

# DIPLOMATIC BLUEBOOK 2020



# **Diplomatic Bluebook 2020**

Japanese Diplomacy and  
International Situation in 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

# Preface to the Diplomatic Bluebook 2020

The year 2019 was a “year of diplomacy” for Japan with a series of international meetings and major events taking place in the country. Large-scale international conferences, such as the G20 Osaka Summit and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), as well as the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden, provided excellent opportunities to further deepen the world’s understanding of and interest in Japan and to share with the international community Japan’s readiness to tackle issues for achieving global peace and prosperity.

Each time I talk with my foreign counterparts, I am made keenly aware that expectations for Japan are increasing and Japan’s global presence is growing, as a country that has been pursuing a consistent, stable diplomacy amid the increasingly complex and uncertain international situation. I am determined to exert initiative in resolving various problems by translating Japan’s growing global presence into coordinating capacity in the international community. I will stand firm where a resolute response is needed. This is precisely what I aim to pursue under the “diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness,” which I have reiterated since my appointment as Foreign Minister.

I will continue to take further steps with a particular focus on six policy areas: (1) further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, the cornerstone of Japan’s foreign policy; (2) tackling outstanding issues of concern regarding North Korea; (3) advancing diplomacy with neighboring countries, such as China, the Republic of Korea, and Russia; (4) addressing the increasingly tense situation in the Middle East; (5) engaging in economic diplomacy in which Japan will lead efforts to establish new common rules; and (6) addressing global issues.

The Diplomatic Bluebook 2020 records Japan’s diplomatic activities throughout 2019, including those in the above priority areas that took place in 2019. Chapter 1 reviews the international situation and Japan’s diplomacy in 2019. Chapters 2 and 3 elaborate on major events in 2019 in relation to Japan’s foreign policy by region and by field respectively. Chapter 4 discusses the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Japanese society and people in deepening their ties with the world. Additions were made to cover the situation concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to the extent permitted by time available until publication.

The Diplomatic Bluebook targets three types of readers full of intellectual curiosity. The first is experts, researchers, and members of the media who are engaged in international affairs. For these readers, we have enhanced factual content, including diagrams of Japan’s initiatives. The second is businesspersons and students interested in international affairs. Chapter 1 provides a compact outline of the international situation and Japan’s diplomacy in 2019 to ensure ease of reading even in a short amount of time. The third is the many people who normally do not give great thought to diplomacy and are wondering about the work performed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To make Japan’s foreign policy more accessible to these readers, the opening special features contain many photos and provide easy-to-understand descriptions of diplomatic events, including the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7, as well as Japan’s efforts to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” We have also included columns on more familiar topics, such as the Rugby World Cup.

It is my sincere hope that this Diplomatic Bluebook will help a broad readership, both domestic and overseas, form an image of Japan demonstrating leadership in the international community and contributing more than ever to global peace and stability.

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**MOTEGI Toshimitsu**



In principle, Diplomatic Bluebook 2020 describes an overview of the international affairs and Japan's diplomatic activities between January 1 and December 31 of 2019; however, some important events that occurred until April 2020 are also included.

This book consists of the opening special features, Chapters 1 to 4, and some reference materials. The opening special features contain double-page spreads with photos on major diplomatic events and topics. Chapters 1 to 4 offer concise overviews of Japan's diplomatic activities throughout 2019, and also include special features explaining specific foreign policy themes in an easy-to-understand manner and column articles contributed by people with global experiences.

This year's and past years' Diplomatic Bluebooks are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The summaries of Diplomatic Bluebook 2020 in French and Spanish are also due to be available on the website by autumn 2020.

For more details with respect to Chapter 3, Section 1, "4 Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy," and Chapter 3, Section 2, "Japan's International Cooperation," please refer to MOFA's publications, *Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy*, and *White Paper on Development Cooperation Japan's International Cooperation*. They are also available on the MOFA website.

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

The maps in this book are simplified and may not necessarily be drawn to scale.

Previous Diplomatic Bluebooks:  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/index.html>



*Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy*  
(only in the Japanese language)  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/gun\\_hakusho/index.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/gun_hakusho/index.html)



and

*White Paper on Development Cooperation*  
*Japan's International Cooperation*:  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page\\_000017.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000017.html)





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# Opening Special Features

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# From Heisei to Reiwa: Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne

On May 1, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan acceded to the Throne, and the era name changed from Heisei to Reiwa. This marked the first imperial succession by abdication in approximately 200 years.

The most important ceremony of the Accession to the Throne is the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden (State Hall), in which His Majesty the Emperor proclaims his enthronement and receives felicitations from representatives in Japan and overseas.

Japanese and foreign guests were invited to the Ceremony of the Enthronement at the Seiden held on October 22. While heads of State, envoys, their spouses, and others from 160 countries and organizations attended the Heisei imperial succession, the Reiwa imperial succession was represented by 191 countries, organizations, and others. Foreign guests also attended the Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement and the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse.

With many foreign dignitaries visiting Japan, the events offered an opportunity to acquaint a wider circle of people across the globe with the linkages between the Imperial Family and the world.

Books of celebration for the new Emperor were opened at approximately 230 Japanese Embassies, Consulates, and other missions overseas.

Messages congratulating His Majesty's accession to the Throne were received from all over the world, including royal families and dignitaries with ties to the Imperial Family who signed the books of celebration.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress  
(Photo: Imperial Household Agency)



Message from Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain (left) and the Prime Minister of Thailand signing a book of celebration at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand (right)



His Majesty the Emperor proclaiming his enthronement, October 22 (left: The Imperial Throne for the Emperor; right: The August Seat of the Empress)



Imperial Palace (left is the State Hall where the Ceremony of the Enthronement at the Seiden was held)



Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement for foreign guests, October 22 (top); Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse, October 23 (bottom)



Japanese traditional arts were performed to deepen guests' understanding of Japan's traditional culture, both at the Ceremony of the Enthronement (top) and the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse (bottom).



### Key Events of the Accession to the Throne

- May 1: Accession to the Throne by His Majesty the Emperor
- October 22: Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden  
Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement (Day 1: Foreign guests)
- October 23: Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse
- November 10: Imperial Procession by motorcar after the Ceremony of the Enthronement



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress receiving blessings from the people during the Imperial Procession by motorcar after the Ceremony of the Enthronement, November 10

For messages from foreign dignitaries who attended the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne <https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/content/kansou.pdf> (Japanese only)





# G20 Osaka Summit

The G20 Osaka Summit held on June 28 and 29, 2019 was the largest summit ever held in Japan's diplomatic history.

This special feature outlines the outcomes and initiatives of the G20 Osaka Summit.

(See Chapter 3-3-2(3))

## What is the G20?

The Group of Twenty, or the G20, was established as a forum that brings together the leaders of major developed and emerging countries to address economic and financial issues in the wake of the global financial crisis in September 2008. The GDP of the G20 members represents over 80% of the entire global economy. Continuing to gain in importance as the "premier forum for international economic cooperation," the G20 discusses not only the world economy and trade but also other global issues, such as development, climate change and energy, and health, every year under a rotating presidency.

## Japan's First Presidency of the G20

In 2019, Japan assumed the G20 presidency for the first time and hosted the G20 Osaka Summit as well as eight ministerial meetings across the country. At the G20 Osaka Summit hosted by Prime Minister Abe, leaders engaged in lively discussions on themes involving a complex mix of diverse national interests, such as international trade, global environmental issues, and the digital economy. The Osaka Leaders' Declaration was adopted as an outcome document.



G20 Osaka Summit, June 28, Osaka (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Presidency Press Conference, June 29, Osaka

## Key Outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit

The G20 Osaka Summit produced many outcomes. For example, leaders confirmed the principles of free trade and agreed on reforming the WTO, taking into account the spate of trade disputes that has raised questions about the international free trade system. In addition, leaders shared the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), which will become the foundation for data use. The G20 also demonstrated to the world its strong commitment to many issues, including through the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" for reducing marine plastic litter. Furthermore, the "Osaka Track" was launched to advance international rule-making for data governance.



Working Lunch June 28, Osaka (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Food served at the working lunch (White rice from Fukushima on the bottom left) June 28, Osaka



## Showcasing Japan to the World

The G20 Osaka Summit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase Japan to the world by extending hospitality and introducing Japanese food and culture to the participating leaders.

With consideration for the diverse cultural backgrounds of the guests and the wide range of tastes, world-class Japanese fusion cuisine was served at the leaders' dinner and working lunch that all the guests could enjoy. Under the theme of "the Integration of Sustainability and Gastronomy," the menu was prepared under the supervision of Mr. Tsuji Yoshiki, the head of the Tsuji Culinary Institute Group (which runs a culinary institute and other schools). Efforts were made to promote the appeal and safety of Japanese food products, using a vast range of ingredients from the local Kansai region while also incorporating ingredients from areas recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Leaders and their partners were offered hospitality tailored to their individual needs. Questionnaires were conducted to understand participants' preferences, allergies, and religious dietary restrictions, and multiple menu options were served including halal. In addition to translating the menus on the table into the native languages of all leaders and their partners, other considerations were also made to ensure a leisurely and pleasant dining experience. The impeccable service provided by a group of butlers selected from all over Japan received praise from participants.

In the Cultural Program held before the dinner, leaders and their partners enjoyed performances on the theme of "Tradition and Diversity of Japan" by Mr. Nomura Mansai, Mr. Tsujii Nobuyuki, and Ms. Nakamaru Michie. During Mr. Tsujii's piano performance of "Flowers Will Bloom," the background images showed the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake, reconstruction efforts to date, and messages of appreciation for the assistance extended by the G20 members.



Cultural Program performances  
June 28, Osaka

Pianist Tsujii Nobuyuki (top),  
Kyogen performer Nomura  
Mansai (middle), and  
opera singer Nakamaru  
Michie (bottom)



Government Exhibition Booth at the International Media Center (left) and Live Kitchen (right)

## At the International Media Center

The International Media Center at the G20 Osaka Summit venue was installed with the Government Exhibition Booth to introduce Japan's innovative technologies.

"Live Kitchen," where foods were prepared in front of foreign reporters, provided samples of Osaka delicacies, such as *takoyaki* octopus balls and *kushikatsu* deep-fried skewers, as well as Japanese sake.

Such firsthand experiences helped deepen the foreign media's understanding of the appeals of Japan.

## Following the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The G20 Osaka Summit was followed by the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in November that culminated the year of Japan's G20 presidency. The meeting reaffirmed the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and served as a springboard for concrete initiatives in 2020 and beyond. Going forward, the G20 members are expected to translate the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit into concrete actions. Japan will continue to exert leadership in the G20 with Saudi Arabia, the G20 presidency in 2020.



Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Motegi  
November 22, Nagoya



Foreign Minister Motegi handing over the presidency mallet to Saudi Arabia  
November 23, Nagoya



# TICAD7

## Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation

You might have heard of TICAD7 in 2019. There may be readers who know that it is an international conference on Africa but are not familiar with the details.

This special feature presents TICAD7 which was held in Yokohama in August. (See Chapter 2-7-1)

## What is TICAD?

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an international conference on Africa's development initiated by Japan in 1993. It supports African development under the basic principles of African ownership and international partnership.



Heads of State, Government and delegation attending TICAD7, August 28 (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

**The Government of Japan will put forth every possible effort so that Japanese private investment in Africa increases further.**



Prime Minister Abe delivering a keynote address at the Opening Session, August 28

## TICAD7: Theme and Overview

- TICAD7 was held from August 28 to 30 in Yokohama. It gathered more than 10,000 people, including 42 African leaders as well as representatives of international organizations, partner countries and NGOs for discussions on Africa's development.
- Prime Minister Abe co-chaired TICAD7 with President El-Sisi of Egypt (Chair of the African Union [AU]). Deputy Prime Minister Aso served as acting chair of Japan. Attendees from the Government of Japan included Foreign Minister Kono, other ministers concerned.
- Under the theme of Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation, discussions took place on the three pillars of the economy, society, and peace and stability. In particular, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7, based on requests from Japanese private companies and the African side. For the first time in TICAD's history, private companies from Japan and Africa participated as official partners.
- At the closing session, the Yokohama Declaration 2019 was adopted, and the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 was announced as an accompanying document. In addition, the Government of Japan released a document called TICAD7: Japan's Contributions for Africa, which outlines Japan's support measures.



## Bilateral Summit and Foreign Ministers' Meetings with Africa

On the margins of TICAD7, Prime Minister Abe held 47 meetings and Foreign Minister Kono held 25 meetings with the heads of African countries and international organizations, foreign ministers, and others. At the meetings, leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations, cooperation in the international arena including United Nations Security Council reform, and issues concerning North Korea. African leaders and other representatives expressed appreciation for Japan's contribution to Africa through the TICAD process.



Meeting with President Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, August 28 (top)



Meeting with President Talon of Benin, August 30 (right)  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## The Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

On August 30, on the occasion of TICAD7, the Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Award Ceremony and the Commemorative Banquet were hosted by Prime Minister Abe in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. Approximately 170 people attended these events. The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was established in memory of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi to honor individuals or organizations who have made outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services in Africa. The Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was awarded to Dr. Muyembe-Tamfum from the Democratic Republic of the Congo for his research on Ebola and other deadly viruses and his efforts for human resources development in the field of diseases control, and to Dr. Omaswa from the Republic of Uganda for his dedication to human resources development in the field of health and medicine as well as building of health system.



Prime Minister Abe and Dr. Muyembe-Tamfum at the award ceremony



Toast by His Majesty the Emperor at the commemorative banquet



Dr. Omaswa delivering an address at the commemorative banquet

## A Variety of Activities at TICAD7

A variety of events were held at TICAD7 with lively participation by citizens, contributing to the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Africa.



African leaders were greeted by a wadaiko (Japanese drums) performance Welcome reception co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the Mayor of the City of Yokohama, August 28 (above)

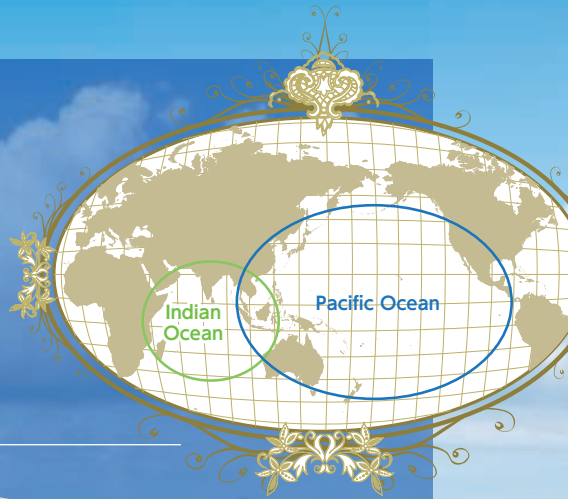


Women in kimono with African-countries-inspired designs offered hospitality—Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister, August 29 (left)

Elementary school students gifted paintings to an African ambassador to Japan—Yokohama "One School, One Country" Program, August 27  
(Photo: City of Yokohama) (below)

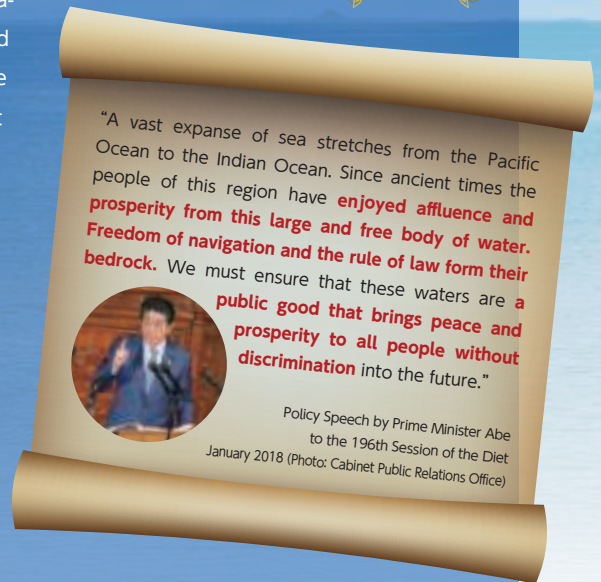


# Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)



The Indo-Pacific region, which stretches from the Asia-Pacific across the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of the world's vitality and supports more than half of the world's population. At the same time, it is a region which has seen complex power relations at work and has experienced drastic shifts in the regional power balance. The region faces a variety of threats, such as piracy, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, and illegal fishing.

The core idea of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept is to establish a rules-based international order and consolidate principles such as free trade, freedom of navigation, and the rule of law, which are essential for the stability and prosperity of the region. Together with like-minded countries that share the vision of FOIP, Japan is vigorously leading efforts to this end.



## Japan's Vision for FOIP

### Shift in the global power balance: an increasingly complex and uncertain world

- Continued stability and prosperity for people across the region cannot be brought about by force or coercion, but only by maintaining and reinforcing the rules of the international community so as to secure the international order.
- It is necessary to craft new rules to meet the challenges of a changing world and emerging needs.

### The importance of the Indo-Pacific Ocean: "International public goods"

- Dynamism created by the confluence of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean is an engine of the economic growth of the entire world.
- The international community as a whole will benefit from the maintenance and reinforcement of the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

### FOIP is an open and inclusive concept

- The concept of FOIP does not intend to create new institutions or compete with existing institutions.
- No single country can maintain or enhance the rules-based international order alone. Japan works with a broad range of partners who share the vision of FOIP; no country is excluded from partnership.

# Efforts and Cooperation on FOIP in Other Countries and Regions

In collaboration with FOIP-related activities of partners, Japan promotes the vision of FOIP by evoking a sense of ownership based on each vision, with a shared belief in the fundamental principles such as the rule of law.

## UK

- Strengthening cooperation on (i) maritime security, (ii) quality infrastructure, and (iii) cyber security including 5G (Japan-UK Summit Meeting in January 2019)

## France

- "France and Security in the Indo-Pacific" (Published in June 2018, revised in May 2019)
- Agreed to materialize cooperation mainly on the three pillars of (i) freedom of navigation and maritime security, (ii) climate change, the environment and biodiversity, and (iii) quality infrastructure (Japan-France Summit Meeting in June 2019)

## Germany

- Confirmed cooperation toward achievement of FOIP (Japan-Germany Summit Meeting in February 2019)

## Italy

- Agreed to work together to develop concrete cooperation for maintaining and strengthening FOIP (Japan-Italy Summit Meeting in April 2019)

## European Union (EU)

- "Connecting Europe & Asia: The EU Strategy" (September 2018)
- Agreed to cooperate toward improving the connectivity between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region (Japan-EU Summit in April 2019)
- Prime Minister Abe attended "the Europa Connectivity Forum." Signed "The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the European Union" (September 2019)

## Pacific Island countries

- PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) leaders welcomed Japan's contribution through "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" (PALM8\* in May 2018)  
\* The 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

## Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Announced "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" (AOIP) (June 2019)
- The leaders shared the view to promote a rule-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open. Welcomed Japan's explicit support of AOIP, and encouraged Japan to undertake cooperation with ASEAN in the key areas outlined in AOIP (Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2019)

## India

- "Act East" policy
- Published "India-Japan Development Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" (Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018)
- Published "Indo-Pacific, Oceans Initiative" (November 2019)

## Australia

- 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 (Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in November 2018).
- "A free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific" (Prime Minister Morrison's foreign policy speech in June 2019). Promote "Pacific Step-up" in the Pacific Island region.

## Canada

- Agreed to further strengthen the strategic partnership under the vision of FOIP (Japan-Canada Summit Meeting in August 2019)

## U.S.

- Announced concrete cooperation to maintain and reinforce FOIP (Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in September 2018, visit of Vice President Pence to Japan in November 2018, Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May 2019)
- Published "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report" (June 2019) and "A Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Advancing a Shared Vision" (November 2019)

## Mekong countries

- Published "Mekong-Japan Cooperation Projects in Synergy with Japan's policy to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific" (Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October 2018)
- The Mekong countries welcomed Japan's commitment to support the efforts made by the Mekong countries in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) (Joint Statement of the Mekong-Japan Summit in November 2019)

## New Zealand

- Agreed to materialize the partnership in achieving FOIP in coordination with New Zealand's "Pacific Reset" policy regarding the Pacific Island region (Japan-New Zealand Summit Meeting in September 2019)

Red: Efforts of each country/region Blue: Cooperation between each country/region and Japan

## Japan's efforts and cooperation toward FOIP

- Promoting policy on maritime order and sharing insights on maritime law with the international community
- Rule-making to expand a free and fair economic area (TPP11 Agreement, Japan-EU EPA, Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement, Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, etc.)
- Enhancing connectivity over the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean ("G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," development of the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors in Southeast Asia, etc.)
- Enhancing governance (capacity building assistance in fiscal policy and public debt management, etc.)
- Ensuring maritime security and marine safety (providing equipment and human resource development for maritime law enforcement in Southeast Asian coastal countries, etc.)

### Maritime order

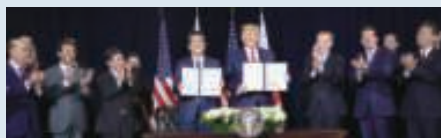


Foreign Minister Motegi advocating the importance of maintenance and reinforcement of the marine order at the 1st Tokyo Global Dialogue (December 2019, Tokyo)

### Rule-making to expand a free and fair economic partnership



Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement) —The 1st TPP Commission in January 2019, Tokyo (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Signing of the Joint Statement on Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement (September 2019, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

### Enhancing connectivity between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean



North-South Highway in Viet Nam (Photo: JICA)



Sihanouville Port in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

# International Situation and Japan's Diplomacy in 2019

Japan aspires to ensure its national interests in the political, security, and economic domains, as well as to maintain and develop a desirable international order that is based on universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. To this end, Japan needs to pursue strategic diplomacy, while rationally accounting for and adapting to changes in the international situation.

Below is a broad overview of the international situation surrounding Japan and of Japan's diplomacy in 2019.

## 1 Overview of the International Situation

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming ever more severe and uncertain. Changes in the balance of power in the international arena are accelerating and becoming more complex, while cross-border threats are also growing. Today, no single country can protect its peace and security on its own.

At the same time, protectionism and inward-looking trends are becoming conspicuous in reaction to rapid globalization, even in countries that have enjoyed the benefits of free trade, such as the U.S. and Europe. Furthermore, the international order based on universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, which has underpinned the stability

and prosperity of the world, is being challenged by unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, as well as by the spread of terrorism and violent extremism.

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

#### A Changes in the Balance of Power

The balance of power in the international community is shifting dramatically due to the rise of emerging countries, among other factors. Interstate competition, in which states seek to shape an international order to their advantage as well as to increase their influence, is emerging more prominently. Meanwhile, there is growing uncertainty over the existing order.

#### B Diversification and Increased Complexity of Threats

The scope of national security has further broadened to encompass economic and technological fields in recent years, requiring the enhancement of efforts regarding the security policy in these fields. In addition, issues related to the transfer, proliferation, and capacity improvement of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, including the possibility of acquisition and use of such weapons by, among others, terrorist organizations, continue to constitute a major threat. Against such a backdrop, countries with

outstanding military capabilities both in terms of quality and quantity are concentrated around Japan, and there is a clear tendency of further reinforcement of military capabilities and acceleration of military activities.

Regarding terrorism, operations against the “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)” in Iraq and Syria liberated the territories that had been under ISIL’s control. The return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters who had been under the influence of ISIL to their home countries or to third countries, however, has spread the threat of terrorism and violent extremism throughout the world, including Asia. In April 2019, Sri Lanka witnessed the largest set of terrorist attacks in Asia in recent years, resulting in more than 250 casualties, including a Japanese national. In December, a terrorist shooting occurred in Afghanistan, killing a Japanese doctor. The form and background of terrorism have also diversified, as illustrated by some incidents where footage of terrorist attacks was spread instantly on social media.

Recent advances in science and technology are ramping up activities in outer space and cyberspace. While this presents major opportunities, it also brings about new risks and threats, making international rule-making an imperative from a security perspective.

Furthermore, progress has been made in a new paradigm of technological innovation which can bring about essential changes to the nature of society and people’s lives, such as Internet of Things (IoT), fifth-generation mobile communications system (5G), artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum technology. Countries are vying with each other to develop technologies linked to national competitiveness and are stepping up efforts to apply these technologies in the security domain. The success or failure of innovations is anticipated to have considerable implications for the security environment.

### **C Global Economic Trends (the Emergence of Protectionism, Inward-Looking Trends, and Economic Friction)**

The world economy has become more interdependent than ever through the development of global supply chain and financial systems, in line with the progress of globalization and innovation, such as digital technology. Thus, factors such as economic shocks and fluctuations in commodity prices in one region have increasing impacts on other regions or the entire global economy. Moreover, innovative progress in information and communication technologies by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, represented by AI, robotics, and Big Data, has been driving further transformation of the international economic order by dramatically changing people’s lives. Furthermore, to enable smoother cross-border economic activities, the maintenance and promotion of a rules-based economic order has become all the more indispensable.

Meanwhile, protectionism and inward-looking trends that have spread as a backlash against globalization remain pronounced across the world. The backgrounds of such trends are diverse: growing domestic income inequality, job losses, an increase in imports, a rise in migrants, global environmental problems, etc. In Europe, the UK withdrew from the European Union (EU) at the end of January 2020, and a transition period was set to mitigate sudden changes in UK-EU relations after the withdrawal. Yet uncertainty lingers over the fate of UK-EU negotiations during the transition period concerning the nature of future relations, including economic ones. In the U.S., President Trump continued to emphasize “America First,” and economic friction between the U.S. and China has garnered the attention of Japan and the rest of the international community.

## **D** Increasing Seriousness of Global Challenges

Ending poverty is the first goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are development goals for the entire international community. Poverty not only threatens the survival, daily life, and dignity of each person; it is also a source of social injustice, political instability, and violent extremism. The eradication of poverty is vital from the perspective of human security as well.

Infectious diseases threaten everyone's life and health and profoundly impact society as a whole. Globalization dramatically increased people's cross-border movements, exacerbating the threat of the outbreak and transmission of infectious diseases. Since the end of 2019, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that started in China has been raging around the world, causing substantial effects worldwide in various aspects, including the economy, society, and diplomacy.

In addition, there was a succession of large-scale disasters around the world, such as major typhoons, torrential rains, and forest fires. The severity of natural disasters is forecast to continue to intensify with the effects of climate change, and there is a concern that this will have a profound impact, especially on people in vulnerable environments. The possibility of global population growth, industrialization, and urbanization aggravating issues over water, food, and health has also been pointed out.

To resolve these global challenges, it is crucial to steadily make efforts on SDGs and address social, economic, and environmental issues in an integrated manner.

## **E** The Situation in the Middle East Faced with Destabilizing Factors and Challenges

The Middle East is an important supplier of energy resources to the world. Its peace and stability are vital for Japan and the rest of the international community. The Middle East, however, faces various challenges that are destabilizing the region, such as heightened tensions over Iran, political turmoil that has persisted since

the "Arab Spring" including the situations in Syria and Yemen, and the Middle East peace process which has been a historical issue since the founding of Israel. In addition, the risk of the spread of Islamic extremist groups, such as ISIL, remains in the region.

## **(2) The Very Severe Security Environment in East Asia**

### **A** Nuclear and Missile Development by North Korea

North Korea frequently and repeatedly conducted launches of ballistic missiles, totaling more than 20 from May to November 2019. It also launched ballistic missiles in March 2020. As this shows, 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 (UNSC) resolutions.

### **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. China, however, continues to increase its defense budget and has been strengthening and modernizing its military power extensively and rapidly without transparency. It also aims to secure 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 that are incompatible with the existing order of the law of the sea.

In the East China Sea, amid the continuation of intrusions by Chinese Government-owned vessels into Japan's territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands, the Chinese military has rapidly expanded and intensified its activities qualitatively and

quantitatively at sea and in the airspace there. In addition, China has been continuing unilateral development of resources in the maritime areas pending delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelves. Furthermore, in recent years China has been carrying out numerous surveys without Japan's consent or in a manner that deviates from Japan's consent in the waters around Japan, including the East China Sea.

The issue over the South China Sea is a legitimate concern of the international community that is directly related to the peace and stability of the region. In the South China Sea, China has been continuing unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions such as the large-scale and rapid building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes. China also attempts to make the results of these actions a fait accompli. According to 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. In 2019, China deployed on disputed features missile systems with ranges covering nearly all of the South China Sea and also conducted anti-ship ballistic missile test launches. With regard to the dispute between the Philippines and China over the South China Sea, China makes claims that are inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and continues to make its own self-righteous assertions concerning its territorial rights in the South China Sea. China has also denied that the final award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal, which confirmed the unlawfulness of China's land reclamations and other actions, is legally binding.

## **2** Japan's Diplomacy

Amid the various challenges facing the international order based on fundamental values that has 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 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"**

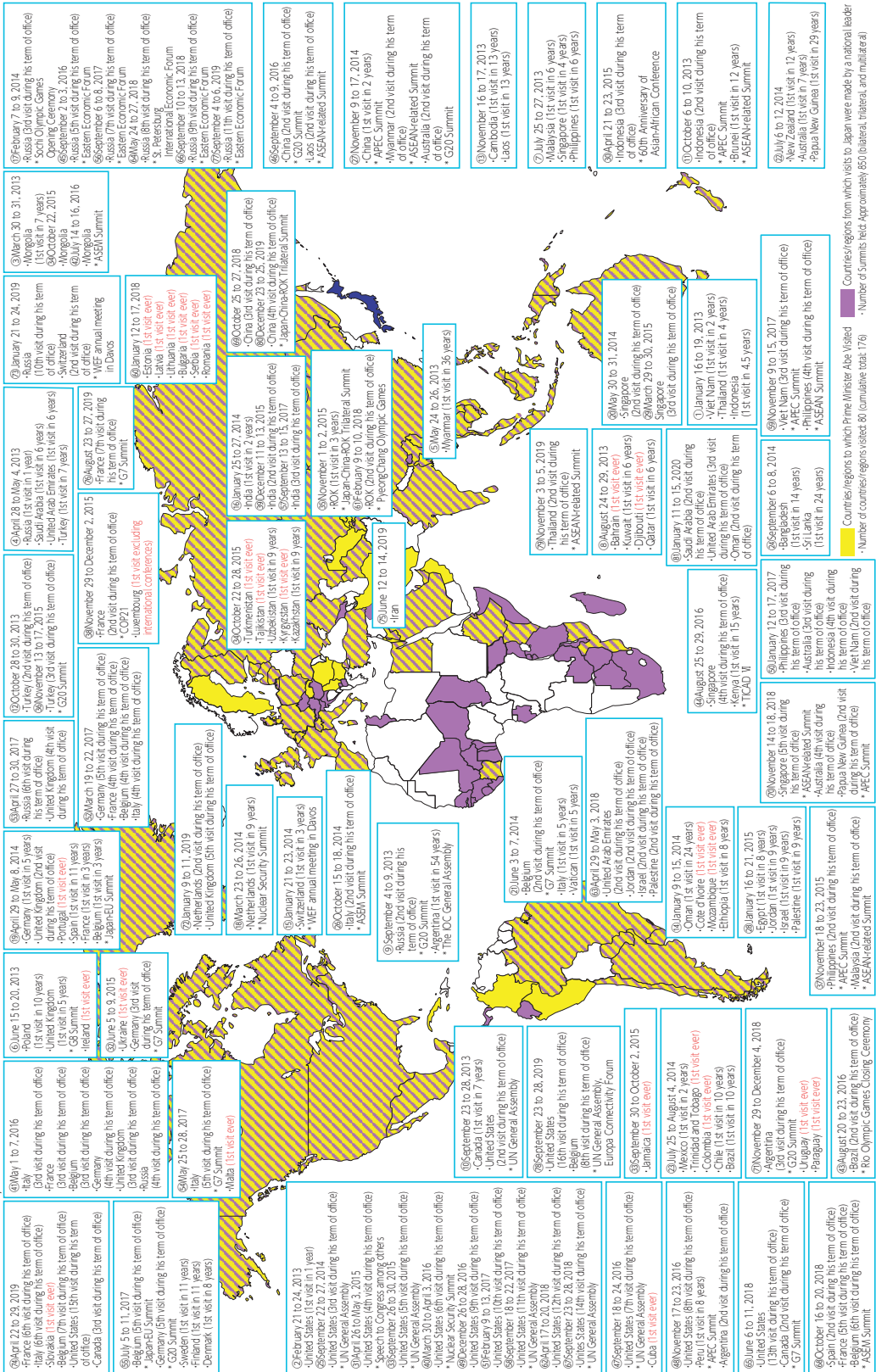
In order to create a desirable international environment that is stable and predictable, it is important to build trust and cooperative relationships with countries worldwide and the international community through diplomatic efforts, to strengthen the basis for stability and prosperity of the international community, and to prevent the emergence of threats in advance. In this respect, 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 Abe Shinzo has thus far visited 80 countries and regions (176 countries and regions in total), and since his appointment in September 2019, Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu has chaired the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November and visited 11 countries and regions (12 countries and regions in total) (as of the end of February 2020). As a result, Japan's presence in the international community has steadily risen, and the relationships of trust between Prime Minister Abe and foreign leaders as well as between Foreign Minister Motegi and other foreign ministers and the heads of international organizations have also deepened significantly.

The year 2019 saw the staging of diplomatic activities in Japan, befitting the beginning of the new era of Reiwa. It kicked off with the G20 Osaka Summit in June, which Japan hosted for the first time as the G20 presidency. In August,

Prime Minister Abe's official visits abroad

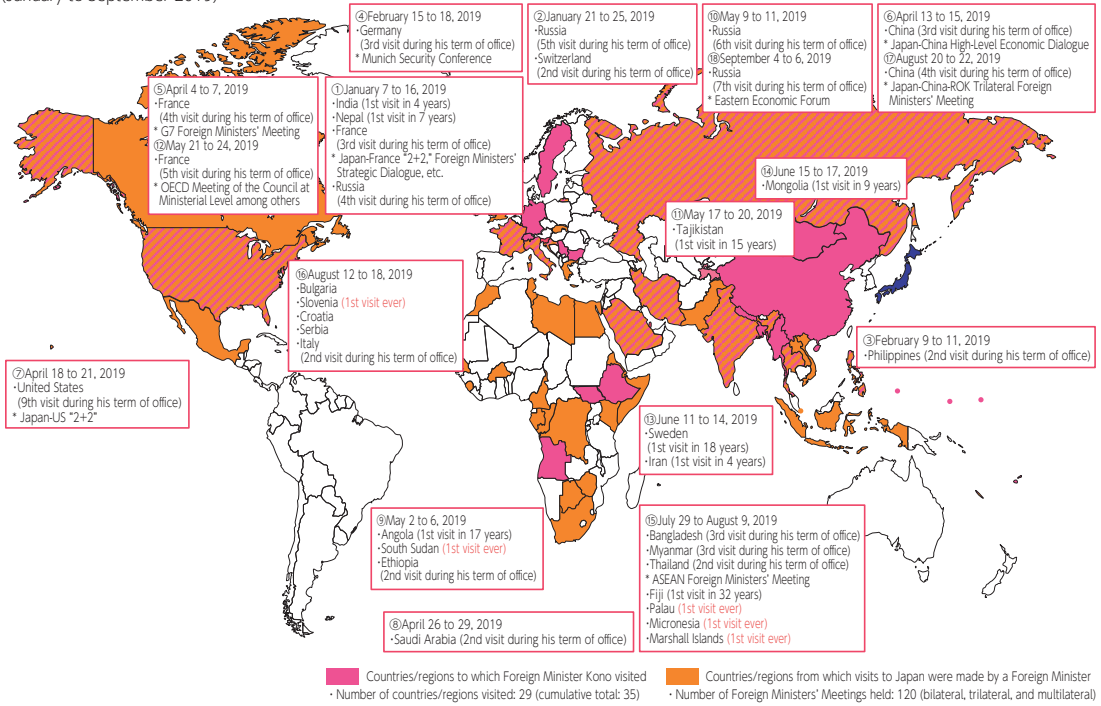
(December 2012 to February 2020)





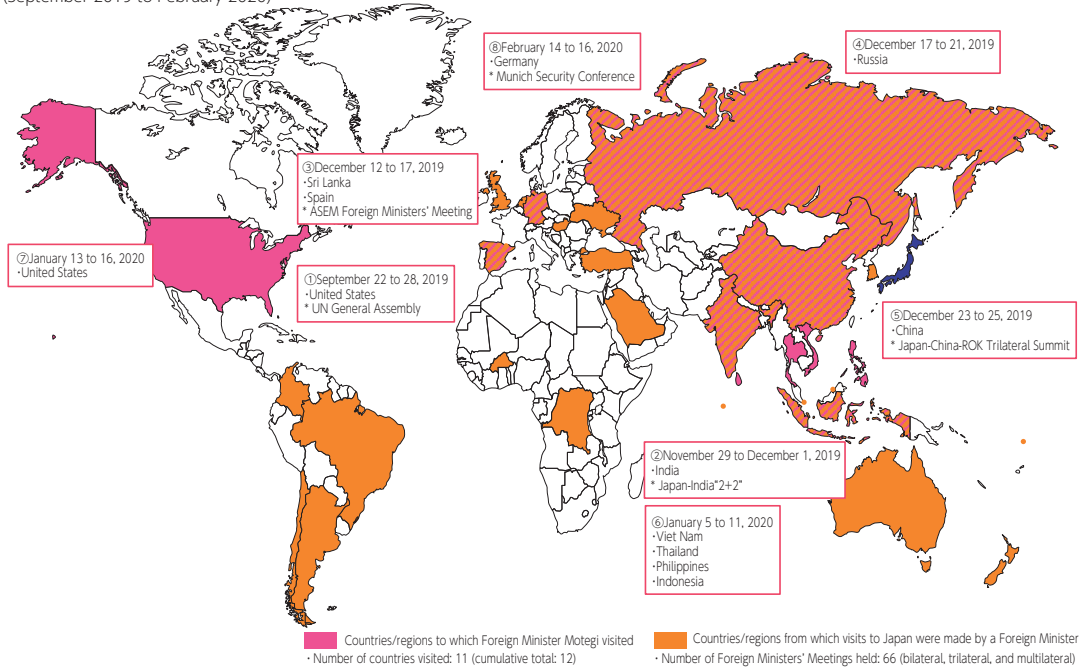
## Foreign Minister Kono's official visits abroad

(January to September 2019)



## Foreign Minister Motegi's official visits abroad

(September 2019 to February 2020)



\* These are simplified maps and do not necessarily represent accurate scales and the like.

42 African leaders, the largest attendance in the history of TICAD, participated in the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama. In October, representatives of 191 countries, organizations, and others attended the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne. Furthermore, many rugby fans from all over the world visited Japan for the Rugby World Cup held across the nation from September to November.

As a stabilizing force in the international community, Japan will continue to build relationships of trust with other 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 pursues diplomacy with a focus on: (1) further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, the cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy; (2) tackling outstanding issues of concern regarding North Korea; (3) diplomacy with neighboring countries, such as China, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Russia; (4) addressing the increasingly tense situation in the Middle East; (5) economic diplomacy in which Japan will lead efforts to establish new common rules; and (6) addressing global issues.

### **[1 Further Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, the Cornerstone of Japan's Foreign Policy]**

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 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 before, thanks to the deep relationship of trust built through frequent exchanges between the leaders and the

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 resolve regional and international issues, including those regarding North Korea, and to maintain and promote a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."

In 2019, many reciprocal, high-level visits took place between the two countries such as five summit meetings including reciprocal visits in three consecutive months, namely, Prime Minister Abe's visit to the U.S. in April, President Trump's visit to Japan in May as the first State Guest in the new era of Reiwa (see the Column on page 94), and President Trump's visit to Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit in June. Japan and the U.S. are working closely on a range of regional and international challenges, holding summit meetings and foreign ministerial meetings on the occasions of these bilateral visits as well as various international meetings.

In addition, under the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation (the Guidelines) and the Legislation for Peace and Security, Japan and the U.S. are making efforts to further enhance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Alliance and are expanding and strengthening cooperation in a wide range of areas such as ballistic missile defense, outer space, cyberspace, and maritime security. With regard to the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma and the relocation of the Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and other locations outside of Japan, Japan and the U.S. have continued to coordinate closely to mitigate the impact on local communities including Okinawa, while maintaining the deterrence of U.S. Forces in Japan.

