around the world, with the aim of dispelling harmful rumors about Japanese agricultural, forestry, and fishery products as well as food products.

As a result of these efforts, import restrictions

were lifted in Turkey (February), New Caledonia (French overseas territory) (July), and Brazil (August) in 2018. So far, 29 countries and regions have removed their import restrictions (Canada, Myanmar, Serbia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Guinea, New Zealand, Colombia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Viet Nam, Iraq, Australia, Thailand, Bolivia, India, Kuwait, Nepal, Iran, Mauritius, Qatar, Ukraine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, and the three countries/territory mentioned above). In addition, restrictions were eased in 2018 by the U.S., Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China, and the number of regions and items subject to import restrictions are on the decline (as of the end of November 2018).

MOFA will continue persistent efforts, collaborating with relevant ministries and agencies, etc., to urge countries and regions which maintain their import restrictions to remove restrictions as soon as possible and to dispel reputational damage, by taking every opportunity to work persistently and disseminate information.

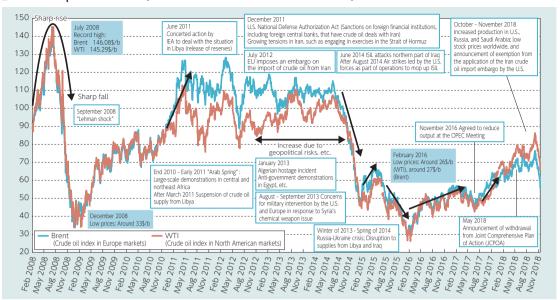
- Promoting Resource Diplomacy along with Foreign Direct Investment in Japan
- (1) Securing a Stable Supply of Energy and Mineral Resources at Reasonable Prices

Current Situation of Energy and Mineral Resources in Japan and Abroad

(A) Situation in the World

In recent years there have been three structural changes in the international energy market: (1) demand (consumption), (2) supply (production), and (3) resource selection. Regarding (1) demand, the proportion of OECD member countries in the world's primary energy demand has decreased and the weight of world energy consumption has shifted to non-OECD member countries such as China and India. Regarding (2) supply, the U.S. became the world's largest producer of both oil and natural gas due to the "Shale Revolution," and lifted its ban on crude oil exports in December

Crude oil prices trends (December 2007 - November 2018)



2015. The U.S. made energy a key issue, and is promoting energy export policies such as by announcing the promotion of further exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG). Production of shale oil and gas is expected to remain high due to productivity improvements and cost reductions through technical innovation. Regarding (3) resource selection, based on the fact that energy production and use account for about two-thirds of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the move toward transition to cleaner energy sources, such as renewable energy, is accelerating. Additionally, since the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in December 2015, efforts by companies on low carbonization and decarbonization have been further advancing.

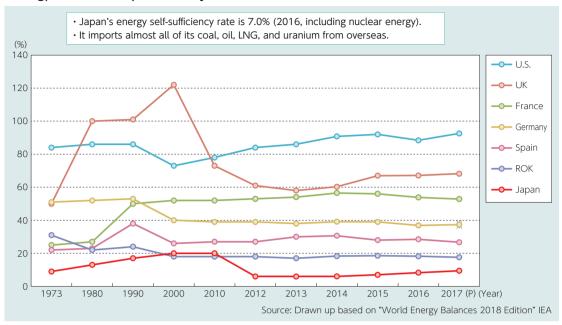
Crude oil prices started to fall since the second half of 2014 mainly because of the economic slowdown in China and other economies, increased production of non-OPEC member countries such as shale oil production in the U.S., and oversupply due to robust production in OPEC member countries. Prices remained low and temporarily broke 30 US dollars/barrel in 2016. Following the continuation of low oil prices due to oversupply, OPEC member countries and other

major non-OPEC member oil producers such as Russia agreed to a coordinated reduction in crude oil output at the end of 2016 at the OPEC Meeting, and oil prices rose in the second half of 2016 and in 2017, remaining around 50 US dollars/barrel. After that, despite the increase in crude oil production volume in the U.S., oil prices have gradually risen and have been hovering around 70 US dollars/ barrel since September 2018 because impacts of the worsening production decline in Venezuela and concerns about the decline in crude oil exports due to U.S. sanctions against Iran (started November 2018) on the supply-demand balance have been considered, and geopolitical tensions such as in the Middle East due to trade frictions have escalated. At the same time, however, there is also a downward trend as demand is expected to decline due to the possibility of an economic slowdown from U.S.-China trade frictions, etc., and it is important to continue to pay attention to the impact of these oil price fluctuations on future energy security.

(B) Situation in Japan

In Japan, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the percentage of fossil fuels increased and

Energy self-sufficiency rate in major countries



reached about 90% of power generation in 2012 from about 65% before the earthquake (about 80% in 2017), due to the shutdown of nuclear power plants. In particular, the share of LNG is increasing, and although the deployment of renewable energy and the restart of nuclear power plants are gradually progressing, the percentage of LNG power generation has reached about 40%. At the same time, Japan's primary energy selfsufficiency ratio (including nuclear power), which relies on imports from overseas for almost all of its oil, natural gas, coal, etc., dropped sharply from 20% before the earthquake to 6.4% in 2014. It remains at a low level despite picking up to 8.3% in FY2016. In addition, nearly 90% of crude oil and more than 20% of natural gas imported by Japan come from the Middle East (both in 2018). Under these circumstances, efforts to secure a stable supply of energy at reasonable prices are becoming increasingly important.

Against this background, in July 2018, the Cabinet decided on the "5th Strategic Energy Plan," aiming to contribute to the sustainable development of the world as well as further development of the Japanese economic society

and improvements in people's lives through a long-term, stable, sustainable, and self-reliant energy supply. Under the principle of 3E+S ("Energy Security," "Economic Efficiency," "Environment," and "Safety"), and in order to realize a stable, low-burden, and environmentally compatible energy supply and demand structure, this new Plan includes efforts aimed at utilizing renewable energy as the major power source and at promoting energy system reform. It aims the steady realization of the energy mix in order to reduce greenhouse gases by 26% in FY2030 (compared to FY2013).

Diplomatic Efforts to Secure a Stable Supply of Energy and Mineral Resources at Reasonable Prices

Securing a stable supply of energy and mineral resources at reasonable prices forms the foundation for the vital economy of Japan and the livelihoods of its people. Japan has been strengthening diplomatic efforts, focusing on the following activities.

(A) Gathering and Analysis of Resource-Related Information at the Diplomatic Missions Overseas

With a view to strengthening the function of the diplomatic missions overseas, as of December 2018, "Special Assistants for Natural Resources" have been appointed to 60 diplomatic missions overseas in a total of 53 countries to work intensively on the acquisition and stable supply of energy and mineral resources. Furthermore, MOFA holds "Strategy Meetings on Natural Resources" every year, which bring together officials who are assigned to the diplomatic missions overseas in countries that are important in terms of ensuring a stable supply of energy and mineral resources. In 2018, the Meeting was held in Tokyo in February, and was also attended by representatives of the relevant ministries and private-sector agencies. Active discussions were held on the international situation surrounding energy and mineral resources, as well as on the direction of Japan's strategies corresponding to the international situation.

(B) Securing Transportation Route Safety

There have been threats posed by piracy along the sea lane stretching from the Middle East to Japan, through which approximately 90% of the total oil imports to Japan passes, and along other internationally important sea lanes such as those off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. With this in mind, Japan has supported the coastal countries through such measures as enhancing counter-piracy capacities, cooperating information sharing among countries concerned, and developing navigation facilities. Japan has also been dispatching units of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Japanese Coast Guard officers to the areas off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden to be engaged in escort operations for any country's commercial ships.

(C) Making Use of International Fora and Rules

Japan makes active use of international fora

and rules to cooperate with the international community toward securing a stable supply of energy. Japan endeavors to strengthen its capability to respond to emergencies such as disruptions in oil supply, while striving to quickly and accurately grasp information, such as trends in the global energy markets and resource-producing countries, and revisions to the medium-and long-term outlooks for supply and demand.

In September 2018, the G7 Energy Ministers' Meeting was held in Halifax (Canada) under the theme of "Building the Energy Systems of Tomorrow (BEST)," with discussions aimed at strengthening energy security, ensuring sustainable economic growth with the energy system, and realizing the future of low-carbon energy. The Chair's summary was issued by Canada as the G7 Presidency in 2018.

At the G20 Energy Ministers Meeting held in San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentina) in June, Ministers addressed issues such as renewable energy, energy security and energy access under the theme of energy transitions considering national circumstances, based on changes in the global energy situation. The G20 Energy Ministers Communiqué was issued as the Meeting's outcome document.

At APEC, the meetings of the APEC Energy Working Group (EWG) have been convened as a framework to promote energy trade and investment while strengthening energy security, so as to contribute to the sustainable economic growth of the Asia-Pacific region. In 2018, the 55th EWG meeting was held in Hong Kong in May, and the 56th EWG meeting was held in Peru in November. Japan participated actively in both meetings.

As for ASEAN-related matters, the ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, Republic of Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting and the East Asia Summit (EAS) Energy Ministers Meeting were held in Singapore in October. At the 2018 meeting, a common understanding to build an LNG market in Asia and a new approach for realizing a hydrogen

society and decarbonizing the transport sector were proposed.

Major Efforts for Energy and Resource Diplomacy in 2018

(A) Consideration and Launch of New Energy and Resource Foreign Policy

At the Eighth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in January 2018, Foreign Minister Kono was the first Minister for Foreign Affairs from Japan to attend the IRENA Assembly, and he gave a policy speech entitled "Renewable Energy Diplomacy of Japan - Climate Change and Future Energy." In this speech, Foreign Minister Kono stated that Japan will contribute to the world through technology and innovation as the era of renewable energy comes and that Japan will support countries in a vulnerable position. He also mentioned the international dissemination of "The Fukushima Plan for a New Energy Society." On that basis, he appreciated IRENA, which has contributed to the issue of climate change and promoted renewable energy, and indicated that Japan will continue to support IRENA's activities.

Furthermore, in July, Foreign Minister Kono made the policy speech entitled "Evolving Energy Diplomacy – Energy Transition and the Future of Japan" on the occasion of MOFA's International Symposium "Energy Transition and Energy



Foreign Minister Kono giving a speech at the Eighth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly (January 14, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)

Security in Asia." (Represented by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto). In the speech, he expressed the intention to promote energy diplomacy in response to the global energy situation and energy transition while international efforts toward decarbonization are in full swing as the Paris Agreement comes into force and the major changes in both supply and demand are in progress.

(B) Holding Strategy Meeting on Natural Resources

For three days in 2018 from February 19 to February 21, the "Strategy Meeting on Natural Resources" was held at MOFA, bringing together 17 officials including Special Assistants for Natural Resources posted to diplomatic missions in 17 countries which involve a stable supply of energy and mineral resources for Japan. In addition to MOFA Headquarters officials including State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto, the aforementioned 17 foreign mission officials and officials from relevant Ministries participated along with people from various organizations and private business as well as experts, deepening debate on issues and measures for promoting a stable supply of resources in Japan and energy and resource diplomacy.

At the meeting, bearing in mind the policy speech given by Foreign Minister Kono at the Eighth IRENA Assembly in January 2018, the "Report on the 2018 Strategy Meetings on Natural Resources" was compiled, laying out six concrete and specific efforts by Japan: (1) reaffirm that securing the stable supply of energy and resources to Japan is the first proposition, (2) show the world Japan's willingness to contribute to global energy security as a whole, (3) conduct energy diplomacy that transforms Japan's technology into competitiveness of Japanese companies in the global market, (4) realize organized linkage between renewable energy diplomacy and climate change diplomacy,

(5) position "energy and resource diplomacy" as the vertical axis of diplomatic strategies, and (6) strengthen multi-layered cooperation with international organizations including contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(C) Conducting a Fukushima Study Tour for the Diplomatic Mission in Tokyo

On November 1, 2018, MOFA organized a Study Tour to Fukushima Prefecture for the Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo in cooperation with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima City, Koriyama City, and the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. This Study Tour comprised site visits to the Fukushima Renewable Energy Institute, AIST (FREA), a geothermal plant in Tsuchiyu Onsen in Fukushima City and other facilities.

A total of 10 personnel from embassies in 10 countries participated in this study tour, and the participating diplomats visited advanced research facilities on hydrogen, solar power, wind power, geothermal power and geothermal heat utilization at FREA, deepening their understanding of Japan's most advanced technologies and research and development. Afterwards, participants took part in a seminar on geothermal power generation held at the FREA site to deepen their understanding of Japan's efforts in this field.

(2) Ensuring Food Security

According to reports by the UN Population Division, global population in 2017 is estimated to be about 7.6 billion. However, the global population is expected to increase mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia in the future, and to reach about 9.8 billion by 2050. Furthermore, as an increase in consumption of livestock will trigger a big surge in demand for grains, demand for feed for livestock will also increase rapidly in tandem with the rise in the amount of livestock consumed, should dietary habits in developing countries

change in the future. According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2017, there is a need to increase food production by approximately 50% by 2050, against food production levels in 2012. On the other hand, if we were to turn our eyes to the domestic situation in Japan, while the country's food self-sufficiency rate (calorie basis (published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)) has been on a downward trend in the long-term, it has been levelling out in recent years, and reached 38% in FY2017. Japan continues to be dependent on the import of much of its food over the long-term; in order for Japan to avoid the problem of food supply shortage, it needs to increase domestic food production, and at the same time, actively promote food production worldwide in order to ensure the stability of imports. In the event that global food supply falls short due to a large-scale drought or other factors, it is also necessary for Japan to contribute as a member of the international community, including providing support to other countries. Furthermore, rather than temporarily increasing food production amidst rising food demand, there is a need to secure the sustainability of increased food production while reducing the burden on the environment. In addition, food also suffers from quality deterioration over time, and is easily damaged by diseases and pests. As such, to ensure the efficient consumption of agricultural produce, it is necessary to create stable markets for agricultural products as well as trading systems, and to improve logistics. It is vital to consolidate Japan's food security through these efforts.

(3) Fisheries (Including Tuna and Whaling)

Japan is one of the major fishing countries and consumers of fishery products in the world and plays an active role in the proper conservation and management measures and sustainable use of living marine resources.

Regarding whaling, under the basic policy of

Japan's diplomatic efforts for Food Security

[Background] Japan's situation World's situation Increase in the world population Changes in diet caused by economic development of · 60% (in terms of calorie supply) or emerging countries Increase in bioenergy generation Climate change and frequent abnormal weather Only a few countries have export capacity 30% (in terms of production value) of food supply is imported · Challenges for production increase • Expanding volatility in food prices; agricultural products made (decrease in farmland area, aging of farmers, etc.) into financial products [Japan's Diplomatic efforts] Promote investment: Promotion of responsible agricultural investment through promoting the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and supporting research studies by FAO, the World Bank and others: establishment of food value chains by public-private partnership through holding bilateral 1. Enhance global food production dialogues and public-private missions Promoting agricultural/rural development, Research and Development and technology dissemination - Example: Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), etc. Response to climate change: Construction of prevention and early warning systems for droughts and other natural disasters Efforts to maintain and strengthen the free trade system and surveillance of market functions: Encourage acceptance of the ban on export restrictions in principle under the WTO; stricter discipline on export restrictions in economic partnership agreements; monitoring price trends (the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), etc.); measures against price volatility, etc. 2. Form a stable market and trade system of agricultural products Cooperation with international organizations: *Toward the realization of the G7 Elmau Summit (held in Germany, 2015) commitment to raising 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition was formulated at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. In addition, "G7 , World Food Programme (WFP), etc. · Nutritional support: Nutrition guidance, provision of supplements 3. Support and safety Nutrition Japan Public-Private Platform (NJPPP), net for the vulnerable International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition" was held as a follow-up to the Summit. · Support for building of social safety net: Provision of means of livelihood to the poorest 4. Constructing a structure · International framework for cooperation: for emergencies and ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), G20 Rapid Response Forum (RRF) food crises Note: FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

pursuing the resumption of commercial whaling by conducting scientific whale research programs, based upon scientific evidence and international law in order to gather scientific data that is necessary for the appropriate management of whale resources, Japan has implemented the "New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A)" since December 2015, which was finalized taking into account the Judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in March 2014 as well as issues pointed out by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Moreover, a proposal for the "New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Western North Pacific (NEWREP-NP)" was submitted to the Scientific Committee of the IWC in November 2016. The research program was

finalized in May 2017, fully taking into account IWC Scientific Committee discussions, and the research program was implemented from June 2017. Anti-whaling countries occupy the majority at the IWC, and while the international situation regarding whaling still remains difficult, Japan is making persistent efforts to deepen understanding among the international community based on scientific evidence and international law.

At the 67th Meeting of the IWC held in September 2018, Japan presented the IWC reform proposal to restore the IWC's role as a resource conservation and management organization and for achieving the coexistence of parties with different positions on whales and whaling. However, it was rejected by the majority of anti-whaling countries. It was shown once again that

it was extremely difficult to achieve coexistence of different positions within the IWC, and that anti-whaling countries have no intention to allow commercial whaling in any form.

After the 67th Meeting of the IWC and based on these circumstances, Japan seriously considered every possible option regarding its future relationship with the IWC, and decided to withdraw from the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The Government of Japan gave a notice of withdrawal to the U.S. Government, which is the depositary government (the withdrawal takes effect on June 30, 2019).