Japan-U.S. economic relations are one of the three pillars of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, together with security, and people-to-people exchanges. In particular, 2019 was a year of further deepening economic relations between the two countries as the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and

the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement (see the Special Feature on page 265) were concluded. Ministerial consultations were held eight times between Minister Motegi (Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization until September 2019 / Minister for Foreign Affairs from September 2019) and U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer from April 2019 based on the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement issued in September 2018. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in New York in September, the leaders confirmed that a final agreement had been reached on the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, and the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement was issued. The two agreements were signed at the White House in October and entered into force on January 1, 2020.

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, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

## **[2 Addressing Outstanding Issues of Concern regarding North Korea]**

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. Between the U.S. and North Korea, the second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in February 2019. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un met in Panmunjom in June, and

U.S.-North Korea working-level talks were held in Stockholm, Sweden, in October. In the meantime, North Korea frequently and repeatedly conducted launches of ballistic missiles, totaling more than 20 from May to November. Under these circumstances, 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. Japan will continue to coordinate closely with the U.S. and the ROK and cooperate with the international community, including China and Russia, toward the resolution of the issues concerning North Korea.

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 for the international community as a violation of basic human rights. Japan has positioned the resolution of the abductions issue as the most important issue and will continue to make utmost efforts to realize the return home of all abductees at the earliest possible date while working closely with relevant countries, including the U.S.

## **[3 Diplomacy with Neighboring Countries, such as China, the Republic of Korea, and Russia]**

Building stable relations with neighboring countries is critical in ensuring peace and prosperity in Japan.

### **(China)**

The relationship with China, a neighboring country across the East China Sea, is one of Japan's most important bilateral relationships. The two countries have close economic relations as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges. The year 2019 was a year in which high-level dialogues were actively held, including by the two countries' leaders and foreign ministers, elevating the Japan-China relationship to a new stage for a "new era of Japan-China relations." The two countries' leaders and foreign ministers also made

reciprocal visits. 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 various fields.

In June, President Xi Jinping made the first visit to Japan by a Chinese President in approximately nine years to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, and the two leaders shared the view in principle regarding President Xi's state visit to Japan in the following spring. In December, Prime Minister Abe visited China to attend the Eighth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit. With regard to President Xi's state visit to Japan, Japan and China shared the view in March 2020 that top priority must be given to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and that both sides need to prepare adequately for President Xi's state visit to be fully successful. They decided to reschedule the state visit to a time that is convenient for both.

At the same time, the ongoing 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 take a calm and resolute approach to the situation while strengthening coordination with the relevant countries. Japan will also boost communication with China in order to make the East China Sea a "Sea of Peace, Cooperation and Friendship."

#### (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important neighboring country for Japan. The two countries have built a close, friendly and cooperative relationship based on the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on the Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, and other relevant agreements that the two countries concluded when they normalized their relationship in 1965. In spite of the above, in 2019,

following on from the previous year, the relations between Japan and the ROK continued to face difficult situations amid unceasing negative moves by the ROK, including the ROK's continued failure to remedy its accumulated breaches of international law regarding the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula (hereinafter referred to as "CWKs"), the notification to terminate the Japan-ROK Agreement on the Protection of Classified Military Information (GSOMIA) (note: the ROK later suspended the effect of the notification of termination), moves to dissolve "the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation" regarding the comfort women issue, landing on Takeshima by South Koreans including the members of the National Assembly of the ROK and military exercises on Takeshima, the sailing of the ROK's maritime search vessels in waters surrounding Takeshima, and raising unconstructive questions regarding the ALPS treated water<sup>1</sup> at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Under these circumstances, a Japan-ROK Summit Meeting was held in December for the first time in one year and three months, and consultations between the diplomatic authorities were held frequently between the two countries.

#### (Russia)

Japan held political dialogues actively with Russia, including three Summit Meetings and seven Foreign Ministers' Meetings. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in Osaka in June, Prime Minister Abe and President Putin shared the view that they would continue to advance the negotiations under their determination to "accelerate negotiations on a peace treaty on the basis of the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration of 1956" as announced by both sides in Singapore in November 2018. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in Vladivostok in September, the two leaders had a candid and open exchange of views on the issue

<sup>1</sup> Water treated through multiple treatment facilities including the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS)

of concluding a peace treaty and reconfirmed to work in a future-oriented manner. The two leaders also reiterated instructions to their respective foreign ministers, who are responsible for the negotiations, to advance joint work in order to find a mutually acceptable solution. In response to this, Foreign Minister Motegi and Foreign Minister Lavrov held the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meetings in New York (September) and Nagoya (November) respectively and exchanged views on how to proceed with the consultations, including the negotiations on a peace treaty. At the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Moscow in December, the two Foreign Ministers held discussions at length and were able to commence full-fledged consultations. 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 issue of attribution of the Four Northern Islands.

#### (Key Partners in the Indo-Pacific Region)

The Indo-Pacific region is one of the world's growth centers, and realizing a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific is one of the highest priorities of Japan's diplomacy. From this perspective, Japan places a high priority on achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" based on rules in accordance with international law, working with countries that share this vision. Today, this vision is spreading, from the U.S. to Australia and India, as well as ASEAN and Europe.

In particular, ASEAN plays an important role at the center of regional cooperation in East Asia. In 2015, the ASEAN Community comprised of the Political-Security Community, the Economic Community, and the Socio-Cultural Community was established. Under such a context, Japan strengthens its relations with ASEAN and its member states by pursuing synergy between FOIP and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) adopted by ASEAN in June 2019 (see the Special Feature on page 81) and supporting

ASEAN's efforts toward further integration while respecting ASEAN centrality and unity.

Japan and India celebrated the fifth year since their bilateral relationship was elevated to the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" in 2014. In 2019, bilateral summit meetings were held on the margins of the G20 Osaka Summit, the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, and the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in Bangkok, Thailand. In November, Japan and India held their first 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting. The meetings resulted in many concrete outcomes, including confirming their cooperative relationship for realizing FOIP.

Japan and Australia held bilateral summit meetings on the occasions of Prime Minister Morrison's visit to Japan for the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the G7 Biarritz Summit in August. The leaders have developed their personal, trusted relationship. As Special Strategic Partners sharing fundamental values and strategic interests, Japan and Australia are further deepening their multilayered cooperation and collaboration in a range of areas, including security, economy, and regional affairs. Furthermore, minilateral collaboration and partnerships, such as Japan-U.S.-Australia and Japan-U.S.-Australia-India relations, have been steadily enhanced.

In addition, Japan is further strengthening its relations with Pacific Island countries through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process and frequent mutual visits at a high level.

#### [4 Addressing the Increasingly Tense Situation in the Middle East]

In recent years, Japan has sought to strengthen its relations with Middle Eastern countries in a wide range of fields that include not only the economy but also politics and security as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges. In 2019, Japan made proactive diplomatic efforts in response to the rising tensions in the Middle East, including Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran in June and President Rouhani's visit to Japan in

December. To ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels, the Government of Japan has made a Cabinet decision in December to make further diplomatic efforts toward easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the region, implement thorough measures for ensuring the safety of navigation, and utilize the Self-Defense Forces for strengthening its information gathering posture.

#### **[5 Economic Diplomacy in which Japan will Lead Efforts to Establish New Common Rules]**

With a changing economic structure, the international community is confronted with a variety of issues, including the rise of protectionism and trade disputes. Under these circumstances, Japan hosted the G20 Osaka Summit in June. As a result of Japan's leadership as the G20 presidency, the leaders of the major countries were able to demonstrate to the world their readiness to take united actions in response to major global economic issues by, for example, confirming principles underpinning free trade such as free, fair and non-discriminatory trade and a level playing field (see the Opening Special Feature on page 4).

#### **(Rule-Making to Bolster Free and Open Global Economic Systems)**

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/FTAs with 21 economies to date. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement entered into force on January 1, 2020. This Agreement, together with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement) and the Japan-EU EPA, created a free economic sphere covering 60% of the global GDP (see the

Column on page 269).

The Government of Japan will continue to play a leading role in the steady implementation and membership expansion of the TPP11 Agreement and the early signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. Alongside this, Japan will vigorously pursue negotiations for trade agreements such as the Japan-China-ROK FTA and will promote 21st-century rules for free and fair trade and investment worldwide. Furthermore, Japan will lead discussions on free trade and inclusive growth at international organizations, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and relevant fora. At the G20 Osaka Summit, under Japan's leadership, the G20 leaders reaffirmed their support for reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the face of various challenges, including the dysfunctional rule-making process and paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body. Going forward, Japan will continue to lead the WTO reform (see the Special Feature on page 280).

#### **(Support for Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion by Promoting Public and Private Partnerships)**

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) provides support for Japanese companies' cultivation of foreign markets through various initiatives such as providing consultation to Japanese companies and holding events to promote Japanese products at Japan's diplomatic missions overseas. MOFA also provides support to Japanese companies already operating overseas in response to the developments of the Brexit negotiations between the UK and the EU. In order to tap into infrastructure demands mainly in emerging countries and promote infrastructure exports by Japanese companies, Japan is taking proactive steps, including the dynamic undertaking of top-level

trade promotions by the Government and systemic improvements aimed at the strategic use of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

With regard to the import restrictions on Japanese agricultural, forestry, fishery and food products following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the Government of Japan has continued requesting relevant countries and regions to lift these restrictions expeditiously based on scientific evidence and disseminating information about the safety of Japanese food with the aim of dispelling harmful rumors about those products (see the Column on page 287).

## **[6 Addressing Global Challenges]**

One country alone cannot address global challenges, such as peacebuilding, terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, the rule of law, human rights, women's empowerment, disaster risk reduction, global health, and the environment and climate change, and the international community needs to mount a united response. These issues are directly connected to the peace and prosperity of Japan and the rest of the international community. In this respect, the initiatives to address these challenges are one critical part of Japan's "Proactive Contribution to Peace."

Japan is also advancing international contributions under the concept of human security in order to ensure that freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are respected as universal values in the international community, to take good care of socially vulnerable people, and to realize a society where individuals can make the most use of their potential.

### **(Promotion of International Peace Cooperation)**

Japan has placed importance on cooperation in the field of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, including 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 28 missions, including UN PKOs. Most recently, along with the four staff officers dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), two Self-Defense Forces personnel are engaged in international peace cooperation assignments as staff officers for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt since April 2019.

### **(Measures to Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism)**

In response to the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism, Japan has bolstered its fight against terrorism through a comprehensive approach in accordance with relevant international initiatives such as the "G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism," which Japan compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. Japan's comprehensive efforts consist of (1) initiatives for 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. At the G20 Osaka Summit in June, the "G20 Osaka Leaders' Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT)" was adopted. 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 relevant countries. In parallel with these initiatives, Japan is also engaged in strengthening measures for the safety of Japanese nationals overseas.

### **(Proactive Initiatives for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation)**

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, Japan has the responsibility to take the lead in the international community's efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan continues to pursue bridge building between

nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states through measures such as the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament launched in 2017, and has carried out realistic and practical measures that also involve nuclear-weapon states.

Japan places importance on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and has participated actively in the discussions leading up to the next NPT Review Conference (see the Special Feature on page 203). The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), which was launched under the leadership of Japan and Australia, has also proactively contributed to the NPT review process through realistic and practical proposals. In November, the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the NPDI was held in Nagoya, Japan.

Japan attaches great importance to promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a realistic measure for nuclear disarmament where both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states can participate. Japan has continued diplomatic efforts to encourage countries that have not signed or ratified the CTBT, including countries whose ratifications are required for CTBT's entry-into-force. At the 11th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT held in September, Foreign Minister Motegi presented Japan's initiatives and expressed his hope and determination for the steady advancement of nuclear disarmament efforts.

Since 1994, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly. This draft resolution incorporates concrete and practical measures toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The 2019 resolution was adopted with wide support from 160 countries.

In addition, Japan puts effort into non-proliferation policies, including through maintaining

and strengthening international non-proliferation regimes and rules, appropriately implementing non-proliferation measures in Japan, as well as closely coordinating with other countries and providing capacity-building assistance.

#### **(Strengthening Cooperation with the UN and International Organizations / UN Security Council Reform)**

Japan has served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC 11 times, the most frequent among the UN Member States.

To ensure that the UNSC can respond more effectively to various issues faced by the international community, Japan has been making efforts in pursuit of the early realization of UNSC reform that reflects the realities of the international community and Japan's admission as a permanent member. Furthermore, with a view to continuing to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the international community prior to its admission as a permanent member, Japan is running for a non-permanent membership in the UNSC elections in 2022.

In addition, Japan has been making policy and financial contributions as well as personnel contributions for the UN and other international organizations to tackle a variety of issues. Japan is also making efforts to encourage the employment of more Japanese staff and their appointment to executive posts at international organizations.

#### **(Proactive Efforts to Strengthen the Rule of Law)**

Japan promotes rule-making and the implementation of these rules in various fields, and also 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 (see the Column on page 223). In order to maintain and develop free, open and stable seas upheld by a maritime order governed



by laws and rules and not by force, Japan as a maritime nation 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 for the realization of FOIP; 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 Centre (ISC); international rule-making to strengthen the rule of law in outer space and cyberspace (see the Special Feature on page 196); and the enhancement of the rule of law in the Arctic.

#### (Human Rights)

The protection and promotion of human rights serve as the cornerstone of peace and stability in the international community. In this field, from the viewpoints of serving as a bridge builder in Asia and protecting the socially vulnerable, Japan has striven to improve the human rights situation globally by holding bilateral dialogues, proactively participating in a number of multinational fora, such as the UN, and engaging in constructive dialogues with the UN human rights mechanisms.

#### (Toward a Society in Which All Women Shine)

In order to expand opportunities for women's education in developing countries, Prime Minister Abe announced at the fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) in March that Japan will provide quality education and opportunities for human resources development for at least four million girls and women in the next three years up to 2020 (see the Special Feature on page 233). At the G20 Osaka Summit in June, women's empowerment was one of the main agenda items. The G20 leaders and heads of international organizations gathered together and reaffirmed the G20's commitment to women's empowerment.

#### (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, thereby securing Japan's national interests.

#### (Quality Infrastructure)

With respect to infrastructure development, the leaders at the G20 Osaka Summit in June endorsed the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, which includes such elements as openness, transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability. Japan is working to promote and establish these principles as international standards and to reflect and practice them in individual projects.

#### (Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs])

The SDGs are a set of 17 global goals unani- mously adopted at the UN Summit in 2015. Japan has been implementing concrete initiatives domes- tically and internationally at an accelerated pace in order to lead the global effort for achieving the SDGs. In September, Prime Minister Abe attended the SDG Summit 2019. The Prime Minister shared Japan's achievements in SDGs promotion over the past four years, including the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7, and presented his efforts to advance the SDGs by harnessing all of Japan's resources and capabilities as the Chief of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (see the Special Feature on page 251). At the eighth meeting of the Headquarters held in December, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles was revised for the first time in three years since its formulation in 2016, taking into account the out- comes of the G20 Osaka Summit and the SDG

Summit 2019, recommendations made by members of the Roundtable Meeting, and the views of various stakeholders. In accordance with the concept of human security, Japan will continue to contribute to such areas as disaster risk reduction, education, agriculture, and water, in addition to the areas listed below.

#### **(Africa)**

While Africa has made remarkable growth in recent years, it has also faced many challenges. Japan has contributed to African development through TICAD since 1993 and hosted TICAD7 in Yokohama in August. Based on TICAD7's outcomes, Japan will continue to strengthen its relations with Africa and to resolutely support African-led development through initiatives that leverage Japan's advantages and its unique characteristics.

#### **(Global Health)**

Health is critically essential for the embodiment of human security, which is a concept of protecting individuals and unleashing their potential. In cooperation with other countries and international organizations, Japan has made significant achievements in overcoming challenges such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and nutrition. At the G20 Osaka Summit in June, the leaders discussed topics including the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which ensures the provision of primary health services to all people throughout their lives. The G20 also held its first Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers. In addition, on the occasion of TICAD7 in August and the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on UHC in September, Prime Minister Abe reiterated the importance of promoting a cross-sectoral approach encompassing nutrition, water, and sanitation, and of strengthening health financing (see the Special Feature on page 255).

#### **(Environment)**

In recent years, addressing marine plastic litter has become an increasingly important issue of urgency. At the G20 Osaka Summit in June, Prime Minister Abe shared with the G20 leaders the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision," which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 (see the Special Feature on page 257).

#### **(Climate Change)**

At the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in 2018, the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement were adopted. Regarding negotiations on the implementation guidelines for market mechanisms, however, an agreement was not reached even at COP25 in 2019, and the guidelines are still under review. In Japan, "The Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement" was approved by the Cabinet in June 2019, which was later submitted to the UN. At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, the G20 as a whole agreed on the importance of the concept of the virtuous cycle of environment and growth.

#### **(Utilizing Science and Technology for Diplomacy)**

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements of peace and prosperity. 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.

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

#### A Strategic Communications

Winning public understanding and support for Japan's policy and initiatives both at home and abroad is indispensable for the implementation of Japan's foreign policy. MOFA conducts strategic communications based on a three-pillar approach: (1) making further efforts to disseminate Japan's policies and initiatives, including an accurate image of Japan; (2) sharing Japan's rich and varied attractiveness; and (3) expanding the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan.

Specifically, MOFA provides information about the details of policies and the role of the Government of Japan through various mediums, such as media outlets, lectures, and publications. MOFA is also engaged in prompt and effective PR activities using the Internet, including social media platforms. Presenting Japan's various attractiveness, such as culture and food, helps increase understanding of Japan in the

international community, and is also important in the economic aspect such as tourism and exports. In 2019, large-scale cultural exchange programs were carried out in Southeast Asia and the U.S. In regard to communicating the attractiveness of Japan's regions, MOFA is working not only to promote such attractiveness from the regions to the world but also to attract tourists and inward investment from the world to the regions.

#### B Strengthening the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

As diplomatic issues become more complex and diverse, MOFA must enhance its foreign policy implementation structure in order to achieve steady outcomes by pursuing "diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness" to further advance "diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map." While continuing its streamlining efforts, MOFA will further expand its foreign policy implementation structure through strategically reinforcing its overseas missions and personnel.

# Chapter 2

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

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# Section 1

## Asia and Oceania

### 1 Overview

#### (General overview)

The Asia-Oceania region includes not only China and Japan, the second and third largest economies in the world, but also numerous emerging countries with remarkable growth. It is a dynamic region where diverse cultures and races intermingle and influence each other. As the world's growth center, this region, with an abundance of human resources, drives the world economy and has been enhancing its presence. Of the world population of 7.7 billion, approximately 3.6 billion people live in East Asia Summit (EAS)<sup>1</sup> member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia).<sup>2</sup> This represents about 47% of the world's population.<sup>3</sup> The combined nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, China, and India increased by more than 260% over the last ten years, as compared to the world average of 140%.<sup>4</sup> Total exports and imports of EAS member states (excluding the U.S. and Russia) are 11.4 trillion US dollars (2018), making it comparable

to the EU (12.7 trillion US dollars).<sup>5</sup> There are close economic ties among these nations, and they have a high degree of economic interdependence. Further economic growth is expected, and this strong growth within the region 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 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.

Against this backdrop, Japan practices proactive diplomacy with neighboring countries as a pillar

1 EAS: East Asia Summit

2 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

3 The State of World Population 2019

4 World Bank (WB)

5 International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Japan-Australia Summit Meeting  
(June 27, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of its diplomacy, and has been actively engaging in diplomacy including at the leaders' and foreign ministers' levels. Regarding the relations with Asia-Oceania countries, in 2019, Prime Minister Abe visited Thailand to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings and the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in November, and visited China for the eighth Japan-China-Republic of Korea (ROK) Trilateral Summit Meeting in December. In Japan, Prime Minister Abe hosted the G20 Osaka Summit in June, and on the occasion of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October, held meetings with leaders of many Asia-Oceania countries. Foreign Minister Kono visited Asian countries and island countries. Foreign Minister Motegi, who was appointed to his post in September, hosted the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting and held meetings with key figures, including State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha of the ROK, and Foreign Minister Payne of Australia. Foreign Minister Motegi engaged in diplomatic activities in this region persistently, holding the first Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting ("2+2") between Japan and India in November.

Japan intends to continue to strengthen various cooperation, including Japan-ASEAN cooperation, such as pursuing synergy between the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" and the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)"<sup>6</sup> (see the Special Feature on page 81), as well as Japan-China-ROK cooperation focusing on the three areas of the environment, aging society, and people-to-people exchanges.

#### (Japan-U.S. Alliance and Indo-Pacific region)

The Japan-U.S. Security Alliance, with the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements as its core, is the foundation of peace, prosperity, and freedom, not only for Japan but also for the Indo-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 47 Summit Meetings, including telephone calls, by the end of 2019. The two countries have been working closely at multiple levels, including at the summit level, to address the various issues of the Indo-Pacific region, including those related to North Korea.

Furthermore, Japan and the U.S. are deepening their cooperation in achieving FOIP. At the Japan-U.S. "2+2" in April, the two countries confirmed that they will jointly increase their presence in the region, while working with regional partners including through joint exercises and port calls. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held on the occasion of President Trump's state visit to Japan in May, a factsheet was issued outlining examples of concrete cooperation in the energy, digital, and infrastructure sectors. On the occasion of the ASEAN-related Foreign

<sup>6</sup> AOIP: ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

Adopted at the ASEAN Summit Meeting in June 2019. It is based on the principles of strengthening ASEAN Centrality in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, and respect for international law, such as the UN Charter, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and various ASEAN treaties and agreements and the EAS Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations. Based on this, it promotes maritime cooperation, connectivity, the SDGs, and cooperation in economic and other areas.

Ministers' Meetings held in Bangkok, Thailand in August, the Japan-United States Mekong Power Partnership<sup>7</sup> was announced. On the occasion of the Indo-Pacific Business Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand in November, the Japan-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership Statement and the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on Furthering the Development of Smart Cities in the Indo-Pacific were released (see Chapter 2, Section 2, 1 (3)).

**(Japan's measures on the comfort women issue)**  
(See 2(2)A(C) regarding the comfort women issue between Japan and the ROK)

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 U.S., the UK, 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.

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 Asian Women's Fund (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. In addition, 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 in the Philippines, 61 in the ROK, 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 ROK and Taiwan, 1.2 million yen per person in the Philippines) (for a total of 5 million yen per person in the ROK 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.

When the "atonement money" as well as the medical and welfare support were provided to individual former comfort women, then-Prime Ministers (namely, Prime Ministers Hashimoto Ryutaro, Obuchi Keizo, Mori Yoshiro, and Koizumi Junichiro) sent signed letters expressing their apology and remorse directly to each former comfort woman.

As stated in the Statement by the Prime Minister issued in 2015, Japan will engrave in its heart the past, when the dignity and honor 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.

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:

<sup>7</sup> This is a joint Japan-U.S. program carried out in coordination with the Mekong countries to maintain and promote the development of sustainable energy and quality energy infrastructure, which serve as complementary driving forces for the economic development of the Mekong region.

### ● “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.

### ● “Sex slaves”

The expression of “sex slaves” contradicts the facts and 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.

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 United Nations (UN), the Government of Japan has explained its position on a number of occasions 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.<sup>8</sup>

Installations of comfort woman statues<sup>9</sup> have been observed not only in the ROK but also in the U.S., Canada, Australia, China, Germany, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Such moves are extremely regrettable and incompatible with

the position of the Government of Japan. In February 2017, the Government of Japan 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, U.S.<sup>10</sup> The Government of Japan will continue reaching out to various people involved in this issue to explain its position.

#### [See References]

- Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion (December 2015)
- Remarks by 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)

## 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, and settling the unfortunate past in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration of September 2002.

Between the U.S. and North Korea, the second U.S.-North Korea Summit was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in February 2019. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim

<sup>8</sup> See References on the comfort women issue

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> See References on the comfort women issue



Jong-un met in Panmunjom in June, and U.S.-North Korea working-level talks took place in Stockholm, Sweden in October. North Korea frequently and repeatedly conducted launches of ballistic missiles, counting more than 20 from May to November 2019, and also launched ballistic missiles several times in March 2020. Under these circumstances, 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. Japan will continue to coordinate closely with the U.S. and the ROK and cooperate with the international community, including China and Russia, toward the resolution of the issues concerning 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 Stockholm<sup>11</sup>) 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 UN Security Council resolutions.

In his New Year Address in January 2019, Chairman Kim stated that North Korea's invariable stand was to advance toward complete denuclearization. The Chairman also stated that while he was ready to hold dialogues with the U.S., North Korea would be compelled to find a new way if the U.S. persists in imposing sanctions and pressure.

In his policy speech to the Supreme People's Assembly on April 12, Chairman Kim stated:

“What I feel now is if there will be any need to keep an attachment to the summit with the U.S. just because of the issue of sanctions relief. Anyway, we will wait for a bold decision from the U.S. with patience till the end of this year.”

On May 4, North Korea launched short-range ballistic missiles in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions. This was followed by frequent and repeated launches of ballistic missiles counting more than 20 by November. In December, North Korea announced that it conducted a “crucial test” twice at the satellite launching ground in Dongchang-ri, saying it “will be applied to further bolstering up the reliable strategic nuclear deterrent” of North Korea.

A plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) was convened from December 28 to 31. Chairman Kim reportedly stated at the meeting, “The world will witness a new strategic weapon to be possessed by the DPRK in the near future,” noting it should “conduct the offensive for frontal breakthrough, not to wait for the situation to turn better.” In January 2020, a New Year Address by Chairman Kim, which had been customary since 2013, was not publicly delivered.

North Korea has repeatedly conducted missile launches, including a series of launches of short-range ballistic missiles and the launch of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) in October. It is obvious that the purpose is to improve the missile technology and such launches pose a serious challenge not only to Japan but also to the international community and are totally unacceptable.

In response to North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches, informal consultations were held at the UN Security Council in August, October, and December 2019 and in March 2020 at the request of the UK, France, and Germany. A UN Security Council briefing (public) on “Non-proliferation/DPRK” was held in December. At

<sup>11</sup> In May 2014, Japan-North Korea Intergovernmental Consultations were held in Stockholm, Sweden. North Korea promised to conduct a comprehensive and full-scale investigation on all Japanese nationals, including abductees.

the meeting, many countries including Japan expressed concerns that ballistic missile launches by North Korea were in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions, urged North Korea to refrain from further provocations, demanded its return to the U.S.-North Korea process, and stated that the sanctions based on the UN Security Council resolutions should be maintained as long as North Korea does not take concrete measures toward denuclearization.

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-Defense Forces' 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 finds activities strongly suspected to be violating the UN Security Council resolutions, including ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean vessels, measures have been taken such as notification to the UN Security Council 1718 Sanctions Committee and other bodies, sharing of information with related countries, and releasing of information to the public. In 2019, Japan revealed to the public 13 activities strongly suspected to be ship-to-ship transfers, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website and through other media. Aircraft of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and France, in addition to the U.S., based in Kadena Air Base have engaged in monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers. 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 MONTROSE, the Royal Canadian Navy frigates OTTAWA and REGINA

and supply vessel ASTÉRIX, the Royal Australian Navy frigates MELBOURNE and PARRAMATTA, and the French Navy frigate VENDÉMIAIRE. From the perspective of further deepening the multinational cooperation, Japan considers it significant that Japan, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the UK, and France are sharing information and coordinating efforts to ensure that UN Security Council resolutions 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, irrespective of whether the abductees are officially identified.

### **(B) Initiatives by Japan**

Following the nuclear test by North Korea in January 2016 and the launch of the ballistic



Prime Minister Abe and President Trump meet with the families of abductees (May 27, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

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 September, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with the North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho at the UN headquarters.

In May 2019, Prime Minister Abe stated that he “would like to meet with Chairman Kim Jong-un without attaching any condition and talk candidly and frankly.” To this, President Trump, who

visited Japan in the same month, expressed strong support saying that President Trump would support Prime Minister Abe totally and would not spare any efforts in assisting him.

### (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, including at summit meetings, foreign ministers' meetings and international conferences such as the G7 Summit, 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 other 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. When President Trump visited Japan in May 2019, he met with the families of the abductees as he had done during his previous visit in November 2017, listened attentively to the emotional pleas by the family members and encouraged them. 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 Senate

in November 2018.

With regard to China, at the Japan-China Summit Meeting in June 2019, President Xi Jinping stated that he had conveyed Japan's position on Japan-North Korea relations and Prime Minister Abe's views to Chairman Kim during the China-North Korea Summit held in the same month. Prime Minister Abe also gained the strong support of President Xi for the improvement of Japan-North Korea relations, including the abductions issue.

The ROK has raised the abductions issue with North Korea at multiple opportunities, including the Inter-Korean Summit in April 2018. At the Japan-ROK Summit Meeting in December 2019, President Moon Jae-in of the ROK expressed his understanding for Japan's position regarding the importance of the abductions issue and stated that the ROK had repeatedly raised the abductions issue with North Korea. At the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting in December 2019, Prime Minister Abe sought the support and cooperation of President Moon Jae-in and Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang for the early resolution of the abductions issue and obtained their understanding on Japan's position. The abductions issue was included in the Summit Meeting's outcome document.

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.

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

## **C North Korea's External Relations, etc.**

### **(A) U.S.-North Korea Relations**

On January 18, 2019, President Trump and Secretary of State Pompeo held a meeting with Kim Yong-chol, Deputy Chairman of the WPK, in Washington D.C. The U.S. Government

announced that the second U.S.-North Korea Summit would be held around the end of February.

From February 27 to 28, President Trump and Chairman Kim held the second U.S.-North Korea Summit in Hanoi, Viet Nam. However, the summit ended without reaching any agreement.

On April 12, Chairman Kim delivered a policy speech to the Supreme People's Assembly in which he noted, "If the U.S. comes forward for the third DPRK-U.S. summit...we can think of holding one more talks," adding, "We will wait for a bold decision from the U.S. with patience till the end of this year."

On June 30, President Trump and Chairman Kim met in Panmunjom. On October 5, U.S.-North Korea working-level talks took place in Stockholm, Sweden.

A plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK was convened from December 28 to 31. Regarding U.S.-North Korea relations, Chairman Kim reportedly stated in his speech, "If the U.S. persists in its hostile policy towards the DPRK, there will never be the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula."

In March, June, July, August, and September 2019 and January and March 2020, 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 reasons such as providing illegal support to North Korea. The sanctions target entities and individuals in North Korea, as well as those in third countries, including Russia and China.

### **(B) Inter-Korean Relations**

There was no significant progress in inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation programs in 2019, compared to 2018 which saw considerable strides in inter-Korean relations including the holding of three Inter-Korean Summits.

In June 2019, the Government of the ROK, based on its position of extending humanitarian assistance to North Korea regardless of the political situation, announced its intention to promote

humanitarian and food assistance, including the contribution of 8 million US dollars and the provision of 50,000 tons of rice produced in the ROK through international organizations. However, the food assistance has yet to be implemented.

In October, Chairman Kim visited the Mount Kumgang Tourist Region where ROK companies and others participated in the development, and reportedly instructed the removal of ROK facilities from the region upon the ROK's agreement. Subsequently, North Korea has been requesting to the ROK for the removal of its facilities.

In November, North Korean forces conducted a shelling drill on Ch'angnin Island near its border with the ROK as Chairman Kim observed. The Government of the ROK pointed out that the drill was a breach of the Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration<sup>12</sup> in the Military Domain<sup>13</sup> and called for North Korea's compliance with the agreement.

On January 7, 2020, President Moon Jae-in stated in his New Year's Address, "It is regrettable that we've not been able to make further progress in inter-Korean cooperation over the past year," and called for inter-Korean dialogue, saying, "I am willing to meet time and time again and constantly engage in dialogue."

### (C) China-North Korea and Russia-North Korea Relations

The year 2019 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and North Korea. In January, Chairman Kim visited China, and in June, President Xi Jinping visited North Korea for the first time since he took office. Events were also held both in China and North Korea to commemorate the anniversary.

Under such circumstances, China and North Korea have maintained close economic ties.

Trade between China and North Korea continues to account for approximately 90% of North Korea's entire external trade excluding inter-Korean trade.

With regard to Russia-North Korea relations, Chairman Kim visited Vladivostok, Russia in April for the first time since he took office and held a meeting with President Putin.

### (D) Other Issues

In 2019, a total of 158 drifting or wrecked wooden vessels presumed to be from North Korea were discovered (225 in 2018). The Government of Japan continues its effort to gather and analyze information, with great interest on relevant developments. In January, four and two survivors were respectively found in Okinoshima, Shimane Prefecture and off the coast of Fukaura, Aomori Prefecture. The Government of Japan has dealt appropriately with both incidents in accordance with the related laws and regulations, in close coordination among relevant ministries and agencies, including handing over the survivors to North Korea. In October, a collision incident occurred between a fishery patrol vessel of the Fisheries Agency and what appears to be a North Korean-flagged vessel in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Yamatotai bank in the Sea of Japan. Japan will continue to deal appropriately with these issues in close coordination among relevant ministries and agencies.

## D 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 WPK held in May 2016, the post of Chairman of the Party

<sup>12</sup> "Panmunjom Declaration on Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula" signed at the Inter-Korean Summit between President Moon and Chairman Kim on April 28, 2018. Chairman Kim's intention for the denuclearization of North Korea was affirmed in this document.

<sup>13</sup> Based on this agreement, which was adopted as a result of the Inter-Korean Summit in September 2018, measures were taken that 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.

was newly established and Kim Jong-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. In 2019, the Constitution of North Korea was amended twice, and as a result, the role of the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission is stipulated with greater clarity.

At the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK held in April 2018, Chairman Kim declared victory of the “byungjin policy,” which was presented at the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK in March 2013, and he stated that focusing all of its energies on economic construction was the strategic policy of the Party. At the four-day plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK in December 2019, Chairman Kim delivered a speech in which he asserted that the key front in the offensive for frontal breakthrough was the economic front and urged self-reliance to the people.

### (B) Economy

The National Five-Year Strategy for Economic Development (2016–2020) was announced at the Seventh Party Congress of the WPK in May 2016. In his New Year Address in January 2019, as North Korea entered the fourth year of the Strategy, Chairman Kim stated that impetus must be given to its implementation.

North Korea's economic growth rate in 2018 was -4.1% (Bank of Korea estimate), recording negative growth following on from the -3.5% in the previous year. Trade with China continues to account for the largest share of North Korea's external trade. In 2018, the total value of North Korea's external trade (excluding inter-Korean trade) was approximately 2.8 billion US dollars

(Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) estimate), of which trade with China accounted for more than 90%.

### E Other Issues

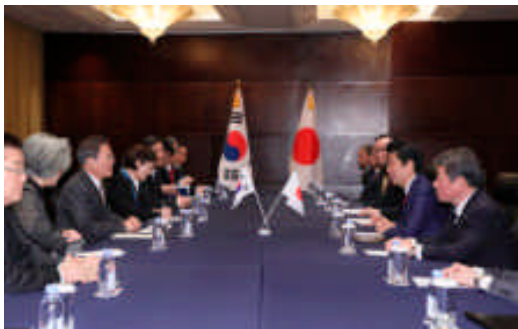
Defectors who have fled North Korea have to be kept in hiding to avoid being cracked down by the authorities in the countries where they are staying or to avoid being forcibly repatriated to North Korea. The Government of Japan is addressing the protection of and support for these North Korean defectors, 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 settlement of defectors accepted by Japan.

## (2) Republic of Korea (ROK)

### A Japan-ROK Relations

#### (A) Bilateral Relations

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is an important neighboring country for Japan. The two countries have built a close, friendly and cooperative relationship based on the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on the Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, and other relevant agreements that the two countries concluded when they normalized their relationship in 1965. In spite of the above, in 2019, following on from 2018, the relations between Japan and the ROK continued to face difficult situations amid unending negative moves by the ROK, including the ROK's continued failure to remedy its accumulated breaches of international law regarding the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs), the notification to terminate the Agreement between the Government of Japan



Japan-ROK Summit Meeting with President Moon Jae-in  
(December 24, Chengdu, China;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information (GSOMIA) (however, the ROK later suspended the effect of the notification of termination), moves to dissolve “the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation” regarding the comfort women issue, landing on Takeshima by South Koreans including the members of the National Assembly of the ROK and military exercises on Takeshima, the sailing of ROK marine research vessels in waters surrounding Takeshima, and raising unconstructive questions regarding the ALPS treated water at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Under these circumstances, a Japan-ROK Summit Meeting was held in December for the first time in one year and three months. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of coordination between Japan and the ROK as well as among Japan, the ROK, and the U.S. with respect to security issues, including those regarding North



Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 23, Nagoya, Japan)

Korea. In addition, Prime Minister Abe directly called upon President Moon Jae-in to propose a solution at its own responsibility to the issue of CWKs, which is the largest issue in the bilateral relations. On this basis, the two leaders shared the view that consultations between their diplomatic authorities should be continued in order to resolve this issue. As part of this intention, consultations between the diplomatic authorities were held frequently, including a total of eight Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meetings and Japan-ROK Director-General-level consultations on multiple occasions.

#### (B) The Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs)

The Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on the Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, which was at the core of the normalization of their relationship in 1965, stipulates that Japan shall supply to the ROK 300 million US dollars in grants and extend loans up to 200 million US dollars (Article I). In addition, the Agreement stipulates that the “problem concerning property, rights and interests of the two Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) and concerning claims between the Contracting Parties and their nationals [abridged] is settled completely and finally” and that “no contention shall be made” with respect to such claims (Article II).

However, in October and November 2018, the Supreme Court of the ROK gave final judgments ordering Japanese companies to pay compensation to ROK nationals who were working for the companies during the Second World War. Such judgments are extremely regrettable and totally unacceptable. They clearly violate Article II of the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on the Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea and inflict unjustifiable damages and costs on the Japanese companies. Above

all, the judgments 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.<sup>14</sup>

In January 2019, the Government of Japan requested a diplomatic consultation with the Government of the ROK pursuant to Article III-1 in order to settle this issue in accordance with the dispute settlement procedures under the Agreement. However, the Government of the ROK failed to respond to the request.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, the Government of Japan notified in May that it would refer to an arbitration board for a decision, pursuant to Article III-2 of the Agreement, and proceeded with the arbitration process. Nevertheless, the Government of the ROK did not fulfill its obligations within the period stipulated in the Agreement to appoint an arbitrator nor to choose a third country, the Government of which is to appoint an arbitrator for the Contracting Party. As a result, the arbitration board referred to in May could not be constituted.

The Government of Japan will continue to call upon the ROK to remedy its breaches of international law and will maintain communication between Japan-ROK diplomatic authorities to resolve this issue.

### (C) The Issue of Comfort Women

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 Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea. 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.

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.<sup>16</sup> 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 was welcomed by the international community, including then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the U.S. Government. In accordance with the 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. As of December 31, 2019, the fund provided financial support to 35 out of 47 former comfort women who were alive at the time of the agreement, and to the bereaved families of 64 out of 199 former comfort women who were deceased at the time. The agreement has been received positively by many former comfort women.

However, in December 2016, a comfort woman statue<sup>17</sup> was installed on the sidewalk facing the Consulate-General of Japan in Busan by a civic

<sup>14</sup> See References on the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs)

<sup>15</sup> See References on the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs)

<sup>16</sup> See References on the comfort women issue

<sup>17</sup> 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.



group in the ROK. Later, 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 2018, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced that it would proceed with its dissolution of “the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation” and has since moved ahead with the dissolution procedures. 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,” the moves to dissolve the Foundation are totally unacceptable for Japan in light of the 2015 Japan-ROK Agreement.

With regard to the trial at a Seoul district court in the ROK instituted by former comfort women and others against the Government of Japan in 2016, the Government of Japan informed the Government of the ROK in May 2019 that it will not submit to the jurisdiction of the ROK based on

the principle of sovereign immunity under international law and that the trial must be dismissed. In December, the Constitutional Court of the ROK dismissed the petition by former comfort women that the 2015 Japan-ROK Agreement was unconstitutional. In any event, it remains unchanged that the Government of Japan will continue to call on the Government of the ROK to steadily implement the 2015 Japan-ROK Agreement (see page 30 and References: The Issue of Comfort Women regarding the international community's handling of the comfort women issue).

#### (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. The ROK has continued its illegal occupation of Takeshima with no legal basis in international law, including stationing permanent security personnel. Japan has been keeping the world informed about Japan's position on the issue through various media,<sup>18</sup> and has repeatedly lodged strong protests against the ROK over matters such as landing on the island by South Koreans including members of the ROK's National Assembly, and the ROK's military exercises and marine researches.<sup>19</sup> In particular, in 2019, the members of the ROK's National Assembly landed on Takeshima in August, and military exercises and maritime surveys were also conducted on the island or its vicinity. The Government of Japan considers them unacceptable in view of Japan's position and

<sup>18</sup> 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, Arabic, Russian, Chinese, and Italian. Furthermore, since October 2013, videos and flyers about Takeshima have been available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website, and they are currently available in the above 11 languages. In addition, Japan has taken initiatives such as distributing a smartphone app that aims to increase awareness of the Takeshima issue. Further details are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/takeshima/index.html>

<sup>19</sup> A delegation of six ROK National Assembly members led by Sul Hoon, a member of the Minjoo Party of Korea, landed on Takeshima in August 2019. In addition, the ROK Armed Forces conducted Takeshima defense training in August and December 2019. 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.



lodged strong protests.

For a peaceful settlement of the Takeshima dispute, Japan proposed to the ROK that the issue be referred to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1954, 1962, and 2012. However, the ROK 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) Japan-ROK GSOMIA

The Governments of Japan and the ROK concluded Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information (GSOMIA) in November 2016 in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the field of security and contribute to regional peace and stability. The agreement was automatically extended in 2017 and 2018. However, the Government of the ROK announced on August 22, 2019, its decision to terminate the GSOMIA in connection with Japan's update of licensing policies and procedures on exports (see (F) below) and notified the termination on the following day, August 23. In response, on August 22, then Foreign Minister Kono summoned ROK Ambassador to Japan Nam Gwan-pyo and stated that the decision by the Government of the ROK to terminate the GSOMIA reflected its total misapprehension of the current regional security environment and was extremely regrettable. On November 22, the Government of the ROK announced that it would suspend the effect of the notification of termination of August 23. The Government of Japan deems that the Government of the ROK made this decision in view of the current regional security environment.

#### (F) Update of Licensing Policies and Procedures on Exports of Controlled Items to the ROK

In order to properly manage trade in goods and technologies which could potentially be put to

military use, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced the following updates on July 1, 2019: (1) the amendment of the Export Trade Control Order of the ROK (note: a revised Cabinet ordinance excluding the ROK from "Group A" entered into force on August 28) and (2) switching from bulk licenses to individual export licenses for Fluorinated polyimide, Resist, and Hydrogen fluoride.

The ROK responded with measures such as stricter export controls on Japan (note: an updated export control system that removes Japan from the list of countries receiving preferential treatment entered into force on September 18). In connection with Japan's update of export licensing policies and procedures, the ROK also announced its decision to terminate the GSOMIA (August 22). Furthermore, on September 11, the ROK requested bilateral consultations with Japan on the account that Japan's updates related to three items were in breach of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement (note: bilateral consultations were held in Geneva, Switzerland, in October and November).

In this context, the Government of the ROK announced on November 22 that it suspended the effect of the notification of termination of the GSOMIA, and that it would also suspend its WTO complaint procedures while the Japan-ROK Export Control Policy Dialogue would be held as normal. On this basis, on December 16, the seventh Export Control Policy Dialogue was held for the first time in three and a half years, at which the two countries agreed to continue dialogues between their export control authorities.

#### (G) Exchange

In 2018, the number of people making visits between the two countries was approximately 10.49 million people, exceeding 10 million for the first time. In 2019, however, the number was approximately 8.85 million people due to a significant decrease in the number of people visiting Japan from the ROK. Nevertheless,

the Governments of Japan and the ROK have shared the view on multiple occasions that, notwithstanding the challenging situation of the bilateral relationship, the two countries should continue their exchanges at a variety of levels, including people-to-people exchanges, economic exchanges, and regional exchanges.

In Japan, K-POP, South Korean TV dramas, etc. are widely accepted by people of all ages. In recent years, Korean cuisine has become widespread throughout Japan, and Korean cosmetics are popular mainly among young Japanese women. Despite the severe situation of Japan-ROK relations, the major Japan-ROK grassroots exchange program “Japan-Korea Exchange Festival” (Nikkan Omatsuri) attracted many visitors in both Tokyo and Seoul. The Government of Japan continues to work on promoting mutual understanding primarily between young people and building a friendly and cooperative relationship for the future through Japan's Friendship Ties Programs (JENESYS 2019).

#### (H) 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 the 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 ROK<sup>20</sup> to Japan as soon as possible. Japan will continue to call upon the Government of the ROK for their prompt return.

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 Sakhalin,<sup>21</sup> addressing the issue of atomic bomb survivors living in the ROK,<sup>22</sup> and helping Hansen's disease patients admitted to sanitariums in the ROK.<sup>23</sup>

#### **B** Japan-ROK Economic Relations

The total value of trade between the two countries amounted to approximately 8.27 trillion yen in 2019. Japan is the ROK's third largest trading partner, and vice versa. The ROK's trade deficit with Japan decreased by approximately 19% from a year earlier, reaching approximately 1.82 trillion yen (Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance). Japanese direct investment in the ROK totaled approximately 1.4 billion US dollars (up 10% from the previous year) (figures published by the ROK Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy), making Japan the ROK's sixth largest source of

<sup>20</sup> In April 2016, Buseoksa Temple in the ROK called for the Government of the ROK to return to Buseoksa Temple a Seated Karaeon 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).

<sup>21</sup> For various reasons, before the end of World War II, people from the Korean Peninsula traveled to what was then known as Minami Karafuto (South Sakhalin) and 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 support, such as to enable them to return home temporarily and to visit Sakhalin.

<sup>22</sup> This is 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.

<sup>23</sup> People who were admitted to Hansen's disease sanitoriums 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 who were formerly resident in sanitoriums overseas for the first time.

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).

On the other hand, following Japan's announcement in July on the application of its export control measures, campaigns unfolded in the ROK to boycott Japanese products and refrain from traveling to Japan. At the national and local assemblies of the ROK, legislation and ordinances were enacted to restrict procurement of Japanese company products.

With respect to the WTO dispute settlement procedures between Japan and the ROK, the WTO Appellate Body issued a report that recognized Japan's major claims in "Korea - Anti-Dumping Duties on Pneumatic Valves From Japan" (September 2019). Other dispute settlement cases are ongoing, including "Korea - Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Duties on Stainless Steel Bars" (note: a panel was established in October 2018) and "Korea - Measures Affecting Trade in Commercial Vessels" (note: bilateral consultations were held in December 2018) (see Chapter 3, Section 3, 3 (3) regarding a case concerning the import restrictions on Japanese food products by the ROK and A (F) above regarding a case concerning the application of Japan's export control measures).

## **C Situation in the ROK**

### **(A) Domestic Affairs**

The Moon Jae-in administration entered its third year in May 2019, and cabinet reshuffles were conducted in March and August. In the August reshuffle, President Moon nominated Mr. Cho Kuk, his close associate and Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs in charge of prosecution at the Blue House, as Minister of Justice. Shortly after his nomination, however, alleged controversies emerged concerning Cho's family, relatives, and others. Although President Moon appointed

Mr. Cho as Minister of Justice on September 9, Mr. Cho resigned from his post on October 14 amidst further intensification of domestic backlash.

In December, a new Prime Minister was nominated. On January 14, 2020, Mr. Lee Nak-yeon, who served as Prime Minister since the establishment of the Moon administration, resigned, and Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, former Speaker of the National Assembly, was appointed as Prime Minister.

The Government of the ROK has carried out prosecution reforms, which President Moon pledged during his presidential campaign. On December 30, the National Assembly passed the bill to establish the Corruption Investigation Office For High-ranking Officials, an independent body that investigates improper acts by high-ranking officials, and on January 13, 2020, passed the bills for revising the Criminal Procedure Act and the Supreme Prosecutors' Office Act for adjusting the investigative rights of the prosecution and police.

### **(B) Foreign Policy**

In 2019, the ROK continued to engage in diplomacy with top priority given to the issues of North Korea. On June 30, during his visit to the ROK, U.S. President Trump visited Panmunjom and met with Chairman Kim of North Korea. Ahead of this meeting, President Trump and Chairman Kim held informal talks with President Moon also present. (see C (B) regarding inter-Korean relations).

With regard to the relations with the U.S., the series of the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises "Key Resolve," "Foal Eagle," and "Freedom Guardian" were concluded in March based on the progress of the dialogues with North Korea. (Of these exercises, "Key Resolve" and "Freedom Guardian" were conducted as command post exercises.) The U.S. Government has also negotiated with the Government of the ROK on Host Nation Support (HNS) in line with the Trump administration's policy of requesting HNS increases for U.S. forces stationed in various countries. In February, the U.S. and the ROK reached a tentative agreement

regarding the 10th Special Measures Agreement (SMA) which sets the ROK's cost at approximately 1.0389 trillion won (approximately 920 million US dollars) for the year 2019. Since then, the two countries have held negotiations on the HNS amounts for 2020 and beyond.

In 2019, President Moon Jae-in visited Brunei (in March), Malaysia (in March), Cambodia (in March), the U.S. (in April), Turkmenistan (in April), Uzbekistan (in April), Kazakhstan (in April), Finland (in June), Norway (in June), Sweden (in June), Japan (in June for the G20 Osaka Summit), Thailand (in September), Myanmar (in September), Laos (in September), the U.S. (in September for the UN General Assembly), Thailand (in November for the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings), and China (in December for the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting).

### (C) Economy

In 2019, the GDP growth rate was 2.0%, showing a decrease from 2.7% of the previous year. Due to factors such as falling semiconductor exports, exports stagnated in general, recording continuous decreases from December 2018 to December 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year. The total amount of exports decreased 10.4% year-on-year to approximately 542.2 billion US dollars, while the total amount of imports decreased 6.0% year-on-year to approximately 503.3 billion US dollars, resulting in a trade surplus of approximately 38.9 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. It has significantly increased 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). However, such sharp rises drew growing criticisms for causing job losses and more. In July 2019,

the administration announced that the minimum wage in 2020 would be 8,590 won (up 2.9% year-on-year). In March 2018, the Labor Standards Act was revised, shortening maximum weekly work hours from 68 hours to 52 hours from July 2018 (to be applied to companies with five to 299 employees; excludes companies with fewer than five employees). In recent years, the ROK has had a rapidly declining birthrate and aging population. In 2018, the total fertility rate was 0.98 children per woman, recording less than 1.00 for the first time, making the declining birthrate issue all the more serious.

## 3 China / Mongolia, etc.

### (1) China

#### A The Situation in China

##### (A) Domestic affairs

The second session of the 13th National People's Congress was held in March. Amid the recent economic slowdown in China and the effects of trade friction between the U.S. and China, Premier Li Keqiang spoke about "complicated and challenging domestic and international environment," "new downward pressure on the economy," and "China-U.S. economic and trade frictions having an adverse effect on the production and business operations of some companies and on market expectations" in the Government Work Report. He announced a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy including a GDP growth target for 2019 of 6.0%-6.5% (growth in 2018 was 6.7% with a target of around 6.5%), large-scale tax cuts, reduction of corporate contributions to social insurance, the expansion of local government bonds, and the expansion of investment in infrastructure. He also announced to work faster to make China strong in manufacturing, advance economic reforms to implement a system of punitive compensation for intellectual property infringements, further implement the military-civilian integration strategy, speed up efforts to make innovations in defense related

science and technology, and increase the national defense budget by 7.5% year-on-year.

A military parade was held on October 1 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It was the largest military parade under the Xi Jinping administration, with the participation of around 15,000 soldiers. In his speech, President Xi Jinping stated that no force can shake the status of the great nation of China and continued efforts should be made to achieve the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

The fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC (Communist Party of China) Central Committee was held later that month from the 28th to the 31st. The session emphasized “upholding the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC” as “notable strengths of China’s state and governance system” and also set the policy of upholding and maintaining systems in various fields, such as guidance from the CPC, law-based governance, administration, the economy, culture, livelihood, security, the environment, military, “one country, two systems” and the unification of China, diplomacy, and oversight of the Party and the state (anti-corruption).

Large-scale protests occurred in Hong Kong when the local government submitted an amendment to the extradition bill to the Legislative Council in March that would broaden its application to countries and regions including mainland China. In June, organizers announced that a protest of two million people took place. Even after the Hong Kong Government withdrew the bill, the protesters issued five demands that included universal suffrage, and continued to clash with the police.

In Macau, a ceremony was held on December 20 to mark the 20th anniversary of the handover of Macau and to inaugurate its Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng. President Xi Jinping attended the ceremony and lauded the success of “one country, two systems” in Macau in his speech.

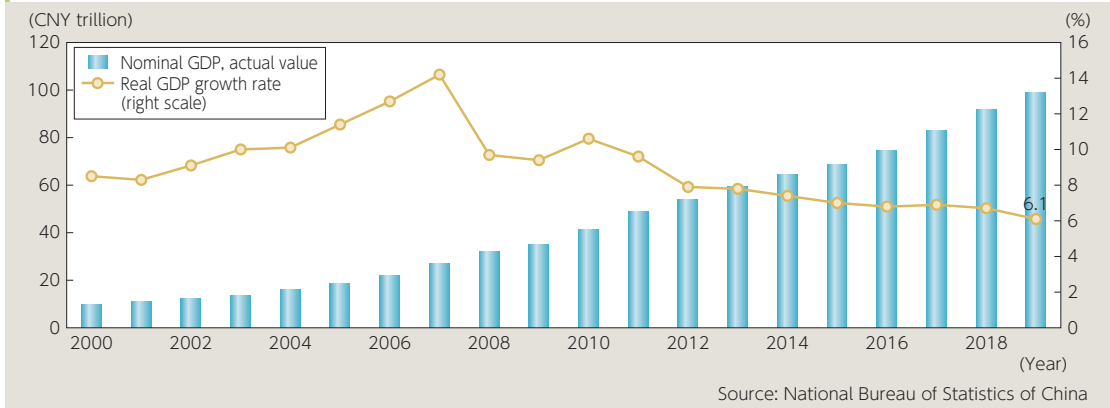
With respect to the social situation, Chinese

authorities continue to severely clamp down on human rights activists and intellectuals, as well as ethnic minorities such as the Uyghurs. There is a growing concern in the international community about the state of human rights in China.

### (B) Economy

The real GDP growth rate in 2019 increased 6.1% year-on-year, and total trade value decreased 1.0% 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, the slowing of growth in domestic demand (consumption, fixed asset investment) has become visible. The impact of trade and investment issues between the U.S. and China can also be seen in financial affairs, and stocks on the Shanghai Stock market rose 24% compared to the start of the year on the announcement of an agreement in “Phase One” talks between China and the U.S. in December. Regarding the foreign exchange rate, the U.S. designated China as a “currency manipulator” in response to the yuan falling to seven yuan per dollar in August. Following additional U.S.-China trade tariffs, the yuan fell against the US dollar, dropping to 7.1 yuan to the US dollar, but with the announcement of the agreement in “Phase One” talks between China and the U.S. in December, the yuan rose to 6.9 yuan to the US dollar (at the beginning of the year it had been 6.7 yuan to the US dollar). As a measure to support the economy, the Chinese Government moved up its announcement to local governments of the limit of 1 trillion yuan for the issuance of special local government bonds for 2020 (47% of the new issuance limit for 2019), and called for early investment in concrete investment projects such as infrastructure. Regarding external economic policy, China advanced the deregulation of its financial industry with measures to open the domestic market, such as passing the Foreign Investment Law and announcing the acceleration of the removal of

## Development of China's GDP



restrictions on foreign ownership of securities companies and life insurance companies by 2020.

The Central Economic Work Conference held in December offered a harsher view of the current economic situation than last year, and gave top priority to 2020, the target year for promoting the comprehensive completion of a moderately prosperous society and the final year of the 13th Five Year Plan. In addition, the Conference adhered to the theme of stability couching it in the basic policy of realizing the “six stabilities” (employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and market expectations), escaping poverty, and promoting high-quality development.

Due to the impact of the spread of the novel coronavirus disease, consumption, production, and investment from January-February 2020 saw negative growth for the first time since the statistics were released. Business sentiment in February was the worst for both manufacturing and non-manufacturing firms. The unemployment rate was 6.2%, the worst since the data had been made available, showing the magnitude of the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic on the Chinese economy.

In order to manage the party and administration stably, it is necessary to ensure constant economic growth while 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 2019, China invited leaders of various countries to events, such as the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (April) and the 2nd China International Import Expo (November) where it announced policies on high quality Belt and Road construction and the further opening of markets.

Tensions in U.S.-China relations increased in May as both sides urged additional tariff measures. During the G20 Osaka Summit in June, the U.S. and China held a summit meeting and agreed to continue the negotiations. Although the negotiations subsequently faced difficulties, and new additional tariff measures were implemented in September, both the U.S. and China announced that they reached a “Phase One Agreement” on December 13, and worked toward signing the agreement. The U.S. and China are the first and second largest economies in the world, respectively. Establishing stable economic relations between them is directly linked to sustainable economic growth not only in Japan but also in the world as a whole. Japan will continue monitoring future developments.

### (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 have not been disclosed sufficiently. Under such circumstances, China 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 South China Sea, and the expansion and increased vigor 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 (2017), 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. Carrying on from 2018, 2019 saw active high-level dialogues including Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers' Meetings, and was a year that took relations to a new stage toward "a new era of Japan-China relations."

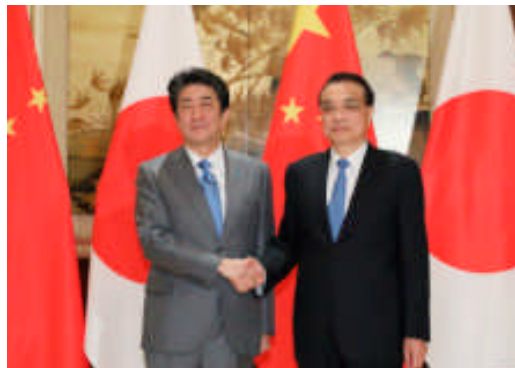
In 2019, reciprocal visits were realized by Prime Minister Abe and President Xi Jinping. In June, President Xi Jinping attended the G20 Osaka Summit, visiting Japan as president for the first time in about nine years. At the Japan-China Summit Meeting, the two leaders confirmed that Japan-China relations have returned to a normal track through reciprocal visits by the leaders in 2018, and that there have been new developments in the relations. They also shared their determination to carve out "a new era of Japan-China relations." The two leaders shared the view on enhancing reciprocal visits and dialogues at a high level, including at the summit level, in order to have constant and close communications as eternal neighboring countries. As an important next step to this end, Prime Minister Abe, on behalf of the Government of Japan, invited President Xi to pay a state visit to Japan in the spring of 2020, and President Xi accepted the invitation in principle.

Prime Minister Abe visited China to attend the Eighth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in December. During his summit meeting with President Xi Jinping, the two leaders shared the view on continuing to work together to ensure a smooth and meaningful state visit to Japan by President Xi next spring. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan and China together have a significant responsibility toward peace, stability, and prosperity of the region and the world, and expressed his desire to send out a clear message domestically and internationally of their intention to fulfill this responsibility. In addition, Prime Minister Abe wished that the two countries can demonstrate their determination to continue "ceaseless exchanges," based on the need to strengthen and firmly establish reciprocal visits and dialogues at





Japan-China Summit Meeting with President Xi Jinping (June 27, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



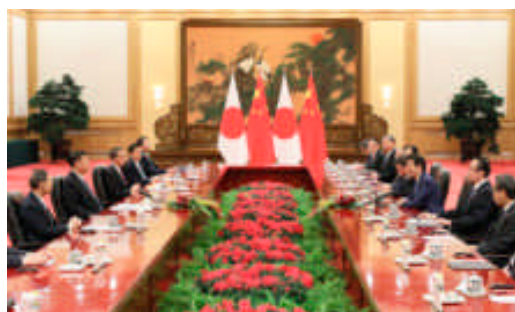
Japan-China Summit Meeting with Premier Li Keqiang (December 24, Chengdu, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

the high level, ensuring that the current momentum for improving and deepening Japan-China relations is not temporary. During the Japan-China Summit Meeting with Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council, the premier reflected on how relations have returned to a normal track through reciprocal visits by the leaders in 2018, and shared his determination to carve out “a new era of Japan-China relations” in advance of President Xi Jinping’s visit to Japan in the spring of 2020.

Additionally, a Japan-China Summit Meeting was held in November with Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang during the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings.

In March 2020, regarding the state visit of President Xi Jinping, Japan and China shared the view that top priority must be given to preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus disease, and that both sides need to prepare adequately to ensure President Xi’s state visit is fully successful. They decided to reschedule the state visit to a time that is convenient for both.

Reciprocal visits by the foreign ministers of Japan and China were also held in 2019 as in the previous year. In April, Foreign Minister Kono visited China. Both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, and regional and international situations, and shared the view to cooperate with each other ahead of the G20 Osaka Summit in June with the shared understanding that 2019 will be an important year for the development of bilateral relations. In November, State Councillor



Japan-China Summit Meeting with President Xi Jinping (December 23, Beijing, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, and held a foreign ministers’ meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi. At the meeting, Japan and China signed the Agreement Between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Cooperation in Animal Health and Quarantine (Japan-China Agreement on Animal Health and Quarantine), which served as an important step for lifting the ban on Japanese beef and other exports to China. In addition, regarding dialogues between diplomatic authorities, the two sides shared the view on preparing the annual plan for exchanges and cooperation in 2020 and on continuing to hold further dialogues. The First Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue (which was agreed to be established within the year at the June Japan-China Summit Meeting), was also held in November on the occasion of State Councillor and Foreign Minister

Wang Yi's visit to Japan. Furthermore, continuous dialogues were held between the foreign ministers of Japan and China by seizing various opportunities including in June (the Japan-China foreign ministers' telephone call), August (the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings and the Ninth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting), September (the United Nations General Assembly), and December (Prime Minister Abe's visit to China).

China celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding on October 1, 2019. A video message from Prime Minister Abe was played at a reception for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Japan, and it was subsequently reported on by China Central Television (CCTV).

Vice President of China Wang Qishan attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor on October 22 with the start of a new year in the Reiwa era. He paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and met with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aso Taro.

Also, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Norikazu visited China in January for the Project to Support the Overseas Promotion of Regional Charms in Beijing hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In May, Member of the Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China Yang Jiechi visited Japan where he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and met with Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary General of the National Security Secretariat Yachi Shotaro. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng visited Japan in August, and held strategic talks with Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Akiba for the first time since June 2012. Also in August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko visited China (Guizhou province and Beijing). State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wakamiya Kenji visited China (Shanghai and Beijing) in November to attend a World Trade Organization (WTO) informal ministerial meeting. In December, State



Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(December 25, Beijing, China)

Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke met with Communist Party Secretary of Shandong Liu Jiayi during his visit to Japan. Secretary General of National Security Secretariat Kitamura Shigeru visited China in December and held talks with Member of the Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China Yang Jiechi. Besides this, between the diplomatic authorities of both countries, based on the 2019 Memorandum on Drafting the Annual Plan on Exchanges and Cooperation, practical dialogue and trust-building were steadily advanced in each field, including the Japan-China Security Dialogue (February), the Japan-China Foreign Officials Meeting (February), the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs (May), the Japan-China Disarmament and Non-proliferation Meeting (May), reciprocal visits by groups of mid-level officials (August), the Japan-China Policy Dialogue on the Mekong Region (September), and the Japan-China Policy Planning Consultations (December). Active exchanges were also conducted between the legislative bodies and political parties of Japan and China as in the previous year.

Regarding the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease that started spreading in China at the end of 2019, Japan and China worked together closely from the perspective of preventing the spread of the virus in China and protecting Japanese nationals, which included a Japan-China Foreign Ministers' telephone call on January 26, 2020, a Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting during

the Munich Security Conference on February 15, a Japan-China Foreign Ministers' telephone call on February 26, and Member of the Central Politburo of the Communist Party of China Yang Jiechi's visit to Japan on February 27 in which he affirmed cooperation to help stop the spread of the disease. In addition, based on the Japan-China Foreign Ministers' telephone call on January 26, a total of five charter planes were sent to Wuhan Airport to evacuate Japanese nationals in Hubei province who wanted to return to Japan. Japan also delivered approximately 90,000 pairs of gloves, 41,000 sets of goggles, 40,000 protective suits, and 2,000 disinfection products to China, carrying them on board these five flights. China expressed its gratitude for these efforts.

Japan and China share significant responsibilities for the peace and prosperity of the region and the world. The international community strongly demands fulfilling these responsibilities given current regional circumstances. In addition to reciprocal visits by its leaders, Japan will build a mature Japan-China relationship in the new era by deepening and expanding exchanges in various fields.

### (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 303.9 billion US dollars in 2019 (4.3% decrease 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, as estimated from officially published information on investment) in 2018. Figures for 2019 have yet to be announced as of March 2020. Japan ranks fourth in terms of the amount of direct investment to China (Singapore ranks first, the ROK second, and the UK third).

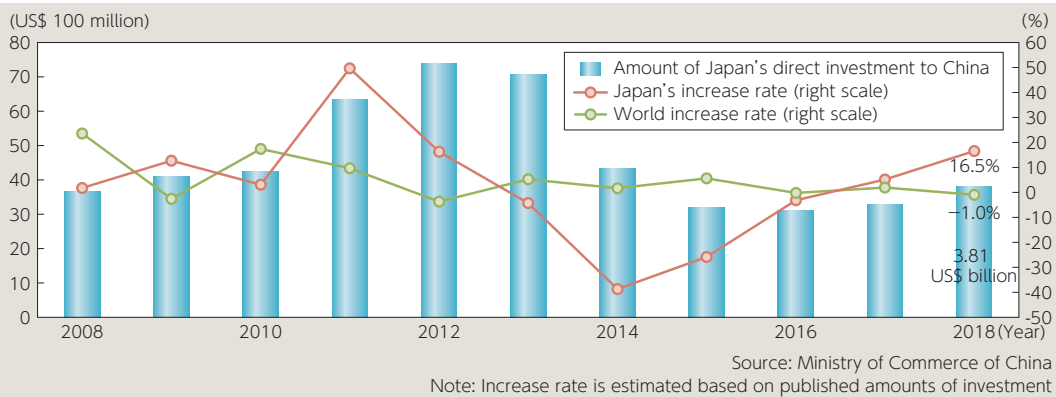
High-level visits were frequent and cooperative

relations were also strengthened in the economic field in 2019. The First Japan-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue (vice-ministerial level) was held in April. Japan and China introduced their respective innovation policies to each other, exchanged opinions on various exchanges and cooperation, and shared recognition on the importance of efforts in the field of intellectual property in both Japan and China to develop the environment for Japan-China cooperation in innovation. They explained their respective policies involving the field of intellectual property, and exchanged views on a variety of challenges, including: protection of trade secrets, elimination of concerns over forced technology transfer (e.g., recent trends surrounding the Regulations on Technology Import and Export Administration (TIER) and the Foreign Investment Law), and measures against pirated products. The Japan-China Economic Partnership Meeting (vice-ministerial level) was also held that month. At the meeting, Japan raised the issue of promoting trade and investment in accordance with international rules and practices to the Chinese side, in addition to improving the business environment in China, expanding exports of Japanese food, strengthening the protection of intellectual property protection, and strengthening measures against counterfeit products and pirated products. At the Fifth Japan-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue (ministerial level) held also in April, a wide range of views were exchanged regarding topics such as macro-economic policy, bilateral economic cooperation and exchanges, key cooperation under the Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue framework (Japan-China business cooperation in third countries and Japan-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue), and regional and world economies and responses to global issues. At the Japan-China Summit Meeting that took place in June during President Xi Jinping's visit to Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, the two leaders shared the view that the two countries would enhance mutually beneficial working-level cooperation based

## Change in Japan's Value of Trade with China



## Change in amount of Japan's direct investment to China



on international standards in areas that have potential, such as third country markets, innovations, protection of intellectual property, trade and investment including foods and agricultural products, finance and securities, medical and nursing care, energy conservation and the environment, and tourism exchanges, as well as further develop a free and fair trading system. From the perspective of further deepening Japan-China economic relations and the sustainable growth of the Chinese economy, Prime Minister Abe requested the opening up of the Chinese market and effective measures to establish a fair and equitable business environment, including the enhancement of intellectual property protection as well as the correction of forced technology transfer and market-distorting industrial subsidies. Furthermore, the Agreement on Social Security between the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China (Japan-China

Agreement on Social Security) came into effect in September. In previous years, employees, such as Japanese and Chinese corporate expatriates, temporarily dispatched from their companies to work in either Japan and China, have been obligated to join the pension systems in both Japan and China, and this posed the problem of their having to pay pension premiums twice. With this Agreement coming into effect, in principle, temporarily dispatched employees sent abroad for a period of five years or less will only have to pay into the pension system of their country of origin.

During the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in December, Japan held summit meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council. The two sides shared the view on further strengthening cooperation in a variety of areas, including economic and practical cooperation between Japan and China. Prime Minister Abe expressed his desire to President Xi for both

countries to make efforts to realize an environment for equitable competition and develop a free and fair trading system. Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectations to Premier Li for robust efforts toward enhancing the business environment, including by improving the implementation of legal systems, further opening up the market, and strengthening Japan-China financial cooperation.

There were active economic exchanges also in the private sector. The Japan-China Business Leader and Former High-Level Government Official Dialogue (Japan-China CEO Summit) was held in Tokyo in July. Also, 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, 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.

### (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 2019 reached around 9.59 million people (estimated by the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)), which was a record high. 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. In addition, with various factors such as the increase in the supply of seats due to new services and increased flights, and the effect of further relaxed visa requirements that started in January 2019, the number of people making mutual visits is expected to increase in the long run.

### (Japan-China youth exchange, etc.)

During Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October 2018, both he and Premier Li Keqiang shared the view that it is necessary to further expand two-way people-to-people exchanges, particularly exchanges between the young generation. 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," and 2019 was designated as "Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year." The leaders shared the view on implementing young exchanges on a scale of 30,000 people over the following five years (see the Column on page 53).

In 2019, through JENESYS2019, the people-to-people exchange project including young people, about 460 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, about 1,400 people were invited to Japan for promoting understanding of Japan based on the theme of the "Three KAKEHASHI (Bridge)" Projects ((1)



Second Japan-China 500-University Student Delegation  
(November 29, Tokyo; Photo: Japan-China Friendship Center)

## Column

## 2019, the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year”

During his visit to China in October 2018, Prime Minister Abe and Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang designated 2019 as the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year” and concurred on promoting exchange between youths of the two countries in various fields in view of the importance of the role that youth exchange plays in bilateral relations. Consequently, events related to the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year” were held between January 1 and December 31, 2019. There were about 240 accredited events, and the number of participants for the events held in both countries reached approximately 310,000. Many youths from the two countries, who will bear the future of Japan-China relations on their shoulders, deepened mutual understanding through exchanges in areas such as sports and culture, and the events produced significant outcomes. This column features four of the events in the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year.”

### 1. Former head coach of the Japan national football team Mr. Nishino Akira’s football exchange with youths from China

From January 11 to 13, former head coach of the Japan national football team Mr. Nishino Akira visited Beijing and participated in an exchange event with junior youth players from Beijing Sinobo Guoan Football Club and students from Tsinghua University. This event was hosted by MOFA as a kickoff event for the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year.” Football is a popular sport in China too, and the Chinese players and students were inspired by the exchange with Mr. Nishino, the then-head coach who led the Japanese team in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. The exchange event was also widely covered by the local press.



Exchange between Mr. Nishino Akira, former head coach of the Japan national football team and junior youth players from China (January 11, Beijing)

### 2. Opening ceremony for the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year”

On April 14, the opening ceremony for the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year” was held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China in the presence of Foreign Minister Kono and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. On the day of the event, approximately 250 university students from Japan and China, including Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Renmin University of China came together for the opening ceremony, and affirmed the importance of mutual trust and mutual understanding through direct exchanges.



Opening ceremony for the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year” (April 14, Beijing)

### 3. Convention of the “Second Japan-China 500-University Student Exchange”

The “Second Japan-China 500-University Student Exchange,” organized by the Japan-China Friendship Center, was held on November 29. This was a large-scale exchange event that brought together a delegation of 500 university students from Japan and China who represent the next generation (300 Chinese university students and 200 Japanese university students), and was the second time the event was held after its commencement last year. In addition to government officials from both countries, Mr. Tachibana Kenchi, a performer with the music group EXILE, and Ms. Liu Jingluo



The “Second Japan-China 500-University Student Exchange” (November 29, Tokyo; Photo: Japan-China Friendship Center)

(Seira Ryu), a voice actor and manga artist who is bilingual in Japanese and Chinese, attended the student exchange event as special guests and livened it up. University students from Japan and China also put on song and dance performances, adding excitement to the youthful exchange through pop culture.

#### 4. Convention of the “China-Japan Youth Friendly Exchange Conference”

On December 23, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China-Japan Friendship Association co-hosted the “China-Japan Youth Friendly Exchange Conference” held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Foreign Minister Motegi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi relayed their messages, and about 1,000 youths from both countries turned up at the venue for the event. Representatives of the participants presented their thoughts and impressions on their visits to the other country, and promoted the importance of mutual understanding.

Through the projects implemented under the “Japan-China Youth Exchange Promotion Year,” youths from the two countries strengthened their bonds. With their hearts full of the ideas and hopes that have sprouted through the mutual exchange, they are expected to play an active role in the future to form a new bridge between Japan and China.

Regional exchanges (2) Youth exchanges, and (3) Culture and sports exchanges).

#### (First Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue)

At the Japan-China Summit Meeting with President Xi Jinping held during the G20 Osaka Summit in June, both leaders agreed to launch a high-level dialogue framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Based on this agreement, Foreign Minister Motegi (Japanese side Chair) and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (Chinese side Chair) held the First Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue in Tokyo in November. Both ministers discussed further strengthening exchanges in a variety of fields including youth, culture, sports, women, tourism, contents (such as video), and media.

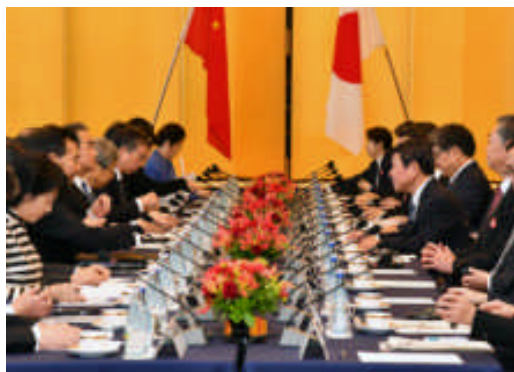
The two sides shared the view on further promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges, including sports exchanges, by making next year the “Japan-China culture and sports Exchange Promotion Year.”

In December, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chose idol group Arashi to conduct public relations work as goodwill ambassadors for sports and cultural exchanges with China to promote the “Japan-China culture and sports Exchange

Promotion Year” in 2020.



First Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue (from left: Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism Zhang Xu, Minister of Education Chen Baosheng, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi, and Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Hagiuda) (November 25, Tokyo)



First Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue (November 25, Tokyo)

#### (D) Specific Pending Issues

##### (Situation surrounding the East China Sea)

In the East China Sea, Chinese Government-owned vessels continue to intrude into the Japanese territorial sea 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 China's side of the geographical equidistance line in the maritime area pending delimitation between Japan and China, and has repeatedly carried out maritime researches 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 sovereignty 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.

Chinese Government-owned vessels continue to intrude into the Japanese territorial sea, recording 32 incidents during 2019 (the numbers were 19 in 2018, and 29 in 2017). 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 territory as well as territorial sea and airspace, Japan will continue to take a calm and resolute approach to the situation.

In addition, Chinese naval vessels and aircraft have also been accelerating their activities in the

sea and airspace around Japan. In January 2018, a submarine and ship navigated into Japan's contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands. We expressed serious concerns, issued a serious protest, and strongly requested that it would not happen again, through diplomatic routes. Furthermore, aircraft activities also continue 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 been continuing its unilateral activities to develop natural resources while the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf between Japan and China in the East China Sea remain pending delimitation. 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 activities are extremely regrettable, and every time such moves by China are detected, Japan has strongly requested China to cease its unilateral development and to immediately resume negotiations 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. At the summit meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Abe in June 2019, the two leaders shared the view of promoting and implementing the "2008 Agreement" regarding resource development in order to achieve the goal of making the East China Sea a "Sea of Peace, Cooperation and Friendship."

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.





Chinese maritime structures 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/a\\_o/c\\_m1/page3e\\_000356.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/c_m1/page3e_000356.html)



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 Keqiang in May 2018, the discussions on the Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between the defense authorities of Japan and China had been concluded after 10 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. Also, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October 2018, 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, the Japan-China High-Level

Consultation on Maritime Affairs was held on May 2019 in Otaru, Hokkaido.

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 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 2019, 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 and also in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province have been carried out. In total, about 58,000 abandoned chemical weapons have been destroyed as of December.

#### (Cases of Detainment of Japanese Nationals)

In regard to cases of detainment of Japanese nationals, the Government of Japan has been working toward their early release at various occasions between Japan and China, including summit meetings. One Japanese national detained in September 2019 was released in November. Since then, the Government of Japan has strongly requested at all levels and at every occasion to the Government of China, including at talks between

Prime Minister Abe and President Xi Jinping in December 2019, 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.

#### (Japanese food import restrictions issue)

Regarding the import restrictions placed on food and agricultural products from Japan by the Government of China, Japan has taken every opportunity to urge the Chinese side to carry out an evaluation based on scientific evidence, and has lobbied for the abolition and relaxation of the restrictions. The occasions in which this issue was raised include the Japan-China Summit Meeting in June, Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in September, the courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe by Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in November, and summit meetings with Prime Minister Abe and President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in December. With respect to the resumption of Japanese beef exports, the "Japan-China Animal Health and Quarantine Agreement," one of the important steps for resuming exports, was signed on November 25, and the Government of China announced the lifting of a ban on imports relating to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and foot-and-mouth disease effective December 19. On October 24, the Government of Macau announced that it would lift the ban of imports subject to the attachment of documents specified by the Government of Macau with respect to produce, fruit, and dairy products from nine prefectures (Miyagi, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Niigata, and Nagano).

## (2) Taiwan

### A Domestic Affairs

On January 11, 2020, Taiwan conducted its presidential election and an election for the Legislative Yuan, which are held every four years. Although the ruling DPP were defeated in the local elections held in November 2018, the incumbent

President Tsai Ing-wen, who, since the summer of 2019, had greater support in public opinion polls than Han Kuo-yu of the largest opposition party, the Kuomintang, was re-elected with a higher number of votes than any past presidential election winners.

In the election for the Legislative Yuan, the DPP lost seats but still managed to maintain a majority by claiming 61 of the 113 seats while the Kuomintang came in second with 38 seats. The Taiwanese People's Party, launched in August 2019, came in third with five seats. In addition, the real GDP growth rate in 2019 increased by 2.71% 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: Taiwan Affairs Office of State Council, the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan side: Mainland Affairs Council, the Straits Exchange Foundation, Mainland Affairs Council) have been discontinued. Under these circumstances, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech in January 2019 in which he called for cross-strait unification under "one country, two systems," but President Tsai Ing-Wen declared that an absolute majority of Taiwanese people would not accept "one country, two systems."

Taiwan was an observer at the World Health Organization (WHO) general assembly from 2009 to 2016, but has not been able to participate since 2017, and has also not been able to participate in the general assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international organizations. Furthermore, Taiwan is only able to participate in some technical meetings and expert meetings (Taiwan participates in the WHO expert meeting on COVID-19 in 2020).

Following São Tomé and Príncipe in 2016, Panama in 2017, Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, and El Salvador in 2018, and the Solomon

Islands and Kiribati in September 2019, who have severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and established or re-established diplomatic relations with China, there are a total of 15 countries who have diplomatic relations with Taiwan (seven countries have cut diplomatic relations with Taiwan since the inauguration of the Tsai Ing-Wen administration).

### **C Japan-Taiwan Relationship**

For Japan, Taiwan is an extremely 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-to-people 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.

The sentiments of Japanese and Taiwanese citizens toward each other are generally favorable. In a survey conducted in February 2019 by the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, a private Japanese agency, 70% of Taiwanese respondents said they “felt close to Japan” or “relatively felt close to Japan.”