Japan, as one of the largest tuna-consumers, has joined all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) for tuna, and leads discussions on strengthening the conservation and management measures (CMM). In 2018, regarding the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the results of stock assessment evaluations on Pacific Bluefin tuna indicated that the probability of achieving the interim recovery target exceeded 75%. Although Japan proposed an increased allowance to the Northern Committee¹⁰ in accordance with the catch control rules based on the results, it did not reach an agreement as some members opposed it as premature. At the annual meeting it was decided to discuss the increased allowance again after confirming the status of resources by the next Northern Committee. On the other hand, Japan proposed a revised amendment to the Pacific Bluefin tuna conservation and management measure that any underage of the catch limit might be added to the catch limit for the following year within 5% of its annual initial catch limit, and it was adopted at the annual meeting. In addition, regarding bigeye tuna,

yellowfin tuna, and skipjack tuna, the current CMM¹¹ was reviewed at the annual meeting, and it was eventually agreed to extend the current measures by two years (2019 to 2020).

At the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) 2017 Annual Meeting, there was an agreement that the total allowable catch (TAC) of the Atlantic Bluefin tuna stock will be gradually increased from the current 23,655 tons to 36,000 tons by 2020, and at the 2018 Annual Meeting, discussions for a review of management measures for Atlantic Bluefin tuna (allocation of those yet to be allocated, relaxation of fishing season, etc.) were continued.

At the 4th Annual Session of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) held in July 2018, for Pacific Saury, it was agreed to (1) make additions to current CMM to prevent discards and encourage to refrain from catching juvenile fish, and (2) work to obtain consensus stock assessment results agreed at the 2019 Scientific Committee Meeting in spring. Additionally, with regards to bottom fish, as a result of discussions based on Japan's suggestions, the commission adopted the CMM that the catch of North Pacific armorhead in the Emperor seamounts was limited to half of the level in recent years and might be increased when a strong recruitment of North Pacific armorhead was detected through the monitoring surveys. Regarding illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, four new IUU fishing vessels were added to the IUU fishing boat list based on Japan's proposal (a total of 27 stateless ships listed), and High Seas Boarding and Inspection Implementation Plan was formulated.

As for the Japanese eel, which was discussed at the COP17 Meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITIES) in 2016, the

¹⁰ An accredited body of the WCPFC that makes recommendations to the Commission on conservation and management measures for resources (Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore, North Pacific swordfish) that are distributed mainly in waters north of latitude 20 degrees north.

¹¹ Regulation for (1) purse seine fisheries, ban periods and number limits for FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) and (2) long line fisheries, and catch limits for bigeye tuna

Special Feature

Whaling Policy

1. History of Japan's whaling policy

In 1951, Japan acceded to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The ICRW specifies two objectives: "appropriate conservation of whales" and "orderly development of the whaling industry." The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was established as an organization to achieve these goals.

Nevertheless, amid growing momentum toward the conservation of whales since the 1970s, the IWC decided in 1982 that the commercial catch quota be set at zero for the time being (so-called "commercial whaling moratorium"). It also decided at the time to consider setting a catch limit other than zero (i.e. resumption of commercial whaling) after assessment of the status of whale resources by 1990.

Japan has conducted scientific research on whales, permitted under ICRW since 1987, and has contributed to the collection of scientific data to realize sustainable commercial whaling. The data acquired from this research have confirmed that certain whale species could be utilized sustainably. Despite these scientific findings, opposition by anti-whaling countries has prevented the modification of the "commercial whaling moratorium" thus far.

Furthermore, Japan made serious arguments, including a proposal to reform the IWC, with the aim of bringing the IWC back to its original objective of sustainable use of whale resources. However, there was not any change in the attitudes of the member states opposed to any form of whaling.

2. Japan's efforts at the 67th Meeting of the IWC

Japan proposed a comprehensive reform of the IWC at the 67th Meeting of the IWC General Assembly (held in Florianopolis, Brazil) in September 2018 in an effort to break the stalemate. The proposal sought to achieve coexistence of member countries with different positions on whaling within the framework of the IWC by bringing the IWC back to its original role and enabling discussions and decisions based on scientific knowledge.

Anti-whaling countries, however, asserted that "the IWC has already 'evolved' into an organization that exclusively aims for protection of whales" and took the consistent position of not accepting any proposal that leads to commercial whaling. Japan's proposal was ultimately rejected by voting with 27 votes in favor, 41 votes in opposition, and 2 abstentions.

Additionally, the anti-whaling countries proposed the "Florianopolis Declaration," which emphasized the importance of continuing the commercial whaling moratorium and rejected the need for lethal research. The proposal was adopted with 40 votes in favor, 27 votes in opposition, and 4 abstentions.

These outcomes unveiled that anti-whaling countries have no intention to accept even coexistence with member countries with different views.

3. Withdrawal from the ICRW

Based on the Meeting results, the Government of Japan seriously considered every possible option regarding its future relationship with the IWC. It concluded that Japan's fundamental policy of sustainable use of marine resources based on scientific evidence could not be achieved in the current IWC and gave notice of its withdrawal from the ICRW to the U.S. Government, which is the depositary government, on December 26, 2018. Japan's withdrawal from the ICRW takes effect on June 30, 2019.

4. Resumption of commercial whaling and continued international cooperation

From July 2019, Japan will conduct commercial whaling in its own territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, in line with international law and within the catch limits calculated in line with the method adopted by the IWC to avoid negative impact on whale resources.

At the same time, Japan's position on international cooperation on the management of whale resources remains unchanged. After its withdrawal from the IWC, Japan will engage with the IWC as an observer

and contribute to whale resource management by facilitating discussions based on scientific knowledge.

The IWC should return to its role as stipulated in the ICRW, which is to promote conservation and sustainable use of whale resources. In this respect, Japan has not altered its stance of seriously pursuing IWC reforms and will actively facilitate discussions aimed at restoring the functions of the IWC.

The Government of Japan is committed to continuing accurate and dispassionate dissemination of information to the international community on its position and the status of whale resources.

11th informal consultations held by East Asian countries and regions in June 2018 confirmed that they will cooperate in introducing conservation and management measures based on scientific evidence. In response to this, a regional workshop on the Japanese eel was held in September 2018 to confirm scientific data and information on the Japanese eel, with the participation of scientists from Japan, the ROK, and Chinese Taipei.

In the high seas portion of the Arctic Ocean, although the commercial fishing is unlikely to become viable in the near future, concern over the start of unregulated fishing has risen as ice coverage in that area has diminished due to climate change and other phenomena. Against this background, five coastal states (Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the U.S.) and Japan, China, the ROK, Iceland and the EU consulted on the regulation of high seas fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean and the "Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean" was created. All of them signed the Agreement in Ilulissat, Denmark in October 2018.

(4) Foreign Direct Investment in Japan

The target to double foreign companies' direct investment in Japan to 35 trillion yen by 2020, was laid out in the "Investments for the Future Strategy 2018" (June 2018 Cabinet Decision) (28.6 trillion yen as of the end of 2017). With the "Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan," which has been held since 2014 to spearhead the initiative to promote activities for discovering and attracting investments, while gathering opinions from foreign company managers, Japan continues

to make further progress in implementing additional measures such as regulatory and institutional reforms contributing to the improvement of the investment environment in Japan, responding to the needs of foreign companies, and supporting measures to expand investments effectively. Based on the Five Promises for Attracting Foreign Businesses to Japan, decided at the 2nd meeting of the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan held in March 2015, foreign companies have been utilizing the Investment Advisor Assignment System since April 2016, and are meeting with the relevant State Ministers in charge. In addition, the Working Group for Revising Regulations and Administrative Procedures has been convened since August 2016, to review the streamlining of regulations and administrative procedures that pose a challenge to foreign companies when they are investing in Japan. The summaries of the Working Group meetings have also been reflected in the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2017 and Investments for the Future Strategy 2017. The 6th meeting of the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, held in May 2018, decided on the "Support Program for Regional Foreign Direct Investment in Japan" in order for the Government of Japan as a whole to support direct foreign investment in the Japanese region.

MOFA has been implementing various measures adopted by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, initiatives making use of diplomatic resources through diplomatic missions overseas, and trade promotion by key government officials. It is also strategically implementing

various initiatives toward promoting foreign direct investment in Japan. The "Contact Points for Direct Investment toward Japan" established at 126 diplomatic missions overseas in April 2016, have been working in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), carrying out surveys of requests for improvements to Japanese regulations and systems, calling for investments in Japan by making use of networks of contacts at diplomatic missions overseas, holding events for promoting foreign direct investment in Japan, and implementing other proactive initiatives. Last year (FY2017), the various diplomatic missions had a track record of more than 650 cases. In Japan, MOFA hosted the Japan-U.S.-Europe Business Seminar in March 2017 (organized jointly with the relevant ministries, the Japan Institute of International Affairs, and JETRO). During Prime Minister Abe's visit to the U.S. in September 2017, he introduced the results and future direction of reforms through Abenomics, and called for greater investment in Japan at a meeting with U.S. CEOs and in his economic speech delivered at the New York Stock Exchange.

(5) The Road to 2025 World Expo Osaka, Kansai, Japan

On November 23, 2018, Japan was elected as the country to host the 2025 World Exposition at the election held at the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Exposition (BIE) in Paris. The election was contested among three candidatures, i.e. Japan (Osaka, Kansai), Russia (Ekaterinburg) and Azerbaijan (Baku) and Japan won the second (final) round against Russia.



Final presentation before voting to decide host country (November, Paris, France; Photo: Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry)

To that end, the Government of Japan, in tandem with the local governments and the business communities, had carried out active election campaign for one and half years since its official announcement of running for the election. At the national level, the Prime Minister and relevant Ministers and other high ranking officials took every opportunity to request their counterparts' support for Osaka when they met at bilateral or multilateral fora, while the Japanese diplomatic missions headed by ambassadors conducted active campaign in each capital. The local governments and the business community jointly established 2025 Japan World Expo Committee and the Diet members organized a bipartisan alliance to promote the campaign through their own network and resources. Worldrenowned characters, Pokemon and Hello Kitty, that were appointed as Special Envoys greatly contributed toward attracting world's attention to the campaign.

In this way, "All-Japan" multilayered campaign brought the victory to 2025 World Expo Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Section 4

Efforts to Promote Understanding and Trust in Japan

1 Strategic Communications

(1) Initiatives in Strategic Communications

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is implementing strategic communications based on the three-pillar approach of (1) conveying Japan's views, policies and initiatives, (2) sharing Japan's rich and varied attractiveness, and (3) cultivating understanding and support for Japan. Regarding conveying Japan's views, policies and initiatives, the initiatives have mainly been focused on increasing the understanding of Japan's contributions toward peace, stability and prosperity of the international community and the maintenance and strengthening of the international order based on the rule of law, and on promoting understanding of issues regarding history. Specifically, MOFA has been actively communicating Japan's stance and way of thinking on the occasions of daily press conferences, interviews, contributions to the media, and speeches at official visits to foreign countries and international conferences by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and other government officials. The diplomatic missions overseas have actively communicated to the governments of assigned countries, their citizens, and the media on Japan's fundamental stance and views on a range of issues including the recognition of history as well as maintenance



Foreign policy video "Japan's Worldwide Projects for the Future of our Oceans" (Released on November 27, 2018 and it can be viewed at MOFA's YouTube channel. Broadcast on CNN)



of territorial integrity. When the foreign media publish reports that include factual errors, under the name of Ambassadors, Consuls General, or the Press Secretary of the ministry, MOFA promptly sends rebuttal pieces or provides explanations to ensure that media reports be published based on objective facts. MOFA also actively engages in communications with the public via social media and websites, while creating publicity materials such as videos on Japan's foreign policy and utilizing them in a variety of forms. In order to make Japan's fundamental stance and views on policy issues understood, it is also important to enhance coordinated efforts with experts and think tanks. Based on this recognition, MOFA has invited influential experts and media personnels from around the world, providing them with opportunities to exchange views with various people including government officials, to visit

various places around Japan for study tours. and to conduct interviews. Furthermore, MOFA dispatches Iapanese experts abroad while extending its support for Japan-related seminars by overseas research institutions.

In 2018, Japan promoted the importance of the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, respect for international law, keeping in mind the urgent issues faced by the international community including nuclear and missile development by North Korea, and unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the international order. It was also stressed that Japan is continuing to make significant contribution to the peace and development of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Regarding a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" proposed by Prime Minister Abe, in particular, Japan communicated its efforts at the opportunities of the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-related Summit Meetings, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, and other occasions. By taking advantage of various opportunities and utilizing various tools, Japan is also engaged in efforts to strategically communicate information about matters on the recognition of history, including the issue of the so-called "comfort women" and various issues on Japan's territorial integrity. In addition to groundless criticisms against the Rising Sun Flag that have been seen in recent years, MOFA has responded with clear explanations.

To share Japan's rich and varied attractiveness, Japan is implementing a variety of public relations/ cultural projects mainly through on the diplomatic missions from the perspective of promoting understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity toward Japan and consequently promoting tourist visits to Japan, an area in which currently "All-Japan" efforts are being made. Diplomatic missions around the world have implemented cultural projects, while the Japan Foundation (JF) has taken initiatives such as the "WA Project"

and "Japonismes 2018," as well as the 11th Japan International MANGA Award. Japan has also actively communicated the attractiveness of all areas of Japan, including regions that have been affected by disasters, in various forms including social media.

To cultivate understanding and support for Japan, MOFA has been making various efforts to promote people-to-people and intellectual exchanges and Japanese language education through promoting youth exchange programs with Asia, the U.S., Europe, and Latin America, holding a U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural Educational Interchange (CULCON), and providing support for Japanese studies at universities and research institutions in major countries of the world. To ensure the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. "Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)" program has been launched to contribute internationally through sports. Moreover, in order to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage throughout the world, and promote inscription of Japan's cultural heritage on the World Heritage List and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, initiatives were implemented in cooperation with people in Japan and overseas.

In order to enhance Japan's communication and contribute to the realization of its foreign policy and national interest, MOFA will strategically and effectively continue to implement initiatives based on the three-pillar approach described above, through the effective use of its budget for strategic communications.

(2) JAPAN HOUSE

Since 2015, MOFA had advanced preparations for the establishment of the JAPAN HOUSE communication hub in the three cities of São Paulo (Brazil), Los Angeles (the U.S.) and London (the UK). The purpose is to attract a wide range of people, including those who were not necessarily interested in Japan previously, and to enlarge the



JAPAN HOUSE São Paulo: The design is by architect Kengo Kuma (São Paulo, Brazil; Photo: JAPAN HOUSE São Paulo Secretariat)



JAPAN HOUSE London: His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge touching the Magic Metal* of Takeda Kanagata Seisakusho during his tour inside the building (September 13, London, U.K.; Photo: JAPAN HOUSE London Secretariat)

* When the characters for "factory" (in Japanese) protruding on the metal plate are pushed in with fingers the surface of the plate becomes flat and the seams between the characters and the plate become invisible

base of the people who are interested and well-versed in Japan to improve understanding of the policies and initiatives of Japan by communicating Japan's rich and varied attractiveness and policies and initiatives. Following the opening in São Paulo in April 2017 and partial opening in Los Angeles in December the same year, JAPAN HOUSE opened in London in June 2018 and fully opened in Los Angeles in August, meaning that all three hubs have opened.

The JAPAN HOUSE project is unique in that it (1) communicates through "All-Japan" efforts by the central and local governments, private sectors, and other actors, (2) promotes outreach that reflects the needs of local communities, and (3) provides "one-stop-service" where various



JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles: Foreign Minister Kono giving a speech in the Grand Opening Celebration (August 24, Los Angeles, U.S.)

information related to Japan can be obtained by one stop.

Some of the events organized by JAPAN HOUSE are based on public proposals. The proposals selected in Japan are exhibited in all three hubs as touring exhibitions. By this project, JAPAN HOUSE tries to present answers to the fundamental question "What is Japan?" from a variety of perspectives, with the aim of enabling people overseas to encounter the attractiveness of Japan. MOFA aims to establish the JAPAN HOUSE brand by organizing such high-quality exhibitions.

To date, the first-opened JAPAN HOUSE in São Paulo has developed themed exhibitions on a variety of appealing aspects of Japan including the architecture, technology, food, fashion, art, etc. Furthermore, it has served as the location for diverse forms of communication. For example, a pop-up store (limited-time-only store) was set up by MUJI, a brand which had not established a presence in Latin America, and in cooperation with martial arts associations and other related organizations, it has held photo exhibitions on the theme of martial arts along with lectures, experience-based workshops, etc. In May, at the JAPAN HOUSE in São Paulo, Foreign Minister Kono gave a lecture about Japan's foreign policy, and addressed to local experts and business people about Japanese diplomacy in Latin America and initiatives for global issues. In August, the cumulative total number of visitors exceeded one

million, and the JAPAN HOUSE continues to draw the interest of the local people as a new cultural hub in São Paulo.

The IAPAN HOUSE in London celebrated its grand opening in September in the presence of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge, representing the British Royal Family, and with the attendance of Deputy Prime Minister Aso from Japan, which gave strong impressions of JAPAN HOUSE London inside and outside the UK. From September to October, it held the exhibition 'Biology of Metal: Metal Craftsmanship in Tsubame-Sanjo' which was the starter the project to introduce specifically the attractiveness of Japan's local areas at the JAPAN HOUSE. The business operators of factories in Tsubame-Sanjo took the lead in this exhibition, which incorporated elements of the "Factory Festival" in the Tsubame-Sanjo region in Niigata Prefecture, and with the support of Tsubame City and Sanjo City they introduced the metalworking culture of their region through exhibits and demonstrations. Furthermore, during this period the shops in the building sold related products. For the business operators of the factories presenting exhibits, it was a highly effective exhibition from the perspective of the regional revitalization where future business development can be expected. For example, there were people who were inspired by the exhibits to take an interest in the manufacturing of Tsubame-Sanjo and actually visit the Tsubame-Sanjo region, and business talks are continuing. Furthermore, in September, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, a seminar about the Meiji Restoration from the British perspective was held.