Reflecting such favorable sentiments toward Japan, the number of visitors to Japan from Taiwan in 2019 exceeded 4.89 million, marking a record high and demonstrating close people-to-people exchanges.

From April, the maximum number of visas under the Japan-Taiwan Working Holiday system was also expanded from 5,000 to 10,000.

Furthermore, the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and Taiwanese private agency, Taiwan-Japan Relations Association, signed the Memorandum on Exchange and Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, the Memorandum for the Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Patent Prosecution (PPH), the Memorandum for the Mutual Cooperation in

the Field of Industrial Design Priority Document Exchange (Design PDX), and the Memorandum of Promoting Cooperation on the Import-Export Organic Foods in October.

Japan has consistently supported the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the WHO General Assembly.

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 as Prime Minister in October 2017 and Chairman of the ruling Mongolian People's Party in November 2017, has maintained a stable administration through his second year in office in 2019. He has made efforts to steadily implement the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the nominal GDP growth rate in 2019 reached 5.1%, showing 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.

In June 2019, Foreign Minister Kono visited Mongolia for the first time in nine years as foreign minister. In addition to meeting with Foreign Minister Tsogtbaatar, Foreign Minister Kono paid a courtesy call to President Battulga and Prime Minister Khurelsukh. In August, Foreign Minister Kono held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Tsogtbaatar in Thailand on the margins of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

In September, Prime Minister Abe, who

visited Vladivostok (Russia) to attend the Eastern Economic Forum, held a summit meeting with President Battulga for the third consecutive year.

In October, Prime Minister Khurelsukh visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

In December, Minister of Defence Enkhbold visited Japan through a ministerial-level invitation program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and held a defense ministers' meeting with Minister of Defense Kono, and also met with Foreign Minister Motegi.

In addition, the Fifth Consultative Meeting between Authorities for Foreign Relations, Security and Defense of Mongolia and Japan was held in Tokyo in April.

Through this series of active exchanges, Japan and Mongolia have affirmed their intents to develop the “Strategic Partnership” and

contribute to the peace and stability of the regional and international communities. Furthermore, the two countries confirmed they would cooperate to ensure the smooth opening of the New Ulaanbaatar International Airport, recognizing the fact that the New Ulaanbaatar International Airport LLC, jointly established by the Japan Business Federation and the Mongolian public corporation, signed a 15-year concession agreement for the airport with the Mongolian National Development Agency in July.

Japan will continue to strengthen bilateral relations steadily in accordance with the Japan-Mongolia Mid-term Action Plan for a Strategic Partnership (2017-2021) and make efforts to develop the “Strategic Partnership” between Japan and Mongolia.

## 4 Southeast Asia

### (1) Indonesia

As a major country in the Southeast Asia region with the fourth largest population in the world (at 268 million people), Indonesia plays a leading role in ASEAN. In addition, it has been showing initiative for various challenges facing the international community as a G20 member.

Regarding domestic politics, a presidential election was held in April when the incumbent President Joko Widodo and candidate for Vice President Ma'ruf Amin contested with Prabowo Subianto, the leader of Gerindra party, and his vice-presidential candidate Sandiaga Uno. President Joko's camp won the election with a 55.5% share of the vote, and was thus reelected. Legislative elections (House of Representatives (DPR), House of Regional Representatives (DPD), Regional People's Representative Councils of Provinces, Regencies and Municipalities) took place on this same day. In the election for DPR members, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, the party fielding President Joko, gained 128 seats (with a 19.3% share of the vote) to become the dominant party. An inauguration



Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Khurelsukh (October 21, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Talks between Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi and Minister of Defence of Mongolia Enkhbold (December 2, Tokyo)

ceremony was held for President Joko and Vice President Ma'ruf Amin on October 20, which was attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama Norihiro as a representative of the Government of Japan. The “Onward Indonesia Cabinet” was announced on October 23, when the Joko administration began its second term.

High-level exchanges were actively carried out between Japan and Indonesia. At the summit-level, President Joko visited Japan in June for the G20 Osaka Summit, while Vice President Ma'ruf Amin visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. In addition, on the occasion of the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in November, a summit meeting was held between Prime Minister Abe and President Joko, for the first time since the start of the Joko administration's second term. Ministerial-level exchanges were also active. On the occasion of the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno, who remained in office for the second term of the Joko administration, visited Japan and held the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi. Through these high-level exchanges, the two sides affirmed their cooperative relations in areas such as politics and security, economy and infrastructure development, maritime issues, disaster prevention, and people-to-people exchanges. They also affirmed that they would continue to further strengthen



Japan-Indonesia Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 22, Nagoya)

coordination over regional issues such as the South China Sea and North Korea.

## (2) Cambodia

Cambodia is a key country in strengthening connectivity in the Mekong region and narrowing the regional development gap in the Southeast Asian region. Based on its regional advantages of being located in a strategic place of the Southern Economic Corridor and its annual economic growth rate of 7%, 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 since the late 1980s and its subsequent reconstruction and development process. Cambodia was the first country to which Japan deployed PKO from 1992 to 1993, and Japan has been deepening its relations with Cambodia in various different areas in recent years in the country's capacity as the starting point for Japan's “Proactive Contributions to Peace.” In 2013, the relations between the two countries were elevated to a “Strategic Partnership.” In 2019 there were active reciprocal visits by key officials, including a visit to Japan by H.M. Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneth Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in



Japan-Cambodia Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(December 15, Madrid, Spain)

October, where he held talks with Prime Minister Abe, as well as a summit meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen during his visit to Japan in May. Foreign ministers' meetings were also held in August and December.

Regarding domestic affairs, the Cambodian Government has taken measures against opposition parties, the media, and civil society, including its order to dissolve the Cambodia National Rescue Party, the largest opposition political party, in 2017. Based on such measures, as well as the results of the Cambodian National Assembly election from 2018, the country has faced continued criticism both domestically and internationally, including from civil society. On the other hand, the Cambodian Government has held dialogues with domestic opposition parties and regular meetings with members of civil society. It has also adopted measures such as allowing the leader of the former Cambodia National Rescue Party, who

has been under criminal investigation since 2017, to travel freely within the country. In the interest of lending its backing to democratic development in Cambodia, based on an agreement between the two Prime Ministers in October 2018, Japan has invited young Cambodians involved in politics on a total of three occasions. It has also extended invitations to election officials, including members of civil society, as well as high-ranking government officials in charge of partnership with civil society.

In the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, which Japan has been supporting for many years, one of the two leaders who received sentences of life imprisonment via a Trial Court Chamber judgment in 2018 passed away. Judicial proceedings are ongoing with respect to a total of four cases, which include appeal proceedings for the remaining leader (see the Special Feature below).

**Special Feature****Staying Close to Cambodia's Past While Walking Together Toward the Future: Support for Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and Legal Documentation Centre**

Cambodia has suffered a long period of turmoil, but has now emerged as a country that is achieving rapid economic growth. However, the emotional scars of the people who experienced the massacres under the Khmer Rouge (KR) and civil war have not healed completely, and continue to have an impact on society even today. On the other hand, the younger generation, which has not experienced the KR regime and civil war, now make up about half of the population. Generation change is progressing gradually as Cambodia approaches a transitional period for society, and there is growing need for the country to pass on its past experiences to the next generation and link them to the future. This section features one such initiative that Japan provides support for – the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and the Legal Documentation Center which holds court documents of these Chambers.

**Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)**

The KR regime is said to have massacred presumably one to two million during its ruling period between 1975 and 1979, under radical communist ideology. Although the Paris Peace Agreements were achieved in 1991, the KR continued with its resistance activities, while the regime was never formally held responsible for its acts committed during its rule. In 2006, the ECCC finally launched their judicial work to judge the senior leaders of the KR regime. To date, three leaders including the former Head of State have been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Appeal proceedings for suspicion of a separate offense are still ongoing for one of the three, while court proceedings are ongoing for another three military and local senior officials.

Unlike the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, both of which were established by the UN, the ECCC was established in cooperation with the UN as a special court in Cambodia, where the crimes were committed, to provide judgements for crimes during the KR regime in accordance with relevant Cambodian domestic law and international law under the agreement between Cambodia and the UN in 2003. To date, 240,000 people have sat in to observe the trials; this number rises to 620,000 people if participants of court visitations, etc. are included. Through the adoption of the victim participation system, it has also become possible for people to discuss their experiences of the massacre with others, which had been taboo before. Moreover, the KR Tribunal is viewed as a model for Cambodia's judicial reform, and its approach of court management based on international standards has also been applied to domestic courts. The KR Tribunal has also contributed to developing the capacity of judicial officers in Cambodia, who are acquiring international standard knowledge.



Public hearing by the pre-trial court concerning the third case (filing of objection against order to close investigations) (November 27, Photo: ECCC)

#### **Legal Documentation Centre relating to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (LDC)**

Recently, the KR era has been introduced into history education for high school students. Nevertheless, Cambodian youths still have limited opportunities to learn objectively about the time of the KR. In light of this, the Legal Documentation Center (LDC) of the KR Tribunal was opened in the capital city, Phnom Penh, in June 2017. LDC provides educational and research resources through the archiving and disclosure of copies of court documents to the general public. At the same time, it helps to disseminate and raise awareness about court activities. In 2018, 1,695 people visited the LDC. There are expectations that the LDC will take on a central role in the further advancement of initiatives to pass on past experiences to the next generation.



Outreach activity by LDC at Samdach Ouv High School in Siem Reap Province (December 5, Photo: LDC)

#### **Japan's support and hope**

Japan positions the swift and successful conclusion of the KR Tribunal as the completion stage of the Cambodian peace process. To that end, Japan has not only provided financial assistance of approximately 87 million US dollars, which makes up about 30% of all international assistance, but also contributed to human resources by dispatching Japanese officers, one of whom served as an international judge of the Supreme Court Chamber. It has also provided assistance to cover part of the costs for the development of the LDC building and internal facilities, as well as some activity expenditures. It is not an easy task for the people and society of Cambodia that once used to kill those of the same race, and who bear hatred and distrust, to restore trust once again. However, Japan, as a country that has consistently supported Cambodia since the attainment of peace to the present day, will continue to support the efforts of the Cambodian people to learn from the past, overcome conflict, and stand united as one toward the future.

### (3) Singapore

Singapore is the most economically advanced country within ASEAN. Based on its omnidirectional foreign policy, the country maintains friendly relations with major countries including the U.S. and China.

In Singapore, the People's Action Party (PAP), led by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, occupies an overwhelming majority of seats in the Parliament. With the Cabinet reshuffle in May, Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in addition to his current role, and is being regarded as a candidate for the next prime minister, which means steady preparations toward a change of generations.

High-level exchanges continued in 2019 between Japan and Singapore. In May, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat visited Japan immediately following his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister, where he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong also visited Japan in June to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, followed by the visit of Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong (former Prime Minister) in August to attend the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) and that of President Halimah Yacob in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, when the summit meeting and other exchanges took place. On the occasion of the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting in Thailand in

November, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Prime Minister Abe held their second summit meeting of the year, where Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced plans to lift the remaining import restrictions on food products produced in Fukushima Prefecture. In addition, when Minister of Foreign Affairs Balakrishnan visited Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting, he held a meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi. At the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting free trade, and affirmed their coordination with a view toward the early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). They also discussed regional issues such as the South China Sea issue and the situation in North Korea, and reaffirmed their coordination.

The two countries have worked together to provide developing countries with technical assistance through the "Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century (JSPP21)" which was signed in 1997. To date they have amassed a track record of providing training approximately 400 times with roughly 6,900 participants from ASEAN countries and other regions. The Japan Creative Centre (JCC), which was established in Singapore as a platform to promote Japanese culture, has marked its 10th anniversary in 2019. The JCC actively engages in cultural exchanges, by holding bunraku puppet performances and other commemorative events.

### (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 element of the Japanese economy as part of global supply chains. Under the assembly and interim cabinet established by the military government, an election for the House of Representatives was held on March 24, 2019 in order to restore the country's civil government. As a result of negotiations to form a coalition following the election, a new



Japan-Singapore Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 22, Tokyo)



administration was launched on July 16 in which Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha would continue on in his role.

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 2019 as well, during which Japan and Thailand served as the chair for the G20 and ASEAN respectively. In May Minister of Foreign Affairs Don visited Japan to attend the Thai Festival, while Prime Minister Prayut visited in June to attend the G20 Osaka Summit. Moreover, in July Foreign Minister Kono visited Thailand to attend the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers’ Meetings, and Prime Minister Prayut visited Japan again in October in order to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. In November Prime Minister Abe visited Thailand to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings.

### (5) Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste, the first country which achieved independence in the 21st century (in 2002), is a strategically important country in the Indo-Pacific region, and is situated in an important sea lane between Australia and Indonesia. The country has realized peace and stability with the support of the international community and has been building the nation based on democracy. As its economy is highly dependent on natural resources such as petroleum and natural gas, the country has been working to diversify its industry as a matter of the highest national priority.

In diplomatic relations, the country has made vigorous efforts toward achieving the accession of Timor-Leste to ASEAN, which is the most important diplomatic agenda. In this context in the summer of 2019 Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Babo made a round of visits to ASEAN countries to hold talks with dignitaries.

On the domestic front, a confrontation between the ruling parties, which inaugurated the Eighth Constitutional Government in June 2018, and President Lu-Olo, led to a state of persistent political deadlock.

The year 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the Popular Consultation in which Timorese people voted to restore independence, as well as the start of Japan’s assistance for Timor-Leste, and was marked by vigorous high-level visits. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Babo visited Japan (in March), while Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura Kentaro visited Timor-Leste (in April). Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Norikazu also visited Timor-Leste (in August) to attend the ceremony for the 20th anniversary of the Popular Consultation in Timor-Leste. Through this series of high-level visits, the two sides strengthened bilateral cooperation in areas such as education, human resource development, people-to-people exchanges, economy and infrastructure, and politics and security. They also enhanced the trilateral cooperation among Japan, Timor-Leste and Indonesia in the maritime field and others, as well as regional coordination.

### (6) The Philippines

The Philippines is a maritime nation comprised of more than 7,000 islands located in the South China Sea. It has maintained real GDP growth of approximately 6%, thanks to remittances from overseas workers as well as high domestic demand attributable to sustained population growth. Throughout 2019, President Duterte, who assumed office in June 2016, continued to demonstrate strong leadership and enjoyed a high approval rating and robust economic fundamentals. The Mindanao peace process witnessed milestone achievements as the Bangsamoro Transition Authority was constituted in February, followed by the official commencement of disarmament activities in September (see the Special Feature on page 65). As for nationwide public

safety enhancement, the Duterte administration continued to make progress on its focal policies of illegal drug control, eradication of corruption, public order maintenance, and counter-terrorism offensives. Economically, tax reforms have been advancing steadily, in instances like the coming into force of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP). The series of tax reforms have been met with strong popular support, and thus led to a landslide victory in favor of the president and his allies in the mid-term elections in May.

Indicative of the Japan-Philippines “strategic partnership,” high-level officials actively exchanged visits between the two countries. Foreign Minister Kono was among those from Japan to visit the Philippines (in February), as well as Minister of Justice Yamashita Takashi (in July). Japan received visits by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Locsin (in May) and Secretary of Finance Dominguez (in February, May, and December). In addition, Japan-Philippines Summit Meetings were held between Prime Minister Abe and President Duterte on two occasions (in May and November), while Japan-Philippines Foreign Ministers’ Meetings took place three times (in February, May, and August).

In June, Japan and the Philippines convened Political-Military (PM) & Military-Military (MM) Dialogues and Maritime Dialogues to galvanize bilateral policy coordination on security matters. On the economic front, Japan has continued to provide powerful support to the Philippine Government’s robust infrastructure development policy, “Build, Build, Build,” by way of convening three meetings of the Japan-Philippines High Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation (the 7th in February, the 8th in June, and the 9th in December), a mechanism that was launched to steadily implement Prime Minister Abe’s January 2017 pledge to render assistance to the tune of 1 trillion yen over five years.

Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Philippines, ahead of other countries, in March in relation to the new residency status, “Specified Skilled Worker,” and has since held examinations for candidates in nursing among others based on the memorandum. The Government of the Philippines made a decision on lifting the import restrictions placed on marine products from Fukushima Prefecture since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

**Special Feature****Japan’s Efforts in the Mindanao Peace Process**

Mindanao encompasses the region that includes Mindanao Island and the Sulu Archipelago in the southern part of the Philippines. Endowed with lush green mountains and the beautiful ocean, Mindanao is home to thriving agriculture on its fertile lands as well as a diversity of cultures and religious faiths. Most of the banana and pineapple produce available at supermarkets in Japan are harvested on plantations in Mindanao. In addition, President Duterte is the first president in the Philippines’ history to hail from Mindanao. Mr. Manny Pacquiao, a world-famous boxer and an incumbent Senator, is also a native of Mindanao.

Mindanao was the historically contested arena between the indigenous Moro people and the Philippine Government. Since 1969, militant groups aspiring to establish a Muslim nation-state, such as the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), continued to wage an armed separatist campaign. Despite repeated failed attempts at peace-making, persistent negotiations have made great strides on the peace process in recent years, fructifying into the enactment of the Bangsamoro\*1 Organic Law in July 2018 and the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in February 2019 through a plebiscite on constituting

an autonomous government. The great challenge at hand is to ensure that the peace dividends are tangible for the people who have been left behind from an avalanche of development projects amid more than 40 years of conflict.

For nearly 20 years since the announcement of the “Support Package for Peace and Stability in Mindanao” by then Prime Minister Koizumi in 2002, the Government of Japan has been providing comprehensive support ranging from the advancement of the peace process to reconstruction and development in cooperation with the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), among others.

An initiative that epitomizes Japan's commitment is the concentrated implementation of development cooperation projects, dubbed “J-BIRD\*2,” which derives its name from the figure of a dove—a symbol of peace—flying over Mindanao. J-BIRD was launched in December 2006 when Prime Minister Abe visited the Philippines in recognition of the importance of economic development benefitting residents for the sustainable stability and development of Mindanao. Through J-BIRD, more than 50 billion yen has been disbursed to date (as of December 2019) in order to assist administrative capacity ahead of the inception of an autonomous government, livelihoods improvement, industrial and infrastructure development, and construction of schools and agricultural facilities in more than 350 villages. Lately, in an effort to stabilize the region, Japan has also been providing assistance in the form of vehicle and equipment procurement for the Joint Peace and Security Teams (JPST) and the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB), which are responsible for the disarmament and decommissioning of MILF soldiers, on top of direct assistance to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. Japan also deploys staffers of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines to the International Monitoring Team (IMT), an official ceasefire-monitoring body, for needs assessment, project formulation, and ex-post monitoring in the areas affected by the conflict.

The array of support to the Mindanao peace process by the Government of Japan is widely known to the residents of Mindanao; Philippine dignitaries including President Duterte have on multiple occasions expressed their appreciation for it. The progress of the peace process is of utmost importance, not only to the Philippines, but also to the growth and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and with respect to leaving no room for a hotbed of terrorism in the region. Going forward, the Government of Japan will continue to strengthen its assistance as the peace process progresses.

\*1 Bangsamoro means “land of the Moro people (an indigenous people of Mindanao)” in the local language.

\*2 J-BIRD: Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki observing the plebiscite for establishing an autonomous government in the Bangsamoro region (January 21, Cotabato City, Philippines)



Logo of J-BIRD



Foreign Minister Kono attending the ceremony for the signing and exchange of notes on the “Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao,” one of the projects under J-BIRD (February 10, Davao, Philippines)

## (7) Brunei

Its abundance in natural resources has enabled Brunei to realize a high economic standard and generous social welfare. As such, the country enjoys political and economic stability. Located in the center of Southeast Asia, the country has adopted a balanced diplomacy built on the pillar of promoting ASEAN unity and centrality.

As for the recent economic situation, 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.

Since Japan and Brunei established diplomatic relations immediately after the independence of Brunei in 1984, the two countries developed excellent bilateral relations in various areas that include politics, defense, economy, culture, and personal exchanges. In addition, the two countries enjoy a close relationship between the imperial and royal families. Brunei is an important country for the stable supply of energy resources to Japan. 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. On the cultural front, the

countries engage in youth exchange projects such as "JENESYS2.0"<sup>24</sup> and the Cabinet Office's Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program, as well as frequent exchanges in sports such as badminton and judo.

As a reflection of the good bilateral relations, reciprocal visits by key officials continued to be actively carried out in 2019. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah visited Japan in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and during the visit a summit meeting was held with Prime Minister Abe. During the talks, Sultan Bolkiah announced that Brunei would lift the import restrictions on Japanese food products that had been in place since the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition, Minister of Foreign Affairs II Dato Erywan, who accompanied His Majesty to Japan, and Foreign Minister Motegi held a foreign ministers' meeting. There they confirmed to further strengthen the bilateral relations, and continue their close coordination with respect to regional affairs.

## (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 macroeconomy including control of inflation, the promotion of foreign investment by the development of infrastructure and the improvement of the investment environment. Moreover, the Government has been engaging actively in administrative reform and anti-corruption measures.

Japan and Viet Nam have been advancing cooperation in a variety of areas under the Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in



Japan-Brunei Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 21, Tokyo)

<sup>24</sup> JENESYS: Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths

Asia. High level officials have made frequent visits to each country. In January State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko visited Viet Nam and took part in the 6th Japan Vietnam Festival in Ho Chi Minh City, which is the largest exchange event between the two countries in Viet Nam. In May, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Minh visited Japan to attend the International Conference on the Future of Asia. During his visit, both foreign ministers held the Japan-Viet Nam Cooperation Committee and a foreign ministers' meeting. In June Prime Minister Phúc visited Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, and he had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Phúc visited Japan once again in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor.

Viet Nam has essentially been a country with great affinity toward Japan. The number of Vietnamese visiting Japan grew from about 40,000 in 2011 to over 380,000 in 2018. The number of Vietnamese living in Japan rose from about 40,000 in 2011 to about 370,000 in June 2019, the third largest group of foreign residents after China and South Korea.

### (9) Malaysia

Comprised of the Peninsular Malaysia of the Malay Peninsula and East Malaysia of Borneo, Malaysia is a geopolitically important country facing the South China Sea and Strait of Malacca that is situated in a crucial spot in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. In addition, it is a federal state comprised of 13 states and three federal territories, and also a multiethnic state comprised of ethnically Malay, Chinese and Indian people, among others.

In the 14th Dewan Rakyat general election held in May 2018, 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 a change of administration for the first time since Malaysia achieved independence in 1957. Prime Minister

Mahathir became Malaysia's seventh Prime Minister, and has been working to restore the rule of law, improve transparency and governance, and reduce the country's debt. In May 2019 Prime Minister Mahathir visited Japan, and confirmed to strengthen the "Strategic Partnership" through revitalizing the Look East Policy in the summit meeting, and issued a fact sheet entitled "Japan-Malaysia Cooperation - Look East Policy Revisited in the New Era." In August, Foreign Minister Kono held a foreign ministers' meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saifuddin on the occasion of the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in Thailand). In October Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, where he held a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Successively, cabinet ministers from Malaysia visited Japan, and reciprocal visits by key officials were actively carried out between the two countries.

Cooperation has advanced across a number of areas which includes the issuance of samurai bonds (yen-denominated bonds) in March and the signing of a memorandum of cooperation on the solid waste area in September.

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, approximately 17,000 Malaysian people have studied or have been trained in Japan so far. The two countries have been 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.

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



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe visiting a site for food distribution assistance in Rakhine State, Myanmar (January 15, northern Maungdaw Township, Myanmar)

## (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 by bringing together the public and private sectors, based on the recognition that the stability of Myanmar, which has a historical friendship with Japan, has huge potential for economic development, and geopolitical importance is directly related to stability and prosperity throughout the entire region. In 2016, Prime Minister Abe expressed the intention that Japan would contribute 800 billion yen in total through the 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 conveyed to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who was visiting Japan, that Japan would implement new assistance projects to enhance civic life in the Yangon metropolitan area. In 2019 Foreign, Minister Kono visited Myanmar in July, where he held talks with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. In addition, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi visited Japan in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor.

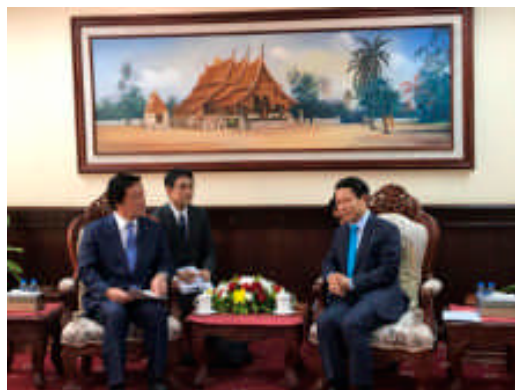
There has been continuous tension since the conflict between communities began in 2012 in

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' operation, and the subsequent destabilization of the situation. Together with the international community, Japan has been urging 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 UN. 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. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe visited Myanmar in January 2019, where she conveyed Japan's position on the issue in Rakhine State to officials from the Government of Myanmar, and observed the provision of assistance from Japan and the UN.

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 2018, 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. Sasakawa Yohei, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar. Japan is also implementing reconstruction and development assistance, including infrastructure such as houses, schools and, medical facilities, agricultural technique training, and electrification of houses through solar panels in cooperation with Japanese NGOs in Southeast Myanmar, including Karen State and Mon 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. After the holding of the 10th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 8th National Parliamentary Elections in 2016, regarding domestic affairs, 2019 has been a year of stable administrative operation under the single-party rule of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. On the economic front, the country has worked to stabilize its financial situation as a matter of the utmost priority. 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 between Japan and Laos, reciprocal visits by key officials were actively carried out in 2019 as well. In May Prime Minister Thongloun and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay visited Japan together, during which a summit meeting and foreign ministers' meeting were held. Vice President Phankham visited Japan on two occasions, once in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and again in November to attend the Ceremony of Imperial Conferment of Decoration (Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun). From the Japan side as well, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe visited Laos in June, as did State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wakamiya in October, respectively, through which momentum has been maintained for close, high-level exchanges in recent years under the "Strategic Partnership." Regarding 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. In addition, in response to the natural disasters such as flooding that occur throughout the entirety of Laos on a yearly basis, the Government of Japan provided equipment and supplies conducive



Talks between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wakamiya and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay of Laos (October 5, Laos)

to improving the country's disaster prevention and disaster response capabilities based upon a request from the Government of Laos. It also provided assistance for restoration and reconstruction through international agencies. In June, the Project for Improvement of the National Road Route 9, which is a symbolic project for strengthening connectivity in the Mekong region, was completed, and a grand handover ceremony was conducted with the attendance of high-level officials from both countries. This project demonstrated the strengthening of regional connectivity by the Government of Japan toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In this way, in the area of economic cooperation, steady progress has been seen in 2019 for the "Japan-Lao PDR Joint Development Cooperation Plan" announced by both leaders in September 2016. Regarding cultural exchange, the "Japan Festival" was held in Vientiane in February followed by the "Laos Festival" in Tokyo in May, both of which deepened 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 which connects Asia and Africa and is positioned in the center of sea lanes. Moreover, India

has the third largest economy in Asia, with the world's second 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." 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 Indo-Pacific region, thereby enabling India to gain more influence in the international arena as a global power.

Regarding relations with Japan, 2019 marked five years since bilateral relations were elevated to the status of a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership." That same year, Japan-India Summit Meetings were held on the margins of the G20 Osaka Summit in June, the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia in September, and the ASEAN-related Summit Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in November. At these meetings, the two countries affirmed their cooperative relations with a view toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Moreover, the first Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting ("2+2"

Ministerial Meeting) was held in November, where a frank exchange of opinions was carried out regarding bilateral security and defense cooperation; multilateral cooperation such as Japan-U.S.-India and Japan-U.S.-Australia-India; as well as regional and international situations. In addition, a joint statement was issued, and both sides welcomed the significant progress seen in negotiations toward the conclusion of the Japan-India Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).<sup>25</sup> As such moves indicate, numerous concrete accomplishments were achieved in the "2+2" meeting.

## (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, in the elections of the National Assembly and Provincial Assembly held in July 2018, the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI), the second largest opposition party, won by a large margin over the ruling 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 relations, the India-Pakistan relationship has remained tense as a result of the terrorist attack in Indian Kashmir in February 2019 and the subsequent strikes by the air forces of both sides, as well as the Indian Government's decision to revoke Article 370 of the Constitution, which recognized the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, under the "All Weather Strategic



Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting ("2+2" Ministerial Meeting) (November 30, Delhi, India)

<sup>25</sup> ACSA: Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement



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. However, there have been developments on this front, such as a visit to the U.S. by Prime Minister Khan in July 2019.

On the economic front, the growth rates in FY2017/2018 marked around 5.79%, making them the highest in the past 13 years. However, this fell to 3.3% in FY2018/2019. 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 negotiations for support from its friendly countries and the implementation of IMF programs.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Japan in April 2019, where both sides exchanged opinions on initiatives to further develop bilateral relations as well as on the regional situation at a foreign ministers’ meeting. In addition, President Alvi visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October, where he held talks with Prime Minister Abe among other events.

### (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. 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, whose acceptance has been placing a growing burden on the local residents. 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 8.13% in 2019, 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 305 in 2019. However, the securing of a stable supply of electric power as well as infrastructure improvement remain as challenges for foreign companies investing in the country.

Regarding the relationship with Japan, Prime Minister Hasina visited Japan in May and a Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting was held during the visit. In addition, President Hamid visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. From the Japanese side, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe visited Bangladesh in February, followed by Minister



Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting (May 29, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of Foreign Affairs Kono in July. At the Summit Meeting and Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the two sides affirmed that they would strengthen the bilateral relationship and cooperation on regional and international affairs under the Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership. In addition, they held detailed discussions on the response to the issue of displaced persons coming into Bangladesh from Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar.

#### (4) Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is located in a strategic position on the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. The country is traditionally one of the friendliest countries to Japan and its geopolitical and economic importance is note-worthy. Regarding domestic affairs, eight locations in the country, including Sri Lanka's largest city of Colombo, were hit by a series of terrorist bombings in April. More than 250 people died (including one Japanese national), and more than 450 people were injured. Regarding politics, President Sirisena, who was elected at the presidential election in January 2015, had managed the Government for five years, but in November 2019, a presidential election was held with the end of his term, and Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna was elected as the new president. On the economic front, after the end of the conflict, 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 4,102 US dollars in 2018, 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 October 2019 for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, marking his third visit since his inauguration. Then in December, Foreign Minister Motegi became the first key official from the Government of Japan to visit Sri Lanka following the establishment of the Rajapaksa administration. There he



Japan-Sri Lanka Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(December 13, Colombo, Sri Lanka)

worked to build a relationship of trust with the new Rajapaksa administration, while holding discussions over matters like cooperation to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

#### (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." Regarding the relationship with Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited Nepal in January 2019. During this visit, he paid courtesy calls on President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. In addition, a Japan-Nepal Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held, where it was announced that

Japan would promote assistance to the economic development of Nepal and advance cooperation in the agricultural sector. In October, President Bhandari visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, where she held talks with Prime Minister Abe for the first time.

In addition, there have been developments toward promoting people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Nepal, such as the resumption of direct flights by Nepal Airlines in August between Osaka and Kathmandu for the first time in 12 years.

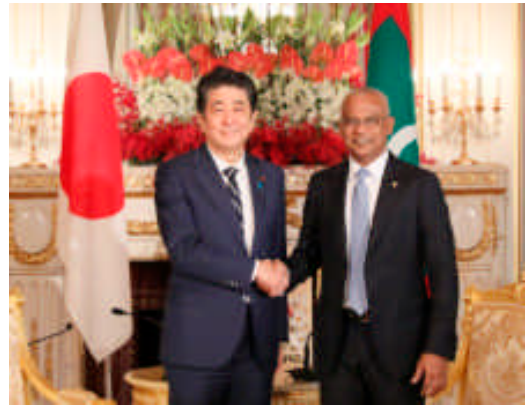
### (6) Bhutan

In Bhutan, the Tshering administration was launched as a result of the National Assembly election held in October 2018. 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).

In relations with Japan, King Wangchuck visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October. King Wangchuck exchanged opinions with Prime Minister Abe about promoting economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

### (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's per-capita GDP reached approximately 10,331 US dollars, marking the highest in South Asia. In domestic affairs, the Solih administration was launched in November 2018 as a result of the presidential election held in September 2018. In the parliamentary election



Japan-Maldives Summit Meeting  
(October 21, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

held in April 2019, the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) captured two-thirds of the seats in parliament, thus solidifying the political footing of the administration of President Solih. Since his inauguration, President Solih has been promoting a foreign policy of strengthening cooperation with every country that hopes to build mutually beneficial relations and of 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. Since then, reciprocal visits by key figures have been actively held. President Solih visited Japan for the first time ever on the occasion of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October 2019, where he held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. He also visited spots such as Odawara City, which will be the host town for the Maldives delegation to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid also visited Japan together with President Solih and held a Japan-Maldives Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi. There, the two sides affirmed that they would strengthen bilateral ties and continue cooperating 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 for foreign policy of the next 10 years, Australia will, among others, promote an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, oppose protectionism, promote and protect international rules, 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 maintaining 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 multi-layered cooperation and collaboration in all areas toward stability and prosperity of the international community. Furthermore, multilateral coordination and partnerships such as the Japan-U.S.-Australia, and Japan-U.S.-Australia-India relations are being steadily strengthened.

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. The two countries are further developing mutually complementary economic relations based on the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which marks the fifth anniversary of its effectuation, and the TPP11 Agreement that entered into force at the end of 2018.

After winning another term in the federal

election in May, Prime Minister Morrison made his first visit to Japan in June to attend the G20 Osaka Summit. At the Japan-Australia Summit Meeting held immediately prior to the G20 Summit, the two sides affirmed cooperation aiming for the success of the G20, and shared their views on matters such as continuing to work together to jointly address the issues of terrorism and the Internet in the future, as well as engaging in greater collaboration to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” A special invitation was extended to Australia to the G7 Biarritz Summit in August, where a Japan-Australia Summit Meeting was held on the opportunity presented by Australia’s attendance. There the two leaders deepened their personal relationship of trust, thereby further strengthening relations between Japan and Australia.

The Foreign Ministers held frequent meetings on the margins of various occasions, including the UN General Assembly. Minister for Foreign Affairs Payne visited Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in November, where a foreign ministers’ meeting was held with Foreign Minister Motegi. There, the two Ministers exchanged opinions regarding the situations in Pacific Island countries, North Korea, and the South China Sea, and agreed to continue their close coordination as like-minded nations. Japan is also making advances in strengthening relations with each of the states of Australia, with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visiting Victoria in February. In addition,



Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers’ Meeting  
(November 22, Nagoya)

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Canberra and New South Wales (Sydney) in August, and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Akiba Kenya visited Victoria (Melbourne) and Western Australia (Perth) in October. Furthermore, the Japan-Australia Parliamentary Friendship League visited Australia for the first time in seven years, visiting Western Australia (Perth). Visits to Japan were made by Premier of Western Australia McGowan in January, Premier of Tasmania Hodgman and Governor of South Australia Le in March, and Premier of Queensland Palaszczuk in May.

In a typical year, forest fire season lasts from September until March in Australia. But the forest fire that broke out in the fall of 2019 was the most massive ever, keeping Prime Minister Morrison fully occupied. For its part, Japan deployed a Disaster Relief Team and Japan Self-Defense Force units between January 15 and February 8, 2020 and provided emergency assistance supplies (masks).

### **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.

To date, Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations have been held with Australia on eight occasions, where the two sides have held discussions on promoting bilateral security and defense cooperation, in light of the importance of cooperation between the two countries, which have both the intent and ability to actively contribute to regional stability and prosperity. 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 Ninth Japan-U.S.-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) was held in August in Bangkok, Thailand, where the three countries welcomed concrete developments of cooperation. Furthermore, the three countries confirmed

to continue working even more closely over promoting quality infrastructure investments in line with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and through support for the establishment of maritime security functions. In addition, they affirmed that they would continue to work closely with regard to North Korean issues, including the abductions issue.

### **C Economic Relations**

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement), which was spearheaded by Japan and Australia, came into effect in December 2018. The two countries are working closely and demonstrating leadership in promoting the regional free trade order, including the RCEP. 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 to 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 and exchanges of people under the Conference for Promotion of Exchanges between Japan and Australia.

### **D 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 400,000 people in Australia learn the Japanese language (the fourth largest group 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, the exchange program

including young people, and the “New Colombo Plan”<sup>26</sup> as well as the Young Political Leaders Exchange.

In addition, the Rugby World Cup 2019 was hosted in Japan in September, during which many tourists visited Japan from Australia to witness electrifying matches. The start of direct flights between Narita and Perth this same month also contributed to promoting tourism.

### **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 as maritime security and nuclear and missile development by North Korea. In early May, Australia deployed the Royal Australian Navy frigate MELBORNE to undertake monitoring and surveillance activities in the adjacent ocean areas around Japan, including the East China Sea. Then in August, aircraft were deployed to engage in monitoring and surveillance activities based in Kadena Air Base against illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea-flagged vessels, which are prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, the two countries closely coordinate with regards to the Pacific Island region, which has deep ties to both Southeast Asia and Australia. For the promotion of Japan-U.S.-Australia infrastructure cooperation, joint trilateral missions were dispatched to Papua New Guinea in April and Indonesia in August respectively.

## **(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-to-people exchanges, as well as 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 following the first change in government in approximately nine years, places emphasis on Japan-New Zealand relations.

In March, the terrorist shootings occurred at mosques in Christchurch. This subsequently led to the adoption of the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT) in June.

### **B Mutual VIP Visits**

From Japan, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited New Zealand in January and June. During the January visit, he held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Peters, where the two concurred to enhance bilateral relations and promote cooperation in the Pacific Island region. In addition, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visited New Zealand in February and attended a memorial service marking the eighth anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake.

From New Zealand, Prime Minister Ardern visited Japan and held a summit meeting in September. There it was agreed that the two countries would take their bilateral relations to the next level and continue cooperating toward the achievement of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” Furthermore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Peters visited Japan and held a foreign ministers’ meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi in October. There, the two Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation between the two

<sup>26</sup> An Australian Government policy which aims to increase knowledge of Asia among university students in Australia by promoting their studies in Asia.



Japan-New Zealand Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(October 31, Tokyo)

countries in the Pacific Island region, and released a joint declaration regarding their cooperation in the region. In addition, a special invitation was extended to New Zealand to the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November, based on which Minister of Foreign Affairs Peters visited Japan for a second time in 2019.

### C Economic Relations

The two countries enjoy a complementary economic relationship and have closely cooperated on the steady implementation of the TPP11 Agreement, which entered into force in December 2018, and the promotion of free trade structures in the region including the RCEP. 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 was implemented from 2014 to 2018. The “New Zealand Hokkaido Sheep Collaboration Project” was launched in 2018, and cooperation over the project has been promoted with the aim of vitalizing the sheep industry in Hokkaido.

### D Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

Approximately 20 university students from New Zealand visited Japan as part of JENESYS2019. More than 1,100 young people from New Zealand have now visited Japan through youth related programs as of 2019.

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 and boating. Under this program, 30 Japanese students were invited to New Zealand in 2019.

### 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, against illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers by North Korea-flagged vessels, which are prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions, New Zealand conducted monitoring and surveillance activities by aircraft based in Kadena Air Base in October. Furthermore, Japan and New Zealand have collaborated in regional cooperation frameworks such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), APEC, and the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). They are also cooperating over economic development in the Pacific Island region. Through these efforts, the two countries are playing a proactive role for the regional stability and development.

## (3) Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

### A Brief Summary and Overview

Pacific Island countries and Japan are bound by the Pacific Ocean, have deep historical ties, and are important partners in such areas as cooperation in the international arena and the supply of fishery and mineral resources. They are becoming increasingly important as a cornerstone of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” as they are located at the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Japan has been holding Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) once every three years since 1997, and the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in May 2018. Furthermore, high-level officials from Japan have been constantly attending the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Post Forum Dialogue since its inception in 1989. Japan has been further

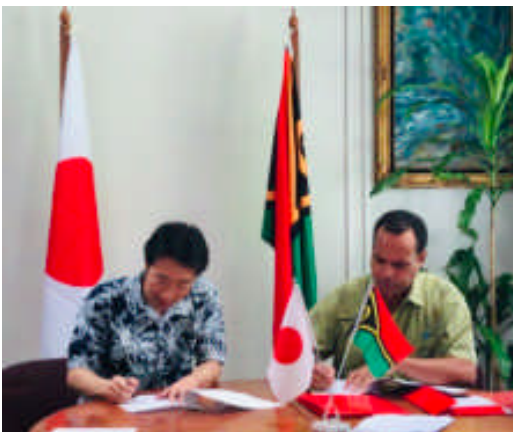
strengthening its relations with Pacific Island countries through visits at various levels on the occasions of these international conferences, economic cooperation, and active people-to-people exchanges.

### **B** Interagency Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries

In February 2019, the first meeting of the Interagency Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries, which is comprised of relevant governmental ministries and agencies, was held under the leadership of Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Izumi, and concrete measures to strengthen relations with Pacific Island countries were discussed. At the second meeting held in May, a policy direction of strengthening ties with Pacific Island countries was adopted to maintain and promote a regional environment that undergirds a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” such as through ensuring safety and security, resilient and sustainable development, and active people-to-people exchanges.

### **C** Mutual VIP Visits

In August, Foreign Minister Kono visited Fiji, Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands, marking the first visit in 32 years by a Foreign Minister of Japan. In Fiji, he delivered a speech on Japan’s



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama signing a memorandum of cooperation for disaster recovery during a trip to Vanuatu (December 16, Vanuatu)

policy toward Pacific Island countries. In addition, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands in January; Samoa and Fiji in June; and Palau in August. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakayama visited Palau in October (for the ceremony of Palau’s 25th Independence Day Celebration) as well as Vanuatu and Tonga in December.

In September, Prime Minister Bainimarama of Fiji visited Japan to watch the Rugby World Cup 2019. Prime Minister Tuilaepa of Samoa visited Japan in October, where he held talks with Prime Minister Abe. President Remengesau of Palau visited Japan in January, March, July, October, November, and December, and held summit meetings on two occasions. President Panuelo of Micronesia visited Japan in October and November and had summit meetings with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, numerous governors and heads of state from Pacific Island countries visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October.

### **D** Relationship with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

In August, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting was held in Tuvalu, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki attended the Post Forum Dialogue as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Japan’s policy is to strengthen its commitment to the Pacific Island region, which is important for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” To this end, Japan announced that it will continue to strengthen concerted, nationwide initiatives in the three areas of ensuring safety and security, resilient and sustainable development, and active people-to-people exchanges. During his stay in Tuvalu, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki held talks with Prime Minister Sopoaga of Tuvalu, and also with the key officials of various Pacific Island countries who attended the Post Forum Dialogue. In addition, he visited Solomon Islands, where he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sogavare of Solomon Islands.



## E Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

As part of efforts to invigorate and enhance the people-to-people exchanges announced at PALM8 in 2018, people-to-people exchanges were promoted among students through JENESYS. Furthermore, from FY2016 Japan commenced the Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) for young government administrators of Pacific Island countries, and it continues to accept administrators from Pacific Island countries.

## 7 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" (FOIP) 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. In addition, in pursuing synergy between the FOIP and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) adopted by ASEAN in June, Japan intends to enhance cooperation with the countries of ASEAN and contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region as a whole by respecting the centrality and unity of ASEAN (see the Special Feature on page 81).

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

At the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings held in November 2015 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), it was declared that the three councils of the "ASEAN Political-Security Community Council," the "ASEAN Economic Community Council," and the "ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council" (Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the 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 10 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 have been established. 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, thereby expanding the ASEAN-centered free trade zone. With regard to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the goal is to sign this within 2020 based on the Joint Leaders' Statement from November 2019.

ASEAN is situated in a geopolitically important location and faces important sea lanes for Japan. Its stability and prosperity deeply affects not only those of the East Asian region but also of the international community. Therefore, 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.

Special  
Feature

## ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific: the Indo-Pacific Vision of ASEAN, by ASEAN, for ASEAN

A free and open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law, founded upon the peace and prosperity of the region-ASEAN member states, which lie at the intersection of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, adopted the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) at the ASEAN Summit held in June, demonstrating their unity and centrality.

The AOIP sets out the following objectives to contribute to the maintenance of peace, freedom and prosperity: (1) Offer an outlook to guide cooperation in the region; (2) Strengthen confidence and trust; (3) Strengthen the existing ASEAN-led mechanisms; and (4) Explore other ASEAN priority areas of cooperation. The AOIP advocates promoting cooperation in fields such as maritime cooperation, connectivity, the SDGs, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation, based on the principles of strengthening ASEAN Centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, and respect for international law such as UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and other relevant UN treaties and conventions.

Since Prime Minister Abe's declaration in 2016 of the concept of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), Japan has been advancing initiatives toward (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, and (3) ensuring peace and stability. Against this backdrop, it is epochal that ASEAN itself has published the AOIP with a view to strengthening connectivity in the Indo-Pacific. Japan has declared its full support for the AOIP, and will cooperate with ASEAN toward its realization. At the same time, Japan aims to pursue synergy of the FOIP, the AOIP, and other initiatives by countries that share the same purpose, as well as to contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

Japan and ASEAN have already launched concrete cooperation initiatives that demonstrate the synergy between FOIP and the AOIP. To date, Japan has engaged in numerous concrete cooperation projects to strengthen maritime law enforcement capability through means such as the provision and dispatch of patrol boats and other means, and enhancing connectivity by developing the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors, which contribute to the economic growth of the Mekong region. On top of these, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN to provide financial backing to the Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity, issued at the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in November. Under this Initiative, Foreign Minister Motegi announced in December that the initiative aims at mobilizing 3 billion US dollars from public and private sectors over the next three years (2020-2022), including through a total of 1.2 billion US dollars overseas loan and investment for ASEAN by JICA in the fields of quality infrastructure development, improving financial access and supporting women, and green investment. Furthermore, the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed in May, enabling the implementation of technical cooperation for ASEAN as a whole. The first project under this agreement was the Training in Cyber Security, in January 2020.

In line with the principles established in the AOIP, Japan will promote cooperation with ASEAN countries more than ever before in the areas of strengthening maritime security based on the rule of law, strengthening connectivity through quality infrastructure, and the sustainable use of marine resources including measures to combat illegal fishing. Japan will work together with all ASEAN countries toward the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific.



Foreign Minister Motegi announcing the details of the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN, at the 1st Tokyo Global Dialogue (December, Tokyo)



Dispatch of patrol boats to Indonesia (July 2018; Photo: Japan Coast Guard)



Human resource development in the area of disaster prevention – Training on standing by without sleep. Photo: AHA Centre\*

\*ASEAN coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management

## (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. As a stakeholder that makes use of the South China Sea, the issue is also an important matter of concern for Japan, which depends for most of its resources and energy on sea transport. 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 2019, China further continued unilateral actions that challenge the status quo and escalate tensions as well as attempts to render the resulting of such conduct *faits accomplis*; for instance, it deploys on disputed features a missile system that captures almost the entire South China Sea in its range and conducts anti-ship ballistic missile test launches. The international community including Japan has expressed serious concern over these actions. Japan has to date consistently supported the full adherence to the rule of law in the South China Sea, and places importance on freedom of navigation and overflight as well as assistance for safe sea lanes. Japan has also 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, as reflected in the UNCLOS. Furthermore,

Japan has pointed out that China's claims to "historical rights" over the South China Sea lack a clear basis under international law, and that such rights were also clearly dismissed in the final arbitration award against China that was announced in 2016. Japan has also pointed out that China's claims to its baseline in the South China Sea issues are inconsistent with UNCLOS. In 2018, negotiations on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea commenced between China and ASEAN. Japan has advocated for the importance of such efforts leading to demilitarization of the area and to the realization of a peaceful, 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 2019, through the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in August and the 22nd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in November in Thailand, the ASEAN Chair, the participants affirmed that they would continue to further strengthen cooperative relations over a broad range of fields. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November, Prime Minister Abe announced full support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which ASEAN adopted under its own initiative in June. At the same time, he also stated that Japan would pursue synergy between AOIP and Japan's concept for



Prime Minister Abe speaking at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (November 4, Bangkok, Thailand); Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP), while also continuing to strengthen cooperative relations between Japan and ASEAN. In addition to a Chairman’s Statement released at this Summit Meeting, the Joint Statement of the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting on Connectivity was released with the approval of all of the participating countries. It was also affirmed that the parties would continue working together with ASEAN to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” What is more, in order to lend its support to this Joint Statement financially, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN. He stated that Japan would aim to mobilize funds including private sector funds and was prepared to double the investment and loans of JICA with the focus on the ASEAN region in the fields of quality infrastructure, financial access, support for women, and green investment. In addition, he made mention of the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement, stating that as the first project under the Agreement, Training in Cyber Security would be implemented in Japan in January 2020.

On the security front, Prime Minister Abe stated in regards to defense cooperation that Japan would promote cooperation under the Vientiane Vision (Japan’s Defense Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN), focusing primarily on the areas of humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security. Regarding regional and international affairs, concerning North Korea, Prime

Minister Abe stated that no time can be lost in rescuing the abductees and asked for the continued understanding and cooperation of ASEAN countries toward the early resolution of the abductions issue. Regarding the South China Sea issue, he expressed Japan’s serious concern about the present situation in the South China Sea, while noting the necessity for ASEAN countries to call for improvements in one voice in the worsening present situation. He also stated that Japan would continue to spare no effort in offering maximum cooperation.

On the economic front, through official development assistance (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 Thailand in November, Prime Minister Abe welcomed the signing of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and stated his hopes for its early entry into force in order to further promote trade in services and investment.

In addition, Prime Minister Abe shared a number of Japanese initiatives and made positive mention of Japan-ASEAN cooperation that was being deployed across a wide range of areas. Examples of this include the launch of a public-private sector council for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) High Level Meeting, the Japan-ASEAN Transport Partnership Initiative, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Dialogue, “WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony” (Asia Center of the Japan Foundation), Sports for Tomorrow, and more.

At the Summit Meeting, the ASEAN side expressed their gratitude and support for the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN, which is a recent, new initiative of Japan, as well as the Training in Cyber Security, which

is the first project based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement. In addition, the ASEAN side also offered its appreciation of the Asia Center of the Japan Foundation and expressed its hopes regarding future activities of the center. In addition, it also expressed its gratitude for Japan's cooperation toward ASEAN that includes initiatives such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) High Level Meeting (Yokohama) held in October, the creation of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Dialogue, the hosting of ASEAN-Japan Day (Hanoi, Viet Nam), and JENESYS.

#### **(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 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 development 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 their 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.

The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030 was adopted at the 11th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2019. It was announced that under this initiative, the countries of the Mekong region and Japan would establish environmental and urban issues, sustainable natural resource management and utilization, and inclusive growth as priority areas and work to achieve the SDGs in the Mekong region. The heads of state of Mekong

countries expressed their gratitude for Japan's continued support and welcomed the fact that Japan became a development partner to the Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) in 2019. Japan will continue to contribute to the prosperity and development of the Mekong region as a trusted partner for Mekong countries.

The year 2019, which marked the 10th anniversary of the 2009 "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year" between Japan and Mekong countries was designated as "Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2019." More than 170 exchange programs were held in wide-ranging fields including politics, economy, and culture in Japan and Mekong countries.

#### **(5) ASEAN+3 (Participating Countries: 10 ASEAN countries and Japan, China, and the 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 with a focus on areas 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, the ASEAN+3 member states have been making further progress on cooperation in various fields.

At the 22nd ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting held in Thailand in November, Prime Minister Abe welcomed the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He also mentioned Japan's intention to pursue synergy between Japan's FOIP and the AOIP, as well as to contribute to improving connectivity with a view toward achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP). Moreover, he stated that in light of the fact that quality infrastructure investments enhance regional connectivity and bring about sustainable economic growth, the promotion of projects related to ASEAN connectivity ought to be done in accordance with

the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment approved at the G20 Osaka Summit. In addition to this, he stated that Japan would continue to promote ASEAN+3 cooperation in the fields of marine plastic litter and trade areas through ASEAN+3 cooperation.

Prime Minister Abe strongly condemned the launches of ballistic missiles by North Korea, which are clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions. He also stated that it was important that the international community remained united to support the U.S.-North Korea process toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and that it is critical to maintain full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, he asked for continued understanding and cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

### **(6) East Asia Summit (EAS) (Participating Countries: 10 ASEAN countries and Japan, China, the ROK, Australia, New Zealand, India, the U.S. and Russia)**

Launched in 2005, the EAS is the premier 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.

#### **A The 9th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

At the 9th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Thailand in August, Foreign Minister Kono welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He also stated that Japan would continue to provide cooperation in accordance with the international standard affirmed via the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure

Investment in order to achieve a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP). He also stated Japan’s positions regarding the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea.

Regarding North Korea, Foreign Minister Kono expressed his regret at North Korea’s launches of ballistic missiles. He stressed the importance of supporting the U.S.-North Korea process to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions as well as of fully implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. He also expressed his expectation for EAS’s continued cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

Foreign Minister Kono announced that he holds serious concern regarding the worsening conditions with regard to the issue of the South China Sea. He went on to express his strong opposition to unilateral attempts to change the status quo, as well as intimidation against other countries, and called for both demilitarization and a peaceful resolution of disputes. In addition, he emphasized that the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea that is currently being negotiated between ASEAN and China must not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of third parties.

Regarding the situation of the Rakhine State in Myanmar, Foreign Minister Kono emphasized the need for direct dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh in order to achieve the prompt resettlement of the displaced persons. In addition, while emphasizing the importance of providing support for the displaced persons and their host communities and calling upon Myanmar to create an environment conducive to their return, he also expressed his appreciation for the growing role being played by ASEAN regarding the issue.

#### **B The 14th EAS**

At the 14th EAS held in Thailand in November, discussions were carried out over modalities for the Indo-Pacific region, as well as its politics and



EAS Meeting (November 4, Bangkok, Thailand;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

security. Prime Minister Abe noted that a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) based on the rule of law serves as a cornerstone for regional peace and stability. He also welcomed the issuance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) by ASEAN itself, and announced that Japan would provide full support for this. He also expressed Japan’s desire to achieve synergy with Japan’s FOIP, and to continue cooperating to materialize the AOIP. In addition, he stated that an open and fair economic order based on international rules is one of the cornerstones for regional peace and prosperity, while also proclaiming the importance of the basic principles and the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment affirmed at the G20 Osaka Summit.

With regard to North Korea, Prime Minister Abe strongly condemned the launches of ballistic missiles by North Korea, and highlighted the importance of the unity of the international community in supporting the U.S-North Korea process to achieve the CVID (complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement) of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges by North Korea, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and stated that it was crucial to maintain full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. In addition, he asked for cooperation for the early resolution of the abductions issue. In response, many of the participating countries noted on the importance of a peaceful resolution through complete denuclearization and dialogue. Several countries condemned the missile launches and mentioned the importance of North Korea’s compliance with

the UN Security Council resolutions.

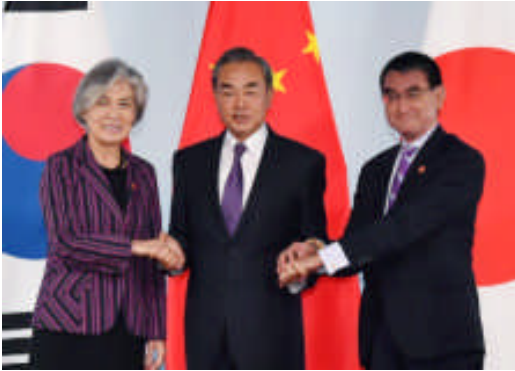
Regarding the issue of the South China Sea, Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan has taken up the challenge of regional peace and prosperity, and therefore shares serious concerns over the matter with the EAS participating countries. He went on to express his strong opposition to all unilateral attempts to change the status quo, as well as intimidation against other countries, and urged both demilitarization and a peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the international law. In addition, he stated that the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea must be consistent with international law, as reflected in the UNCLOS, and it must not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of any of the stakeholders. Furthermore, he expressed Japan’s support for the basic principles set forth by ASEAN of “full respect for legal and diplomatic processes,” “freedom of navigation,” and “the importance of demilitarization and self-restraint.”

### (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.

#### A Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

The Ninth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in August in Gubei Water Town in the suburbs of Beijing, China, with China serving as the chair. The three foreign ministers of Japan, China, and the ROK praised the fact that this Japan-China-ROK Trilateral

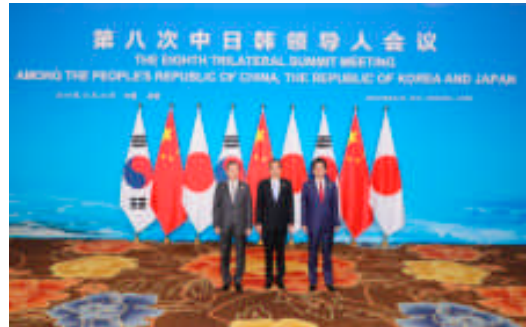


Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 22, Beijing and Gubei Water Town, China)

Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in this crucial year, which marked the 20th anniversary since the beginning of their cooperation. They also affirmed the steady progress made with trilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas due to the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was the first held in about three years, and discussed the current state of specific cooperation and the course for future cooperation. Foreign Minister Kono emphasized the need to comply with and promote the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, as well as the importance of people-to-people exchanges. In particular, he appealed for the expansion of people-to-people exchanges afforded by the opportunity of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which have been hosted in relay-fashion by the three countries. In addition, he also welcomed the developments seen in academic exchanges, such as with "Campus Asia" (a plan to enhance exchanges between universities in Japan, China, and the ROK).

### **B** Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit

The Eighth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit was held in Chengdu, China, in December. The three leaders summarized their trilateral cooperation to date and discussed the direction for future cooperation over the coming decade in this crucial juncture marking the 20th anniversary of Japan-China-ROK cooperation. In particular, they agreed to continue promoting trilateral



Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit (December 24, Chengdu, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Prime Minister Abe speaking at the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit (December 24, Chengdu, China; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

cooperation centered around cooperation in the three areas of the environment, the aging of society, and people-to-people exchanges. In addition, they discussed the regional situation, including the situation of North Korea. Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan would implement the contents of the agreement reached by the three countries, as representatives of Asia, moving forward, and would promote them to the world, including Asia, based on the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 Osaka Summit that included consensus in the areas of trade, investment, quality infrastructure investment, and marine plastic litter. In addition, the three leaders also exchanged their views on the international situation as well.

### **(8) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** (See Chapter 3, Section 3, 2-(3))

Consisting of 21 economies (countries and regions) in the Asia-Pacific region, APEC promotes regional economic integration and



cooperation across the region among the member economies on a voluntary basis. As the Asia-Pacific region is positioned as the “world’s growth center,” strengthening economic cooperation and trust in the economic aspect in this region is very important in pursuing Japan’s further economic development.

At APEC Chile 2019, Japan, which chaired the G20 in 2019, coordinated with Chile, the APEC Chair, through sharing the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit which are related to issues such as the digital economy, marine plastic litter, and women’s empowerment. The APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting which was scheduled in November 2019 was canceled due to domestic instability in Chile. Meanwhile, at meetings including the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting held in May 2019 in Chile, Japan announced that it would continue to contribute as a standard-bearer of free trade in aiming for the growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole as it is the core of a “Free

and Open Indo-Pacific,” which Japan has been promoting.

### (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, and cooperation and collaboration in economic and social development and cultural areas. As of 2019, 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 relatively 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 3,615 people to date (162 people in FY2019).

## Section 2

# North America

### 1 United States

#### (1) Situation in the U.S.

##### A Politics

In 2019, the Trump administration entered its third year and continued to aim to steadily implement its campaign promises under the slogan of “America first.” Meanwhile, amid the emergence of a divided Congress due to the 2018 midterm elections in which the Democratic Party, the opposition party, gained a majority in the House of Representatives, as well as the acceleration of political movements toward the 2020 presidential election, confrontations between Democrats and Republicans intensified in 2019 compared to the previous year. In particular, the battle over funding for the border walls as well as the resulting partial shutdown of federal agencies that continued from December 2018 to January 2019, the release in March of the contents of Special Counsel Mueller’s report concerning Russia-gate, and the congressional investigation regarding Ukraine-gate that started in September as well as the later presidential impeachment proceedings made the steady implementation of policies difficult and had major effect on the administration’s operations. These confrontations attracted much attention both within and outside the U.S. It is notable that within the U.S., the confrontations were not confined to antagonism between the

Republican and Democratic parties in Congress, but also deepened the political divide among U.S. citizens. In this political situation, attention should be given to future developments toward the presidential and congressional elections in November 2020.

President Trump actively spoke about his administration’s achievements over the past three years on such opportunities as his State of the Union Address to Congress in February 2019 and the campaign rally in June where he officially announced that he was running for reelection. In particular, he greatly emphasized how strong the economy was based on economic indicators such as high job creation and the low unemployment rate, and showed his determination to “keep America great” by reviewing trade policies, working on the issue of illegal immigration, and strengthening the U.S. military. With the 2020 presidential election in mind, he also severely criticized the Democratic Party and the media. While his election base highly appreciated this, confrontations between Democrats and Republicans further deepened, and there was no push for pursuing bipartisan cooperation on policy issues shared by the both parties, including immigration and border control, infrastructure investment, and lowering drug prices. The Congress failed to put together a budget for the construction of walls along the Mexican border, a core promise by the

Trump administration. This led to the longest-ever partial shutdown of federal agencies, lasting for 35 days, and affected the lives of citizens. Furthermore, in February, because congress did not approve the budget to construct the border wall, the President declared a national emergency in order to appropriate the existing budget for construction of the walls while strengthening border security. There are still differences in the positions of both parties concerning this matter, including President Trump vetoing the Congress, when it called for an end to the national emergency, and judicial conflicts concerning the constitutionality of the national emergency declaration.

The subject that governed the most attention in U.S. domestic policies in 2019 was the political battle between the administration and Congressional Democrats concerning allegations against President Trump. Concerning the so-called "Russia-gate," in which Russia allegedly intervened in the 2016 U.S. presidential election using various means, the investigation by Special Counsel Mueller which began in May 2017 concluded, and the contents of his report were disclosed in March 2019. Though it found that Russia had intervened in the election, the report did not find that there had been collusion between the Trump administration and Russia, and did not issue a final conclusion on whether President Trump had obstructed justice. Each party asserted that the report supported their own respective viewpoints and political confusion continued after the report. However, the report provided a tentative resolution to this matter, which had caused many related parties to be summoned as witnesses by Congress, as well as the prosecution of over 30 people, including the former chairman of President Trump's election campaign.

In September, the so-called "Ukraine-gate" emerged. This concerned allegations that President Trump used military assistance for Ukraine and a summit meeting with him as leverage to ask President Zelensky of Ukraine, corruption allegations regarding a Ukrainian

energy company where the second son of former Vice-President Biden, one of the main presidential candidates of the Democratic Party, served as an executive, as well as intervention by Ukraine in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. U.S. politics following this incident were dominated by the Congressional investigation into the allegations and the presidential impeachment process. Following a series of investigation processes that included a public hearing committee in the House of Representatives, in December, a majority of House members voted for a resolution setting forth two articles of impeachment for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress by President Trump. As a result of this, President Trump became the third U.S. president in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives, and the impeachment process moved to trials at the Senate.

As it faced many domestic challenges, the Trump administration continued to fulfill its pledge by a different approach from past administrations in diplomacy as well. Diplomatic efforts with North Korea were continued to improve the situation, including the second U.S.-North Korea Summit in February as well as President Trump's meeting with Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un in Panmunjom in June. In addition, regarding the various issues in the Middle East, it was noteworthy that the Trump administration took a tough stance on Iran that encouraged dialogue yet did not exclude taking military action, and it stressed achievements such as the killing of Commander Baghdadi of ISIL (the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) in the battle against ISIL and terrorism, while aiming to implement an early withdrawal of troops stationed overseas.

During the third year of the Trump administration as well, there were frequent personnel changes among the executives and cabinet members of the administration. The main personnel changes included the appointment of Secretary of Defense Esper following the resignation of former Secretary Mattis in December 2018, the appointment of Attorney General Barr in February, the

resignation of Secretary of Homeland Security Nielsen in April, and the appointment of National Security Advisor O'Brien in September taking over from National Security Advisor Bolton in the same month. In addition, President Trump cooperated with the leaders of the Republican Party in the Senate, to actively nominate conservative judges to the federal courts, and received approval in the Senate at an unprecedented pace. Because federal judges have lifetime appointments and maintain influence for a long time, it is said that many Republican Party supporters highly appreciate this.

Despite the disorder in domestic politics and political confrontation, the Trump administration maintained a stable approval rating between 40-45% against the backdrop of the strong U.S. economy. Of particular note, his approval rating did not drop even amid battles with the Democratic Party and media coverage concerning Russia-gate and Ukraine-gate, with the administration receiving approximately 90% approval from its Republican Party supporters.

In this political situation, President Trump officially announced in June that he was running for reelection in the 2020 presidential election, and since then has been strengthening activities such as holding political rallies in many political battling grounds as well as cooperating with the Republican Party to raise funding. On the other hand, the Democratic Party started the primary process and held six debates among the candidates. The competition to gain the nomination among the candidates began in earnest toward the Iowa Caucus in February and the Democratic Convention in July 2020.

## **B** Economy

### **(A)** Current economic situation

The U.S. economy continued to recover steadily in 2019. The 2019 real GDP growth rate increased by 2.3% year-on-year. The unemployment rate also continued to improve and dropped to 3.5% 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

The main development in the U.S. trade in 2019 was that, regarding potential moves in imposing additional tariffs on automobiles and automotive parts based on Section 232 of the U.S. Trade Expansion Act, President Trump decided in May to seek negotiations with the EU, Japan, and others based on the investigation by the Department of Commerce, and that levying additional tariffs was avoided. Since then, the U.S. has not imposed additional tariff measures on automobiles and automotive parts.

With regard to relations with China, the exchanges of imposing additional tariff measures continued and expanded between the U.S. and China. At the same time, the consultation to achieve the agreement of the phase one trade deal has continued, and as of the end of 2019, the U.S. has not imposed further additional tariff measures, which was originally planned for mid-December. With regard to relations with Mexico and Canada, consultations of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) signed in autumn 2018 restarted, and the revised agreement was signed in December 2019. On the other hand, for relations with the EU, no major progress could be seen for U.S.-EU trade negotiations launched in July 2018. In October 2019, in relation to the issue of subsidies to Airbus SE that have been a matter of contention between the U.S. and the EU for many years, the U.S. is levying additional tariffs on the EU, following the arbitration decision by the World Trade Organization (WTO) that authorized the U.S. to impose up to 7.5 billion US dollars per year of countermeasures against the EU.

With regard to monetary policies, the subprime loan issue in 2007 led to the gradual lowering of the target range for the federal funds rate, and a

zero-interest-rate policy which set the target range 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 range and removed the zero-interest-rate policy. The target range had been raised eight times to 2.25-2.50% since then, but it was lowered by the FOMC in July, September, and October 2019, partly due to low inflation rates. As of January 2020, the target range is between 1.50% and 1.75%. When making decisions on future monetary policy, the FOMC will take into account measures of labor market conditions, indicators of inflation pressures, inflation expectations, financial conditions, and international affairs.

## (2) Japan-U.S. Political Relations

Continuing on from 2018, in 2019 there was frequent policy coordination at high levels between Japan and the U.S., including 11 summit meetings (of which six were telephone calls) and 14 foreign ministers' meetings (of which 11 were telephone calls, and which included meetings with the acting Secretary of State). In particular, there were three consecutive months of mutual visits by the leaders of Japan and the U.S., consisting of the visit to the U.S. by Prime Minister Abe in April, the visit to Japan by President Trump as the first State Guest of the Reiwa era in May, and President Trump's visit to Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit in June. Under such deep relationships of trust achieved through frequent exchanges 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 resolving various regional and international matters such as the issue of North Korea, as well as maintaining and strengthening a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP).

During the Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' telephone call on January 21, Foreign Minister Kono was briefed in detail by Secretary of State Pompeo on the current status of the U.S.-North Korea negotiations, including the recent meeting between

Secretary of State Pompeo and Kim Yong-chol, Deputy Chairman of the Workers' Party of North Korea. In addition, based on this, the two foreign ministers closely aligned their policies concerning the issue of North Korea, including their response to the upcoming second U.S.-North Korea Summit.

On February 28 and March 1, there were telephone calls between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump as well as between Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State Pompeo respectively. President Trump and Secretary of State Pompeo provided explanations of the details regarding the second U.S.-North Korea Summit held on February 27 and 28. During the Japan-U.S. Summit telephone call Prime Minister Abe stated that the Government of Japan fully supports President Trump's decision to urge North Korea to take concrete actions without making easy concessions, while at the same time continuing constructive discussion, with his strong determination to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. President Trump also explained that he raised the abductions issue during his one-on-one meeting with Chairman Kim on February 27.

Foreign Minister Kono visited Washington D.C. from April 18 to 21. He participated in the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (Japan-U.S. "2+2") and held a meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo. During the meeting, the two foreign ministers closely aligned their future policies toward the resolution of the abductions, and nuclear and missile issues, taking into account the recent situation following the second U.S.-North Korea Summit. They shared the view on full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and reconfirmed that Japan and the U.S. as well as Japan, the U.S., and the ROK, will continue to coordinate closely. The two foreign ministers also reaffirmed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to work together toward the early resolution of the abductions issue.

Prime Minister Abe visited Washington D.C. from April 26 to 27 and held a Japan-U.S. Summit

Meeting with President Trump. The two leaders closely coordinated their policies with regard to the issues of North Korea, and confirmed that Japan and the U.S., as well as Japan, the U.S., and the ROK, will continue to coordinate closely toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In addition, two leaders reaffirmed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate closely toward the early resolution of the abductions issue. President Trump made a powerful remark indicating that the U.S. will continue to fully cooperate with Japan. Furthermore, the leaders reaffirmed their intention to further strengthen cooperation toward realizing FOIP, and welcomed economic development based on fair rules to promote FOIP.

President Trump visited Japan from May 25-28 as the first State Guest of the Reiwa era, and held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. During the meeting, both leaders agreed on the recognition that the Japan-U.S. Alliance is stronger than ever before due to efforts contributing to the strengthening of the alliance in recent years such as the Legislation for Peace and Security as well as the personal relationship between the two leaders, and that the Japan-U.S. Alliance is the closest alliance in the world now. The leaders also confirmed their determination to further strengthen the unwavering bond between Japan and the U.S. and to lead the peace and prosperity of the regional and international

community as true global partners in the new era.

In addition, Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude to President Trump for meeting once again with family members of the victims abducted by North Korea following the last meeting which took place during President Trump's previous visit to Japan (November 2017), and expressed his determination to meet face-to-face with Chairman Kim toward the resolution of the abductions issue. In response, President Trump expressed his full support for Prime Minister Abe's determination. In addition, family members of the victims abducted handed President Trump a letter, and President Trump later sent a handwritten reply expressing support for the family members.

In addition to this, both leaders further strengthened their relationship of trust through viewing sumo matches, visiting the JS Kaga destroyer, playing golf, and attending a social dinner (see the Column on page 94).

On June 14, taking the opportunity immediately following Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran, telephone calls were held respectively between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump as well as between Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State Pompeo. During the Japan-U.S. Summit telephone call, the leaders exchanged views regarding the situation in the Middle East based on Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran, and President Trump expressed gratitude for Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran and his work to appeal to Iran.



Prime Minister Abe meeting with President Trump (April 26, Washington D.C.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



The leaders of Japan and the U.S. and their spouses visiting the JS Kaga destroyer (May 28, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## Column

## President Trump and the First Lady Watch the Grand Sumo Tournament

President Trump and the First Lady's visit to Japan as the first state guests in the Reiwa era served as a very important opportunity for Japan-U.S. diplomacy. One of the highlights of their visit was the last day of a sumo tournament (*senshuraku*) of the official sumo tournament held in May (*gogatsu-basho*). Prime Minister Abe and Mrs. Abe guided President Trump and the First Lady around the Ryōgoku Kokugikan. In the long history of the Grand Sumo Tournament, this was the first time for an incumbent U.S. President to watch a tournament. The occasion was also a commemorable event for the Japan Sumo Association. Oguruma Oyakata, the manager of the Japan Sumo Association, emphasized that the Association would offer its full cooperation as this is a golden opportunity for the U.S. President to experience Japanese culture.

On the other hand, the advance party from the U.S. who first inspected the Ryōgoku Kokugikan were somewhat exasperated. It was clear to anyone that watching the tournament from the box seats near the sumo ring would be extremely difficult for security. Nevertheless, thanks to the good relationship between the two leaders, complete trust in Japan's security, and the cooperation of all the parties involved in the Grand Sumo Tournament including the spectators, the two leaders and First Ladies of the two countries were able to watch the Grand Sumo Tournament despite the difficulties. "All possible safety precautions will be taken." These were the reassuring words offered by the Japanese police and Kasugano Oyakata, who heads the security division of the Japan Sumo Association.

On a certain night after the Nakabi (the mid-point of a sumo tournament), at Ryōgoku Kokugikan amid the lingering reverberations of the day's tournament, officials from the Japan Sumo Association and the Governments of Japan and the U.S. held a rehearsal for the awards ceremony just as it would take place on the actual day. With the explanation that President Trump wishes to respect Japan's traditional culture, the U.S. officials checked every single movement and reported back to the U.S. immediately. This was because President and Mrs. Trump were paying close attention and deep respect to Japan's traditional culture. MOFA officials, too, continued to make adjustments with the relevant personnel until the very last minute, with the intention of striking a balance between ensuring that President and Mrs. Trump would experience the power of sumo wrestling, and keeping to the demands of security as well as tradition and convention.

Finally, at 4:55 p.m. on May 26, amid thunderous applause, the two leaders and First Ladies entered the venue through an adorned passage, led by Hakkaku Oyakata, Chairman of the Japan Sumo Association. President Trump, who sat down in the box seats near the ring, watched the wrestlers compete in the sumo ring with a serious expression while listening to Prime Minister Abe's explanation. The two leaders watched five bouts of wrestling, including the final bout of the day.

At the awards ceremony held after the final bout, the words "Reiwa One" resounded powerfully across the venue when President Trump read them out from the certificate. After that, President Trump presented the President's Cup trophy to Asanoyama Hideki, who had won the tournament for the first time. Prior to that, President Trump had in fact carefully prepared for this moment by repeatedly practicing the presentation of the trophy with Prime Minister Abe in the waiting room. The two leaders and First Ladies then departed from the Ryōgoku Kokugikan amid loud cheers and a standing ovation.

This brought President Trump and Mrs. Trump's first experience of a Grand Sumo Tournament to a conclusion. A video of about 40 seconds, edited by the White House, was also posted to its official Twitter account. As of February 2020, this video had been played almost 5 million times, and is broadcasting the appeal of sumo wrestling and the friendly relations between Japan and the U.S. to the world.



The two leaders and First Ladies watching the Grand Sumo Tournament  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



The two leaders watching the Grand Sumo Tournament  
(Photo: Japan Sumo Association)



The leaders of Japan and the U.S. deepening their exchange through golf  
(May 26, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



The leaders of Japan and the U.S. and their spouses attending a dinner banquet  
(May 26, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

On June 28, President Trump and Secretary of State Pompeo, who were visiting Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, respectively held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting and a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono, and confirmed close cooperation toward the success of the G20 Osaka Summit. Furthermore, both leaders held the second Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting with the addition of Prime Minister Modi of India.

Following President Trump's meeting with Chairman Kim Jong-un in Panmunjom on June 30, Foreign Minister Kono had a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' telephone call with Secretary of State Pompeo on that day, mainly focusing on the situation surrounding North Korea. Foreign Minister Kono received a detailed explanation of the meeting and the two ministers then closely coordinated their future policies toward the resolution of the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, and



Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting  
(June 28, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

affirmed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to work together.

In response to the short-range ballistic missile launch by North Korea on the previous day, on July 26, Foreign Minister Kono had a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' telephone call with Secretary of State Pompeo. Both foreign ministers confirmed and shared information, and affirmed that Japan and the U.S. as well as Japan, the U.S., and the ROK, will continue to coordinate closely.

On August 2, Foreign Minister Kono, who was visiting Bangkok, Thailand to attend the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings, held a Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo and ROK Foreign Minister Kang. Foreign Minister Kono emphasized the importance of Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperation in addressing the issues of North Korea. The three foreign ministers exchanged views on the situation regarding North Korea, including recent developments. The three ministers aligned their future policies, and confirmed that Japan, the U.S., and the ROK will continue to coordinate closely.

On August 25, Prime Minister Abe, who was visiting France to attend the G7 Summit in Biarritz, held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting with President Trump. The two leaders confirmed that both sides reached consensus on the core elements on agricultural and industrial products as a result of Japan-U.S. trade negotiations. In addition, the leaders confirmed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate closely toward the





Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (September 25, New York;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(September 26, New York)

resolution of issues of concern regarding North Korea, including the abductions, and nuclear and missile issues.

Foreign Minister Motegi, who assumed his position on September 11, had a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' telephone call with Secretary of State Pompeo on September 16. During the meeting, Secretary of State Pompeo congratulated Foreign Minister Motegi on his appointment, and both ministers confirmed that they would closely cooperate in order to work on further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and respond to various regional and international issues.

On September 25, Prime Minister Abe, who was visiting New York to attend the UN General Assembly, held a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting with President Trump. The two leaders confirmed that a final agreement had been reached on the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, and issued the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement. The leaders also confirmed that Japan

and the U.S. would continue to cooperate to ease tensions and stabilize the situation in the Middle East.

On September 26, Foreign Minister Motegi, who was also visiting the U.S. to attend the UN General Assembly, held his first Japan-U.S. Foreign Minister Meeting with Secretary of State Pompeo following his appointment on September 11. The two foreign ministers held a one-on-one exchange of views regarding the regional situation based on the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting on the previous day, and confirmed that Japan and the U.S. would continue to closely cooperate to respond to various regional and international issues.

On October 22, Foreign Minister Motegi had a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' telephone call with Secretary of State Pompeo. The two foreign ministers held an exchange of views centered on the situation in the Middle East, and confirmed that Japan and the U.S. would continue to closely cooperate toward easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East.

On October 23, Prime Minister Abe received a courtesy call from Secretary of Transportation Chao, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor on behalf of the U.S. Prime Minister Abe expressed his sincere appreciation that President Trump and his spouse visited Japan in May as the first State Guests in the Reiwa era and that President Trump issued a celebrational statement. Prime Minister Abe also expressed his delight to welcome Secretary Chao on this historic occasion.

On December 22, Prime Minister Abe held a telephone call with President Trump. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments relating to North Korea and closely coordinated their policies with regard to the issue of North Korea. In addition, the two leaders completely shared the view that Japan and the U.S. will continue to cooperate more closely and work together toward the resolution of the abductions, and nuclear and missile issues.

### (3) Japan-U.S. Economic Relations

Japan-U.S. economic relations are one of the three pillars of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, together with the security and people-to-people exchanges. 2019 was a year of further deepening of economic relations between the two countries, as the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement were concluded.

In regard to the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, Minister Motegi (the Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization until September 2019, Foreign Minister from September 2019) and U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer held ministerial consultations eight times after April 2019 based on the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement issued in September 2018. At the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting held in New York on September 25, the leaders confirmed that a final agreement had been reached on the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement (see the Special Feature on page 265), and the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement was issued. The Joint Statement specifies that both countries will refrain from taking measures against the spirit of these agreements and the Joint Statement. The leaders confirmed at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting that this means that additional tariffs based on Section

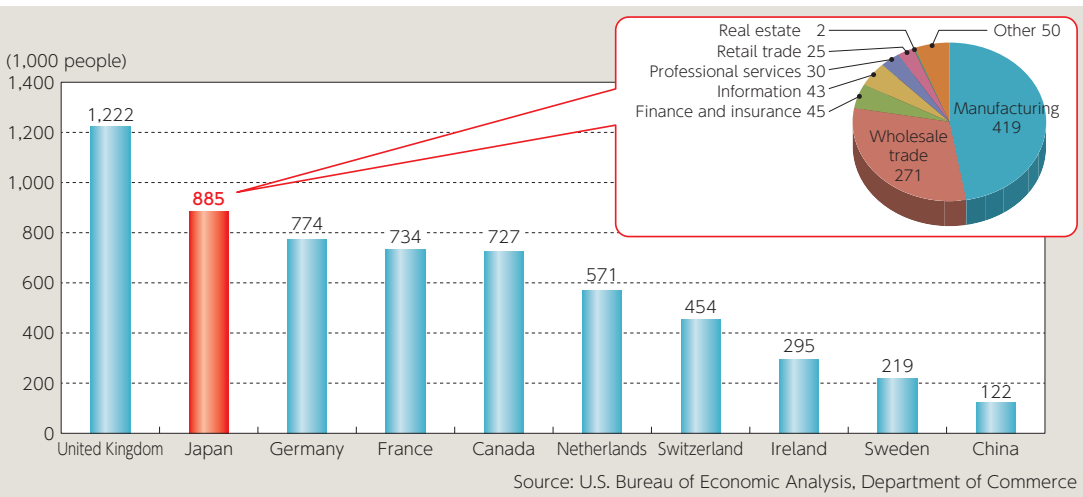
232 of the U.S. Trade Expansion Act will not be levied on Japanese automobiles and automobile parts.