The JAPAN HOUSE in Los Angeles held its grand opening celebration in August, and approximately 800 people participated, including Foreign Minister Kono, his spouse, Minister of State Matsuyama, members of the Japan-California Parliamentary Friendship League (Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration in the House of Councillors Yamamoto, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Onuma), Special Advisor to Prime Minister Sonoura, Mayor of Los Angeles Garcetti, U.S. Congressman Takano, and other U.S. congress officials, local government officials, representatives of Japanese-American organizations, etc. Furthermore, performances were given by Rhizomatiks Research & Elevenplay and X Japan's Yoshiki, and the opening of JAPAN HOUSE left a strong impression on American society. Since the opening, government-affiliated agencies, local governments, private sector organizations, and others have collaborated to develop multifaceted communication projects including exhibitions, experience-based events on the theme of Japanese food, sake and shochu tastings, seminars, lectures, movie screenings, etc.

(3) Reports by Foreign Media on Japan and Communications through Foreign Media

In 2018, the foreign media paid much attention to the promotion of free trade, including the conclusion of the TPP11 Agreement and the Japan-EU EPA, Japan-U.S. relations, Japan-China relations, Japan's response to North Korea, Japan's domestic economy, and the acceptance of foreign workers. Furthermore, active foreign visits by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in line with "Japan's foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map" captured the attention of the foreign media, primarily those of the local media of the destination countries.

MOFA actively provides to foreign media timely information and offers assistance for their press coverage in order to gain understanding and support from the international community about Japan's positions and its activities. Communication through foreign media includes interviews with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, regular press conferences by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the provision of information to correspondents in Japan via press releases and other materials. MOFA makes efforts to achieve strategic and effective communications by providing information at the appropriate timing taking into account the diplomatic schedule.

For example, on the occasion of the visit to Japan by Australian Prime Minister Turnbull in January, Prime Minister Abe accepted an interview with the Australian Financial Review, and communicated his message about the enhancement of Japan-Australia relations and cooperation in the field of the security of the Asia-Pacific region. In April, prior to the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in the following month, he accepted interviews with Chinese media outlet CCTV and Phoenix TV (Hong Kong) in which he communicated his message regarding the importance of Japan-China relations and economic cooperation between Japan, China and the ROK, In May, Foreign Minister Kono accepted an interview with the Washington Post with the first ever U.S.-North Korea Summit Meeting in the following month in mind, and he explained Japan's position in its responses to North Korea and the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation.

Furthermore, there was active communication through foreign media during foreign visits by Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono, and their participation in international conferences including the UN General Assembly. During his visit to Europe in January, Prime Minister Abe received written interviews with local newspapers in Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania, the countries he was visiting for the first time as the Prime Minister of Japan, and communicated his message about strengthening bilateral relations with each country, expanding trade and investment, and cooperation in the field of security centered on the North Korean issue. Prime Minister Abe also accepted an interview with a Russian television station (Russia-1) prior to his visit to Russia in May, in which he spoke about the strengthening of Japan-Russia relations and Japan's efforts toward the conclusion of a peace treaty, and on the occasion of his attendance at the UN General Assembly in September he contributed an article about climate change to the Financial Times (the UK). Foreign Minister Kono, prior to his visit to China in January, accepted an interview with Phoenix TV (Hong Kong) in which he spoke about Japan's ideas about Japan-China relations, and in July prior to his attendance at the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings he accepted an interview with the Straits Times (Singapore) in which he spoke about Japan's initiatives to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and Japan's response to North Korea.

In this way, in 2018 Prime Minister Abe gave a total of 18 interviews and article contributions and conducted four independent press conferences during his overseas visits, while Foreign Minister Kono gave a total of 43 interviews and article contributions and held one press conference for the foreign press during his overseas visit.

Active efforts were also made by the Press Secretary and others to provide information to the foreign media. For example, a total of about 60 people attended the press briefings held during the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, the visit of Prime Minister Abe to Australia, and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in November.

In addition to these initiatives, MOFA invited 95 journalists and eight TV teams from abroad, with a focus on media outlets with no correspondents in Japan, to provide opportunities for them to enhance their understanding of Japan's priority policies and positions. For example, on the occasion of the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture) in May, eight journalists from eight Pacific island countries were invited to Japan, and MOFA provided them with the opportunities to cover the Meeting as well as topics related to Japan's cooperation with the region. In addition, on the occasion of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting (Tokyo) in October, 11 journalists from ten African countries and France were invited. Furthermore, taking the opportunity of the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, groups of journalists were invited from China in March and September and MOFA provided them with the opportunities for media coverage that contributed to promoting mutual understanding between the two countries.

(4) Dissemination of Information through the Internet

MOFA has been actively engaged in disseminating information through the internet, including websites and social media, with the aim of gaining the understanding and support of people in and outside Japan on Japan's foreign policy.

MOFA considers its English website an important tool of public diplomacy, and has been enhancing the distribution of information in English on Japan's foreign policy (including maintaining territorial integrity, historical issues and security), Japan's position on international affairs and Japan's rich and varied attractiveness. Furthermore, MOFA has been making efforts to disseminate information in local languages through the websites of Japan's embassies, permanent missions and consulates-general overseas.

MOFA speedily distributes a wide range of information to the international community through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



MOFA's official website https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html

2 Cultural, Sports, and Tourism Diplomacy

(1) Overview

There are an extremely large number of foreigners who are prompted by Japanese culture to develop an interest in Japan. MOFA and the Japan Foundation (JF) implement various projects, through introducing Japanese culture and sports overseas and promoting tourism, to create positive images of Japan in foreign countries, boost the value of brands in Japan while encouraging deeper understanding of Japan, foster individuals and groups knowledgeable about Japan for the future, and increase the number of foreign visitors to Japan. For example, the "Cultural Projects of the Diplomatic Missions Overseas" introduce a wide range of Japanese culture, from traditional culture such as the way of tea and flower arrangement (Ikebana), to contemporary culture such as animation, manga, and fashion. Under the "Japan Brand Program," MOFA has dispatched experts of various fields overseas to share Japan's outstanding cultural assets, experience and wisdom with other countries, as well as to establish Japan's national brand with stronger presence in the world. MOFA holds seminars, workshops and demonstrations reflecting each person's characteristics, and shares values and experiences with the audience, paving the way for international exchanges.

Toward the success of Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (the TOKYO 2020 Games), it is also important to enhance Japan's presence in the field of sports. As part of the "Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)" program, MOFA is engaged in various initiatives including sports exchanges and sports promotion support projects overseas, the dispatch of sports instructors through the JICA volunteer program or the JF, and the improvement of sporting equipment and facilities through the Cultural Grant Assistance. It also supports the Host Town Initiative that promotes mutual exchanges



Parliamentary Vice-Minister Okamoto encouraging young athletes in El Salvador (April, Santa Tecla, El Salvador)

with the countries and regions participating in the TOKYO 2020 Games.

In addition, in order to promote understanding and support for Japan and better understanding of Japan through fostering next generation of Japanophile and pro-Japanese, and Japanese studies, MOFA implements the following activities: provision of information on studying in Japan through Japan's diplomatic missions overseas; building alumni networks of the foreign nationals who have studied in Japan; cooperation for the JET Programme which invites young people from abroad to the local governments in Japan; exchange programs for youth and adults from Asia and the U.S.; Japanese studies support, etc.

Promotion of the Japanese-language overseas cultivates individuals engaged in exchange with Japan, deepens the understanding of Japan overseas and creates bases for friendship between other countries and Japan. Therefore, MOFA is dispatching Japanese-language education specialists overseas, inviting overseas Japanese-language instructors to training programs in Japan, and developing Japanese-language education materials through the JF.

In cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Japan has made earnest efforts to preserve the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, Japan is actively taking part in promoting the international framework for safeguarding heritage through

the World Heritage Convention, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, etc. (see Chapter 3, Section 4, 2 (7)).

By promoting such cultural and sports diplomacy and introducing Japan's attractiveness overseas, MOFA contributes to increasing the number of foreign visitors to Japan.

(2) Cultural Programs

For Japan's diplomatic policies to be smoothly implemented in the international community, it is important to encourage better understanding toward Japan among individual foreign nationals who form the foundation of public opinion and policy making, and to make Japan's image even more positive. Based on this recognition, MOFA engages in introducing diverse attractiveness of Japan through diplomatic missions overseas and the IF.

In 2018, "Japonismes 2018: les âmes en resonance," a large-scale project introducing Japanese culture, including traditional and pop culture, as well as lifestyle culture programs featuring foods and festivals, was held in France, and an effort was made to communicate not only the attractiveness of Japanese culture but also that of local areas in Japan and to promote inbound tourism (See Column "160th Anniversary of the Establishment of Japan-France Diplomatic Relations – Spreading Japanese Culture through 'Japonismes 2018'" and Special Feature "Promoting Cultural Diplomacy through 'Japonismes 2018'").

2018 was also designated "Japan Year in Russia" and "Russia Year in Japan," which involves events with Russia in a wide range of fields from culture and sports to politics, economy, science, education, youth exchanges, local government exchanges, etc. Many cultural events were held in both countries, including Kabuki Theater, Yabusame (horseback archery), art exhibitions, etc. in Russia and art exhibitions and sports festivals, etc. in Japan (see Special Feature "Japan Year in Russia: Deepening Mutual Understanding").



Japonismes 2018 official program "MANGA⇔TOKYO"

As part of diplomatic activities to promote a better understanding of Japan and to enlarge the base of people who are well-versed in Japan, the diplomatic missions overseas organize diverse cultural programs. For example, they plan and implement workshops on tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and origami, screening of Japanese films, Japanese music performances, martial arts demonstrations, exhibitions of traditional crafts, as well as Japanese speech contests. Moreover, Japanese pop culture such as anime and manga, as well as Japan's food culture, are being actively promoted in recent years.

Furthermore, MOFA conducts large-scale and comprehensive programs in commemorative years celebrating diplomatic events in cooperation with government and private organizations through mutual visits of dignitaries, various conferences, and public relations/cultural projects, with the aim of effectively promoting understanding about Japan. For example, a variety of events including a kyogen (traditional comic theater) performance by Mr. Nomura Mansaku and Mr. Nomura Mansai were held in 2018 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China.



Wadaiko (Japanese drum) performance (October 20, San Francisco, U.S.)



Tea ceremony lecture and demonstration (September 28 to October 1, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

In collaboration with MOFA and the diplomatic missions overseas, the JF runs two-way arts and cultural exchange projects to promote Japanese culture and arts in a variety of forms throughout the world. The JF also promotes and provides support for Japanese language education and research on Japan. When Yamato, a troupe of taiko (Japanese drum) players, gave a performance in a central square in Stockholm in August hosted by the JF and the Embassy of Japan in Sweden, the venue was filled with over 10,000 participants. It was a memorable event that added to the excitement of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Sweden.

Furthermore, the Japan Foundation Asia Center has been steadily implementing the "WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony" announced by Prime Minister Abe in December 2013. The project consists of support for Japanese-language education and interactive arts and cultural exchange projects.



Promoting Cultural Diplomacy through "Japonismes 2018"

To date, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strived to disseminate the manifold attractiveness of Japan through Japan's diplomatic missions overseas and the Japan Foundation, with the purpose of promoting better understanding of Japan and cultivating pro-Japanese groups and those with extensive knowledge of Japan. With soft power in diplomacy becoming increasingly important in recent years, there is a need for greater dissemination of Japanese culture, which is highly influential from a soft power perspective.

In light of that, for an approximately eight-month period starting from July 2018 that coincides with the 160th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-France diplomatic relations, "Japonismes 2018: les âmes en resonance (the Souls in Resonance)" was held in Paris and other parts of France. This event is intended to display all aspects of Japanese culture, ranging from traditional culture such as "Kabuki" (Japanese classical plays), "Noh" and "Kyogen" (traditional Japanese plays), and "Gagaku" (Japanese court music) to contemporary culture such as contemporary theater and art, "manga" and "anime", and Japanese film, as well as everyday culture such as food, traditional crafts, and local festivals.

The decision to implement this project was made in the "Beauty of Japan" Comprehensive Project Advisory Panel (chaired by Prime Minister Abe), based on the concept of harnessing the power of Japanese culture in diplomacy. "Japonismes 2018" was this century's largest project to introduce Japanese culture, and involved various relevant ministries led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the Japan Foundation serving as the secretariat, as well as the participation of private-sector corporations and other relevant parties. In addition to featuring Japanese culture, it is also characterized by the fact that it is an all-Japan project implemented through public-private cooperation with the aim of contributing to spreading the attractiveness of



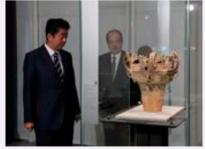
His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince at the Jakuchū exhibition ©Pierre GROSBOIS 2018

Japan's regions, promoting inbound tourism, and expanding the export of Japanese products overseas, while looking ahead to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Throughout the event period of "Japonismes 2018," there were many opportunities for key persons from Japan to observe the various programs. Foreign Minister Kono attended the opening ceremony in July, and visited the "Au-delà des limites" exhibition presented by teamLab together with the Minister of Culture of France.



Opening ceremony of "Japonismes 2018"



Prime Minister Abe at the Jomon exhibition (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

In September, His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince visited France to commemorate the 160th anniversary of friendly relations between Japan and France. During the visit, His Imperial Highness watched the "YUGEN" Noh x 3D image directed by Amon Miyamoto, together with French President Macron. His Imperial Highness also visited the "Jakuchū, Colorful Realm of Living Beings" exhibition, watched the "SHOCHIKU GRAND KABUKI" performance, and also attended the special light-up ceremony of the Eiffel Tower. His Imperial Highness' visit was widely covered by the media in France. Furthermore, Prime

Minister Abe attended the "Jomon - Birth of art in prehistoric Japan" exhibition in October.

As of December 31, 2018, the number of participants and visitors for the various programs has exceeded 2.5 million people, and the event has provided an opportunity for many people in France and other countries to learn about Japanese culture. There are also plans to implement large-scale cultural projects in the United States and Southeast Asia in 2019. With a view to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, efforts will be made to promote cultural diplomacy while creating momentum for the Games from overseas.



Kyogen performance to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China (August 10, Beijing, China)

Through the "NIHONGO (Japanese-language) Partners" program, which is the core project to support Japanese-language education, 1,855 (as planned) Japanese citizens were dispatched to educational institutions such as secondary school in ten countries in Southeast Asia, China, and Taiwan by the end of FY2018, in order to assist Japanese-language education. In addition, exchange programs were implemented to introduce Japanese culture. As a result, many overseas institutions working with the "NIHONGO Partners" appreciated their activities to enhance students' motivation for learning. For Japanese regional economies' revitalization based on the Government-Related Organization Relocation Basic Policy (March 2016), some trainings of this program took place at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Beppu City, Oita Prefecture).

In the two-way arts and cultural exchange program implemented by the Japan Foundation Asia Center, an international joint-production of DANCE DANCE ASIA connecting Asia through street dance, etc. was held for the area



The "NIHONGO Partners" at their host institutions (September, Cirebon, Indonesia; Photo: The Japan Foundation)



DANCE DANCE ASIA-Crossing the Movements Tokyo Performance 2018 connecting Asia through street dance (March, Tokyo; Venue: Tokyo Metropolitian Theatre; Photography: Yosuke Kamiyama; Photo: The Japan Foundation)

of performing arts. In the area of film, efforts were made to promote film exchange through collaboration with the Tokyo International Film Festival, and through the Japanese Film Festival (JFF): Asia-Pacific Gateway Initiative. In the area of sports, a soccer exchange program was held in collaboration with the Japan Football Association (JFA) and J-League, among other initiatives.

The Japan International MANGA Award was launched by MOFA in 2007 with the aim of



The Spread of Japanese Manga and Anime from an American's Perspective

Frederik L. Schodt

When I wrote the book, "Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics" in 1983 to introduce Japanese manga culture to an English-speaking audience, I asked the late Dr. Osamu Tezuka, also known as the god of manga, to write the foreword. Re-reading it now, I am again deeply moved by Tezuka's foresight.

At a time when Japanese manga and anime culture had received little recognition by the West, Tezuka, while touching on the way Japanese books are read from right to left and language barriers, asserted that anime was "an excellent ambassador with incredible internationality." He believed that once people became familiar with the nature of Japanese manga through anime, they would surely proceed to reading manga as well. He explicitly wrote, "I believe manga culture will keep spreading worldwide."

Astro Boy, in 1963, was the first Japanese television anime series to be aired in the U.S., but at the time, children were not at all aware that it was from Japan. The situation greatly changed in the latter half of the 80s, and especially in the 90s, with anime and manga series such as Akira, Sailor Moon, Ghost in the Shell, and Pokémon (available in game form as well) becoming big hits. This success led to the substantial spread of Japanese manga and anime fandom across society. Today, like sushi, anime and manga are becoming part of American mass culture.

In the area of San Francisco where I live, not only at Kinokuniya Bookstore in the city, but even at ordinary comic book stores, there are many Japanese manga that have been translated into English. Although the age of DVDs has mostly ended, nowadays, anime that are subtitled or dubbed in English are aired on cable television or actively distributed online. The screening of long Japanese anime feature films at theatres is rare, but they can easily be watched on Amazon or Netflix. As far as films are concerned, it is also interesting that Hollywood film companies have begun to produce live-action films based on Japanese manga, such as *Ghost in the Shell* in 2017.

In the area of online distribution, the 2018 acquisition of Crunchyroll, an online distribution company for anime and manga formed in 2006, by AT&T, the world's largest telecom company, drew a great deal of attention. Even more interesting is the holding of anime and manga conventions in almost every large U.S. city, starting with the San Francisco area around 1990. In the summer of 2017, I participated in the annual East Coast event "Otakon" (an American-coined Japanese word that combines "otaku" and "convention"), and there were close to 30,000 people in attendance. In Los Angeles on the West Coast, some conventions attract 100,000 people. At these types of conventions, fans typically share information, purchase goods, form friendship networks, and, above all, enjoy cosplay.

In Japan, meanwhile, sometimes there are misleading articles that suggest Japanese manga and anime dominate the U.S. The reality is, however, that box office receipts for long CGI animation films made by Disney and Pixar are far larger than those for animated films by the popular Hayao Miyazaki. Japanese manga and anime are therefore still very much niche markets. And the market is even tougher for manga than anime. Sales actually peaked in 2007, before dropping sharply, and only now are the beginning to grow again.

However, popularity and influence cannot be measured solely by sales figures. The spread of Japanese manga and anime throughout the U.S. has exceeded what even Tezuka imagined. One might say this has been a fan-driven expansion. During the VHS era, fans often added their own subtitles and shared these with friends, but now, with the Internet, it is much easier to share things. Of course, this has also expedited the issue of the proliferation of pirated editions, and many fans have never purchased an authentic manga book. This is not a problem specific to the U.S. Fan groups take paper copies of the manga from Japan and scan them by themselves, then use software (such as Photoshop) to insert their own translations of speech, etc. This process is called "scan-lation," a portmanteau combining the words "scan" and "translation," and the resulting product is made freely available without permission. It is a true headache for many manga authors and publishers.

I am currently an executive committee member of the Japan International MANGA Award organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In recent years, there have been over 300 works submitted to the

award from over 60 different countries, highlighting the influence of manga and anime as a true form of soft power. Looking at the winning works, nearly all have an individual style but are strongly inspired by Japanese manga and anime. It is something I am very happy to see.

Late 2018 in San Francisco (Original in Japanese)





Young Americans enjoying cosplay at the 2017 Otakon convention. ©2018 Frederik L. Schodt

rewarding manga creators who have contributed to the spread of manga culture overseas. The 12th International MANGA Award of 2018 received 331 entries from 68 countries and regions, and the Gold Award was given to a work from China. The number of applications was the highest ever including those from the countries that applied for the first time, namely Albania, Angola, Iraq, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Oman, and Turkmenistan.

(3) People-to-People Exchange and Exchanges in the Area of Education and Sports

MOFA carries out a number of invitation projects to build personal connections and promote understanding of Japan by inviting foreign nationals who have a great influence on shaping public opinion and the policy making processes, and who are expected to play a leading role in various fields. Also, in the area of education and sports, MOFA carries out various activities to promote exchanges among a wide range of people. These projects not only promote mutual understanding and friendships but also enhance Japan's presence in the international community, which considerably benefits the national interest of Japan.

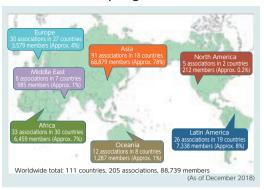
A Student Exchange Programs

MOFA actively introduces the attractiveness and opportunities of studying in Japan to foreign students through Japanese diplomatic missions overseas. It also implements application and screening procedures to grant competent students from around the world the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship. It also makes efforts to network with former foreign students who have returned to their home countries through Japan Alumni Associations and to foster their further knowledge on Japan.

B JET Programme (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme)

The JET Programme was launched in 1987 to improve foreign language education in Japan and promote international exchanges with Japanese citizens in local areas. In FY2018, a total of 5,528 people, including 2,201 new participants from 54 different countries, took part in the program and were dispatched all over Japan. This program is administered by local authorities, etc. in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), MOFA, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Council of Local

Number of Japan Alumni Associations and Their Members by Region





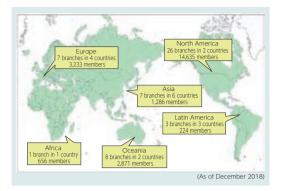
Briefing on studying in Japan at a Japanese language school (August 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam)

Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). They invite young foreign nationals to Japan and appoint them to posts in local governments and schools. MOFA is responsible for the application and screening process, pre-departure orientation, and support for the activities of the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) in 18 countries with about 23,000 membership). JETAA and former JET participants conduct activities introducing Japan in many countries with their knowledge on the country making themselves valuable assets for Japan.

Sport Exchange

Sports enable communication beyond languages and can be an effective tool for promoting friendly relations and understanding of Japan. While Japan draws attention from the world as the host country of the TOKYO 2020 Games, the Government of Japan has been implementing the "Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)"

Number of Branches of JET Alumni Association and Their Members





JET participants prior to their departure for Japan (June, New Zealand; Embassy of Japan in New Zealand)



Participants learning karate from Japanese instructors (October, Senegal)

program as an international cooperation initiative through sports since January 2014. This program offers various sports exchanges, promotional support, and human development projects with the aim of spreading the value of sports among over 10 million people in more than 100 countries by 2020. SFT also includes the "Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement" scheme, starting in

Column

"Not once in four years. Once in a lifetime." (Rugby World Cup 2019™, Japan)



"Not once in four years. Once in a lifetime."

This is the advertising slogan for Rugby World Cup 2019™, Japan, which kicks off in September 2019. The global tournament for 15-player rugby held once every four years is one of the three largest global sporting events alongside the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the FIFA World Cup. Twenty teams, consisting of the top twelve teams (including Japan) from the previous tournament and eight teams that won the preliminary competitions, will compete fiercely for the shiny gold "Webb Ellis Cup" over a period of seven weeks in 12 cities across Japan, from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

Holding the Rugby World Cup in Japan is a historical event – it is the first in Asia, first in a non-traditional rugby country, and first since the selection of rugby (Sevens) as an event for the Summer Olympics.

Actor Hiroshi Tachi is serving as the "PR Captain" for the event. He is a rugby enthusiast who enjoyed playing it in his high school years. He won the Best Male Actor Award at the Montreal World Film Festival for his role in "Owatta Hito" (Life in Overtime) in September 2018. At an event immediately after the aforementioned film festival, which was held a year before Rugby World Cup 2019, the Rugby World

Cup 2019 Organising Committee notably introduced Mr. Tachi as an actor in "Life in Overtime" who is just getting started in his role as "PR Captain."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is conducting promotional activities worldwide, making maximum use of its diplomatic missions overseas around the world, to generate enthusiasm for the Rugby World Cup and encourage many foreign tourists to come to Japan in the autumn, a great time for sports. Some of these are as follows.



Ren-G

Receptions at Ambassador's Residences

MOFA uses the residences of Japanese ambassadors to hold receptions for send-off events for national teams from other countries before their tour to Japan and for the Japanese national team when it goes on an overseas tour, as a means of fostering exchange with local representatives.

<Send-off event for the men's rugby representatives in Ireland>

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Ireland, MOFA invited members of the Irish national team and its staff to the ambassador's residence ahead of the Japan-Ireland men's rugby match in Japan.



Irish national team players interacting with Japanese children living in Ireland (May 30, 2017, at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Ireland)

< Receptions for rugby-related personnel in Fiji and Nepal>

Japanese ambassadors in Fiji and Nepal held receptions on the occasion of the "Webb Ellis Cup" Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour. These events, in which the actual World Cup Trophy was displayed, were attended by local government representatives, as well as the head coach and players of the Fijian national team, and the vice president and other representatives of the Nepal Rugby Association.



Fijian national players and the World Cup Trophy (May 21, 2018, at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Fiji)



Standing around the World Cup Trophy at a reception on the previous Emperor's Birthday (December 7, 2018, at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal)

<Reception for people associated with rugby sevens in San Francisco>

MOFA hosted a reception for the Japanese men's and women's national teams who were visiting San Francisco to play in the Rugby World Cup Sevens and local people involved with rugby.



(July 17, 2018, at the residence of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco)

Utilization of Public Relations Materials at Diplomatic Missions Overseas

Working together with the Rugby World Cup 2019 Organising Committee, diplomatic missions overseas utilize videos, posters, pin badges, and other public relations materials created by the committee to actively promote the tournament at various local events.

Furthermore, diplomatic missions overseas help with confirming cooperation for Rugby World Cup 2019TM, Japan in summit meetings, foreign ministers' meetings, and other high-level government exchanges, arranging promotional booths at international conferences, and facilitating rugby exchanges with parliamentary members around the world.

Japan highly welcomes the holding of global sporting events such as Rugby World Cup 2019[™], Japan in various locations across Japan, which also promotes active people-to-people exchanges through sports and attracts a greater number of foreign tourists to Japan. The Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be also held in the following year. MOFA intends to make further efforts, while collaborating with public and private-sector representatives, to ensure that the many foreign tourists coming to Japan for Rugby World Cup 2019[™], Japan can enjoy smooth trips and return home with positive impressions of local areas in Japan.

Column Behind the Scenes of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia

The 2018 FIFA World Cup was held in various parts of Russia. Japan was mesmerized by the tremendous efforts made by the Japanese national football team, and football fans around the world were enthused by all the outstanding play at the tournament.

The success of such large-scale sports events requires cooperation and coordination by numerous officials, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) also supports these events.

This column introduces initiatives taken by the Embassy of Japan in Russia as part of the safety measures for Japanese supporters and also looks at the connection between MOFA and sports events.

Preparation and response at temporary offices

It was expected that many Japanese supporters would come to watch the World Cup in Russia. Various measures were needed because some venues where the Japanese national team played were small cities which foreign tourists typically do not visit, and unexpected situations might also arise on a special occasion like the World Cup, such as soaring accommodation costs, extreme congestion of transportation facilities, and troubles with supporters from other countries.

For the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the Embassy of Japan in Russia created a "Safety Guide" to help Japanese supporters watch games with a sense of safety and enjoy a pleasant

trip to Russia. In addition to information on public security and travel advisory on Russia, this guide also included a map of the area around game venues, contact information for the Japanese Embassy, a list of helpful Russian words in an emergency, and other information that is useful when watching a match or dealing with an incident. The Safety Guide was then uploaded on the Embassy's website. It was also distributed to Japan Football Association personnel and the media, as well as the areas around airports and stadiums.

Moreover, the Embassy closely exchanged information with the Russian government, police officials, and the embassies of other countries participating in the World Cup, while also setting up a temporary office of the Embassy at match venues before and after the Japanese national team's match day to assist Japanese supporters. Fortunately, no major incidents occurred, but there were inquiries about lost items and cases of theft, as well as an inquiry from someone



"Safety Guide"



the Japanese Embassy in Russia

who had been bitten by a dog and wanted to see a doctor, for which Embassy staff provided assistance by accompanying the person to the police and a hospital.

Japanese supporters at match venues

During the 2018 World Cup, Japanese supporters who visited the venues in Russia distributed hachimaki with a hinomaru design (bandanas with the Japanese flag) as a supporters' item both inside and outside stadiums to others who came to watch the games. At the World Cup, some spectators watch matches without having decided which team to cheer for in order to enjoy as many high-level games as possible, in addition to supporting their own country's team. Therefore, supporters who received the hachimaki would naturally end up supporting the Japanese national team. This scene, also broadcast in Japan, of spectators from other countries wearing the hachimaki and supporting the Japanese national team along with Japanese spectators left a deep impression. On the airplane traveling to a venue, there was an interaction between Japanese and Colombian supporters who could not verbally communicate to each other due to the language barrier, but they still got along very well and took commemorative photos together. This was a reminder of the value of sports that goes beyond the borders of countries.

Power of sports

Even though the Japanese national team regrettably lost in the first round of the knockout stages, Embassy staff walking around town were told by Colombian supporters that Japan had played a great match and overheard Russian people saying that Japan almost won. Meanwhile, news programs on Russian TV stations reported favorably on Japanese supporters cleaning up trash after the match. Coverage highlighted the Japanese national team's hard work and the good behavior of supporters. Japan lost, but sports spread a good image of the country to many people. This could be described as a form of diplomacy for showcasing Japan to other countries.

The success of the World Cup increased the number of people with a positive impression of Russia. Japan will hold the Rugby World Cup 2019™, Japan and then the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. People from all over the world will visit Japan to watch these major sports events. MOFA will utilize these opportunities to promote Japan's attractiveness.

FY2015, which is to dispatch and invite athletes and instructors, provide equipment, and hold sports-related receptions at diplomatic missions overseas. The projects have enabled MOFA respond even more promptly and meticulously to requests from the foreign governments and sports associations and develop bilateral relations. These SFT programs have contributed to enhance the presence of those engaged in sports in Japan in the international sports community.

(4) Exchange in the Intellectual Field

A Japanese Studies

The Japan Foundation (JF) comprehensively supports a range of overseas research activities related to Japan's politics, economics, society and culture. In 2018, the JF sent visiting professors, enhanced the collection of books on Japan, provided research grants, and provided support for seminars and symposiums, to the total of 73 institutions of Japanese studies in 31 countries and regions. Fellowship was also granted to 133 Japanese studies researchers in 40 countries and regions, including those who started the fellowship in the previous year. The JF also helps academic societies to networking among researchers and research institutions on Japan in many countries and regions.

B Intellectual Exchanges

MOFA puts emphasis on collaborative study and exchange with other countries and implements relevant projects through the Japan Foundation (JF). The JF helps implementation of seminars and symposia on common international agendas, and supports programs to deepen the understanding of contemporary Japan at



U.S-Japan Public Intellectuals Network Program (October, New York, U.S.; Photo: Alan Klein, Japan Society, The Japan Foundation)



Forming Japan-U.S.-Southeast Asian Networks Summer Institute (July, Japan; Photo: The Japan Foundation)

major universities overseas. The JF also plans and supports exchange programs to strengthen relationships and mutual understanding among relevant parties through dialogue in various fields and levels in cooperation with NPOs and other exchange institutions.

Japan-U.S. Conference on Cultural and **Educational Interchange (CULCON)**

CULCON is a public-private binational advisory panel comprised of experts from Japan and the U.S. to discuss issues on educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries. In June 2018 the 28th Plenary Meeting was held in Washington DC (U.S.). At the start of the meeting, messages from Prime Minister Abe and U.S. President Trump were read out, and then consultations were held on the initiative and future measures of the Arts Dialogue Committee, the Education Review Committee, the Japanese Language Education Committee and the Next Generation Task Force. The Joint Statement issued as the outcome of the meeting confirmed the progress of the initiatives taken by Japan and the U.S. toward achieving the goal of "doubling two-way student exchanges by the year 2020" which was also mentioned in the Joint Statement at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in 2014. Other recommendations in the Joint Statement were about the importance of building a new platform for nurturing the next generation of leaders who will be responsible for Japan-U.S. relations, the latest outcomes and the continuation of activities in arts exchange, the measures for enhancing Japanese language education in the U.S. and further revitalization of student exchanges between the two countries.

Cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU)

Recognizing the importance of the UNU, which contributes to the international community through study and research on global issues and human resources development. Japan invited the UNU headquarters in Japan (Tokyo), which

has provided various cooperation and support for the last 40 years since its establishment. The UNU, in collaboration with Japanese universities and research institutions, is engaged in studies on international issues on which Japan focuses, including peace, development, and the environment, consequently contributing to the introduction of the policies of the Government of Japan. The UNU established Master's and Doctoral Programmes in 2010 and 2012 respectively, and has made efforts to improve the quality of its global human resources development programs.

(5) Promotion of the Japanese-Language

Against the background of the globalization of Japanese companies and the popularity among Japanese pop culture, there has been growing interest in the Japanese-language in the world, especially among the youth. A better understanding in the Japanese-language overseas naturally leads to a favorable international environment and setting for Japanese people and companies. Based on a survey conducted by the JF in FY2015, approximately 3.66 million people in 137 countries and regions overseas learn the Japanese-language. In 2018, the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test offered by the JF was conducted in 296 cities of 86 countries and regions worldwide, and the number of applicants reached about 1.17 million, the highest figure (include



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe attending the welcome reception for the participants in the 38th Japanese language training for diplomats and 22nd Japanese language training for public servants (October, Tokyo) (Middle: the State Minister)

applicants taking the test in Japan). On the other hand, it is clear that a shortage of Japanese-language instructors presents a grave challenge to respond to the interests and needs of the studies in many countries and regions.