On October 7, both agreements were signed at the White House in the U.S. On December 10, after both Japan and the U.S. notified each other in writing of the completion of their respective applicable legal procedures, both agreements entered into force on January 1, 2020. The Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement not only expands the bilateral trade between Japan and the U.S., which covers approximately 30% of the global GDP, in a strong, stable, and mutually beneficial manner, but also creates a free economic sphere covering approximately 60% of the global GDP together with the TPP11 and the Japan-EU EPA that already

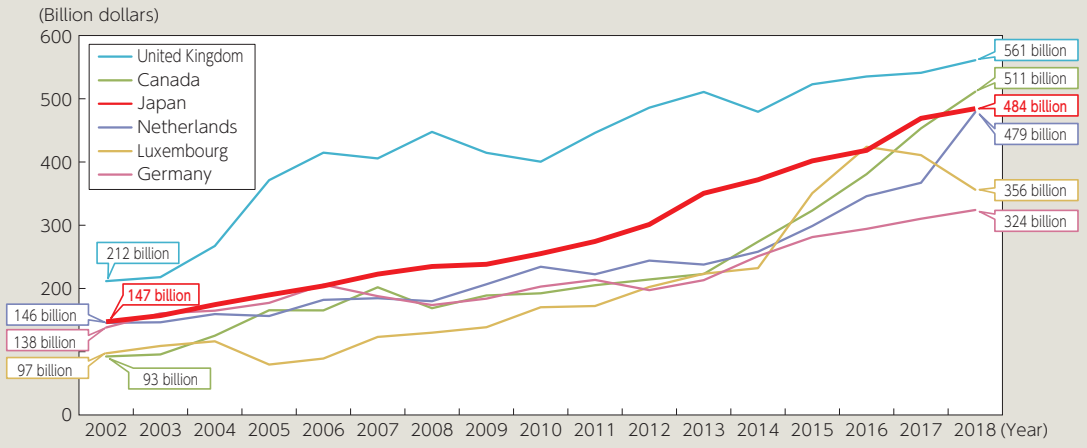


Meeting between Minister Motegi (then Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization) and U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer (April 15, Washington D.C.; Photo: TPP Headquarters at the Cabinet Secretariat Office)

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

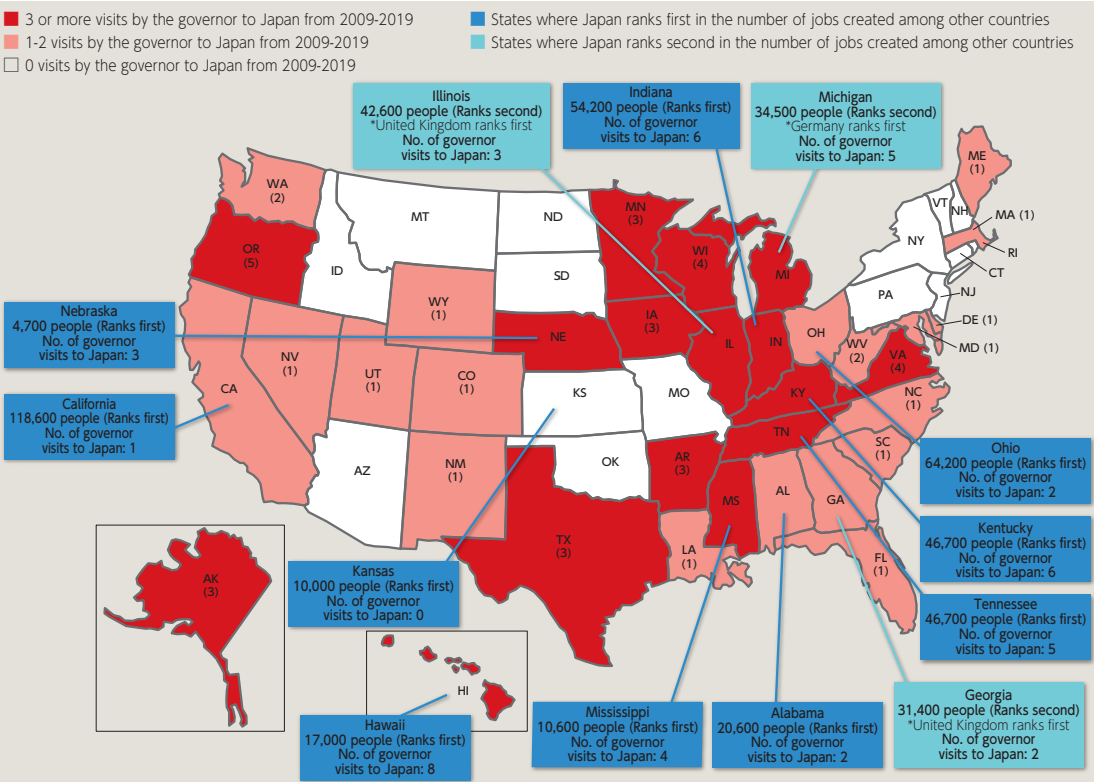


### Japan ranks third in the world for cumulative FDI in the United States



(Note 1: Changes in cumulative FDI in the United States by the top six countries for cumulative FDI in 2018)  
 (Note 2: Investment amounts are shaped by large-scale projects)  
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce

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



Note: The number of visits by the governor of Guam to Japan was 6 times.  
 (Data source) Number of jobs created: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, Number of governor visits to Japan (January 2020)

entered into force. In addition, in the context of the world economy becoming increasingly data-driven, the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement establishes high-standard rules in the area of digital trade, and will be the foundation for Japan and the U.S. to play leading roles in global rule-making concerning digital trade.

In addition, 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 third highest after the UK and Canada (approximately 484.4 billion US dollars in 2018 (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 890,000 people in 2017 (U.S. 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.

Japan and the U.S. are promoting cooperation in infrastructure, energy, and digital sectors as economic cooperation toward maintaining and promoting FOIP. To highlight cooperation in these three sectors, the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement was issued at the time of the visit to Japan by Vice President Pence in November 2018 and a factsheet was issued on the occasion of the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May 2019.

### (1) Infrastructure

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) are working toward forming Japan-U.S. cooperation projects based on the memorandum of cooperation concluded with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of the U.S. In addition, the Japan-U.S.-Australia joint mission on infrastructure

cooperation was dispatched to Papua New Guinea in April. Furthermore, in response to the approval of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment at the G20 Osaka Summit in June, Japan and the U.S. are advancing cooperation, including holding capacity building programs and seminars for third-party countries, in order to spread and establish the principles.

### (2) Energy

Japan-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership (JUSEP) meetings were held a total of three times in 2019. In August at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), a memorandum of cooperation was signed to expand Japan-U.S. energy cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Mekong Power Partnership (JUMPP) was established, and discussions are being conducted toward realizing Japan-U.S. energy cooperation in the Mekong region.

### (3) Digital

The Working Group on the Japan-U.S. Strategic Digital Economy Partnership (JUSDEP) was established in 2019. A total of three meetings were organized to hold discussions toward realizing Japan-U.S. cooperation in the digital sector. In November, the Joint Statement by the United States and Japan on Furthering the Development of Smart Cities in the Indo-Pacific was issued, which confirmed the promotion of Japan-U.S. cooperation in the smart cities sector.

Moreover, in the infrastructure sector, high-speed rail projects utilizing Japan's high-speed rail technology, which symbolize Japan-U.S. cooperation, are being promoted. The Texas High-Speed Rail Project is currently being promoted as a project on the premise that Texas Central (TC) will introduce Japanese shinkansen technology between Dallas and Houston. HTeC, a subsidiary of Central Japan Railway Company, concluded a technical assistance agreement with TC, and is providing support toward the implementation

of the project. The Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Cooperation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN) and JBIC are also providing support for the detailed design and fundraising stages of this project. Furthermore, the Northeast Maglev project, which plans to introduce Maglev technology between Washington D.C. and New York, is achieving steady progress including the implementation of a survey with cooperation between Japan and the U.S.

In the energy sector, U.S. monthly oil export volume in September exceeded the import volume for the first time, and the U.S. is expected to become a net exporter of oil in the future. In addition, in regard to liquefied natural gas (LNG), acquisitions of export license approval for all projects in which Japanese companies participate were completed in June 2014, and production started for the Cameron LNG project in Louisiana in May 2019 and for the Freeport LNG project in Texas in August. 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.

With respect to the digital sector, Japan-U.S. cooperation is being strengthened in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), fifth generation mobile communications systems (5G), and cybersecurity. At the 10th Director General-Level Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy in October, which was co-chaired by the Director-General of the Global Strategy Bureau from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) (Japan side) and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy (U.S. side), there were discussions on a wide range of matters concerning the internet economy between Japan and the U.S., including promotion of 5G networks and services, public-private cooperation concerning

implementation of digital infrastructure and services in third countries, international cooperation concerning sharing best practices and free data circulation regarding IoT (internet of things) security, and public-private cooperation regarding implementation of AI in society.

Furthermore, cooperation with various regions across the U.S. is also advancing. In addition to holding the Japan-U.S. Governors Forum, the Japan-Midwest U.S. Association, the Japan-Southeast U.S. Association, and the Japan-U.S. Business Council, cooperation is being conducted based on the memorandums of cooperation concerning economic and trade relations between Japan and the states of California, Washington, Maryland, and Indiana as well as the city of Chicago. Moreover, the memorandums concerning reciprocal partial exemptions of driving license tests were created with the states of Maryland, Washington, and Hawaii, and reduce the burden associated with acquiring a driver's license for local Japanese nationals.

Based on the understanding that implementing grassroots initiatives that reach members of the general public are important ways to strengthen Japan-U.S. ties further, the "Grassroots Government Taskforce on Strengthening Japan-U.S. Ties" was launched in April 2017. The Taskforce produced an action plan setting out guidelines for the implementation of concrete initiatives. At the 3rd follow-up meeting held in June 2019 under Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishimura Yasutoshi, there were reports on the concrete initiatives implemented during the previous fiscal year as well as discussions on policies toward strengthening these initiatives. Based on the understanding, which 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 are 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” which travels to regions where multiple Japanese companies operate, combined events that introduce Japan, and seminars. A wide range of all-Japan initiatives will continue to be implemented to boost Japan-U.S. economic relations and strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance further.

## 2 Canada

### (1) Situation of Canada

In the House of Commons election in October that called into question the public evaluation of the Trudeau administration, although the ruling Liberal Party led by Prime Minister Trudeau lost seats and its working majority, it secured its position as the top party and the second Trudeau administration began. Ms. Freeland, who served as Minister of Foreign Affairs during the first administration, became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Champagne, who served as Minister of International Trade during the first Trudeau administration, assumed the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On the diplomatic front, in addition to areas that Canada has placed importance on until now such as U.S.-Canada relations, the UN, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the G7, the G20, and the Organization of American States (OAS), the Trudeau administration is also strengthening participation in the Indo-Pacific region. In April, at the Japan-Canada Summit Meeting during Prime Minister Abe’s visit to Canada, it was agreed that Japan and Canada would strengthen their strategic partnership under the vision of FOIP, and Prime Minister Trudeau announced a two-year extension of the deployment of ships by Canada for monitoring and surveillance activities against illegal maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels. On the other hand, in terms of Canada-China relations, no progress was seen in the case of the detention of two Canadian citizens by the Government of China

following the arrest of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Huawei by the Government of Canada based on a request from the Government of the U.S. at the end of 2018. This continues to be a major challenge for Canada.

On the economic front, the growth rate is decelerating, although Canada achieved a high rate of economic growth due to the effects of the strong U.S. economy in 2017, and due to effects such as the unclear global economic situation. The second Trudeau administration inaugurated in November has promised to work on economic policies for the middle class such as tax reductions and expansion of the child care benefit and unemployment benefits, as well as active climate change policies. On the diplomatic front, the administration is continuing to promote free trade policies, concluded the USMCA, and is working on strengthening relations with Asia-Pacific countries.

### (2) Japan-Canada Relations

Japan and Canada are important partners for each other in the Indo-Pacific region. As G7 members, the two countries also cooperate closely in a wide range of fields including politics, economy, security, and people-to-people exchanges. 2019, the 90th anniversary of the opening of Canada’s legation in Tokyo, was a year in which bilateral relations deepened further through frequent mutual visits by dignitaries, security and economic cooperation, and more.

At the summit level, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau during his visit to Canada in April. Then Prime Minister Trudeau visited Japan during the G20 Osaka Summit in June. A Summit Meeting was also held in August taking the opportunity of the G7 Summit in Biarritz. At the foreign ministerial level, foreign ministers’ meetings were held between Foreign Minister Kono and Foreign Minister Freeland during the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the ASEAN-related foreign ministers’ meetings held in Bangkok in August. Foreign Minister Champagne, immediately after assuming



The leaders of Japan and Canada exchanging uniforms of their national rugby teams (April 28, Ottawa, Canada; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Meeting (June 29, Osaka)

his position, attended the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in November in Nagoya. Through such frequent opportunities at a high level, Japan and Canada coordinate their recognitions of various regional and international issues including North Korean affairs, and closely cooperate with each other.

On the security front, the Japan-Canada Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) entered into force in July. In addition, Japan and Canada are closely cooperating to respond with monitoring and surveillance activities against illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels. Japan and Canada are also promoting exchanges between their forces, such as implementation of a joint exercise by the Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Royal Canadian Navy in waters near Viet Nam in June following on from 2017. Furthermore, Minister of National Defence Sajjan made the first visit to Japan in 13 years in June, as Canadian defence minister, during which they affirmed their intention to raise the bilateral defence relationship to a new level. Thus, 2019 marked a year in which Japan-Canada cooperation in the security sector heightened concretely and strategically.

On the economic front, one year has passed since the entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) signed by eleven countries including Japan and Canada, and trade and investment relations are expected to deepen further. Cooperation in the energy sector, including exports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in June from the West Coast of Canada to Japan and other Asian countries progressed further. In December, the 29th Meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee was held in Toronto, and there were discussions regarding international trade conditions and priority cooperation sectors.

## 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 universal values with Japan such as democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. It has a population of about 640 million and a GDP of about 5.5 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 including its large market. In 2019, the sluggish economic performance in the LAC region was affected by economic stagnation in major countries.

On the political front, in Brazil, a new administration was formed and it promotes liberal economic reform. In Argentina, an administration was inaugurated, and it places importance on equitable development and the protection of the vulnerable population. In addition, in Venezuela, confrontations are continuing between the administration and the opposition parties. Due to the worsening socioeconomic situation in the country, Venezuelan refugees are flowing into neighboring countries, which is greatly affecting the region. Furthermore, destabilizing moves were seen in countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile.

In addition, in the LAC region, there are

communities of Japanese immigrants and descendants (the Nikkei community) numbering about 2.13 million, or about 60% of the world’s Nikkei population. The Nikkei community has fostered a sense of affinity toward Japan in LAC countries through contributions to the local community for more than 100 years. On the other hand, generations have transitioned over 100 years since the Japanese migration began, and the younger generation with relatively little connection to Japan is growing in number.

#### (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” (together) announced by Prime Minister



Japan-El Salvador Summit Meeting  
(November 29, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Abe in 2014. In December 2018, Prime Minister Abe summarized the results under this principle for the entire region, and announced the concept of the Initiative to Enhance Connectivity between Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean as the guideline for further cooperation. Japan is aiming to deepen cooperative relations with the LAC countries toward realizing the concept. In 2019, the total number of visits to Japan of the LAC countries' leaders was nine and that of foreign ministers was 13. From Japan, the total number of countries of the LAC region which Ministers, State Ministers and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers visited was 28.

On these occasions, it has been confirmed to strengthen bilateral relations and resolve various issues in the international arena together with LAC countries based on shared fundamental values.

On the economic front, supply chain connections are strengthening, as shown in the doubling of the number of Japanese companies operating in the LAC region since 2011. Japan is working on promoting free trade together with LAC countries including through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement), in which Mexico, Peru, and Chile participate.

In the LAC region, countries that have already “graduated” or will “graduate” from the status of recipient countries by achieving economic growth are carrying out South-South cooperation. Japan is promoting triangular cooperation with these countries. On the other hand, Japan is also carrying out cooperation in line with other countries' needs in fields where continuous support is required, including responses to climate change and natural disasters. Japan provided emergency relief goods to the Bahamas following serious damage from Hurricane Dorian in September.

## 2 Regional Organizations

In addition to the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) and the



9th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 9, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the following regional organizations in the LAC region conduct policy coordination on various issues. In November, the 9th FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in the Dominican Republic, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke attended from Japan.

### (1) Pacific Alliance

The Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru; hereafter referred to as “PA”) aims to conclude a comprehensive free trade agreement with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Singapore, and is currently conducting negotiations toward an early conclusion of the agreement. In addition to these four countries, the ROK and Ecuador are expressing interest in participating in the negotiations.

Japan places importance on cooperation with the PA, with which Japan shares fundamental values. On the margins of the 14th Pacific Alliance Summit held in July, Japan and the PA held a ceremony to exchange the Joint Declaration on a partnership between Japan and the States Parties to the Framework Agreement of the Pacific Alliance and the Action Plan of the Joint Declaration.

### (2) Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)

MERCOSUR is a customs union composed

of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela.<sup>1</sup> With a few exceptions, tariffs have been eliminated for all goods traded within the region since January 1995. In addition, Bolivia is an Associated State.<sup>2</sup>

Japan has held the “Dialogue to Strengthen the Economic Relationship between Japan and MERCOSUR” a total of four times since 2012, and conducts exchanges of views on trade policies and investment.

### (3) Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM was founded by 14 Caribbean nations for its economic integration and foreign policy coordination. It has a large 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 due to 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 the 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. Taking opportunities such as the visits to Japan by Foreign Minister Baron of the Commonwealth of Dominica in March, by Foreign Minister Edmond of Haiti in October, and by Prime Minister Holness of Jamaica in December, Japan confirmed the importance of strengthening and deepening bilateral relations with the Caribbean countries as well as Japan-CARICOM relations.

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

### (1) Mexico

Approximately 1,200 Japanese companies operate in Mexico, making it the biggest economic base for Japan in the LAC region. President López Obrador, who was inaugurated in December 2018, is advancing an administration that focuses on domestic affairs, and maintains an approximately 70% approval rating one year after his inauguration. On the other hand, he has not visited foreign countries since becoming president as he promised during the election period. In addition, the Senate approved both the United



Joint press conference following the Japan-Jamaica Summit Meeting (December 12, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan-Mexico Foreign Ministers' Meeting (June 29, Osaka)

1 Venezuela's participation qualifications have been suspended as of December 2019

2 Bolivia signed the participation protocol in December 2012, and is awaiting approval by the National Congress of Brazil

States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in June 2019 as well as the Protocol of Amendment in December ahead of the U.S. and Canada. The USMCA could affect the activities of Japanese companies operating in Mexico, and attention is focused on the timing when the legislatures of the U.S. and Canada approve the USMCA, as well as the implementation of the agreement following its entry into force.

As for relations with the U.S., due to the surge of undocumented immigrants entering the U.S. through Mexico, the Trump administration announced at the end of May that it would impose tariffs on all imported goods from Mexico unless the situation improved. However, as a result of consultations between the administrations of both countries, the U.S. suspended levying tariffs. Mexico is implementing immigration measures within the country based on the joint statement issued on that occasion.

In 2019, the first Japan-Mexico Foreign Ministers' Meeting under the López Obrador administration was held between Foreign Minister Kono and Foreign Minister Ebrard, who was attending the G20 Osaka Summit on behalf of President López Obrador. Both ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations.

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

El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have concluded respective agreements concerning cooperation on immigration with the Trump administration, which places importance on measures to stop illegal immigration. Through these agreements, it became possible for the U.S. to transfer immigrants taken into custody within the U.S. to these three countries.

Japan supports efforts to establish democracy in Central American countries, and dispatched personnel to the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) during the presidential elections in Guatemala in June and

August. 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

The new constitution was promulgated in April, and President Díaz-Canel and Prime Minister Marrero were respectively elected in October and December, building the new system under the new constitution. On the other hand, socialism and the single-party leadership system under the Communist Party continued, and no major changes can be seen in government administration and policy direction. Relations with the U.S., attracting foreign investment, and fostering domestic industries will continue to be challenges. 2019 was the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cuba, and in commemoration of that, mutual visits of dignitaries were made, including the visits to Cuba by Special Envoy to the Prime Minister Furuya Keiji (member of the House of Representatives) and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto, and many events were held in both countries.

## (4) Brazil

Following the formation of his administration, President Bolsonaro, who was inaugurated in



Japan-Brazil Summit Meeting  
(October 23, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

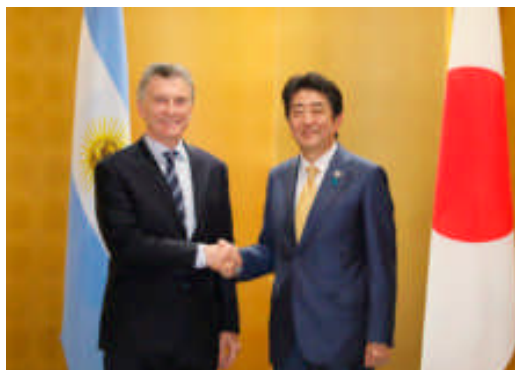
January, began to implement various policies, including streamlining government organizations, which he raised as campaign promises. As part of these efforts, he submitted a bill to the Congress of the Union to reform the pension system and eliminate the budget deficit, which was passed in October. The direction of economic reform has led to a favorable market perception, and Brazil's stock market set a new record. In terms of foreign policy, Brazil has shifted its policy of placing importance on relations with developing countries under the Worker's Party that had continued since the 2000s, and now places importance on strengthening relations with developed countries such as Japan and the U.S.

In terms of relations with Japan, immediately following the inauguration of President Bolsonaro in January, a Japan-Brazil Summit Meeting was held on the margins of the World Economic Forum (Davos), and the two leaders agreed to further promote bilateral relations in a wide range of fields. In addition, President Bolsonaro visited Japan twice, in order to attend the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October. Japan-Brazil Summit Meetings were held during his visits. Three summit meetings were held during the year, an unprecedented frequency in recent years, which attest to the strong bilateral relations between Japan and Brazil.

### (5) Argentina

Although President Macri, who was inaugurated in 2015, promoted liberal economic reform, the economy did not change for the better and he was defeated during the presidential election in October 2019. The Fernández administration, which was inaugurated in December, criticized the previous administration's economic policies as being too liberal, and is advocating for equitable development and the protection of the vulnerable population.

In terms of relations with Japan, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with President Macri



Japan-Argentina Summit Meeting  
(June 27, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

when he attended the G20 Osaka Summit in June, and the two leaders agreed to strengthen bilateral relations.

### (6) Peru

Under the Vizcarra administration, the Peruvian economy is maintaining firm growth. On the other hand, as President Vizcarra does not have a political base in Congress, he dissolved it in September in a context of conflict, and announced that an election for the members of Congress would be held in January 2020.

In terms of relations with Japan, a foreign ministers' meeting was held in May, where the two leaders confirmed that Japan and Peru are strategic partners that share universal values with over 140 years of diplomatic relations. The "Tax Convention between Japan and the Republic of Peru" was signed in November.

### (7) Chile

President Piñera has worked on education and pension reform improvements, placing importance on economic measures to spur economic growth. However, motivated by the raising of subway fares in October, anti-government activities increased that called for eliminating disparities, parts of which led to riots and clashes with security forces. Due to the effects of this, the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and APEC Ministerial Meeting as well as the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Special  
Feature

## 120th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino's Visit to Peru and Bolivia

At the invitation of the Governments of Peru and Bolivia, Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino visited the two countries from July 9 to 20 to attend the commemorative ceremonies marking the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to these countries.

Today, approximately 100,000 and 13,000 Nikkei people (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) are in Peru and Bolivia respectively. They are active and successful in every sphere of life in both countries.

On April 3, 1899, 790 Japanese nationals on board the "Sakura Maru" arrived at the Port of Callao in Peru, and settled in the country as contract workers in the agricultural sector. Of those 790 Japanese, 91 people who could not withstand the harsh environment of sugar cane fields crossed the border in September the same year to neighboring Bolivia, where they took up work in rubber plantations of San Antonio, north of La Paz. This was the start of Japanese migration to Bolivia.

Thereafter, as both Peru and Bolivia joined the Allied Powers in World War II, the Japanese nationals and Nikkei people living in the two countries suffered from many hardships throughout this period, such as prohibition of the use of the Japanese language, closure of Japanese schools, and freezing of their assets, until diplomatic relations between Japan and the two countries were restored in 1952. After the war, second- and third-generation Nikkei people in Peru adapted quickly to the Peruvian society through education in local schools, and gradually expanded their activities across a wide spectrum of Peruvian society. As for Bolivia, from 1954, Japanese migrants from Okinawa Prefecture, who had settled in Bolivia through financial assistance provided by the U.S. Government to the Government of the Ryukyu Islands at the time, established Colonia Okinawa. In addition, 1,684 people were resettled in Colonia San Juan as part of the systematic migration program implemented by the Government of Japan.

Today, Nikkei people in both countries have won the trust of the local governments and the peoples. They have taken on important roles in various fields, and serve as a bridge connecting Japan with the two countries.

In light of this historical background, during Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino's visit to Peru and Bolivia in 2019, Her Imperial Highness visited the Japanese Peruvian Association (Asociación Peruano Japonesa) and other Nikkei-related facilities in Lima, the capital of Peru, as well as the Japanese Association in La Paz, the Santa Cruz Japanese Social Center, Colonia San Juan, and Colonia Okinawa in Bolivia, amongst other places. 2019 being a special year, members of the Nikkei communities in both countries worked with ardor on preparations for the commemorative ceremonies and other events for the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration. During all these events, Her Imperial Highness interacted in a warm and friendly manner with members of the Nikkei communities, leaving everyone greatly moved by the experience.

Her Imperial Highness' visit to Peru and Bolivia during the milestone year of the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration, was truly an opportune event that will further promote friendly relations between Japan and the two countries going forward, and establish strong bonds that can be passed on to future generations.



Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino being welcomed at the venue of the commemorative ceremony for the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Peru (July 10, Lima, Peru; Photo: Peru Shimpo)



Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino gracing the commemorative ceremony for the 120th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Bolivia (July 17, Santa Cruz, Bolivia)



Japan-Chile Summit Meeting (August 25, Biarritz, France;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Convention on Climate Change (COP25) that were scheduled to be held in Chile were cancelled.

In terms of relations with Japan, in addition to President Piñera's visit to Japan in June to attend the G20 Osaka Summit as well as the Japan-Chile Summit Meeting held during the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August, a foreign ministers' meeting was held with Foreign Minister Ribera who visited Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November. On these occasions, close cooperation was confirmed toward strengthening bilateral relations and promoting free trade.

### (8) Uruguay

Taking into account that Prime Minister Abe made the first ever visit by a Japanese prime minister to Uruguay in December 2018, Japan and Uruguay mutually lifted bans on the other country's beef exports in February 2019. In addition, relations have grown closer in multifaceted ways in recent years, including signing the Tax Convention between Japan and Uruguay in September. The National Party, the opposition party, won the presidential election held in November, and candidate Lacalle Pou was elected to be the next president. President Lacalle Pou was inaugurated in March 2020, marking a change for the first time in 15 years from a leftist administration to a centrist administration.

### (9) Paraguay

The Abdo Benítez administration is continuing to maintain its free and open economic policies. In 2019, commemorating the centenary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Paraguay, there were visits to Paraguay by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji in March and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Omi Asako in December, and Vice President Velázquez visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October. Through these visits by dignitaries, bilateral relations were advanced further. (see the Column on page 110)



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Omi planting a tree at the ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Paraguay (December 19, Paraguay)

### (10) Colombia

President Duque, who was inaugurated in August 2018, is working on social reintegration while aiming to partially revise the peace agreement in Colombia.<sup>3</sup> In addition, 2019 marked the 90th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Colombia. A commemorative ceremony was held in October in the city of Santiago de Cali, which was attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Omi on behalf of the Government of Japan. Foreign Minister Trujillo visited Japan in October to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and a

<sup>3</sup> Then-President Santos started the peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest guerrilla organization in Colombia, in 2012 in order to end the domestic strife that had lasted for over half a century. The peace agreement was announced in 2016.

## Column

## 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Paraguay

What are some of the things that come to mind when you hear about Paraguay? You may think of the legendary Paraguayan goalkeeper José Luis Chilavert, or the intense soccer matches between the Japanese team and the Paraguayan team in the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Japan concluded a treaty of commerce with Paraguay in 1919, and in 2019, the two countries celebrated the centenary of their diplomatic relations.

Over the past century, Japan-Paraguay relations progressed significantly. In 1936, the first group of Japanese migrants settled in Paraguay and contributed greatly to the development of the country, particularly in the agricultural sector. Today, approximately 10,000 Nikkei people (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) continue to play an active role in the Paraguayan community. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, bean curd (*tofu*) made from 1 million tons of soybeans sent by the Japanese community of Paraguay was delivered to the disaster areas, bringing joy to those affected by the disaster. Moreover, Paraguay has continued to achieve robust economic growth in recent years under an open economic policy, and the number of Japanese companies expanding their businesses into the Paraguayan market has more than doubled over the past six years. In August 2019, a business mission to Paraguay from Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), among other initiatives, drew the attention of the Japanese business circles to Paraguay. Furthermore, Japan has, for many years, been providing “visible” support to Paraguay in aspects of economic cooperation, such as infrastructure development, human resource development, and cooperation through NGOs. Through these efforts, Paraguay has become one of the most prominent countries with great affinity toward Japan in Latin America. Against the backdrop of this close and friendly bilateral relationship, Vice President Velázquez and his wife attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden and the Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement held in October, and offered their congratulations and well wishes for the enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor.

In December 2018, ahead of the centenary, Prime Minister Abe visited Paraguay, marking the very first visit by a Prime Minister of Japan to the country. At the Summit Meeting with President Abdo Benitez, the two leaders agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations and promote cooperation in the international fora. They also announced and presented the logo for the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Then throughout 2019, many commemorative events were held in Japan and Paraguay. In Paraguay, starting with the 100th anniversary kickoff event (March) attended by then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto, more than 60 commemorative events were held including public performances of Japanese court music, Japanese festivals, and Japanese drum (*wadaiko*) concerts. The commemorative events held in Japan included an exhibition of Ñanduti (a form of traditional embroidery from Paraguay), performances of the Paraguayan harp (*arpa*), and classical guitar concerts. These commemorative events provided opportunities for citizens from both countries to gain exposure to their respective cultures, have fun, and deepen mutual understanding. In December, a commemorative ceremony, attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Omi Asako, was held in Paraguay as the finale to the 100th anniversary events, bringing the year-long anniversary project to a close.



The logo for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Paraguay. Based on the motif of Paraguay's traditional lace embroidery craft Nanduti, the logo embodies the interwoven history of the two countries, as well as the new future that they will weave going forward.



Scene at a cultural event in Japan (May 3, Tokyo Photo: Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay in Japan)



Scene of Japanese festival in Paraguay (November 9, Asunción, Paraguay)

Japan and Paraguay are far from each other geographically, but are important partners that share the universal values of liberty, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Looking ahead to the next 100 years, the two countries will continue to further deepen the bonds that were strengthened during the celebratory year of the centennial across a wide range of fields including politics, economy, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.



Japan-Colombia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 21, Tokyo)

foreign ministers' meeting was held.

### (11) Venezuela

The inauguration ceremony for President Maduro was held in January 2019 amidst doubts about the legitimacy of the presidential election held in May 2018. During the same month, the President of the National Assembly Guaidó (opposition party) was sworn in as Interim President based on the provisions of the constitution, which intensified conflict between the administration and the opposition party. In addition, many Venezuelans flowed into neighboring countries as refugees and migrants due to effects such as hyperinflation. Receiving them has become a regional challenge. Japan supports Interim President Guaidó, calling for a free and fair presidential election to be expeditiously held, and is providing support to the people in Venezuela including refugees, as well as affected neighboring countries, such as Colombia.

### (12) Bolivia

During the presidential election held in October, protests intensified due to suspicions of election fraud by the incumbent President Morales. After President Morales announced his resignation in November and sought exile abroad, the Second Vice President of the Senate Áñez assumed the post of Interim President. Another presidential election is scheduled to be held in 2020 under Interim President Áñez.

### (13) Ecuador

Liberalization of the economy is progressing under President Moreno. Due to the elimination of gasoline subsidies as budget cut measures, anti-government activities occurred throughout Ecuador in October, but have wound down as of the end of 2019. In terms of relations with Japan, Foreign Minister Valencia visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October.

### (14) Collaboration with Nikkei Communities

The Nikkei community has fostered a sense of affinity toward Japan in LAC countries. Nevertheless, generations have transitioned over 100 years since Japanese immigration to LAC began, and the younger generation with relatively little connection to Japan is growing in number. Amid this situation, in addition to inviting young Nikkei people to visit Japan, Japan also implements measures toward strengthening cooperation with Nikkei communities, including providing support for holding events by young Nikkei people in various countries and support for creating networks among young Nikkei people. Furthermore, Japan is working on cooperation with Nikkei communities that transcends national borders, including dispatching the Ambassador for Cooperation with Central and South American Nikkei Communities to attend the Convention of Pan American Nikkei



Courtesy call to Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishimura Akihiro by a delegation of Next Leaders of Nikkei Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (October 4, Tokyo)



(COPANI) held in San Francisco in the U.S. in September, and holding exchanges of views with

Central and South American Nikkei participants.

## Section 4

# Europe

### 1 Overview

<The Importance of Cooperation with Europe, with which Japan Shares Fundamental Values and Principles>

The European Union (EU) and European countries are important partners for Japan, and share fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. It is necessary more than ever before for Japan to cooperate with them on the various issues that the international community faces today.

In addition, European countries pursue common policies across a wide range of fields such as diplomacy and security, economy, and state finance, through various frameworks including the EU. They also play a major role in formulating standards in the international community through major international frameworks such as the United Nations Security Council, the G7, the G20, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). They also continue to have considerable influence on international opinion with a background of their language, history, culture, artistic activities, as well as major media organizations and think tanks.

<Europe Working to Overcome Issues Amid Growing Fluidity>

For Europe, 2019 was a year in which developments were seen toward overcoming issues amid the growing fluidity of the situation. While the two major parties (the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)) did not secure a combined majority in the European Parliament election held in May, centrist and environmental parties, such as La République En Marche! led by President Macron of France, increased their seats, which decentralized power in the European Parliament. Although there were some views that forecast Eurosceptic parties to increase their number of seats, the parties only saw a slight increase in seats. After the election, the selection of main leadership of the EU was not directed by Germany and France as it had been before, alterations at the leader level continued, with Hungary, Poland, and other countries requesting an independent position as the Visegrad Group (V4) (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland). As a result, the new EU leadership was elected at the Special Meeting of the European Council in July and appointed in December, including President of the European Commission von der Leyen and President of the European Council Michel.

With regard to Brexit, a central theme in EU politics, the House of Commons of the UK repeatedly

rejected the Withdrawal Agreement. However, as a result of the general election in December in which the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister Johnson acquired an overall majority, the Withdrawal Agreement Bill was approved in the UK Parliament in January 2020, and ultimately Brexit was realized based on mutual agreement between the UK and the EU. Due to this, the EU experienced the first decrease in its member countries in history. The transition period, in which the UK still continues to be treated as a member of the EU after Brexit, began in February 2020. The transition period will last until the end of 2020, during which negotiations are being held toward concluding international agreements setting out the new framework for the future relationship between the UK and the EU (the transition period can be extended once, for up to two years by mutual consent of the UK and the EU).

With regard to the process of expanding the EU member countries, there has been a strengthening inward-looking trend within the EU against the backdrop of Brexit and other developments. At the European Council in October, an agreement was not reached on discussions concerning the negotiations for North Macedonia and Albania to join the EU. As for security, division can be seen among European countries, some of which are highly wary of Russia, including the Baltic States, Eastern European countries, and some Nordic countries, and some of which are not. Differences of positions by countries can also be seen concerning relations between Europe and the U.S. and China, as well as the response to the immigration issue. In this way, today's Europe is a mosaic comprising countries with various positions. Amid this, in the post-Brexit EU, the voices calling for the unified Europe with stronger presence have been heard and it has become its major agenda.

#### <Relations with Countries and Regions Outside Europe>

Relations with Russia, including the issue of Ukraine, have serious implications for Europe's

security environment, and remains a critical issue for Europe. In addition, China is strengthening its influence on Central and Eastern European countries through the "17+1" framework (a cooperative framework between China and Central and Eastern European countries) under the One Belt, One Road Initiative. In response, the European Commission and High Representative Mogherini of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued the "Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council: EU-China - A Strategic Outlook" in March, and for the first time described China as a "systemic rival," together with describing China as a "cooperation partner," a "negotiating partner," and a "competitor." In addition, a growing sense of caution can be seen in the field of economic security, including the announcement by the European Commission recommendation on cybersecurity of 5G (fifth generation mobile communication systems) networks in March, and the entry into force of the EU's investment screening system in April. Moreover, a path still cannot be seen toward conclusion of trade negotiations with the U.S.

#### <Diplomacy to Europe, Which Increasingly Has a "Mosaic" of Differing Positions>

As European countries increasingly have a "mosaic" of differing positions, Japan supports a strongly unified Europe and is attentively developing diplomacy with them.

Between the EU and Japan, the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force in February, and the provisional application of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) began. The Japan-EU EPA clearly demonstrates to the world the unwavering political will of Japan and the EU to lead the world against the spreading movement of protectionism in the world. The Japan-EU 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.



Prime Minister Abe giving the keynote speech at the Europa Connectivity Forum (September 27, Brussels, Belgium; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

At the first Joint Committee of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) held in Tokyo in March, Japan and the EU confirmed cooperation on sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure as well as global issues. At the Europa Connectivity Forum held in September in Brussels, Belgium, Prime Minister Abe and President Juncker of the European Commission gave the keynote speeches. Prime Minister Abe emphasized that Japan and the EU would cooperate in fields of connectivity between Asia and Europe. He also signed a document at the summit level establishing cooperation to strengthen connectivity in regions such as the west Balkans and the Indo-Pacific.

With the new EU leaders, Prime Minister Abe had a Japan-EU Summit Telephone Call with President of the European Commission von der Leyen in December immediately following her appointment, and held a meeting with President of the European Council Michel prior to his appointment when he was Prime Minister of Belgium during the UN General Assembly in September. In this way, 2019 was a year in which Japan-EU relations were further strengthened and made closer.

For relations with the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, lively exchanges were held at high levels, including the summit and foreign minister levels. For the UK, Prime Minister Abe visited the country in January. He and Prime Minister May issued the Japan-UK Joint Statement with eyes

toward post-Brexit, and confirmed strengthening cooperation toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).” They also had summit meetings at the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the G7 Summit in Biarritz, France in August. For France, Prime Minister Abe visited the country in April, issued the Roadmap on Japan-France Cooperation for Opening New Horizons between Japan and France under an Exceptional Partnership (2019-2023) when President Macron visited Japan ahead of the G20 Osaka Summit in June, and also held a summit meeting with President Macron during the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August. For Germany, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with Chancellor Merkel when she visited Japan in February, and also held summit meetings with her during the G20 Osaka Summit in June and the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August. Through these and other opportunities, cooperation toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” was confirmed. For Italy, Prime Minister Abe visited the country in April, and he and Prime Minister Conte agreed to cooperate toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

As for relations with other European countries and other regional frameworks in Europe, Prime Minister Abe continued to promote through holding meetings and other occasions the Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue, which he launched to advance overall cooperation with three Baltic States in 2018, as well as the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative, which supports the economic and social reform of the Western Balkans that have been seeking accession to the EU. In addition, for relations with the V4, the Third “Visegrad Group plus Japan” Summit Meeting was held in Slovakia when Prime Minister Abe visited Europe in April 2019. Prime Minister Orbán of Hungary and Prime Minister Morawiecki of Poland also visited Japan in December 2019 and January 2020 respectively, and Prime Minister Abe held summit meetings with them.