MOFA works to deal with the diverse needs related to Japanese-language education overseas through the JF. For example, it dispatches Japaneselanguage specialists abroad, conducts invitation programs for Japanese-language instructors and foreign diplomats to learn the language in Japan, conducts preparatory Japanese-language pre-arrival training for nurse and care worker candidates based on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Indonesia and the Philippines, encourages educational institutions in each country and region to introduce Japaneselanguage education and supports their Japaneselanguage educational activities, develops teaching materials, operates e-learning, and promotes the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education" that corresponds with international standards for foreign language education. As a result of these efforts, a growing number of countries are newly introducing Japanese-language education as a part of the school curriculum in recent years. For example, Japanese-language education has been introduced as a part of secondary education in Laos in 2015, and primary education in Viet Nam in 2016. In the UK, elementary schools offering Japanese language learning expanded from about 50 schools in 2014 to more than 100 schools in 2017. At the Japan-India Summit Meeting in September 2017, the both countries agreed to cooperate on expanding Japanese-language education at universities and other institutions in India. The Japanese-Language Teachers' Training Center was established in Delhi in July 2018 and new training courses were commenced. In addition, new training courses, as initiatives for Japanese-language teachers' training, were offered in Viet Nam and Myanmar in December the same year.

(6) Cultural Grant Assistance

The Government of Japan provides Cultural Grant Assistance, as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to promote culture and higher education in developing countries, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and such countries. The assistance implemented in 2018 included four Cultural Grant Assistance projects (total of around 1.61 billion Japanese yen) and 21 Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (total of around 180 million Japanese ven). In 2018, Cultural Grant Assistance was implemented with the emphasis on sports promotion, the preservation of the cultural heritage and the broadcasting sector, while Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects put emphasis on cooperation in the fields of sports promotion and the Japanese language.



The Central America Boxing Championship held using the ring provided to the Costa Rican Boxing Association through Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (October 30, Costa Rica)



Baseball experience event involving local elementary school students held on a baseball field developed through Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (December 6, Tanzania)

(7) Cooperation through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Japan is actively involved in various projects of UNESCO in the fields of education, science, and culture. UNESCO is the international organization of which post-war Japan first became a Member State in 1951. Since then, UNESCO has been cooperating with Japan in support of education, science, culture, etc., in developing countries.

In the field of culture, Japan offers active cooperation for the prevention and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the world and support in the field of human resources development. At the same time, Japan actively participates in the international framework for safeguarding cultural heritage. As a part of such activities, Japan provides voluntary contributions to UNESCO aimed at the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Using a part of these contributions, and with Japanese experts playing a leading role, Japan supports many projects for conservation and restoration of sites, such as Angkor in Cambodia, and Kasubi Tombs in Uganda, while contributing to human resources development so that local people can protect their cultural heritage by themselves in the future. In particular, Japan provides continuous support for the preservation and restoration work of the ancient ruins of Angkor in Cambodia, which started in 1994. With regard to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, the following projects have been implemented: the handing down of traditional performing arts such as music and dance, and traditional crafts in developing countries to the next generation; development of domestic institutions and capacity building of relevant parties to enhance the ability of countries to protect intangible cultural heritage by themselves.

In the field of education, Japan provides voluntary contributions with the aim of fostering human resources in developing countries. It



Archeological research equipment provided to the National Council for Scientific Research through Cultural Grant Assistance (November, Lebanon)

also provides support for human resources development, mainly in the area of education, through promoting, for example, "SDG4-Education 2030" led by UNESCO. As for the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), in response to the fact that the "Global Action" Programme (GAP) on ESD," an international ESD promotion program, was due to end in 2019, at the April 2018 meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO Japan presented a draft GAP successor framework and proposed to UNESCO a resolution calling for submission of the framework to the spring Executive Board of UNESCO in 2019, and the resolution was adopted. In October, three organizations from Namibia, Indonesia and Estonia were awarded the fourth UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development.

Africa is another field that UNESCO is investing its effort. Japan's support for Africa includes implementation of a project to promote peacebuilding and social stabilization through the training of teachers in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda (ended in June 2018) and projects for peacebuilding and the prevention of extremism through education for teachers in Algeria, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Sudan, Senegal, Chad, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania.

UNESCO is promoting its organizational reforms, decentralization and program reforms, and Japan has continued providing support to UNESCO in these reform initiatives. In October,

Prime Minister Abe received a courtesy call by Director-General of UNESCO Azoulay, during his visit to Paris. In the meeting, Director-General Azoulay stated that she wished to cooperate further with Japan in areas including the UNESCO's strategic transformation, gender equality, ESD, the initiative on the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI), the "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" (in northern Iraq) initiative and DRR (disaster risk reduction). In response, Prime Minister Abe expressed that Japan would cooperate with UNESCO's efforts and the ongoing reform of UNESCO toward the goal of its de-politicization.

A World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention aims to protect cultural heritages and natural heritages internationally as heritages to all of mankind. Japan became a party to the Convention in 1992 (as of December 2018, the number of parties to the Convention is 193). The sites listed on the "World Heritage List" are so-called "World Heritage" sites. They are classified into "Cultural Heritage" (monuments and remains), "Natural Heritage" (natural areas) and "Mixed Heritage" (having both cultural and natural elements). As of December 2018, a total of 1,092 World Heritage sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List. At the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Manama, Bahrain, in 2018, it was decided to inscribe the Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region (Nagasaki and



Oura Cathedral (One of the assets comprising the "Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region") (Photo: Nagasaki Prefecture; Photography: Mr. Tsutomu Ikeda)

Kumamoto), upon nomination by Japan, on the World Heritage List. This has raised a number of World Heritage sites in Japan to 22: 18 cultural heritage sites and four natural heritage sites.

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage aims to develop an international system for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional performing arts and traditional craftsmanship techniques (as of December 2018, the number of parties to the convention is 178). Japan, which has a wealth of experience in safeguarding domestic intangible cultural properties, has contributed actively by taking on a leading role in developing the Convention, laying down the main sections of the operational directives for the implementation of the Convention. As of December 2018, a total of 21 elements of intangible cultural heritage in Japan are inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity established in accordance with the Convention. These include: Nogaku Theatre, Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre and Kabuki Theatre, which have been proclaimed by UNESCO as "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity." In 2018 the 13th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Port Louis, Mauritius, decided on inscription of "Raiho-shin, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes," which was nominated by Japan, on the list of intangible cultural heritage of Japan.

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme was established in 1992 to preserve and promote valuable historical documents. As of December 2018, 427 items have been inscribed.

The fact that submission and inscription of nominations is done based only on the assertions of one country, despite there being clear discrepancies between the views of the countries involved, is in violation of the founding principle of UNESCO of promoting friendly ties and mutual understanding among member countries. Therefore, improvement of the review process is being advanced. At the Executive Board of

UNESCO held in October 2018, a revised action plan concerning the comprehensive review process was adopted. Thereafter, discussions toward improvement of the process based on the plan were held.

Chapter 4

Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public

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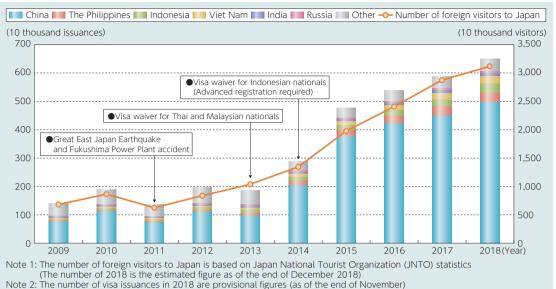
Japanese Society and People Deepening Their Ties with the World

- Linking the Vibrancy of Foreign Nationals to the Growth of Japan
 - (1) Growth Strategy and Relaxation of Visa Requirements

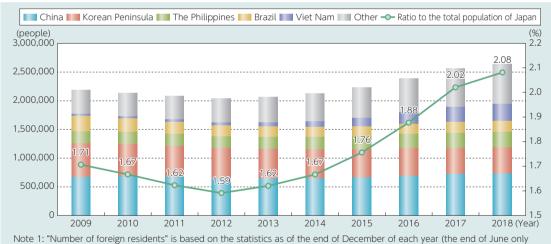
In 2018, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached the highest on record at 31.19 million. The Government of Japan set new goals for the number of foreign visitors to 40 million in 2020 and 60 million in 2030 in the "Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan" issued in March 2016. In the Vision, it is stated that the Government will engage in strategic relaxation of visa requirements, for the five countries that require a visa to visit Japan (China, Russia, India, the Philippines and Vietnam) out of 20 countries and regions that have high market potential to attract tourists. Based on it, in 2018, MOFA examined and implemented strategic relaxation of visa requirements from the perspective of promoting people-to-people exchanges, strengthening bilateral relations, etc. In this regard, specific measures were taken as follows: the simplification of documentation requirements and the expansion of eligible persons for multiple entry visas for Indian nationals, the introduction of multiple entry visas for Ukrainian nationals, and the relaxation of multiple visas for Moldova and Belarus nationals on January 1; the introduction of multiple entry visas for nationals of Pacific Island countries and the relaxation of multiple entry visas for the Philippines and Saudi Arabia nationals on August 1; and the relaxation of multiple entry visas for nationals of St. Vincent and Ecuador, the introduction of multiple entry visas for nationals of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, and the introduction of single entry visas for group package tours for Russian nationals on October 1. In addition, Japan instituted a working holiday program with Chile, Iceland, and the Czech Republic.

As described above, further expansion of the relaxation of visa requirements is expected as it is effective for promoting people-to-people exchanges and Japan's economic growth. On the other hand, the Government intensifies visa control as a part of border control measures to prevent the entry of criminals and foreign visitors with the intention of being illegal labor, as well as those who could become victims of human trafficking. MOFA is going to continue working on the relaxation of visa requirements in order to increase the number of visitors to Japan while maintaining "Japan, as the safest country in the world," and to contribute to making Japan a tourism-oriented country both in quality and quantity through attracting the wealthy class, repeat visitors, and the young generation. Also, MOFA intends to conduct such relaxation of visa requirements from a comprehensive perspective, taking into account factors such as bilateral relations and their diplomatic significance.

Changes in the Number of Visa Issuances and Foreign Visitors to Japan



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



for 2018) (Number of registered foreign nationals before 2011; that of foreign residents since 2012) (Source: Ministry of Justice)

Note 2: The number of Koreans includes those whose nationality in their alien registration certificate prior to 2011 is registered as "Korean (Chosen)"

Note 3: "Ratio to the total population of Japan" is calculated based on the population as of October 1 of each year by the "Census" and "Population Statistics" of the Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

(2) Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and their Social Integration

Since the financial crisis in 2008, the number of long-term foreign residents in Japan had kept decreasing until 2012 when the trend turned upward. While the aging of the population continues with low birth rate resulting in the

decrease of the population, it is important for Japan to secure capable human resources, irrespective of their nationality, in order to further vitalize Japan's economy and improve its competitiveness. The "Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2018" and "Investments for the Future Strategy 2018" aim at an effective utilization of foreign human resources.



International Workshop on Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Their Integration into Japan (March 1, Tokyo)

Revisions were made to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act in December with the goal of beginning to take in foreign human resources by way of introducing the status of residence "Specified Skilled Worker" in April 2019. It is expected that the number of competent foreign nationals living in Japan will further increase in the future.

MOFA cooperates with the relevant ministries and agencies on such policies taking into account foreign nationals' human rights. MOFA also hosts "International Workshop on Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Their Integration into Japan," aiming to encourage debate among the people by providing opportunities to discuss concrete challenges and measures. In March, MOFA co-hosted a workshop with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under the theme of "Advancing Vitalization of Local Communities with Foreign Nationals." The panelists discussed the acceptance of foreign nationals in taking advantage of the characteristics of each region.

In June, MOFA and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government co-hosted the Disaster Management Seminar for Diplomatic Missions and Foreign Delegations in Tokyo, in order to facilitate and reinforce information communication as well as collaboration with diplomatic missions and foreign delegations in Tokyo, considering the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Community

(1) Japanese Taking Active Roles in International Organizations

International organizations are founded to serve the common interest of the international community. People of various nationalities join these international organizations and draw on their skills and traits to create an environment where people of the world can live in peace and enjoy prosperity. There are many international organizations working to solve global issues that cannot be addressed by individual countries; for instance, conflict prevention/peacebuilding, sustainable development, food, energy, climate change, disaster prevention, health, education, labor, human rights/humanitarian issues, and gender equality, among others.

Talented individuals with specialized knowledge, passion and capabilities to contribute to the world's interests are needed so that international organizations can competently perform their duties and fulfill the roles expected of them. In order for each international organization to pursue its agenda, in addition to policy contributions and financial contributions through regular budget and voluntary contributions, Japan also makes contributions in terms of human resources through the active roles of Japanese staff.

Currently, about 850 Japanese nationals are working as professional level staff in UN-related agencies around the world. The number of Japanese employees continues to increase, signifying the expansion of Japan's personnel contributions. However, taking into account the number of professional level staff of other G7 member countries, which exceeds 1,000, Japanese personnel contribution remains insufficient.

The Government of Japan has set the objective of increasing the number of Japanese staff working at UN-related agencies to 1,000 by

Japanese Working on a Global Scale

Tomoyuki Aizawa

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat Program Officer

In review of the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, the expert review team delves deeply into the issues with the support of the UNFCCC secretariat. The dynamic discussions with people of diverse countries, cultures, and expertise never loses its appeal for me.



Review of the compliance of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period (True-Up Period Review) (Author: Farthest left)

Yuka Terada

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Nairobi Headquarters

Program Management Officer, Urban Planning and Design

The UN-HABITAT Headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya. It provides for various countries to ensure socially and environmentally sustainable shelter and settlement developments. Currently, I am involved in a new settlement development project integrating both refugees and host communities in the northern part of Kenya showcasing a Humanitarian and Development Nexus approach on the ground. Being positive, flexible and able to come up with alternate solutions are always necessary in this working environment. However, there is a great sense of achievement when we succeed in overcoming complex challenges as a team.



Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement: Providing explanation to refugees and host communities on the settlement plans and the way in which to interpret the plans at the settlement development conference. (Author: Center left)

2025. To this end, MOFA is actively recruiting, training and supporting, in collaboration with universities and related ministries and agencies, Japanese nationals who can play active roles and make a contribution on the global stage. As part of this effort, to identify talent, MOFA works on PR initiatives, including organizing guidance sessions to provide information on the fascination in working for an international organization and recruiting process, as well as hosting job fairs when human resource staff from international

organizations visit Japan and when Japanese staff return home from abroad.

Furthermore, MOFA seeks to develop young people dispatched to international organizations by strengthening and expanding the Junior Professional Officer Programme (a system of sending young Japanese nationals who aspire to work in international organizations as regular staff for two years in principle to provide them with opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and experience in international organizations and to aim for regular employment after their dispatch). MOFA is also working to coordinate with international organizations and gather information for the promotion and employment of Japanese staff, including those at the mid-career and managerial level.

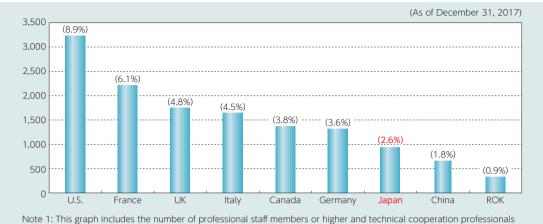
MOFA is also committed to supporting for the application process, providing useful information including vacancy information and using its website and social media such as Facebook and Twitter to Japanese candidates seeking positions at international organizations.

A larger number of talented Japanese people taking on active roles in international organizations are expected to further enhance Japan's presence in the international community more visibly.

Japanese staff are involved in various fields and duties at different locations, but they share the same goal of solving various issues facing the international community (see Column "The Voices and People Who Have Supported the United Nations" and "Japanese Working on a Global Scale").

In addition, Japanese staff at international organizations may play the role of a "bridge" between the international organization and Japan. For example, Japan's successful co-hosting of the ministerial meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in October 2018, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB), and African Union Commission (AUC) was underpinned by the important role played

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



with a term of one year or longer

Note 2: The percentage represents the ratio against the total number of employees (36,309).

Source: Created by MOFA from UN document (CEB/2018/HLCM/HR/10)

by Japanese staff members, who understand the stance and work procedures of both Japan and partner organizations. In this manner, the presence of Japanese staff in international organizations has vital significance also from the perspective of promoting Japan's diplomatic priorities.

Moreover, increasing the number of globallyminded human resources who have professional experience at international organizations and can play an active role on the international stage will in turn lead to enrichment of human resources of Japan, contributing to the development of Japan as a whole.

MOFA will continue to be even more active in undertaking measures to increase the number of Japanese nationals working in international organizations so that a larger number of competent Japanese nationals who have high aspirations and passion to contribute to solving global issues can take part in international organizations.

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

A Development Cooperation

In the interest of leveraging the capabilities of organizations outside of the Japanese government to conduct all-Japan diplomacy, NGOs are becoming increasingly important as organizations providing support to various nations, including developing countries. It is estimated that in Japan there are over 400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in international cooperation activities. Most of them are familiar with local needs at the grassroots level and provide flexible and detailed support in developing countries/regions with various challenges such as poverty, natural disaster, and conflicts, and the roles NGOs can play in development cooperation is expanding significantly.

Through NGOs, MOFA actively provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) via financial cooperation in the form of grant assistance for economic and social development projects implemented by Japanese NGOs in developing countries/regions (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects). The projects cover a wide range of assistance, including health/medical/hygienic care (maternal and child health, countermeasures for tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS, water/hygiene, etc.), rural development (environmental development/ technological improvement for agriculture), support for the people with disabilities (vocational training/job seeking assistance, provision of wheelchairs for children, etc.). education (building schools, etc.), disaster risk reduction,

Column

Voices of People Who Have Been Supporting the United Nations' Activities Telling stories from forests

Hiroto Mitsugi, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

I am writing this manuscript on December 1, 2018, in Bonn, Germany, where the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is currently being held. Various meetings on topics of environment such as biodiversity, cities and forests, landscape, and climate change are taking place in the month before and after the GLF.

These meetings address forests from various perspectives – as sources of rich biodiversity and water, as greenery that makes city life more pleasant, as integral parts of landscapes that harmonize nature and production activities, and as sinks for carbon dioxide. The FAO's role is to lead these discussions, provide knowledge and experience to stakeholders on forests and implement concrete actions.



Recipient of the Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award (center) hosted by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests CPF, comprising 14 international organizations related to forests, and the author (right) (December 2017, Bonn, Germany)

To sustainably utilize forests as global assets, we need collaboration and action by various stakeholders beyond national borders, such as national governments, local governments, the private sector, research institutes, and local residents (including producers and consumers), with their understanding of forests. Unless this happens, seemingly impressive discussions on the international stage will be meaningless.

Recent developments in science and technology have made it possible that anyone can learn about the current state of global forests and their changes using data and images from satellites. Additionally, various data and information on forest carbon stock and several cases of activities on sustainable forest management have also been reported to us. We are likely to access substantially more information and knowledge related to forests than previously. Nevertheless, deforestation continues, albeit at a slightly slower pace.

What could we do to promote more people's understanding of forests and prompt actions to halt deforestation?

The GLF meeting that I am currently attending has called for the creation of "stories from forests." Besides those who live by forests or sustain their livelihood through forests, such as from timber, mushrooms, and beekeeping, many people, particularly those living in cities, do not know much about forests. For us to take concrete actions, it is necessary to help people around the world imagine forests and empathize with the importance of co-existing with forests through stories from forests, and not just based on observational data.

The theme for the International Day of Forests on March 21, 2019 is "Forests and Education." We hope to tell stories from forests, expand the image of forests in the minds of adults as well as children, who will lead the next generation, and thereby promote concrete actions. Please join us in thinking and participating.

Column

Voices of People Who Have Been Supporting the United Nations' Activities Broadening the scope of what the United Nations can do for the world

Miwa Kato, Director, Division for Operations, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Two decades ago, I joined the fascinating world surrounding the United Nations (UN). Just having finished my graduate studies on International Relations, I was full of youthful passion, determined to contribute to making a better world. Since that time when I landed my very first job at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN in New York covering the Security Council, I have been blessed with a series of exciting assignments, working with or for the UN, changing my base from New York, The Hague, Vienna, Kabul, Cairo, and Bangkok. I still remember fondly though, how my mentor into the diplomatic world explained to me that the



A site in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where displaced "Rohingya" women are receiving assistance (author in the center)

"United Nations is its own universe filled with political power games" teaching me the perfect Japanese idiom to describe that state as I struggled to learn professional Japanese. The UN is an organization rooted in the ideals of mankind. At the same time, it is also a place where multiple divergent interests, ideals and realities all intersect, reflecting the complex world we live in. Being passionate about the ideals of the UN Charter alone is not enough to get the necessary results of improving people's lives. One must be strategic in one's efforts, making tough decisions about what to prioritize and how to push, not losing sight of the required outcomes the UN should produce.

In this complicated "universe" that is the UN, major reforms are currently being introduced under the strong leadership of Secretary-General António Guterres, to transform the organization to be more functional and capable of delivering results. In order to resolve the many challenges shared by mankind in the 21st century and to make dramatic improvements in people's lives, bold and innovative actions are needed to solve concrete problems, not being bureaucratically restricted by systems and rules that are out of step with the current reality. It is crucial to determine the necessary actions, communicate clearly, create consensus and properly deliver results, while taking into account the varied perspectives of countries and people involved. This might seem obvious but fostering such a mindset in the bureaucratic culture of the UN diplomacy is still a challenge. Nevertheless, many UN staff and diplomats from various countries are working hard to push for transformation in the way the UN works, reminding ourselves "if not now, then when?"

Reflecting the complex world we live, there are inevitably those disappointing moments when collisions of national interests among Member States or bureaucracy limit the scope of what the UN can accomplish. But we need resilience not to be discouraged by, and be limited to, the "reality" of today. We need to have courage and commitment to push for necessary changes. So, I work each day striving to create conditions that maximize the impact of hard-working staff in the frontline of the UN's work. We owe this to the people who look to the UN for support. Furthermore, I also believe that the UN will be strengthened by better reflecting the sentiments and ingenuity of the people around the world, bringing solutions to our common problems and creating new opportunities and alliances. With the dramatic technological advances including the transformational connectivity offered by the internet and social media, it should be possible to discover new working modalities and solution finding methods that incorporate perspectives from outside of the UN much more extensively. I am excited to think of what the UN can do, and can be, tapping into this great potential.



Working at the Vienna UN Headquarters since June 2018, after completing field assignments in the Middle East and Asia

Turning to Japan - a country that attained an extremely high-level of socio-economic development after the defeat of World War II and faced multiple natural disasters, based on a strong conviction for pacifism and internationalism. As such, Japan is one of the countries from which people from around the world want to learn the secrets of its success. The diligence and integrity of the Japanese people, often reflected in their style of factoring other people's feelings into solutions, are qualities that the UN itself can learn from to strengthen our core values. I hope that as many Japanese people as possible would take interest in, and get involved with, the UN and contribute to making the UN stronger. Let us all come together and share our ideas for realizing the full potential of the UN and human society.

and the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). In 2018, 59 Japanese NGOs implemented 106 projects in 37 countries and regions including Asia, Africa, and the Middle East under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. Moreover, subsidies are provided with the objective of supporting activities that enhance the project execution capabilities and expertise of Japanese NGOs and that promote NGO projects (NGO Project Subsidies).

Japan Platform (JPF) was established in 2000 with the aim of conducting emergency humanitarian assistance more effectively and promptly through cooperation and partnerships among the Government, NGOs, and business communities at the time of large-scale natural disasters or conflicts. As of the end of December 2018, 42 NGOs are members of JPF. In 2018, JPF launched emergency response to earthquake and tsunami in Lombok and Sulawesi, Indonesia and emergency response to floods in Laos and Mongolia, while continuously implementing response programs for humanitarian crises in Myanmar, Syria, Iraq and their neighboring countries. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine, South Sudan, etc.

Japanese NGOs conduct a number of activities

using contributions from supporters and the income earned from their own business. In recent years, there is growing public interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Creating Shared Value (CSV), an increasing number of companies with technologies and funds implement social action in developing countries in partnership with NGOs with much knowledge on development cooperation.

As seen thus far, NGOs assume important roles in the area of development cooperation. Identifying such NGOs as partners in development cooperation, MOFA and JICA provide indirect support for NGO activities through various policy measures with the aim of enhancing their capacity and expertise as well as developing human resources so that NGOs can strengthen the foundation for their activities and perform further tasks. In 2018, MOFA implemented four programs, namely the "NGO Consultant Scheme," "NGO Overseas Study Program," "NGO Internship Program" and "NGO Study Group."

Moreover, the general meeting of the "NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting" was held to promote dialogue/coordination with NGOs. The ODA Policy Council to discuss ODA policy and the Partnership Promotion Committee to discuss support and cooperation measures for NGOs

were also held. In addition, MOFA has been working on initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while conducting exchanges of views with various stakeholders, including NGOs, through the "SDGs Promotion Roundtable" and other means.

Partnership in Other Major Diplomatic Areas

MOFA also cooperates with NGOs in areas other than development cooperation. For instance, at the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March 2018, Ms. Yumiko Tanaka (visiting professor at Josai International University) represented Japan, and NGO representatives actively participated in discussions as members of the Japanese delegation. At the 73rd UN General Assembly, Ms. Akane Miyazaki (professor at Japan Women's University) attended the Third Committee, which deals with a range of social and human rights issues, as an advisor to the representatives of the Government of Japan. In addition, the Government of Japan has initiated dialogues with civil society including NGO representatives and experts on matters related to government reports to be submitted based on various conventions on human rights, third country resettlement projects, and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security based on the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 and related resolutions.

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

Furthermore, in the area of nuclear disarmament, MOFA has been conducting dialogues with various NGOs and experts. The Government supports the activities of NGOs and others to



Job Creation Project for Persons with Disabilities in Houaphanh Province, Laos (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. Photo: Asian Development with Disabled Persons (ADDPI)



The 1st NGO Consultants Liaison Meeting of FY 2018 (June 21, Tokyo)

convey atomic bomb survivors' testimonies on the realities of the disaster of the use of nuclear weapons to the international community through the commissioned projects called "the Special Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons" and "the Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons." As of December 2018, a total of 293 Special Communicators on 97 occasions and a total of 324 Youth Communicators on 30 occasions have been dispatched to the world through these commission programs.

As for the measures against transnational organized crime, especially in the area of trafficking

in persons, coordination with civil society including NGOs is essential. With this in mind, the Government actively exchanges opinions with NGOs and other stakeholders to identify recent trends of trafficking in persons and to consult on appropriate measures to tackle them.

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

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a JICA program aimed at cooperation/ assistance for the economic and social development of the communities of the developing countries where young people from 20 to 39 years of age, who possess skills, knowledge and experience, live and work together with local people in these countries, fostering mutual understanding. As of the end of October 2018, 44,468 JOCVs had been dispatched to 91 countries in total. Dispatched members have been engaged in about 200 types of work in ten areas: planning administration, commercial/tourism, public utility works, human resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, health/medical care, mining, social welfare, energy and others.

The JOCV program, launched in 1965 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, received the Philippines' Ramon Magsaysay Award¹, otherwise known as the Asian Nobel Prize in July 2016. The JOCV has been highly appreciated by developing countries as representing the "Visibility of Japan's International Cooperation." In 2018 Japan concluded international agreements for dispatching JOCVs with Serbia and Guinea.

The Senior Volunteers (SV) program is a program to dispatch people aged 40 to 69 who have wide-ranging skills and rich experiences to developing countries. The program has been expanding every year since its launch in 1990. By the end of October 2018, a total of 6,450

volunteers had been dispatched to 75 countries and cooperated in the same ten areas as the JOCV program. The SV program has drawn increasing interest in recent years from the perspective of supporting to start a new life after retirement and utilizing the rich experiences and expertise of retired senior citizens.

The IOCV and SV programs are supported by the high aspirations of people who are keen to provide cooperation for the sake of economic and social development and reconstruction of developing countries. MOFA actively promotes these programs, considering them as a core of participatory international cooperation by citizens. As of the end of October 2018, 1,947 JOCVs and 315 SVs are working around the world (72 countries and 56 countries, respectively). The volunteer participants who have returned to Japan contribute to Japanese society by sharing their experiences in educational and local activity settings and private companies. These unique participatory activities of Japan have been highly appreciated and expected both domestically and internationally, including in recipient countries.

Experiences gained from the IOCV/SV programs can lead to the personal development of the participants as human resources who will make a positive impact on the global arena. Thus, the Government has been working with companies, municipal governments and universities which need such opportunities to develop human resources through the dispatch of their employees, teachers and students to developing countries. This could lead to expansion of the participation from a broad range of areas. For instance, as a program responding to the needs of private companies, such as small and medium-sized enterprises, aiming for international development of their businesses, the "Private Sector Partnership Volunteer" program was launched in FY 2012. Furthermore, the Government is committed to

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



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers teaching mathematics in some more (Atsushi Shibuya / JICA)



Senior Overseas Volunteers helping revise educational curriculum and teaching guidelines in Fiji (Photo: Atsushi Shibuya / JICA)

developing an environment where returned JOCVs and SVs can feed back their experiences into society, including employment support. Returned volunteers are active in many fields inside and outside Japan. Some work as support staff for disaster-stricken local governments and some keep on supporting the countries where they were dispatched with other returned volunteers, while others work for international organizations.

JICA volunteer programs, including the JOCV and SV programs, are now being reviewed to change the current age-based categorization (young people and seniors) to categorization based on whether or not volunteers meet a certain standard of experience, skill, and other requirements. Starting in the fall of 2018, these changes are now being applied in stages.

Cooperation with Local Government

Cooperation with local governments is one of the priority issues of the Cabinet. MOFA actively works on regional revitalization and strives to deploy measures that strengthen comprehensive diplomatic capabilities through collaboration with regions.

In Japan, as part of regional revitalization support efforts, the Foreign Minister and respective prefectural governors invited members of diplomatic corps in Japan and members of foreign business communities to the Iikura Guest House, co-hosting seminars and receptions and setting up booths as means of broadly disseminating the various attractive qualities of regions to audiences both in Japan and abroad. In 2018, they co-hosted receptions with Kochi (February), Hokkaido (March), and Fukushima (December). Every reception was successful with close to 300 attendees. Along with PR for tourism, food, and traditional arts and crafts from each prefecture. Kochi Prefecture held a Yosakoi Naruto dance performance and Hokkaido held a traditional Ainu dance performance. Fukushima Prefecture engaged in PR for its renewable energy initiatives, J-Village national soccer training facility, and sake produced in the prefecture, among other things. It also talked about the current situation concerning reconstruction efforts and its vision for the future. These events provided opportunities to broadly disseminate the various attractive qualities of each region and promote further exchange and collaboration between the attendees and cohosting local governments.

In addition, MOFA cooperated with multiple local governments to host Regional Promotion Seminars in Tokyo. Conducted for members of diplomatic corps in Japan, chambers of commerce and industry, airlines, and other organizations, these seminars highlight the characteristics, advantages, and attraction of regions in Japan for industry, tourism, investment, and business



Stage performance at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Kochi Prefecture (February 19, Tokyo, likura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Presentation of foods at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Hokkaido (March 23, Tokyo, likura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Booth at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture (December 7, Tokyo, likura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

promotion. Hagi (Yamaguchi Prefecture), Niigata Prefecture, the Goto Islands (Nagasaki Prefecture), and Yabu City (Hyogo Prefecture) participated in seminars in June, while Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Kanagawa prefectures, along with the Shizuoka Tourism Bureau, participated in December. Through presentations, representatives talked about the attractiveness of their regions, promoted local specialties and tourism at receptions with



Regional Promotion Seminar: Hagi ceramics from Yamaguchi Prefecture painting event at a networking session (June 21, Tokyo)



Regional Promotion Seminar: Booth at a networking session (December 5, Tokyo)

attendees, and showcased traditional performing arts through actual performances. The events were well received by the diplomatic corps and other organizations in attendance for being valuable opportunities to directly experience the attractiveness of regional Japan while being in Tokyo. The seminars also promoted networking among local governments and diplomatic corps and other foreign organization members.

"Diplomats' Study Tours," co-organized by MOFA and local governments and other organizations for the diplomatic corps in Japan, were conducted in Takaoka City (Toyama Prefecture) and Kanazawa City (Ishikawa Prefecture) in January, Taito Ward (Tokyo) in February, Tsubame City and Sanjo City (Niigata Prefecture) in May, Shizuoka Prefecture and Hokkaido Prefecture respectively in November, with visits made by a total of about 70 members of more than 50 diplomatic corps. The diplomatic corps, including ambassadors, visited places of



Diplomats' Study Tour: Cast making event and wearing of Kaga-yuzen (January 17-18, Toyama and Ishikawa prefectures)



Diplomats' Study Tour: In front of Hozomon at the Sensoji Temple (February 21, Taito Ward, Tokyo)

scenic beauty in each region as well as cultural and industrial facilities in the community, which enabled them to experience the many community attractions of each region. As for the tour to Hokkaido, it was an opportunity to show within Japan and overseas the reconstruction efforts being made in response to the 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake. After the tours, some local governments started exchanges and collaboration with participating countries while others aiming to increase the number of visitors to such communities by utilizing connections with participating diplomatic corps.

Furthermore, MOFA actively provides local governments with opportunities to learn Japan's current diplomatic policies and exchange views. As a part of such activities, MOFA held the "Local Partnership Cooperation Forum" in January. Part One of the forum was the foreign policy briefing session, which consisted of a presentation the



Diplomats' Study Tour: Rice planting event in terraced paddy fields in Kitaimogawa (May 15-16, Tsubame-Sanjo, Niigata Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Tour of the Izu Velodrome, a venue for the track cycle event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics (November 12-13, Shizuoka Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Yosakoi Soran Bushi performance for diplomatic corps and other members participating in the tour (November 19-20, Hokkaido)

recent state of affairs in Vietnam by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Part Two of the forum, which featured sectional meetings, participants exchanged views on themes entitled "Protocol," "Golgo 13' Security Guidelines for Japanese SMEs abroad" "Expanding Imports of Japanese Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery, and Food Products,"



Project to Support Overseas Presentations to Promote Attractiveness of Regions: Opening Ceremony (January 24, Beijing, China)

and "Recent Tourism Trends and Developments in Japanese DMO²." At a discussion session held afterwards, diplomatic corps members had a lively discussion with members of local governments.

Overseas, MOFA continued to conduct the comprehensive PR program called "Project to Support Overseas Presentations to Promote the Attractiveness of Regions" for sharing the attractiveness of regions, promoting exports of prefectural products and supporting tourism for regional revitalization together with efforts to eliminate and ease import and travel restrictions as a way to dispel reputational damage stemming from the Great East Japan Earthquake. This project was held in Beijing and Shanghai from January through February and in Moscow in March. 23 local governments from Japan participated in the Beijing and Shanghai event, which served as a platform for promoting the attractiveness of made in Japan products such as Japanese rice through various events and food sampling sessions, as well as for conducting a project to promote sales through collaboration with a major Chinese e-commerce site. At the Moscow event, as a part of the "Japan Year in Russia" initiative, local governments promoted the attractiveness of Japan through their local products and culture, and PR events were held to promote greater consumption of local Japanese handicrafts



Project to Support Overseas Presentations to Promote Attractiveness of Regions: Special Ceremony (March 24, Moscow, Russia)

and foods and to lay the ground for relaxing regulations on agricultural and fishery products of which Russia currently prohibits the import. Six Japanese local governments joined the two-day event and roughly 14,000 people participated.

In addition, "Regional Promotion Projects" were conducted 18 times in Asia, North America, and Europe as measures to support local governments in promoting the development of local industries and regional economies through the attractiveness of each region by making use of Japan's diplomatic facilities overseas.

Furthermore, MOFA fully supports sistercity exchanges between Japanese local bodies and their counterparts abroad through various initiatives. Specifically, in order to support international activities of local governments and communities, Japanese diplomats visit sister cities of Japanese municipalities and share opinions with officials responsible for international/economic exchanges. Also, heads of the diplomatic missions overseas visit local municipalities in Japan to have dialogues on sister city exchanges or deliver lectures prior to leaving for new posts or when they temporarily return to Japan. In addition, if a foreign local governmental body wants to establish a sister-city relationship with a Japanese one, MOFA indirectly supports such a move by providing prefectures and 20 government-

² Abbreviation of Destination Management Organization. Refers to corporations that play a guiding role in establishing sightseeing areas

designated cities with relevant information and posting it on the "'Glocal' (global and local) Diplomatic Network" on the website of MOFA³.

As part of the overseas promotion of alcoholic beverages (Japanese sake, wine, shochu, awamori, etc.) produced in various parts of Japan, diplomatic missions overseas actively promote them, by carrying out proactive PR activities to showcase Japanese alcoholic beverages, by way of offering them at lunch/dinner with government leaders of the assigned countries or diplomatic corps of other countries and making a toast with Japanese sake at grand events such as the receptions for celebrating the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor.

MOFA is also working to respond to quickly growing demand for water treatment, waste

disposal, urban transportation, and anti-pollution measures as a result of rapid economic development in developing countries. These measures involve making use of ODA and leveraging Japanese local governments' experience and expertise, as well as conducting development cooperation using outstanding technologies and products from the local SMEs that support these regions. Through these efforts, MOFA provides support for matching these countries' development needs with companies' products and technologies. These efforts not only contribute to the global outreach of local companies, the development of globally competent human resources, and Japanese style of infrastructure exports, but also to vitalizing the entire Japanese economy and the economies of some local areas.

³ Currently (as of February 2018), the countries with a largest number of Japan's sister and partnership cities (including prefectures and municipalities) are, in descending order, the U.S. (454), China (364), the ROK (162), Australia (108), and Canada (71) and so on. (Calculated by the Council of Local Authorities for Internal Relations; see its website: http://www.clair.or.jp/j/exchange/shimai/countries/)

Section 2

Supporting Japanese Nationals Overseas

Risks and Safety of Japanese Nationals Overseas

(1) Incidents and Accidents in 2018 and Countermeasures

A total of 17.89 million¹ Japanese nationals traveled abroad in 2017 and approximately 1.35 million Japanese nationals live abroad as of October 2017. Securing the safety of Japanese nationals overseas and promoting their interests is one of the most important missions of MOFA.

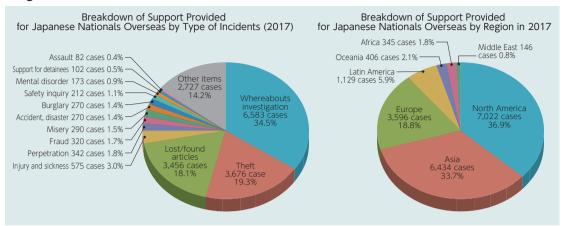
There were no Japanese victims in terrorist attacks in 2018, despite the world seeing a large number of terrorist attacks. The recent tendency of terrorist attacks includes terrorism happening not only in the Middle East and Africa but also in Europe, the U.S. and Asia where many Japanese travel and reside. Both homegrown terrorism perpetrated by people born in Western countries and indoctrinated through websites or other means by foreign Islamic extremists and lonewolf terrorism perpetrated by people acting solely with little organizational background are found in tremendous numbers. Additionally, terrorist attacks aimed at soft targets where large numbers of the general public gather everyday are on the rise. This tendency has not changed despite the fact that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

(ISIL), which in particular has been urging terror attacks outside its region, is losing its territory in Syria and Iraq. Also, foreign fighters of ISIL now are returning to their home countries or moving to third countries. These factors make it more difficult to predict and prevent terror attacks. The following incidents in 2018 demonstrate this tendency: the simultaneous suicide bombings at Christian churches in Surabaya, Indonesia in May; the shooting in Liege, Belgium in May; the terrorist bombing of a music festival venue in Fuheis, Jordan in August; the attack on a bus heading to a Coptic Orthodox Church in Minya Governorate, Egypt in November; the stabbings of pedestrians in Melbourne, Australia in November; the terrorist attack near the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi, Pakistan in November; the shooting at a Christmas market in Strasbourg, France in December, etc.

Incidents involving the death of a Japanese national overseas included: a stabbing in Dublin, Ireland in January; an armed robbery in the province of Manabí, Ecuador in March; a fall from a high place at a tourism spot in Lalibela, Ethiopia in April; an alligator attack in Florida, U.S. in June; a shooting in Cebu, the Philippines in August; an incident being hit by a streetcar in Istanbul, Turkey in September; a fire at a simple lodging in Seoul, Republic of Korea in November;

¹ Source: Ministry of Justice "Statistics on Legal Migrants"

Breakdown of Support Provided for Japanese Nationals Overseas by Type of Incidents and Region (2017)



■ Top 20 Diplomatic Missions Overseas in Terms of the Number of Cases of Assistance Provided for Japanese Nationals Overseas

| Ranking | Diplomatic missions overseas | Cases | Ranking | Diplomatic missions overseas | Cases |
|---------|--|-------|---------|---|-------|
| 1 | Embassy of Japan in Thailand | 1,273 | 11 | Consulate-General of Japan in Barcelona | 387 |
| 2 | Embassy of Japan in the Philippines | 905 | 12 | Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Korea | 375 |
| 3 | Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles | 816 | 13 | Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong | 355 |
| 4 | Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai | 799 | 13 | Consulate-General of Japan in Milan | 351 |
| 5 | Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom | 625 | 15 | Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle | 333 |
| 6 | Consulate-General of Japan in New York | 557 | 16 | Consulate-General of Japan in Houston | 321 |
| 7 | Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco | 542 | 17 | Consulate-General of Japan in Hagatna | 319 |
| 8 | Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu | 531 | 18 | Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta | 310 |
| 9 | Embassy of Japan in France | 478 | 19 | Consular Office of Japan in Portland | 309 |
| 10 | Embassy of Japan in the People's Republic of China | 430 | 20 | Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit Consulate-General of Japan in Boston | 300 |

(Based on the Statistics on Assistance for Japanese Involved in Accidents and Other Incidents 2017, these 20 Diplomatic Missions are listed in descending order of the number of cases where the embassies, consulates general, consular offices, etc. provided assistance for Japanese)

a murder in Peten, Guatemala in November; and four mountain climbing deaths in Nepal and one in Pakistan.

Japanese nationals were also affected by various natural disasters in 2018, such as the earthquake in eastern Taiwan in February; the volcanic eruption of Kilauea on the island of Hawaii, U.S. in May; the earthquake on the island of Lombok, Indonesia in July; the earthquake and tsunami on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia in September; and the flash flood at Petra Sacred Sites in Jordan in November. There were a number of incidents of political instability that could have affected Japanese nationals, such as the declaration of a state of emergency in the Maldives in February;

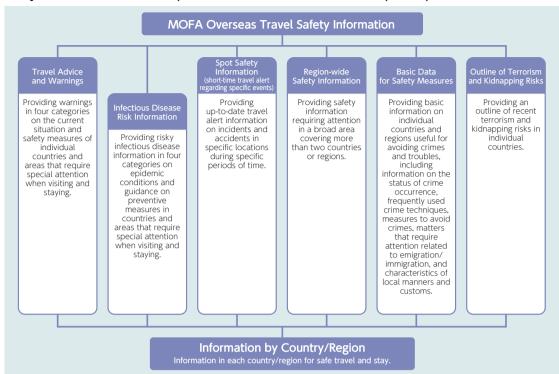
the deteriorating situation in Gaza in November; and the 'yellow vests movement' in France in November.

As was the case in the previous year, there were continued reports of the people falling ill during a trip abroad and dying at the hotel or other accommodations they were staying at.

In some of these accidents and illnesses, victims faced difficulties in dealing with higher medical and transportation costs, and receiving insufficient medical services compared to those in Japan.

As for infectious diseases, cases of Ebola were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and cases of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) continue to be reported in the

Major Overseas Travel Safety Information on the Overseas Safety HP (System and Outline)





MOFA Overseas Safety Website (https://www.anzen.mofa.go. jp/)



MOFA Overseas Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi) https://www.ezairyu.mofa.go.jp/tabireg/index.html



MOFA Overseas Safety App Overseas safety website "About the Overseas Safety App Services" can be downloaded from (http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/c_info/oshirase_kaian_app.html)

Middle East. Mosquito-borne diseases, such as the Zika virus, yellow fever, Dengue fever and malaria, also continued to spread throughout the world.

MOFA issues "Overseas Travel Safety Information" on infectious diseases and air pollution in countries and regions where health and medical caution is required, to inform Japanese nationals overseas of the current outbreak situation and prevention measures.

<Tips for Traveling and Living Abroad>

As described above, incidents which threaten the safety of Japanese nationals have constantly occurred all around the world. In addition to registration to Overseas Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi) or submission of Overseas Residential Registration, important measures for Japanese nationals traveling and living abroad to secure their safety include: (1) checking security and other information through the Overseas Safety Website, media and other sources; (2) taking adequate safety measures to avoid risks; and (3) contacting the nearest Japanese diplomatic missions overseas and family in Japan in case of emergency. MOFA uses various tools and opportunities to call attention to this message. MOFA also continues to emphasize that it is very important to take out travel insurance with a sufficient coverage when traveling abroad since the lack of travel insurance will make it difficult to pay the medical expenses or to receive proper medical care in case of diseases and accident injuries due to expensive medical fees abroad.

(2) Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Overseas

The number of cases where Japanese nationals received support or protection from the diplomatic missions and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association has stayed at a high level. In 2017, there were 21,309 by person and 19,078 by case².

In order to avoid accidents and troubles overseas, it is important to collect information beforehand. As such, MOFA works to enhance the safety awareness of Japanese nationals and promote its safety measures by disseminating information.

MOFA issues the latest safety information worldwide on the Overseas Safety Website and emails the latest safety information of travel destinations and places of residence to Japanese nationals staying overseas with Overseas Residential Registrations and shortterm travelers with registration in the Overseas Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi). Tabi-Regi is also available to those without travel plans through simple registration. The distributed safety information is widely utilized by Japanese businesspersons in charge of foreign operations. Since Tabi-Regi was launched in July 2014, MOFA has improved its user-friendliness and sponsored many activities to increase registrants. Currently, the cumulative total registration is more than 4 million.

MOFA strives to enhance the knowledge and capability of the Japanese people concerning overseas safety measures and crisis management through seminars and trainings. MOFA has hosted safety measure seminars in and out of Japan and sent lecturers from the Consular Affairs Bureau to seminars nationwide organized by other organizations and associations (around 80 times in 2018). MOFA also hosted Public-Private Joint

² The Statistics on Assistance for Japanese Involved in Accidents and Other Incidents, first published in 1986, is an annual report on the number of cases/people where the diplomatic missions overseas and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association provided assistance to Japanese nationals involved in any kind of troubles overseas, such as incidents/accidents, acts of committing crimes and falling victim to crime or disaster.

Column

Aiming for 100% Registration!

Message from Comedian Kendo Kobayashi (Kenkoba),

Ambassador for Promoting MOFA's Overseas Travel Registration ("Tabi-Regi")

<What is Tabi-Regi?>

Q: First of all, please tell us the benefits and appeals of Tabi-Regi.

Ambassador Kenkoba: Traveling abroad is a great thing and fun. But, for some reason, you feel anxious until right before the departure, don't you? You might also be concerned about what to do if you run into trouble at your destination. You might often see people milling around the overseas travel insurance counter at the airport. Insurance is important, too. But, if you're registered with Tabi-Regi, you'll receive the necessary information by email and safety confirmation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an emergency while abroad. With this extra reassurance, you can genuinely let yourself go and enjoy your travel. It makes you feel better.

Q: What kind of information can you receive?

Ambassador Kenkoba: For example, I traveled to New York for my summer vacation and received an email from Tabi-Regi suggesting that I had better not visit a certain area during certain hours due to a planned power outage in the area. That was really helpful. You wouldn't know this information traveling normally without the service.

Q: Is Tabi-Regi useful?

Ambassador Kenkoba: Just by inputting your travel destination and period, you can receive a steady flow of information about "things that are happening now" in Japanese.

Q: Have you ever had a problem while traveling abroad?

Ambassador Kenkoba: Well, I have, and it has to be something I can talk about here, right (laughs)? A typical case is alcoholic drinks not being sold after midnight, or being banned during certain periods in certain countries. Sorry to just be talking about alcohol (laughs).



Q: That's fine (laughs).

Ambassador Kenkoba: More seriously, when I visited Shanghai for work before, I couldn't leave my location and was stuck there for a few hours because authorities were keeping people off the streets due to a visit by the vice president of some country. I also had an experience where I wandered into a very dangerous area in a part of San Francisco without knowing. I shuddered afterwards. If I was

registered with Tabi-Regi at the time of those travels, I might have been aware of those circumstances ahead of time and I could have left earlier or taken a different route.

<activities as the Ambassador in charge of promoting Tabi-Regi registration>

Q: Currently, only about 10% of overseas travelers register with Tabi-Regi. Foreign Minister Kono requested that you aim to boost the registration rate to 100%. What activities are you planning as the Ambassador in charge of promoting Tabi-Regi registrations?

Ambassador Kenkoba: I hope to promote this service broadly using videos and posters. I also intend to be involved in grass-roots activities. I'm wandering around Haneda and Narita airports, so feel free to say hello to me anytime. Then, I'll tell you about Tabi-Regi too (laughs).

Q: The number of people travelling abroad is steadily growing and could surpass 19 million a year.

Ambassador Kenkoba: While 19 million is a massive number, I hope to promote wider use of Tabi-Regi since I've personally benefited from its convenience.

Q: Finally, please share a message with everyone.

Ambassador Kenkoba: Being well prepared means no worries. Register with Tabi-Regi to feel more reassured and safer, and let's grab a drink together if we run into each other abroad. There I go. Back to talking about drinking again (laughs).



Ambassador Kenkoba receiving a letter of appreciation and a letter of appointment from Foreign Minister Kono

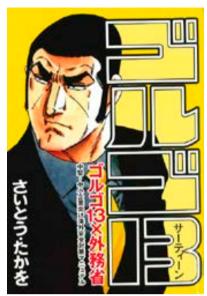


Practical Training for Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Kidnapping Measures with the participation from private companies. These efforts are beneficial not only for taking preventive measures against dangers like crime and terrorism, but also for enhancing response capabilities in case of emergency.

Public and private cooperation is also proceeding overseas. The diplomatic missions overseas host regular meetings of Security Consultation and Liaison Committees with local Japanese nationals to share information, exchange opinions and bolster collaboration in preparation for emergencies.

After the terrorist attack in Dhaka in July 2016, MOFA has worked to enhance the awareness of safety measures and the response capabilities of international cooperation personnel, small and medium enterprises, students studying abroad, short-term travelers and others who have limited access to information on safety.

First, MOFA launched the Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network, with the participation of 29 organizations and agencies related to overseas expansion of Japanese businesses in September 2016, in order to support SMEs, which account for the vast majority of Japanese companies. The collaboration among members in this network has strengthened safety measures of those companies, such as raising safety awareness through seminars and newsletters, establishing horizontal relationships among participating companies, seeking to



©Takao Saito Golgo 13's Security Guidelines for Japanese SMEs Abroad http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen_info/golgo13xgaimusho.html

provide better support services for business, etc. Furthermore, in March 2017, MOFA released Golgo 13's Security Guidelines for Japanese SMEs abroad, which explains the minimal and basic safety measures for the companies in an easy-to-understand manner using famous manga (cartoons). After its release, about 110,000 copies of the fine printed version have been distributed and the special webpage has gotten about 1.7 million views, which shows that the guidelines have been used by Japanese businesses widely and contributed to raising awareness on overseas safety measures.

As for Japanese students studying overseas, MOFA is working to enhance their awareness of safety measures and aid in the establishment of crisis management systems at schools. MOFA sends lecturers to universities and other educational institutions, many of which have insufficient knowhow or experience on safety measures and emergency responses. MOFA is going forward with efforts to connect government agencies with educational institutions, overseas study agencies and students by such means as beginning automatic registration to Overseas

Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi) with some overseas study institutions.

As for safety measures for short-term travelers, MOFA is engaged in PR activities mainly focused on the promotion of registration of Tabi-Regi through appointment of Kendo Kobayashi as Tabi-Regi Registration Promotion Ambassador and cooperation with Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. and others (See Column "About Tabi-Regi (Interview with Ambassador Kendo Kobayashi)".).

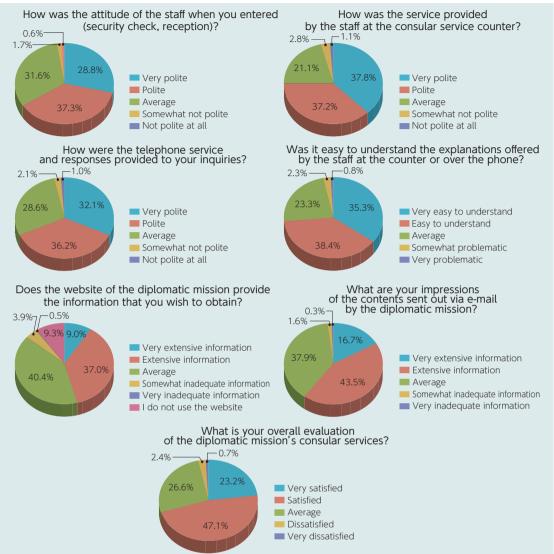
MOFA took out advertisements in various media outlets, hosted a booth at Tourism EXPO Japan, and hosted a seminar on five occasions for tour guides of travel companies who escort travelers in an effort to convey the importance of working on safety measures and to call for cooperation in developing safety measures for travelers.

Consular Service and Assistance for Japanese Living Overseas

(1) Improving Consular Service

With the aim of providing high quality consular services to Japanese nationals overseas, MOFA conducts a questionnaire survey every year on services such as consular staffs' attitudes in over-the-counter consular services, telephone responses at diplomatic missions overseas, and information provision. In 2018, the surveys were conducted by 148 diplomatic missions overseas and received 28,874 responses. The results showed a general level of satisfaction with regard to the overall consular services provided by the diplomatic missions overseas, including over-thecounter services and telephone responses. At the same time, there were harsh evaluations about the attitude of consular staffs and opinions calling for improvement. As such, MOFA will continue its efforts for improvements, reflecting user feedback in enhancements and improvements of consular services, so as to provide consular services at the diplomatic missions overseas in line with users' perspective.

Results of Survey on the Consular Service (2018: 148 diplomatic missions overseas)



(2) Issuance of Passports and Prevention of Illicit Acquisition of Passports

Approximately 4.31 million passports were issued in 2018. As of the end of December 2018, approximately 29.98 million ordinary passports are valid, and all of them are ePassports³.

The issuance of ePassports is effective for deterring illicit use of passports such as forged or altered passports. However, there continue to be cases of illicit acquisition of passports by means of impersonation⁴. There were cases where Japanese nationals or illegal foreign residents left and entered Japan using passports acquired illegally

³ An ePassport is a passport embedded with an integrated circuit (IC) chip which contains a digitized facial image (biometric information) and other information of the passport holder to prevent passport forgery and its illicit use by a third party. It was first issued in 2006.

⁴ The number of illegal acquisitions of passports through identity theft discovered: 41 in 2014, 31 in 2015, 22 in 2016, 21 in 2017, and 35 in 2018.

Column

Challenges of a Visa Officer

Consular Office of the Embassy of Japan in China

The number of foreign visitors to Japan reached the highest on record at 31.19 million in 2018. With the further increase of tourists and other visitors from foreign countries, the number of visa issuances is approximately 6.95 million in 2018, and 78% of them were issued to Chinese citizens. The Government of Japan is pursuing initiatives to make Japan a tourism oriented country and the relaxation of visa requirements also boosts the increase of foreign visitors. On the other hand, it is also important to conduct a strict visa examination to prevent the entry of foreigners who might harm Japan's interests. Visa officers in charge of issuing visas at the Embassies and Consulates-General of Japan around the world are struggling daily with many application documents.

In recent years, the number of Chinese people visiting Japan, mainly tourists and business people, has been steadily increasing. The number of visa issuances at the Embassy and Consulates-General of Japan in China is remarkably high, and visa officers are extremely busy every day. For example, the Embassy of Japan in China issues approximately 1.2 million visas a year. This means receiving approximately 5,000 visa applications per day and over 10,000 visas at peak times. The number of visa issuances climbed from 0.51 to 1.35 million in the five years from 2014 to 2018. However, the number of visa officers is not keeping the same pace with



Visa reception counter

the increase in issuance volume. The staff of designated travel companies (proxy application company) come to the visa counter of the Embassy in the morning every day to submit applications and pick up approved visas. Visa officers must carefully examine related documents in a matter of minutes each day in order to correctly and quickly process a high volume of applications within a fixed amount of time with a limited number of people.

Given this situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Embassy and Consulates-General of Japan in China are constantly seeking to enhance efficiency and streamline the visa examination process. For example, as an initial streamlining attempt, since fall 2018, Japan has been promoting a change in the payment method for visa application fees from cash to bank transfer to the account of the Embassy of Japan in China, which has been applied to all designated travel agencies. This was the first time such a measure had been implemented by a Japanese Embassy, Consulate-General or permanent mission of Japan. Visa officers prepared extensively for this unprecedented change by holding briefings for designated travel agencies, reviewing work procedures, and assigning roles within the Embassy and Consulates-General to ensure that everything would go smoothly. As a result, the change improved work efficiency, especially by removing the tasks of checking whether any counterfeit notes are mixed in with the massive amounts of cash and calculating cash amounts.

As the second streamlining attempt, MOFA is actively promoting a paperless format with electronic applications that replaces the previous method of conducting examinations of visa application documents only after receiving hard copies of them. This will streamline data input work at the Embassy of Japan in

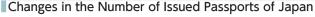
China. While Japan plans to launch electronic visas using an electronic procedure for the Embassy and Consulates-General of Japan in China from April 2020, the Embassy of Japan is implementing this format as a pilot site.

Nevertheless, the benefits from enhancing work efficiency and streamlining are limited to data input and visa seal printing and other things handled by local staff. The extremely important examination task, which must be handled by visa officers themselves, continues to require rigorous checks, including from the standpoint of border control.

Visa officers not only at the Embassy of Japan in China, but also around the world carry out their examination tasks in a matter of minutes day and night to promote people-to-people exchanges between respective countries and Japan and facilitate the appropriate flow of people into Japan.



Visa waiting area full of designated travel agencies





under the name of another person. Also, passports with false identities were used for borrowing money from financial institutions, opening bank accounts for the purpose of selling them to those who plot to commit other crimes, and subscribing to mobile phone services without the real passport holders knowing it. In order to prevent illicit acquisition of passports that may nurture these secondary or tertiary crimes, MOFA has been making further effort to enhance strict identity examination in issuing a passport, for example, by such means as designating a tighten inspection period against illicit acquisition of passports through identity theft at passport offices located in each prefecture. Furthermore, restrictions are placed on the issuance of passports to persons who are undergoing criminal prosecution, persons who have a suspended sentence, persons who violated the Passport Act, etc. Upon a report from relevant institutions, the Minister for Foreign Affairs orders the surrender of passports to persons against whom an arrest warrant has been issued.

While the integrated circuit (IC) chips in Japanese passports record facial images and other information identifying the passport holders, ePassports with improved security against counterfeiting using biometric information

such as fingerprints have become widespread in other countries, and possibilities for more effective use of IC chips are under consideration at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In addition, starting October 1, 2018, 'downloadable applications' launched on January 4, 2016 at diplomatic missions overseas are now adopted in Japan as well, improving convenience for applicants.

Consignment of passport-related work such as application and delivery, from the prefectural governments to city/town offices has been permitted since 2006. 837 cities/towns had started passport service by the end of 2018, which make up almost 50% of all the cities/towns in Japan.

(3) Overseas Voting

The overseas voting system allows Japanese voters living overseas to vote in national elections. In the elections after June 2007, it was made possible to vote from overseas for the small electoral district election of the House of Representatives and the electoral district election of the House of Councillors (including by-election and recall election), in addition to voting for the

proportional representation segment of elections of the both Houses. In order to vote from overseas. it is necessary to be registered in advance on the overseas voter directory managed by the election board of the city/town government and to obtain overseas voter identification. Starting in June 2018, in addition to the conventional method of applying through a diplomatic mission overseas after moving overseas, Japanese nationals can now apply at their municipality service counter at the same time as filing their notice of moving overseas. As a result, there is no longer a need to appear in person at a diplomatic mission overseas after moving outside Japan, which simplifies procedures and is expected to lead to an increase in registered voters. Voters with valid overseas voter identification can vote by choosing one of the three methods of voting, a) voting at diplomatic missions overseas, b) voting by mail, or c) voting in Japan.

The diplomatic missions overseas have been making efforts to disseminate the system and to increase the number of registered voters by publicizing this system and carrying out a visiting service for the registration of Japanese nationals living in remote areas. Also, whenever an election is held, diplomatic missions overseas are responsible for voting administration, including PR prior to elections.

(4) Assistance for Japanese Nationals Living and Engaging in Activities Overseas

A Japanese Schools and Supplementary Education Schools

Education for children is one of the major concerns for Japanese nationals living abroad. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, MOFA carries out assistance for the Japanese Schools (partial assistance for school building rental fees, rewards for locally hired teachers and safety measures expenses) so that the overseas school children at the age of domestic compulsory

education can receive education equivalent to that of Japan. MOFA also provides the same assistance as that for the Japanese Schools to the Supplementary Education Schools (educational institutions established to maintain children's ability, such as Japanese language ability) mainly in areas where the Japanese Schools are not located. In addition, MOFA is further strengthening and expanding assistance related to safety measures in light of the recent changes in the international terrorism situation. MOFA will continue providing these forms of support in the future.

B Medical/Health Measures

MOFA gathers information on infectious diseases being spread overseas and provides this information to a broad audience through the overseas safety website, websites of diplomatic missions overseas, email, etc. Furthermore, in order to provide health advice through consultations to Japanese nationals residing in countries where the medical situation is poor, MOFA dispatches medical teams with the support of domestic medical institutions (to one country, seven cities in FY2018). MOFA also dispatches medical specialists to regions where infectious diseases or air pollution has become serious, and organizes health and safety lectures (12 countries, 13 cities in FY2018).

Responses to Other Needs

In order to eliminate the complexity of various procedures for Japanese nationals living overseas (such as converting Japanese driving licenses to the country of residence, obtaining stay/work permits) and to make living abroad more comfortable, MOFA continues talks with foreign governments.

For example, when converting driving licenses issued in foreign countries to Japanese driving licenses, all persons with driving licenses issued in a foreign country are exempted from taking certain examinations, when it is confirmed that they have no problems with operating vehicles.

Overseas Voting

a) Voting at diplomatic missions overseas

Voters registered on an overseas voter directory can vote by presenting their overseas voter identification and ID such as a passport at a diplomatic mission (period and time for voting vary depending on the mission)



b) Voting by mail

A voting slip can be requested by sending his/her overseas voter identification and written request for a voting slip to the chair of the election board of the city/town government where the voter is registered. Completed voting slip needs to arrive at the voting venue before the end of voting time (20:00 Japan time) of the domestic voting day in Japan.



c) Voting in Japan

If overseas voters are temporarily staying in Japan during the election time, or in case voters are not yet registered on a domestic voter directory after their permanent return in Japan, the voter may vote in the same way as other domestic voters with their overseas voter identification for overseas voting (early voting, absentee voting, and voting on the election day).

On the other hand, it is mandatory to take driving tests when converting Japanese licenses to local licenses in some countries and states, such as North and South America. MOFA is calling for those countries to simplify the procedures for license conversion as in Japan.

MOFA also supports victims of atomic bomb attacks living overseas in applying for the authorization of Atomic Bomb Diseases and for the issuance of Health Check Certificates, via diplomatic and consular missions.

Cooperation with Emigrants and Japanese Descendants, Nikkei

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of 150 years as of 2018. There are estimated 3.6 million overseas Japanese and Nikkei, with especially large numbers residing in North, Central and South America. They make positive and great contributions to the development of the countries in various fields, including politics, economy, academics and culture, and at the same

time, they act as a bridge between Japan and these countries in developing close relations.

Together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MOFA provides cooperation in Central and South America, where estimated 2.13 million Japanese descendants live. Various forms of assistance are offered, including welfare support for aging emigrants, training in Japan for Nikkei persons, and dispatch of volunteers to the local Nikkei communities. Also, in May 2017, based on the report submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Panel of Experts on Collaborating with Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, MOFA is working to build further relationships with Nikkei communities.

To date, invitation programs for Nikkei leaders in various fields have been carried out in North, Central and South America. Also, efforts are underway to strengthen relations with Japanese descendants in these regions. As part of this, diplomatic missions in each country are working closely to cooperate with Nikkei communities, including actively establishing an occasion to meet with Nikkei persons during visits of Japanese government high-level officials.

In June, a number of commemorative events were held in Hawaii, including the Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad, to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese migration to Hawaii. In August, during Foreign Minister Kono's visit to the U.S., he interacted with Japanese descendants representing various generations and fields, and during his visit to Peru in the same month, Foreign Minister Kono met with the Nikkei community through the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad. Moreover, in December, Prime Minister Abe visited Uruguay and Paraguay, where he held talks with members of the Nikkei community in both countries. Japan intends to provide support for Japanese emigrants and their descendants, promote cooperation with the young generation and strengthen the bond between these people and Japan.

The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Hague Convention) and its Implementation

The Hague Convention is designed as an international mechanism for addressing disputes arising from the wrongful removal or retention of children across borders in the belief that the interests of children are of paramount importance. It requires cooperation between Contracting States to the Convention for returning children to their state of habitual residence and establishing opportunities for transboundary parent-child access.

This convention came into force in Japan on April 1, 2014. Currently, 99 countries including Japan are parties to the Convention as of December 31, 2018.

The convention is implemented through mutual cooperation among the governmental agencies designated as the Central Authority in Contracting States to the Convention. In Japan, MOFA as the Central Authority avails itself of experts in various fields and communicates/cooperates with foreign Central Authorities, and provides assistance to the parties such as locating whereabouts of the child and arranging mediation services aimed at amicable resolutions.

In the four years and nine months between the entry into force of the Convention and the end of December 2018, MOFA received a total number of 328 applications: 197 applications seeking the return of the child and 131 applications seeking access to the child. Of the cases seeking the return of the child from Japan to another country, children were returned in 30 cases and conclusions were reached not to return the child in 32 cases. Of the cases requesting the return of the child from another country to Japan, children were returned in 32 cases and conclusions were reached not to return the child in 19 cases.

In February 2018, MOFA invited a U.S. lawyer with in-depth knowledge of court proceedings for Hague cases in the U.S. so that persons involved in Japan's implementation of the Hague Convention

can learn from his expertise, and lecture meetings and other events were organized for that purpose. Furthermore, in August, as part of PR activities to prevent child abductions, the head of the Central Authority within the Ministry of Justice of Brazil was invited to Japan. MOFA held seminars with her in four cities in Japan intended for Brazilian nationals and their spouses living in Japan. She also had meetings with MOFA and Japanese practitioners.

In addition to this, MOFA works with diplomatic missions overseas to actively hold seminars to raise awareness among Japanese nationals living overseas. Also, efforts are put into PR activities including holding seminars in Japan at local governments and relevant institutions and handing out leaflets in multiple languages.

In August, MOFA set up a Twitter account for the Hague Convention Division, which is being used to inform a broader audience about the Hague Convention using social media.

Number of Applications for Assistance Received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Based on the Implementation Act of the Hague Convention (as of end-December 2018)

| | Application for assistance in child's return | Application for assistance in visitation or contact with child |
|---|--|--|
| Application concerning a child (children) in Japan | 101 | 101 |
| Application concerning a child (children) outside Japan | 96 | 30 |

Section 3

Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

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 |
|--|--------------|
| *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 MC | | | |

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)



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



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



Journal on foreign affairs entitled "Diplomacy"

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 seniorhigh 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.

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

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



Exhibition poster

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

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.

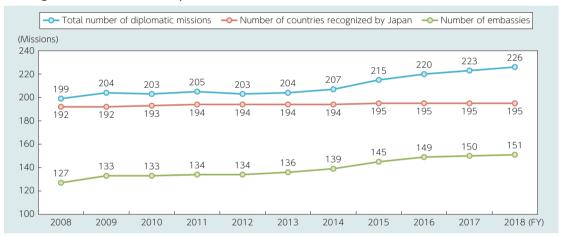
These exhibitions commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration introduced Japan's trial-and-error process of modernization. Opening itself to the world at the end of the Edo era, Japan started building up international relations in the Meiji years, tackling various challenges, such as



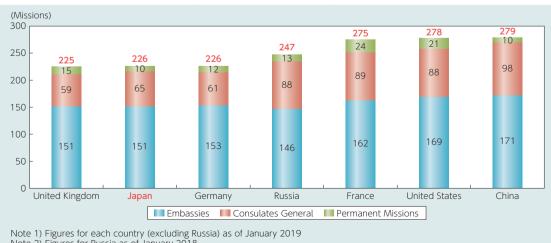
The Portsmouth Peace Treaty (signed document)

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

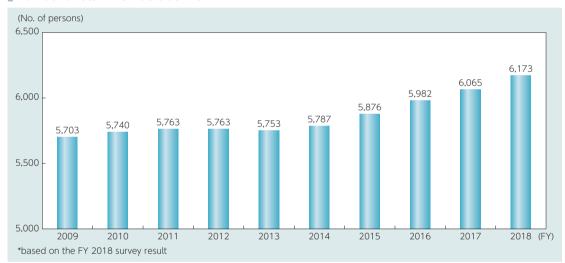


Note 2) Figures for Russia as of January 2018

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 hightening. 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 implementation formulation and

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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

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 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.