Furthermore, during the Rugby World Cup 2019 held in Japan from September to November,

dignitaries including royalty and ministers from the UK, Ireland, and other countries visited Japan. Dignitaries including royalty and ministers from 53 countries and regions such as Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucus visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Among them, Prime Minister Abe held meetings with dignitaries from 27 countries and Foreign Minister Motegi held meetings with dignitaries from four countries. In November, His Holiness Pope Francis was the second pope to visit Japan in history following the visit 38 years before by Pope John Paul II (see the Column on page 123).

In addition to the above, Japan is actively involved in public diplomacy activities including dispatching experts and “MIRAI,” a program for personal and intellectual exchange that allows young people from Europe and other regions to visit Japan to make the real picture of Japan and Asia well known and promote mutual understanding. Through these efforts, Japan is maintaining and strengthening close, multilayered connections with European countries and organizations in a wide range of fields such as politics, security, economy, business, science and technology, education, and culture.

## 2 Regional Situations in Europe

### (1) The European Union (EU)

The EU is a political and economic union consisting of 27 member states with a total population of about 446 million. Sharing fundamental values and principles, the EU is an important partner for Japan in addressing global issues.

#### <Recent Developments of the EU>

2019 was a year of change for the EU. While the two major parties (the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)) did not secure a combined majority in the European Parliament election held in May, centrist and environmental

parties generally increased their seats, which decentralized power in the European Parliament. Due to the election results, the main leadership of the EU underwent changes at the summit level. The new EU leadership was elected at the Special Meeting of the European Council in July, including President of the European Commission von der Leyen and President of the European Council Michel. However, the inauguration of the new European Commission was delayed one month later than planned to December because the European Parliament did not acknowledge some of the European Commission candidates. President of the European Council Michel assumed his position in December as planned.

With regard to Brexit negotiations, which started in June 2017, following three postponements and the UK general election, the UK withdrew from the EU, based on mutual agreement between the UK and the EU at the end of January 2020. The transition period, in which following Brexit the UK still continues to be treated as a member of the EU, began in February 2020. The transition period will last until the end of 2020, during which negotiations are being held toward conclusion of international agreements setting out the new framework for the future relationship between the UK and the EU (the transition period can be extended once for up to two years by mutual consent of the UK and the EU).

On the economic front, amidst high uncertainty around the world, the Eurozone economy had a weak growth rate in 2019 due to deceleration of world trade.

#### <Japan-EU Relations>

In 2019, Japan-EU relations acquired new legal foundations for cooperation through the entry into force of the Japan-EU EPA in February and the start of the provisional application of the Japan-EU SPA. At the 26th Japan-EU Summit held in April, in addition to the affirmation of cooperation toward the G20 Osaka Summit, the entry into force of the Japan-EU EPA was welcomed with a

confirmation of further strengthening the relations for free trade, and cooperation toward implementation of the Japan-EU SPA was confirmed.

At the Europa Connectivity Forum held in September in Brussels, Belgium, Prime Minister Abe and President Juncker of the European Commission gave the keynote speeches, signed a document entitled “The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the European Union,” and confirmed connectivity-related cooperation between Japan and the EU.

In addition, with the new EU leaders, Prime Minister Abe had a Japan-EU Summit Telephone Call with President of the European Commission von der Leyen in December immediately following her appointment, and held a meeting with President of the European Council Michel prior to his appointment when he was Prime Minister of Belgium during the UN General Assembly in September. In addition, close dialogues were held with foreign ministers. The G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in Dinard, France in April, the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in August, the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and the Japan-EU Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held during the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in December.

On the economic front, the Japan-EU EPA entered into force on February 1, resulting in the birth of a large economic sphere covering about 600 million people and about 30% of the world’s GDP. The first meeting of the Japan-EU EPA Joint Committee was held in April in Tokyo. The co-chairs Foreign Minister Kono and Dr. Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade, took stock of the status of implementation of the EPA and discussed future initiatives to further promote trade between Japan and the EU. At the dinner held for the meeting of the Joint Committee, they also discussed the approach to future Japan-EU cooperation based on the EPA, in other words, on the topic of “beyond EPA.” In addition, the first meetings of the specialized

committees and working groups covering 12 fields established under the EPA were held in Tokyo and Brussels respectively in succession. Together, with taking stock of the implementation status and sharing matters of interest of both sides toward steady implementation in each field, discussions are conducted on future initiatives between Japan and the EU as well as cooperative systems. Going forward, centered on the EPA Joint Committee, the aims are to show the world policies to handle various issues and further develop Japan-EU economic relations by ensuring steady implementation of the EPA through the specialized committees and by linking the specialized committees and existing Japan-EU dialogue frameworks in a coordinated way.

## (2) United Kingdom

With regard to Brexit, as a result of intense debates in the UK House of Commons on the draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the framework for the future relationship agreed upon by the UK and the EU in November 2018, the withdrawal deadline (the end of March 2019) was extended to the end of October 2019. In addition, following increasing pressure against her from inside and outside the government, in May, Prime Minister May announced that she was resigning from her post as Leader of the Conservative Party. She stepped down in June and a party leadership election was held.

Prime Minister Johnson, who assumed his position in July after the party leadership election, negotiated with the EU while aiming to achieve Brexit by the end of October. In October, the UK and the EU agreed on a revised Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration. On the other hand, the House of Commons of the UK did not approve the draft Withdrawal Agreement, and passed a bill to require the government to ask the EU for an extension of the withdrawal deadline to the end of January 2020. In the end, the EU agreed to the UK government’s request, and the withdrawal deadline was extended to the end of

January 2020.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Johnson, who aims to deliver Brexit, sought a general election to ask the will of the nation, and it was held in December 2019. The result was that the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister Johnson secured an overall majority (365 out of 650 seats). After the general election, the UK government submitted a bill to implement the draft Withdrawal Agreement, and it was passed in January 2020. Subsequently, the draft Withdrawal Agreement was approved by the European Parliament, and in the same month, after three years and seven months since the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU (June 2016), Brexit was realized. In regard to the future relationship between the EU and the UK, including economic relations, negotiations will be held during the transition period until the end of 2020, and their results could have a major impact on the world economy as well as Japan's economy.

On the economic front, the situation on the Brexit negotiations between the UK and the EU continues to have impact in the form of uncertainty risks. The economic growth rate from July-September 2019 became low at 1.1% compared with the same quarter a year ago. During the period of August-October 2019, the unemployment rate reached its lowest level of 3.8% since the mid-1970s. The inflation rate in October 2019 fell to the lowest level since November 2016 at 1.5% year-on-year. The policy interest rate was raised to 0.75% in August 2018 and unchanged in 2019.

The UK is strengthening its engagement with the Indo-Pacific region bearing Brexit in mind. Japan and the UK have made progress in policy coordination and exchange at various levels, including the summit and foreign minister levels, and bilateral relations have deepened. Prime Minister Abe visited the UK in January and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister May. The leaders confirmed great development in Japan-UK relations since Prime Minister May's visit to Japan



Japan-UK Summit Meeting (August 26, Biarritz, France;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

in August 2017 and issued the Japan-UK Joint Statement confirming that they would strengthen cooperation toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” and cooperation toward maintaining and expanding the rules-based, open and free trade system. In addition, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with Prime Minister May when she visited Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit in June, and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Johnson during the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August. In December, Prime Minister Abe had a telephone call with Prime Minister Johnson after his victory in the general election, and reaffirmed that Japan and the UK would advance cooperation toward establishing a new economic partnership between Japan and the UK after the UK's withdrawal from the EU and toward achieving a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

During the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings in August, Foreign Minister Kono held a foreign ministers' meeting with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Raab. In September, Foreign Minister Motegi met with Secretary of State for International Trade Truss, who was visiting Japan, and signed and exchanged letters concerning mutual recognition between Japan and the UK, keeping in mind the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

In the area of security and defense, the British Royal Navy frigate HMS Montrose visited Japan in March, and conducted a Japan-UK-U.S. joint exercise (the sea and airspace in the south of Honshu) with the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and

the U.S. Navy. In March, through the cooperation between the MSDF supply ship AOE Oumi and the UK Royal Navy frigate HMS Montrose, a highly suspicious case of a ship-to-ship transfer by a North Korean flagged tanker, which is prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions, was confirmed in the high seas of the East China Sea. In October, the survey vessel HMS Enterprise visited Japan and a Japan-UK joint exercise (in the sea in the south of the Kanto area) was conducted. In addition, from September to October, the Vigilant Isles 19 joint exercise was conducted in the UK by the UK Army and the Ground Self-Defense Force. These exercises demonstrated progress in Japan-UK security and defense cooperation in their relationship as the closest security partners in Asia and Europe.

With regard to culture, various events are taking place in Japan and the UK as part of the “Japan-UK Season of Culture 2019-2020,” the period which bridges the two major sports events: the Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

### (3) France

Since he took office in May 2017, President Macron has promoted various reforms such as reform of the parliamentary system and reform of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF), and he has achieved success in improving the unemployment rate and keeping the budget deficit below 3% of the GDP. On the other hand, the government’s decision on fuel tax increase in November 2018 brought about large-scale demonstrations known as the “yellow vests movement,” which spread across France as demonstrations appealing for correction of disparities, and led to some extremist riots. To listen to the discontent and requests of the citizens indicated by the “yellow vests movement,” President Macron implemented the “grand débat” to have direct dialogue himself with citizens throughout France from January to March 2019, which resulted in improving his approval rating which



Japan-France Joint Press Conference  
(June 26, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

had been on a downward trend. On the other hand, in December, labor unions for railroads, teachers, and others opposed the pension system reform proposal, one of President Macron’s commitments, and large-scale strikes took place throughout France. With respect to external affairs, France held the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August as the G7 Presidency with the theme of “fight against inequalities.” France continued to raise the banner for multilateralism at various international meetings, and showed leadership for addressing climate change, commerce and trade issues and promoting EU integration, and more.

As for Japan-France bilateral relations, a large-scale project featuring Japanese culture, titled “Japonismes 2018,” was held from July 2018 to February 2019, and was attended by over 3.5 million people. With regard to exchanges among key officials, Foreign Minister Kono visited Brest, France in January and held the fifth Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting (“2 + 2”) with Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Le Drian and others. They agreed to establish the Japan-France Comprehensive Maritime Dialogue and to hold a joint exercise between the French navy aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and the MSDF. In May, the Japan-France-US-Australia joint exercise La Perouse was held in the Bay of Bengal. In April, Prime Minister Abe visited France, held a summit meeting with President Macron, and confirmed close cooperation toward resolving various issues faced by the international community as the Chairs of the G20 and the G7



respectively. In June ahead of the G20 Osaka Summit, at the summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Macron, who was paying an Official Visit to Japan, the Roadmap on Japan-France Cooperation for Opening New Horizons between Japan and France under an Exceptional Partnership (2019-2023) was issued, and the leaders agreed to promote concrete cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region by Japan and France, which are both maritime nations and Indo-Pacific nations. In addition, Prime Minister Abe visited France to attend the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August, and held his third summit meeting with President Macron in the year. In September, the 1st Japan-France Comprehensive Maritime Dialogue was held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, and there were exchanges of views regarding the possibility of future initiatives and cooperation by both countries in maritime governance, the environment, maritime security, the blue economy, and science fields.

#### (4) Germany

In Germany, beginning with the Bremen state election at the end of May, state elections were held in a total of four states. In these state elections as well as in the European Parliament election held on the same day as the Bremen state election, the approving rates of the two major parties (the federal grand coalition consisting of the Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD)) have declined. A trend was observed that Alliance 90/The Greens took a great leap in the approving rate in urban areas in former West Germany while Alternative for Germany (AfD) did so in former East Germany.

Due to the resignation of SPD party leader Nahles in early June, the SPD, forming the grand coalition, together with the CDU/CSU underwent an approximately half-year process, and at the party convention in December, Bundestag member Esken and former Finance Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Walter-Borjans were



Japan-Germany Summit Meeting (February 4, Tokyo;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

elected as co-leaders of the party. As the elected leaders were skeptic of the grand coalition, it was expected at first that the group which supports the withdrawal from the grand coalition would gain power. However, there were strong views calling for restraint on the moves to withdraw from the grand coalition within the SPD party leadership and the Bundestag SPD faction, and the withdrawal was not decided at the party convention. Since the party convention, the SPD approval rating has continued to be low in public opinion polls, and the future of the grand coalition remains uncertain.

With regard to Japan-Germany bilateral relations in 2019, high-level exchanges were held actively, including President Steinmeier's visit to Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in addition to three summit meetings and four foreign ministers' meetings. Chancellor Merkel visited Japan in February and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition to confirming cooperation toward achievement of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," the leaders affirmed strengthening joint research in economic areas on automated driving, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT). In addition, foreign ministers' meetings were held on the sidelines of the multilateral meetings such as the Munich Security Conference (February), the G7 Dinard Foreign Ministers' Meeting (April), and the Stockholm Ministerial Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (June). In addition to bilateral relations,

there were exchanges of views on international situations such as peace and stability in Africa and the situation in Iran. In November, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Maas visited Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting and had his first foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

### (5) Italy

The alliance of the ruling coalition party composed of the Five Star Movement and the League was dissolved in August due to internal conflict. However, in September, the Five Star Movement and the Democratic Party formed an alliance and the second Conte Cabinet was inaugurated.

Prime Minister Abe visited Italy in April. In addition to his courtesy call to President Mattarella, he held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Conte, welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, and confirmed strengthening of relations in a wide range of areas. During the meeting, Prime Minister Conte expressed his support for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and both leaders confirmed cooperation toward forming specific projects together. The same cooperation was confirmed at the foreign ministers' meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Moavero Milanesi, who was visiting Japan, in June. There were also other active exchanges among key officials, including the visit to Japan by Prime Minister Conte to attend the G20 Osaka



Japan-Italy Summit Meeting (April 24, Rome, Italy)  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Summit and Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Italy to attend an international meeting in August.

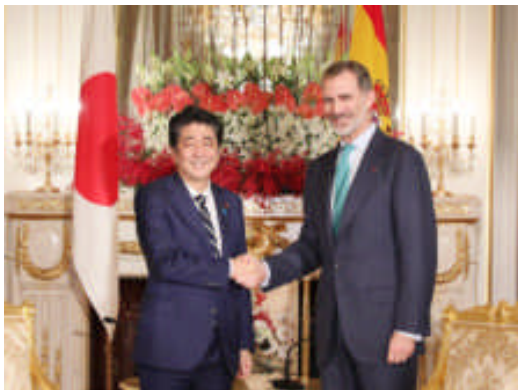
### (6) Vatican

In November, His Holiness Pope Francis visited Japan (the second papal visit in history since the visit by Pope John Paul II 38 years ago). In addition to the meeting with Prime Minister Abe, he delivered a message toward the realization of "a world without nuclear weapons" in Nagasaki and Hiroshima (see the Column on page 123).

### (7) Spain

Although the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) became the leading party in the parliamentary election in April, it did not secure a majority, and acting Prime Minister Sanchez did not gain the confidence. Following the agreement to form a coalition between PSOE, which had maintained its status as top party in the second parliamentary election in November, and the radical left-wing Unidas Podemos, Prime Minister Sanchez was reappointed in January 2020 and formed the first political coalition government after Spain's democratization.

Prime Minister Sanchez visited Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit in June, and shared the view with Prime Minister Abe to work closely in the G20. In October, Prime Minister Abe met with His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, who visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Foreign Minister Motegi held a foreign ministers' meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Borrell, who had accompanied His Majesty King Felipe VI, and they shared the view on strengthening their relations in a variety of areas including corporate cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. In November, the 21st Japan-Spain Symposium was held in Castellón, Valencia themed on "society 5.0: a human-centered technology society," for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding between both countries and strengthening cooperative relations. During the symposium, candid exchanges



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain (October 21, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of views were held based on the perspectives of both the government and the private sector.

### (8) Ukraine

After the primary vote of the presidential election held in March following the end of the term of President Poroshenko resulted in candidates Zelenskyy (30.24%) and Poroshenko (15.95%) as the top two candidates, the final ballot was held in April. Candidate Zelenskyy (73.22%) won against candidate Poroshenko (24.45%), and took office as the new President on May 20. President Zelenskyy announced the dissolution of the Ukrainian Parliament immediately following his inauguration as President. In the parliamentary election that was brought up to be held in July, the Servant of the People Party led by President Zelenskyy secured a majority of seats to become the sole ruling party. The new Honcharuk government was formed through the new parliament in August.

President Zelenskyy announced his stance for dialogue with Russia to break the ongoing unstable deadlock accompanying the lack of a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine. Following multiple telephone summit calls with President Putin, in September, there was an exchange of 35 detainees each held by both Ukraine and Russia, including 24 people detained near the Kerch Strait in November 2018. Resolution efforts are being conducted toward implementation of the Minsk Agreements, including agreement on the “Steinmeier Formula” in October that prescribes the sequence of holding local elections and the entry into force of laws on special order in the occupied territories in eastern Ukraine. The Normandy Format (France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine) summit meeting was held for the first time in about three years in December. Together, with agreeing to a complete ceasefire within the year, it was decided to continue coordination toward holding another summit meeting four months later.

With regard to bilateral relations with Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji attended the Ukraine Reform Conference held in July in Toronto, Canada. He announced Japan's continued support for efforts toward internal reform of Ukraine's new administration. Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with President Zelenskyy when he visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October, and they had an exchange of views regarding matters such as the situation in Ukraine and future support for Ukraine.

## Column

## The Pope's Visit to Japan: Carrying a Message of Peace in the First Papal Visit to Japan in 38 Years

From November 23 to 26, His Holiness Pope Francis visited Japan and toured Tokyo, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima. This visit to Japan was realized in response to invitations from the Government of Japan and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, and it was only the second time in history that the Pope visited Japan since John Paul II's visit in February 1981.

To an extent that is comparable to Pope John Paul II, who was known as "the pilgrim Pope," Pope Francis has also been actively travelling around the world and placing great importance on direct communication with the people in each place he visits. This visit to Japan is his 32nd foreign trip since his inauguration in 2013.

Pope Francis commented in newspaper interview in his native Argentina, that it had become difficult to go out casually for a pizza since he became Pope. When the reporter suggested that he ordered a pizza to be delivered to the Vatican, he responded that he preferred going to eat in a pizzeria than having a takeout, and that the important thing was to go there in person. This comment provides insight on and accurately represents Pope Francis' personality.

Despite his age, 82-year old Pope Francis completed his itinerary energetically and tirelessly. After arriving in Tokyo from Thailand, in the evening of November 23, he departed from Tokyo early the next morning for day visits to Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Pope Francis with a great desire for international peace, delivered a truly powerful message toward the realization of "a world without nuclear weapons," amid the pouring rain at the Nagasaki Peace Park and at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. This message was covered in reports not only in Japan but around the world, highlighting the strong interest he had raised.

During his stay in Tokyo on November 25, Pope Francis had an audience with His Majesty the Emperor and met with Prime Minister Abe. In his speech at the Meeting with Authorities and the Diplomatic Corps (at the Prime Minister's Office), Pope Francis touched on the friendly relations between Japan and the Vatican, and said that he was impressed by the religious and ethical values that characterize Japan's cultural heritage and traditional culture. In addition, at the large-scale Mass held at Tokyo Dome on the same day, he interacted with approximately 50,000 Catholic adherents and Japanese people who had been eagerly waiting for his visit to Japan, and spoke about the importance of compassion for others.

When he departed from Japan, Pope Francis commented in the Japanese language on his personal Twitter account, which has more than 18 million followers, that he was deeply grateful to the people of Japan. This gesture made Japanese people feel even closer to him. 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the appointment of the first delegate of the Roman Curia to Japan. Taking this opportunity of the Pope's visit to Japan, we anticipate greater development in Japan-Vatican relations.



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park  
(Photo: Hiroshima Prefecture)



"Meeting with Authorities and the Diplomatic Corps"  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## Other European Regions

### [Nordic countries]

**Denmark:** After the general election in June, Leader of the Social Democratic Party Frederiksen was inaugurated as the youngest Prime Minister (41 years old) in the history of the constitutional government of Denmark, and established her new administration. In August, the general election was held in the Faroe Islands, and the new administration led by the leader of the Union Party Nielsen was established.

**Finland:** 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Finland diplomatic relations, and various commemorative events were held in both countries (see the Special Feature on page 128). In September, the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Finland on Social Security was signed. In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with President Niinistö, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Both leaders confirmed to further develop bilateral relations taking the opportunity of the 100th anniversary, as well as promoting cooperation in a wide range of areas based on the Strategic Partnership.

**Norway:** Foreign Minister Motegi held a meeting with Foreign Minister Søreide during the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in December and expressed a desire to further strengthen cooperation in the field of whaling. Both ministers confirmed to promote further cooperation in areas such as the Arctic and whaling.

**Sweden:** In April, the Agreement between Japan and the Kingdom of Sweden on Social Security was signed. In June, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with Foreign Minister Wallström during his visit to Sweden, and both ministers agreed to continue to cooperate in a wide range of areas based on the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2018. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi held a meeting with Foreign Minister Linde during the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and both ministers expressed their expectations for further developing bilateral relations including economic relations.

**Iceland:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with President Jóhannesson, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and welcomed progress of bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas such as the Arctic.

### [Benelux countries]

**The Netherlands:** In January, Prime Minister Abe visited the Netherlands, and during his summit meeting with Prime Minister Rutte, they confirmed cooperation at the G20 Osaka Summit as well as strengthening cooperation based on the Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Peace and Prosperity. In June, Prime Minister Rutte visited Japan and attended the G20 Osaka Summit. In November, Foreign Minister Motegi held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Blok, who was visiting Japan to attend the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and welcomed the prospect of introducing a Working Holiday Program, and confirmed close cooperation in a wide range of areas.

**Belgium:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Majesty King Philippe, King of the Belgians, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe stated that he would like to develop bilateral relations in a wide range of areas based on the good relationship between the Imperial Household and the Royal Household, and King Philippe stated his hopes for continued development of bilateral relations.

**Luxembourg:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe stated that he would like to develop bilateral relations in various fields, such as politics, economy, culture and people-to-people exchanges, and both confirmed cooperation toward the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

**Monaco:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with His Serene Highness Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and to attend the Rugby World Cup 2019. They exchanged views regarding favorable bilateral relations including cultural exchanges and initiatives for tackling the issue of marine plastic litter.

**Andorra:** In October, Foreign Minister Motegi held the first-ever Japan-Andorra Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Ubach Font, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. They agreed to aim for strengthening relations toward expanding exchanges in a wide range of fields such as tourism.

**Portugal:** The Assembly of the Republic election was held in October, and the second administration under Prime Minister Costa of the Socialist Party was inaugurated in the same month. 2020 marks the 160th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Amity and Commerce between Japan and Portugal.

**San Marino:** In December, the general election for the Grand and General Council was held, and in January 2020 the new government led by Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Economic Cooperation and Telecommunications Beccari was inaugurated.

**Malta:** Parliamentary exchanges were activated due to the establishment of the Parliamentary Friendship Group in both countries in 2018 and 2019. There was an official visit to Malta by the Parliamentary Union of Japanese-Maltese Friendship in 2019, and a courtesy call to President Vella.

**[Baltic countries]**

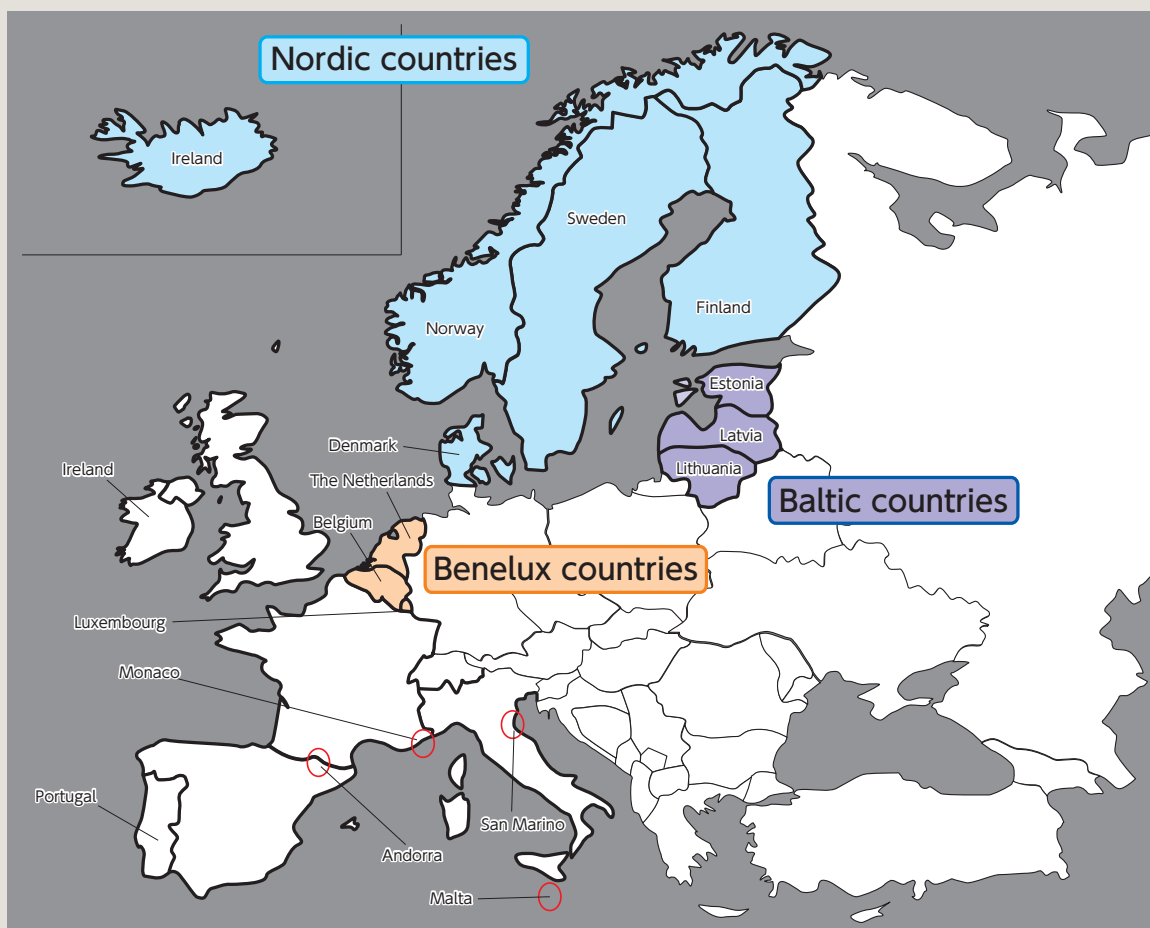
The 2nd Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue, which was established during Prime Minister Abe's visit to the three Baltic countries in January 2018, was held in September 2019 in Latvia. The views regarding matters such as strengthening connectivity leveraging advanced technologies and regional affairs were exchanged, and strengthening of cooperative relations between Japan and the Baltic countries was confirmed.

**Latvia:** In February, Foreign Minister Kono held a meeting with Foreign Minister Rinkēvičs during the Munich Security Conference, and confirmed to promote cooperation between Japan and the Baltic countries through the Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue. In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with President Leitis, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and they confirmed strengthening economic relations between both countries.

**Lithuania:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with President Nausėda, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe stated that he would like to cooperate to propagate the common values and the bond between Japan and Lithuania using the opportunity of 2020, the 80th anniversary of Mr. Sugihara Chiune's issuing of the "Visas for Life." Both leaders confirmed to further strengthen bilateral relations and to closely collaborate each other in addressing the challenges of the international community.

**Estonia:** In October, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with President Kaljulaid, who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. They confirmed on further development such as on cooperation through the Japan-Baltic Cooperation Dialogue and public-private cooperation in IT and cyber areas.

**Ireland:** In October, Prime Minister Abe received a courtesy call from Mr. O'Donovan, Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann (Speaker of the Upper House of Ireland), who was visiting Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. He praised the playing of both countries' teams during the Rugby World Cup 2019, and held an exchange of views regarding bilateral relations. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi held a foreign ministers' meeting with Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Conveny during the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and confirmed strengthening bilateral relations in a wide range of fields focused on Brexit as well as strengthening cooperation in the international arena.



**[V4]**

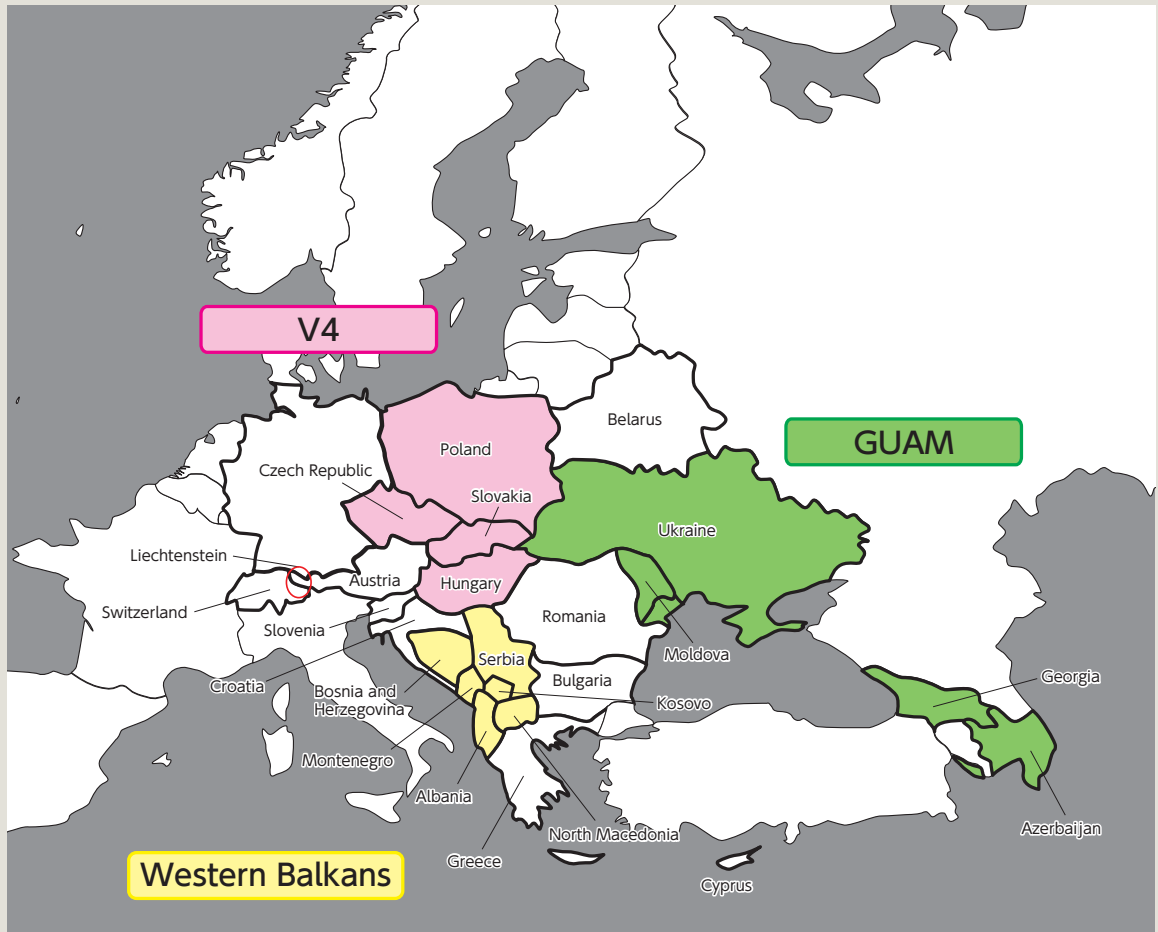
Japan places emphasis on its cooperative relationship with the Visegrád Four (V4), a regional cooperative framework comprising the four countries of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary, which are increasing their presence in Europe against the backdrop of steady economic growth. Japan-V4 cooperation was further strengthened by implementing the "V4+Japan" Seminar Regarding the Global Economy and Free Trade in April and holding the Third "Visegrad Group plus Japan" Summit Meeting during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Slovakia, continuing on from the previous year.

**Poland:** 2019 was the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Poland (see the Special Feature on page 128). In April, Prime Minister Abe held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Morawiecki in Slovakia. The parliamentary election was held in October, and the new cabinet was inaugurated under Prime Minister Morawiecki, who was reelected.

**Slovakia:** In April, Prime Minister Abe paid the first ever visit to Slovakia by a Prime Minister of Japan. He held the Third "Visegrad Group plus Japan" Summit Meeting and a Japan-Slovakia Summit Meeting in Bratislava. In September, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Lajčák visited Japan, and Foreign Minister Kono held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with him. Political dialogue was activated, including the visit to Japan by President Čaputová for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, Prime Minister Abe holding a Summit Meeting, and their agreement to strengthen cooperation toward the 100th anniversary of Japan-Slovakia exchanges in 2020.

**Czech Republic:** The Czech Republic assumed the V4 presidency from July. In 2019 there were two Summit Meetings between Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Babiš: during the visit to Slovakia by Prime Minister Abe in April and the visit to Japan by Prime Minister Babiš for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. The leaders agreed to activate bilateral exchanges toward the 100th anniversary of Japan-Czech Republic exchanges in 2020. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi held a meeting with Foreign Minister Petříček during the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and confirmed strengthening of bilateral relations and promotion of "V4+Japan" cooperation.

**Hungary:** 2019 was the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Hungary diplomatic relations (see the Special Feature on page 129). A Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held during the visit to Japan by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Szijjártó in November, and Prime Minister Orbán visited Japan in December. During the Summit Meeting, there was confirmation of further strengthening bilateral cooperation as well as the continuation and strengthening of "V4+Japan" cooperation.



### [The Western Balkans]

Although there still remains ethnic divisiveness, overall progress can be seen 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 Initiative 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 Balkan region in areas such as youth and economic exchanges. In terms of relations with Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited Serbia in August and President Thaci of Kosovo visited Japan in September. Furthermore, in October, Prime Minister Abe held meetings respectively with President Meta of Albania, President Thaci of Kosovo, President Đukanović of Montenegro, and Prime Minister Brnabić of Serbia during their visits to Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. He confirmed strengthening of bilateral relations with each country and support under the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative.

### [GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova)]

A workshop with the theme of "promotion of investment" was held in Tokyo in March. In December, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani met with Secretary General of GUAM Efendiev in Bratislava, Slovakia, and issued the "GUAM+Japan" Joint Press Release due to Japan's cooperation with GUAM thus far.

**Belarus:** There were mutual visits between Japan and Belarus including the visit to Belarus by Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura Kentaro and Minister for Reconstruction Watanabe Hiromichi in June, and the visit to Japan by Minister of Emergency Situations Vashchenko in December.

**Slovenia:** In August, Foreign Minister Kono paid the visit to Slovenia by a Japanese Foreign Minister, and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Cerar and paid a courtesy call to President Pahor. In October, President Pahor visited Japan for the first time in six years to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe met with him, and they agreed to expand government and economic relations as well as bilateral relations in science and technology areas.

**Romania:** There were meetings at the summit level during the visit to Japan by President Iohannis in October, and at the foreign minister level during the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in December, during which the both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation toward the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2021.

**Bulgaria:** In 2019, the year of "triple anniversary" - the 110th anniversary of the beginning of bilateral contacts, the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the 60th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations - Foreign Ministers' Meetings were held during the visit to Japan by Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs Zaharieva in March, and the visit to Bulgaria by Foreign Minister Kono in August. Furthermore, President Radev visited Japan in October and Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with him. They confirmed strengthening of economic relations as well as cooperation under the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative.

**Croatia:** Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Pejčinović Burić visited Japan in March, and Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Jandroković visited Japan in June. In addition, in August, Foreign Minister Kono paid the first visit to Croatia by a Japanese Foreign Minister in 24 years. He held a meeting with Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Grlić Radman, and confirmed strengthening cooperation with Croatia, the bridge between the EU and the Western Balkans.

**Austria:** 2019 was the 150th anniversary of friendship between Japan-Austria (see the Special Feature on page 129). In February, Chancellor Kurz visited Japan and Prime Minister Abe held a Summit Meeting with him. In March, Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Kneissl visited Japan to attend the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!), and met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko. In May, Parliament passed a vote of no confidence due to the scandal concerning Vice-Chancellor and the leader of the Freedom Party of Austria Strache, and an interim administration was established under the new Chancellor Bierlein. At the end of September, the National Council election was held and the Austrian People's Party led by the leader Kurz emerged victorious.

**Liechtenstein:** H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October.

**Switzerland:** In June, President and Head of the Federal Department of Finance Maurer visited Japan and Prime Minister Abe held a Summit Meeting with him. In addition, in July, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research Parmelin visited Japan, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto held an exchange of views with him.

**Greece:** In addition to the visit to Greece by Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura in June, Foreign Minister Kono held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Foreign Minister Katrougalos during his visit to Japan in June. In the general election held in July, the single-party administration led by Prime Minister Mitsotakis of the New Democracy (ND) party was inaugurated.

**Cyprus:** Continuing on from the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Cyprus in January 2018, the Embassy of Cyprus in Tokyo was opened. There are expectations for further strengthening of relations toward the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020.



Special  
Feature

## 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Poland and the 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Finland: Visit to the Two Countries by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino

Poland is one of the friendliest European countries to Japan. It has overcome a history of suffering and hardship, with its territory partitioned in the 18th century and disappearing from the world map at one point. In 1918 after the end of World War I, it regained its independence for the first time in 123 years. In March 1919, Japan became the first country in Asia to recognize the government of the Republic of Poland and establish diplomatic relations with the country.

Another country that established diplomatic relations with Japan at around the same time, in May 1919, was Finland, which had gained independence from Russia in 1917. Finland may appear to be located far away from Japan on a map, but today thanks to direct flights departing from five Japanese airports (as of December 2019) to Helsinki, its capital, Finland is the closest part of Europe for Japan as it is reachable in the shortest time. Moreover, Finland has been familiar to the Japanese people because of 'Moomin' and 'Santa Claus.'

### Visit by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino

In 2019, which marked the centenary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Poland and Finland respectively, various commemorative events were held throughout the year. Among those events, the visit by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino to the two countries (from June 27 to July 6) became a symbol of the longtime friendship that Japan has shared with the two countries.

Their Imperial Highnesses were warmly welcomed by President Duda and his wife in Poland, and by President Niinistö and his wife in Finland. In addition to deepening friendly ties through courtesy calls and luncheons, Their Imperial Highnesses also visited institutions and facilities that have close relationships with Japan as well as many places that are representative of the culture and history of each country. For example, Their Imperial Highnesses visited, in Poland, the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology (commonly known as the "Manggha Museum"), and in Finland a "neuvola" (meaning "a place for advice" in Finnish), which is a childcare support facility that is unique to the country. During these visits, Their Imperial Highnesses exchanged opinions with professionals and experts from the respective fields. In addition, at each place, Their Imperial Highnesses had heartwarming interactions with citizens and children who were there to welcome them.

The visit to Poland and Finland by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino served to reaffirm the friendship and the goodwill that have long existed between Japan and the two countries. At the same time, it also further deepened the bonds of friendship with the countries toward the next centenary, and brought forth a sense of anticipation for a bright future.



Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino paying a courtesy call on President Duda and the First Lady of Poland (June 28, Warsaw, Poland; Photo: Imperial Household Agency)



Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino paying a courtesy call on President Niinistö and the First Lady of Finland (July 3, Helsinki, Finland; Photo: Imperial Household Agency)

### Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum

In 2020, Poland and Japan celebrate the centenary of another important event. Amidst the chaos of the Russian Revolution, it was the Government of Japan and the Japanese Red Cross Society that rescued Polish orphans suffering from starvation and infectious diseases in Siberia. The 763 orphans who arrived at Tsuruga Port in Fukui Prefecture between 1920 and 1922 were provided with medical treatment in Tokyo and Osaka before returning to their home country. Tsuruga Port not only welcomed the Polish orphans; it was also the very place where

Jewish refugees who had escaped from Nazi Germany's persecution landed in the 1940s. In autumn 2020, the Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum, an archival museum in Tsuruga City that holds and provides information about these events, will be reopened after renovations are completed. The Museum will introduce the history of how Tsuruga Port welcomed many people during turbulent times, to people in Japan and abroad.

Building on the basis of trust and friendship spanning a century, Japan is beginning to carve out a new chapter in its history of friendly relations with Poland and Finland as it moves toward the next centenary. We look forward to further deepening mutual understanding with the two countries even beyond 2020.

Special Feature

### 150th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Austria and the 150th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Hungary: Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino's Visit to Austria and Hungary

2019 was a milestone year that marked 150 years since Japan concluded the "Treaty of Amity and Commerce" with Austria-Hungary (1869). In the 150 years henceforth, Japan has established a close relationship with the two countries politically and economically, as well as in a wide range of other fields including academia, culture, and sports. In 2019, various exchange events were held in Japan as well as in Austria and Hungary, and mutual understanding between their citizens was enhanced.

In this monumental year marking 150 years of friendship between Japan and Austria, and 150 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Hungary, Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino made her first official overseas visit to both countries from September 15 to 25.

Her Imperial Highness was greeted by President Alexander Van der Bellen, Chancellor Brigitte Bierlein, as well as key government officials of Austria. Reflecting on the 150 years of history between the two countries, Her Imperial Highness affirmed the importance of further developing the favorable bilateral relations. Her Imperial Highness also attended such events as the 150th anniversary reception and the commemorative ceremony for the restoration of the Japanese Garden at Schönbrunn Palace. In addition, Her Imperial Highness met with people from all walks who have been instrumental in developing the bilateral relations, and expressed her respect for their contributions to date.

In Hungary, Her Imperial Highness was welcomed by President Áder and his wife, Speaker of the National Assembly Kővér, as well as members of the Hungarian-Japanese Friendship Group of the Hungarian National Assembly. In addition to the capital Budapest, Her Imperial Highness also visited Pannonhalma, Bábolna, Herend, and Tihany, among other places, and interacted with people. At the 150th anniversary dinner banquet, Her Imperial Highness had the opportunity to meet with holders of Japanese orders, and recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations. To commemorate the 150th anniversary, the main tower of Elizabeth Bridge, which spans the Danube River, was lit up with the flags of Japan and Hungary. Her Imperial Highness, together with the Mayor of Budapest and his wife, were deeply moved by the history of the bilateral relations that has been woven by the many people who have gone before us.

Her Imperial Highness' visit to Austria and Hungary looked back on the path of friendship built over many years by the peoples of Japan, Austria, and Hungary, linked the history of that friendship to the future, and affirmed the further strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and the two countries.



Commemorative photograph with Chancellor Bierlein at the Federal Chancellery of Austria (September 18, Vienna, Austria)



Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino paying a courtesy call on President Áder and the First Lady of Hungary (September 20, Budapest, Hungary; Photo: The President's Office, Hungary)

### 3 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. At the NATO Summit held in December in London, together with reaffirming the commitment to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty concerning collective defense, there were discussions in NATO for the first time about opportunities and challenges brought about by the growing influence of China.

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) (revised in May 2018), which Prime Minister Abe signed while visiting NATO headquarters in May 2014. To date, Japan has participated as an observer in NATO's crisis management exercises (CMX), as well as training exercises related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR). Japan also participated for the first time in the NATO cyber exercise (Cyber Coalition 2019) in December. Japan also dispatched the third round of female self-defense force officials to the NATO headquarters in November in order to promote Japan-NATO cooperation on matters concerning women, peace and security (WPS) and other fields. 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 to process unexploded

ordnance in Ukraine, and help capacity building for demilitarization of Serbia's Ministry of Defense arsenal.

#### (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 reconstruction 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) in Tajikistan, and also lends support in conducting election monitoring as well as to the projects that support women's social advancement. The OSCE plays an important role in improving the situation in Ukraine. Japan provides financial support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and dispatched experts to the SMM from August 2015 to March 2019. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani Shinichi attended the OSCE Ministerial Council held in December in Bratislava, Slovakia. Together with mentioning the necessity of further strengthening cooperation between the OSCE and Asian partner countries



Meeting between Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani and Secretary General Greminger of the OSCE (December 6, Slovakia)

amidst rising interdependence among Asia and Europe, he explained the security environment surrounding East Asia including North Korea and maritime security, and introduced the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani also met with Secretary General Greminger of the OSCE, and they confirmed further strengthening of Japan-OSCE cooperation.

### (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, Japan has made active contributions to a range of CoE activities since it began participating in the organization in 1996. Together with providing financial support for the Octopus Conference 2019 held in November in Strasbourg, France with the goal of promoting international cooperation to tackle cybercrime, Japan conveyed that it would provide contributions in the same area. Japan also dispatched a journalist to the 8th World Forum for Democracy also held in November in Strasbourg who made a statement about the reliability of the media and the impact of information manipulation in Japan, among other matters.

### (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 countries 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 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held by the EU on December 15 and 16 in Madrid, Spain and Minister Motegi attended. During the

meeting, Foreign Minister Motegi touched on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, the Osaka Track, and the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment that Japan led as the G20 President in 2019. He also remarked on the importance of upholding the rules and order of the international community upon which multilateralism is based and keeping these rules updated to cope with social and economic changes, as well as of solving bilateral and multilateral problems in accordance with common rules.

In addition, in regard to the situation in North Korea, Foreign Minister Motegi stated that North Korea’s repeated ballistic missile launches violate the UN Security Council resolutions, and threaten the security of Japan and the region. Foreign Minister Motegi called for the necessity of ensuring full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, in order to support the U.S.-North Korea process toward North Korea’s complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. He also asked for the cooperation of the ASEM member countries toward the early resolution of the abductions issue, the most important issue for Japan. In regard to maritime security, he expressed serious concerns about the current situation in the South China Sea, and emphasized again that Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo as well as acts of intimidation against other parties, demilitarization of disputed land features, and the



Foreign Minister Motegi attending the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (December 15-16, Madrid, Spain)

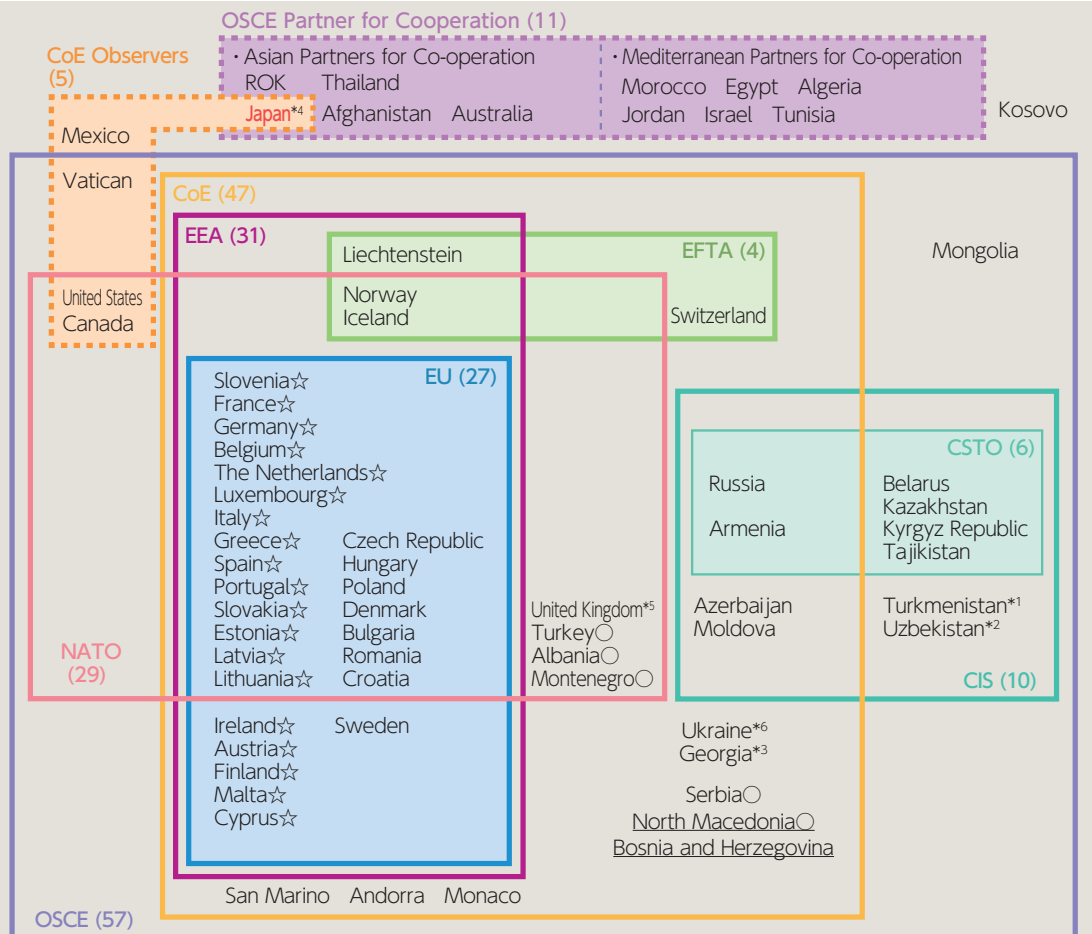
importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Chair's Statement issued at this foreign ministers' meeting conveys strong messages, including a reference of full compliance to international law, notably UNCLOS, concerning maritime security; a demand for North Korea to bring about CVID of its nuclear weapons, other WMDs, and its ballistic missile programs, and to refrain from further nuclear and ballistic missile tests; and reaffirmation of support for the full implementation of

the UN Security Council resolutions concerning North Korea. The abductions issue was clearly set out in the chair's statement following the previous summit meeting and foreign ministers' meeting.

In addition, for cultural and social cooperation, Japan contributed to the activities of the ASEM through the High-level Meeting on Risk Communications for Public Health Emergencies held together with Thailand in Bangkok (September), the Classroom Network Conference held by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Sophia University, and others (November), and financial support for the ASEF.

### Major Frameworks of Europe



<Legend> ○ : Candidate to be an EU member (5) ☆ : Euro member states (19) — : Members of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) (2) Number of member countries in ( )

\*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 The UK withdrew from the EU on January 31, 2020. EU law applies to the UK during the "transition period" until December 31, 2020.  
 \*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): (27)  
 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 in Russia

##### A Internal Situation in Russia

President Putin's approval rating, which fell in 2018 to the level before the 2014 "annexation" of Crimea (in the 60% range), remained at largely the same in 2019 with no significant recovery. While strengthening the Government's base of support became an issue for the Government, in August, there were sporadic and relatively large-scale protests, particularly in large cities, over the disqualification of opposition candidates for the Moscow City Duma elections in September. The protests drew approximately 50,000 people, and the scale was the largest in recent years.

##### B Russian Economy

The Russian economy, which had been sluggish since 2014, turned to positive growth in 2016 and continued to grow in 2019, although the growth rate slowed compared to the previous year (preliminary 2019 figure: 1.3% (Russian Federal State Statistic Service)). In addition, other major macroeconomic indicators remained generally stable. However, some factors for economic instability remain, such as the continued sanctions on Russia by European countries and the U.S., and trends in crude oil prices in international markets. There is also dissatisfaction amongst the general public in

regard to living standards, such as a slump in real income.

##### C Russian Diplomacy

Sanctions on Russia continue to be maintained by European countries and the U.S. despite occasional bilateral contacts between Russia and these countries, such as at the summit and foreign ministerial levels.

Particularly on Russia's relationship with the U.S., the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was terminated in August, and an extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) is still undetermined. The gulf remains wide between the positions of the two countries on desired formats of a future framework of arms control as well as on international situations such as Ukraine and Venezuela, and signs of improved relations are yet to be seen.

Exchanges between leaders of Russia and China continued, and in June Russia had a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. In addition, in July there were also movements by Russia appealing for closer military cooperation with China, such as the first joint patrol flight by Russian and Chinese bombers from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea, and on the same day a Russian Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft violated the

airspace above Japan's territorial waters around Takeshima in Shimane Prefecture.

In the Middle East and Africa, Russia actively engaged in diplomacy, exerting its influence on the Syrian situation by intervening between related countries, such as Syria and Turkey, and holding the First Russia-Africa Summit in October.

Russia has also shown a strong presence in its traditional cooperative relationship with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and in multilateral frameworks including the BRICS countries (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 has placed 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 are a growth center of the global economy. The development of relations with Russia as an important partner in the Asia-Pacific region, the building of stable relations, and the deepening of cooperation contribute not only to Japan's national interests but are also extremely important for regional stability and development.

### B The Northern Territories and Negotiations on Peace Treaty

The greatest concern between Japan and Russia is the Northern Territories issue. The Northern Territories are islands over which Japan has sovereignty. 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 issue of



Japan-Russia Summit Meeting (September 5, Vladivostok, Russia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

attribution of the Four Northern Islands.<sup>1</sup>

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 held in Nagato City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, at the end of 2016, Prime Minister Abe and President Putin declared an earnest determination toward resolving the issue of a peace treaty.

In 2019, active political dialogues took place, including three Summit Meetings and seven Foreign Ministers' Meetings. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in June in Osaka, Prime Minister Abe and President Putin shared the view that they would continue to advance the negotiations under their determination to "accelerate negotiations on a peace treaty on the basis of the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration of 1956" as announced by both sides in Singapore in November 2018. At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in Vladivostok in September, the two leaders had a candid and open exchange of views on the issue of concluding a peace treaty and reconfirmed to work in a future-oriented manner. The two leaders also reiterated instructions to their respective foreign ministers, who are responsible for the negotiations, to advance joint work in order to find a mutually acceptable solution.

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website for the Japanese government's position regarding the Northern Territories issue: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/russia/territory/overview.html>





In response to this, Foreign Minister Motegi and Foreign Minister Lavrov held the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meetings in New York and Nagoya in September and November respectively, and exchanged views on how to proceed with the consultations, including the negotiations on a peace treaty. Moreover, at the Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Moscow in December, the two Foreign Ministers held discussions at length and were able to commence full-fledged consultations.

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 2016,<sup>2</sup> 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 June, the two leaders agreed on the two "business models" for "tourism" and "waste management." Waste-management experts from both sides visited the main island of Hokkaido and the four islands in August and September, and the first pilot tour joined by Japanese tourists was conducted from October to November.

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. In July,



Sightseeing pilot tour  
(October 31, Kunashiri Island; Photo: World Air-Sea Service)

as part of humanitarian measures for the former island residents of the Northern Territories, a temporary additional entry/exit point was established on the occasion of the grave visit by ship to the Habomai Islands and Shikotan Island, and furthermore, in August a grave visit by airplane was realized for a third year in a row. Such measures have shortened the travel time to the Four Northern Islands and reduced the physical burden of the former island residents. During the grave visits, the former island residents were able to visit places they had been unable to go to in recent years, and Japan and Russia shared the view 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 issue of attribution of the Four Northern Islands.

In addition, 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 actions 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.

### C Japan-Russia Economic Relations

The Japan-Russia trade volume in 2019 decreased from January to December year-on-year due to a decrease in the import value of energy and mineral resources, major commodities imported to Japan from Russia (January-December 2019 statistics: approximately 2.3459 trillion yen, down approximately 7.2% year-on-year) (Source: Trade Statistics of Japan, Ministry of Finance).

<sup>2</sup> As a result of the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in December 2016, the two leaders expressed their sincere determination to resolve the peace treaty issue, agreed to commence discussions on joint economic activities on the Four Northern Islands, and agreed to improve procedures for grave visits by former island residents.



Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(December 19, Moscow, Russia)

The volume of direct investment from Japan to Russia decreased slightly from 178.0 billion yen (2017) to 168.8 billion yen (2018) (Source: Balance of Payments Statistics, Bank of Japan).

With regard to the Eight-point Cooperation Plan for Innovative Reform in the Fields of Industry and Economy and a Favorable Living Environment of Russia proposed by Prime Minister Abe in May 2016, over 200 private-sector projects have been established as of the end of 2019.

At the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting on the margin of the Fifth Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September, the two leaders welcomed the final investment decision on the Arctic LNG 2 Project,<sup>3</sup> in which Japanese companies participate, as well as the conclusion of the special investment contract among a Japanese company, the Russian government and others on automobile manufacturing in St. Petersburg.

Foreign Minister Motegi and Minister of Economic Development Oreshkin co-chaired the 15th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues in Moscow in December, and bilateral economic relations were discussed comprehensively with the participation of members from relevant ministries and agencies and private companies. Both chairs pointed out that bilateral cooperation has been steadily advancing under the Eight-point Cooperation Plan, and they shared the view to

further support these positive trends toward more concrete cooperation between Japanese and Russian companies.

Furthermore, the Japan Centers operating in six cities in Russia carry out business matching between companies from both countries and hold management courses. To date, a total of some 90,000 Russian people have taken the courses and about 5,700 of them have visited Japan for training.

#### **D** Cooperation between Japan and Russia in Various Fields

##### **(A) Security, Defense Exchanges and Maritime Security**

In 2019, discussions such as the Japan-Russia Strategic Dialogue were held between diplomatic authorities from the two countries in a wide range of areas including disarmament, non-proliferation, terrorism, and cyber security. Based on the agreement at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting in January to broaden the scope of cooperation in areas that address “non-traditional threats” such as drugs, the Tokyo Customs K-9 Training Center was visited in January by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) officials in charge of the construction of a drug detection dog training center in Afghanistan, which is being advanced by Japan, Russia, Afghanistan, and UNODC. Exchanges of views were also conducted between the relevant ministries and agencies of both countries in the field of anti-corruption. In the field of national security, the Japan-Russia Security Talks were held between the diplomatic authorities in March, the fourth Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultation (“2+2” Ministerial Meeting) was held in Tokyo in May, and a meeting between Mr. Kitamura Shigeru, Secretary General of National Security Secretariat, and Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, was held in September. As for defense

<sup>3</sup> Liquefied natural gas business conducted by a major Russian natural gas mining company in the Arctic Circle

exchanges, General Yuasa Goro, Chief of Staff of the JGSDF, visited Russia in May, and Admiral Nikolay Yevmenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy visited Japan in November. At the working level, in addition to various discussions and consultations, the Japan-Russia Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX) were conducted in June, and furthermore, the Japan-Russia Maritime Security Agencies Secretary-Level Meetings were held, following on from the previous year.

### (B) Human and Cultural Exchanges

Following the agreement at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting of December 2016 on doubling youth exchanges, in 2019 a total of 860 people (2018: 1,334 people) participated in the



Japan-Russia Youth Forum 2019 (September 27, St. Petersburg, Russia; Photo: Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center)



Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Program ('Hanagasa dance,' July, Moscow, Russia; Photo: Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center)

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 from 2018 to 2019 under an agreement between the Japanese and Russian leaders. Human and cultural exchanges were conducted actively through more than 600 Japan-related events held in Russia as part of the accredited events for the exchange year with more than 1.6 million participants. The closing ceremony for the exchange year was held in June 2019 in Osaka, with both leaders in attendance, and it was announced that 2020 to 2021 will be the Japan-Russia Year of Regional Exchanges.

## 2 Countries in Central Asia and Caucasus

### (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,<sup>4</sup> etc.

### (2) Central Asian Countries

Japan supports the "open, stable and self-sustained development" of Central Asia, and is promoting diplomacy as a "catalyst" for the development of regional cooperation aiming to contribute to regional and international peace

<sup>4</sup> The "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue was launched in 2004 in order for Japan to promote regional cooperation as a "catalyst" from the perspective that regional cooperation is essential to resolving common regional issues for the stability and development of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). So far there have been various discussions with the participation of experts and business people, in addition to the seven Foreign Ministers' Meetings. It has been more than 15 years since its establishment, and in recent years the focus has been on practical cooperation.



Japan-Uzbekistan Summit Meeting (December 19, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and stability. The pillars of Japan's diplomacy in Central Asia consist of the following: steadily strengthening of bilateral relationships; encouraging regional cooperation and contribution to the common issues of the region through the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue; and cooperating in the global arena.

In 2019, following the previous year, active exchanges including VIP visits were carried out. In October, when the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor took place, First President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Zheenbekov, and President of Turkmenistan Berdimuhamedov visited Japan and held meetings with Prime Minister Abe respectively. In the meeting with Prime Minister Abe, First President Nazarbayev praised Japan's initiative for the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue, and the two leaders shared the view to promote regional cooperation, including further collaboration within the Dialogue. In the meeting with Prime Minister Abe, President Zheenbekov stated that bilateral relations had made great progress since Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Kyrgyz Republic in 2015, and he expressed his hopes for developing business cooperation. In the meeting with President Berdimuhamedov, Prime Minister Abe stated that combining Turkmenistan's rich

resources with Japan's quality infrastructure could make significant contributions to Turkmenistan's development, and the two leaders agreed to cooperate on a variety of issues.

In December, President of Uzbekistan Mirziyoyev and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamilov visited Japan. This was President Mirziyoyev's first visit to Japan, and he visited Nagoya and Tokyo in addition to having his first Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed Japan's friendship with Uzbekistan, which has traditionally been friendly toward Japan, announced new support (including a total of 190 billion yen of ODA loans) in the fields of power generation and agriculture for the development of the country undergoing reforms, and the two leaders agreed to expand exchanges and cooperation in all fields, including on economic fronts. The two leaders also signed the "Joint Statement on Further Deepening and Expanding Strategic Partnership between Japan and Uzbekistan" (the Japan-Uzbekistan Tax Convention and the Japan-Uzbekistan Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement were also signed).

From Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited Tajikistan in May and attended the Seventh Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue. During the meeting, participants of the member countries reaffirmed the track record and direction of cooperation between Japan and Central Asia, and also had discussions focusing on "tourism" as a new field for practical



7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue (May 18, Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

cooperation. They also had discussions on trade, investment, and development areas, and adopted the “Joint Statement and Action Plan on Regional Cooperation,” as well as confirming the importance of supporting improvements to the regional business environments and the importance of the regional cooperation in the regional security.

Foreign Minister Kono also took advantage of this opportunity to hold Foreign Ministerial meetings with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Afghanistan (participated as a guest country).

In addition, from Central Asian countries, a group headed by Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Tajik-Japanese Friendship Salimzoda, a group headed by Vice-Chairman of the Lower House of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Issimbayeva, and Deputy Governor of the Ahal Region of Turkmenistan Berdimuhamedov visited Japan in March, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Ganiev visited in July, and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Umurzakov, and First Deputy Chairman of the Lower House (Senate of Parliament) of Uzbekistan Safaev visited in October.

There has been a movement amongst Central Asian countries in recent years to promote regional cooperation. The Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the 19th Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) were held in June, the Heads of Government Meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held in October and a session of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) was held in November. Additionally, in November the second Consultative Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia was held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) for the first time in a year and a half. With the participation of leaders from all five countries, including the President of Turkmenistan, who was absent last time, the meeting adopted a joint statement enshrining regional cooperation in areas

such as economy, transportation, regional security, and the environment. At the same time, the attendees also decided to hold Summit Meetings and Foreign Ministers' Meetings on a regular basis.

### (3) Caucasus Countries

In Caucasus countries, there still exist disputes over South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia and over 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 in 2018, 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 and business environment improvement). In 2019, Japan developed cooperation with each country as follows.

In relation to Azerbaijan, Minister of Taxes Jabbarov visited Japan in March and met with State Minister of Finance Ueno Kenichiro and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko. From Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji visited Azerbaijan in September and, along with President Aliyev, attended the opening ceremony of the “Shimal



Completion ceremony for the “Shimal Gas Combined Power Plant, Second Unit” constructed in cooperation with Japan (September 5, Azerbaijan)

Gas Combined Power Plant, Second Unit” which was constructed through a Japanese ODA loan. In addition, Mr. Yamada paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Mammadov, had a meeting with Foreign Minister Mammadyarov, and another meeting with Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Babayev who also served as Chairman of the Japan-Azerbaijan Economic Joint Committee.

In relation to Armenia, the Japan-Armenia Investment Agreement entered into force in May, which is expected to promote investment between the two countries and make economic relations even closer. President Sarkissian visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October and had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. The two leaders agreed to work closely together toward the future cooperation while touching on economic cooperation between both countries.

In relation to Georgia, Prime Minister Bakhtadze visited Japan in March. Prime Minister Bakhtadze visited Osaka and Tokyo, confirmed and welcomed with Foreign Minister Kono the substantial conclusion of negotiations on the main text of the investment agreement between the two countries, and had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso Taro. In addition,



Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Prime Minister of Georgia Bakhtadze (March 13, Tokyo)

he attended the opening ceremony of the Japan-Georgia Business Forum and also the opening ceremony of a Georgian wine exhibition. Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Kobulia, who was accompanying the Prime Minister, signed a memorandum of cooperation between a Japanese company and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. During her visit to Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October, President Zourabichvili agreed with Prime Minister Abe on the importance of the investment agreement, and expected to further strengthen the relationship.

## Section 6

# The Middle East and North Africa

### 1 Overview

The Middle East and North Africa (hereinafter, “the Middle East”) are situated in a geopolitically important location at the intersection of Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia. The Middle East accounts for approximately 50% of the world’s oil production and for approximately 50% of the world’s natural gas reserves. In addition to being an important energy-supplying region for the world, the Middle East, in particular the Gulf countries, has been promoting the diversification of each of the local economies against a backdrop of a high population growth rate in recent years (17.3% in the last 10 years), and has high potential as a market.

At the same time, various conflicts and disputes have historically existed in the Middle East, and even now it faces a number of destabilizing factors and challenges. In addition to growing regional tensions over Iran, political turmoil has continued in various regions since the “Arab Spring” that began in 2011. Fighting has continued in Syria, giving rise to a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, which has had a great impact on the stability of the entire region, including neighboring countries. In Yemen as well, severe security and humanitarian conditions continue as the Houthis clash with the Yemeni Government and the Arab Coalition

(led by Saudi Arabia, etc., at the request of the Yemeni Government). Moreover, in addition to the Middle East peace process, which has been a historical issue since the founding of Israel in 1948, the risk of the spread of violent extremism, as represented by the “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL),” still remains in some areas. Resolving these problems and achieving peace and stability in the Middle East is of great importance for the peace and stability of the world as a whole, including Japan.

Japan imports approximately 90% of its crude oil from the Middle East, and it is extremely important for Japan’s peace and prosperity to promote peace and stability in the Middle East and to maintain and develop good relations with countries in the region. From this point of view, Japan in recent years has been striving to strengthen relations with Middle Eastern countries in a wide range of fields, including not just the economy, but also in politics, security, culture and people-to-people exchanges. Japan made active diplomatic efforts in 2019 as tensions in the Middle East increased, including Prime Minister Abe’s visit to Iran in June and Iranian President Rouhani’s visit to Japan in December. In addition, in order to ensure safety of navigation for Japan-related vessels, in December the Government of Japan decided on a policy of utilizing the Self-Defense Forces’ assets to strengthen its information gathering posture

in addition to further diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions and stabilize the situation, and thoroughly undertake measures to ensure the safety of navigation.

## 2 Situation in Middle East Region

### (1) Iran

Iran is a major Shiite regional power with land of approximately 4.4 times the size of Japan with a population of about 82 million and is blessed with abundant natural resources. 2019 saw mounting tensions in the Middle East, including concerns over the Iranian nuclear issue.

Regarding the Iranian nuclear issue, the U.S. withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)) in May of 2018, and then in May 2019, started an embargo of Iranian crude oil by not extending exemptions on sanctions exceptionally granted to eight countries and regions, including Japan. In the same month, Iranian President Rouhani declared that Iran was not able to obtain the profits in the oil and financial sectors that would have been obtained by the nuclear deal, and stated that Iran would remain in the nuclear deal but that Iran would partially suspend fulfillment of its obligations if the situation did not improve. Following this, since July, Iran has gradually taken steps in five stages to suspend its obligations under the nuclear deal, such as exceeding the upper limit on low enriched uranium storage (300 kg) and exceeding the upper limit on uranium enrichment (3.67%) specified by the nuclear deal.

Additionally, there were several instances where local tensions increased. In June two ships were attacked, including a Japan-related vessel, and a U.S. drone was shot down by Iran. In September the U.S. condemned the attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities as an attack by Iran, and the UK, France, and Germany also issued a statement blaming Iran, but Iran denied its responsibility.

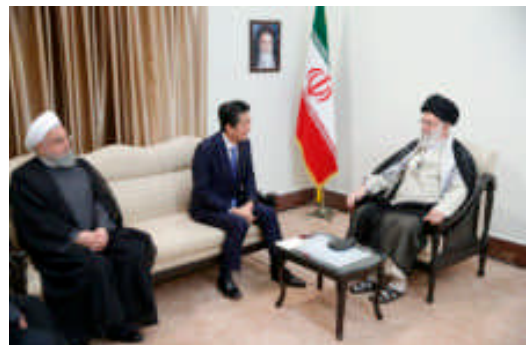
Amidst this situation, Japan continues persistent diplomatic efforts to alleviate tensions and

stabilize the situation in the Middle East, leveraging its position as an ally with the U.S., and, at the same time, its positive and long-standing relationship with Iran.

Prime Minister Abe visited Iran in June and met with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Rouhani. It was the first visit to Iran by a Japanese Prime Minister in 41 years. There were positive comments toward easing tensions from the two Iranian leaders. For example, President Rouhani stated that Iran did not want a war with the U.S. and would not pursue possession of nuclear weapons, and Supreme Leader Khamenei stated that Iran bans the production, possession and use of nuclear weapons and that it opposes them.

In August, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif visited Japan, paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe, and held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Japan once again called for Iran to refrain from further measures that undermine the nuclear deal in addition to urging them to relieve tensions.

At the UN General Assembly in September, Japan held summit meetings and foreign ministers' meetings with Iran and with the U.S. respectively. At the summit meeting with Iran, Prime Minister Abe, in addition to showing strong concern over the worsening situation in the Middle East, stated to President Rouhani that Iran should play a constructive role toward regional peace and stability. He also expressed concern over suspending implementation of the nuclear deal and requested



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Supreme Leader Khamenei (June 13, Tehran, Iran; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



## Column

## The 90th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relationship between Japan and Iran



Logo for the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Iran

2019 marked the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Iran. Japan and Iran have been engaged in exchanges through the Silk Road since more than 1,000 years ago. For example, Shosoin of Horyu-ji Temple in Nara Prefecture holds Persian crafts that are believed to have come through the Silk Road. Official diplomatic relations were established in 1929 between the Government of Japan and Persia, which is present-day Iran.

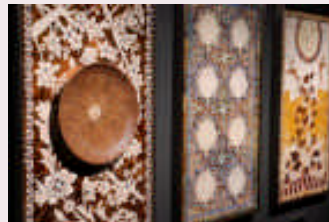
In 2019, there were frequent reciprocal visits by key officials, including Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran in June and President Rouhani's visit to Japan in December. The two countries also held various anniversary events throughout the year, during which they reaffirmed their traditional friendly relations.

In January, the 90th anniversary kicked off with a reception at the Embassy of Japan in Iran, including a book donation ceremony and a Japanese drum (*wadaiko*) concert.

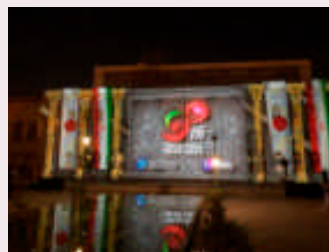
In May, under the sponsorship of the Tokai-Iran Friendship Association, two Iranian ceramic artists were invited to Gifu Prefecture to participate in a seminar on the technique of lusterware, a form of ceramic art that had been lost in Iran but was revived in Japan. The aim of this seminar was to bring this technique back to Iran. The pieces produced in this seminar are to become permanent exhibits at the Reza Abbasi Museum in Tehran. In October, a donation ceremony for these works was held there.

A commemorative event was held in August. In this event, projection mapping movies representing the friendly relations between Japan and Iran were screened at Golestan Palace, the site where Japan's first Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Iran, Kasama Akio, presented his credentials approximately 90 years ago. Mr. Yamada Kenji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the event while Mr. Telebian, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization represented Iran at the event. Coinciding with this event, lectures and workshops on the technology and expression of projection mapping were conducted by Japanese experts for university students majoring in architecture and art at Shiraz University as well as universities in Tehran.

In addition, a number of commemorative events were held, based on applications from individuals and private sector organizations. Through the 90th anniversary commemorative events, which represent Japan and Iran's rich history and culture, the public and private sectors of both countries came together to celebrate the anniversary and looked back on their 90-year history.



Three lusterware ceramic works donated to the Reza Abbasi Museum



Projection mapping event at Golestan Palace

that Iran fulfill its responsibility as a coastal state to ensure the safety of navigation of vessels. The leaders and foreign ministers of the U.S. and Japan agreed to continue cooperation to ease tensions and stabilize the situation in the Middle East.

In November, Iranian Vice-President for Legal Affairs Joneydi visited Japan on the occasion of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe.

In December, President Rouhani visited Japan in return for Prime Minister Abe's visit to Iran in June, which was the first visit to Japan by an Iranian President in 19 years, and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. While Prime Minister Abe called for Iran to play a constructive role for the regional peace and stability, President Rouhani stated that Iran also hopes for regional peace and stability and that Iran intends to continue close cooperation with Japan. In addition, when Prime Minister Abe explained that Japan was considering utilization of SDF assets to strengthen its information gathering posture, President Rouhani said that Iran appreciates Japan's diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions and understands Japan's intention to contribute to ensuring safety of navigation through its own initiatives, and, in addition, that Iran appreciates Japan's transparency in explaining this initiative.

January 2020 saw the killing of Major General Qasem Soleimani, Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force by the U.S. and Iranian attack on U.S. military bases in Iraq. The tensions remain high in the Middle East.

2019 was the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Iran. Among a variety of related events, in August, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji visited Iran and attended a ceremony to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Iran (see the Column on page 144).

## (2) The Gulf States and Yemen

The Gulf States<sup>1</sup> are important partners for Japan from the perspective of Japan's energy security. In recent years, the Gulf States have been working toward social and economic reforms, prioritizing issues such as industry diversification, human resources development and departure from dependence on oil, and Japan has been cooperating and supporting the realization of these reforms in order to contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of the Middle East. These efforts include cooperation based on the "Japan-Saudi Vision 2030," which was formulated by Japan and Saudi Arabia as a compass for bilateral cooperation modeled after the "Saudi Vision 2030," Saudi Arabia's initiative for industry diversification and departure from dependence on oil, and on the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Initiative" between Japan and the United Arab Emirates. Ministerial meetings regarding the "Saudi-Japan Vision 2030" were held in June and October to confirm progress on cooperation and to exchange opinions on policies for future cooperation (see the Column on page 146).



Japan-Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 22, Nagoya, Aichi)

Many high-level dignitaries visited Japan in 2019, such as the visit by H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar to Japan (Official Visit) in January, the visit by H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to Japan in June for the G20 Osaka Summit,

<sup>1</sup> Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain

## Column

## Japan-Saudi Vision 2030

Japan and Saudi Arabia have consistently maintained a good relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1955. In particular, economic cooperation, including cooperation in the petroleum industry, forms the foundation for bilateral relations; Saudi Arabia has continued to be Japan's largest crude oil supplier, while Japan has continued to be one of Saudi Arabia's largest crude oil importers. Saudi Arabia is a major energy power that boasts one of the world's largest oil deposits, greatest amount of oil production, and most oil exports. On the other hand, its greatest challenge is to reduce its dependence on oil, which contributes to about 90% of its total exports and about 80% of its fiscal revenue. Saudi Arabia is entering an era of great transformation as it seeks to break away from oil dependence and diversify its industries. Against this backdrop, it is deepening its bilateral relationship with Japan not only in the field of energy, but across a wide range of areas including politics, society, and culture. The remarkable progress achieved in their bilateral relations is materialized as "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030."

Saudi Arabia announced "The Saudi Vision 2030" in April 2016, with a view to realizing inclusive development through reducing dependence on oil and diversification of industries. In response, Japan took the opportunity of the visit by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to Japan in March 2017 to announce bilateral cooperation through "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" with the aim of cooperating with Saudi Arabia, as Japan's strategic partner, toward the realization of "The Saudi Vision 2030." Placing emphasis on the synergistic effect between "The Saudi Vision 2030," which is Saudi Arabia's new national strategy, and "Japan's Growth Strategy" that aims to achieve a GDP of 600 trillion yen, it advocates for the implementation of projects that will create a win-win situation for both Japan and Saudi Arabia through public-private cooperation. It establishes three pillars for cooperation between the two countries: diversity, innovation, and soft values (social and cultural values). Currently, 65 ministries and agencies from both countries have been involved, and are advancing comprehensive cooperation spanning nine fields (competitive industries, energy and environment, entertainment, health-care and medical, agriculture and food, quality infrastructure, SMEs and capacity building, culture, sports and education, and investment and finance).

In October 2019, the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" convened in Tokyo to confirm the basic direction and progress of specific projects. This meeting was attended by senior officials including Minister of Economy and Planning Mohammed bin Maziad Al Tuwaijri and Minister of Commerce and Investment, Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi. The two countries signed "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030 2.0 Updated" which takes into consideration progress made after the Third



Fourth Ministerial Meeting  
(October 23, 2019, Tokyo)



H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Prime Minister Abe in agreement to launch the Joint Group for "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" (September 1, 2016, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Ministerial Meeting held in June the same year while setting out the following as the new direction for the vision: (1) Unwavering support for Saudi Arabia's economic reform; (2) Enhancement and acceleration of cooperation that captures social change, such as entertainment and tourism; and (3) Acceleration of the materialization and realization of cooperation projects.

Under the new compass embodied by "The Japan-Saudi Vision 2030," the relationship between Japan and Saudi Arabia, built up over many years, is moving forward with momentum day by day for the growth and prosperity of the two countries.

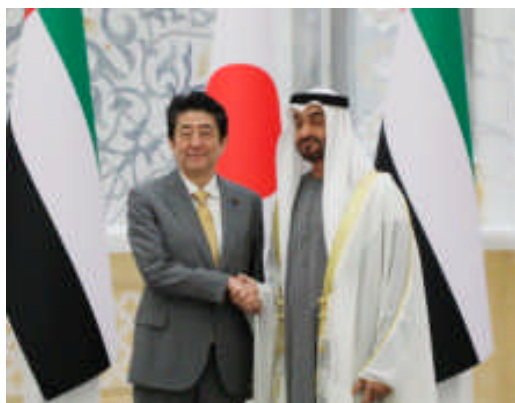
and the visits by H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Bahrain in October on the occasion of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor.

From Japan, Foreign Minister Kono visited Saudi Arabia in April. Prime Minister Abe, amidst rising tensions in the Middle East, visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman in January 2020, and the countries shared the view that all parties should exercise self-restraint and make every possible diplomatic effort to prevent further deterioration of the situation. In addition, Prime Minister Abe explained to the leaders of the countries the information gathering activities by the Self-Defense Forces for the purpose of ensuring the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in the Middle East and gained their support and understanding. Furthermore, the strengthening of bilateral relations was also confirmed.

In Yemen, the Houthis have continued to fight against the Yemeni Government and the Arab Coalition despite the Stockholm Agreement<sup>2</sup> that was signed between the Yemeni Government and the Houthis in December 2018. However, some improvements have been seen, such as a reduction of cross-border attacks by the Houthis into Saudi Arabia and the release of some prisoners of war between the Arab Coalition and the Houthis in November. In August, there were temporary clashes between the Yemeni Government and the South Transitional Council (STC, which asserts the separation and independence of southern Yemen), and in November the “Riyadh Agreement,” which includes the establishment of a new government by the Yemeni Government and the STC, was signed with the intermediation of Saudi Arabia and others. The severe humanitarian situation in Yemen has continued due to the impact of the prolonged conflict, and from January 2015 to December 2019 Japan provided



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia (January 12, Ulah, Saudi Arabia; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi (January 13, United Arab Emirates; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Prime Minister Abe conveying condolences to and conversing with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur Al Said of Oman (January 14, Muscat, Oman; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

support of more than 250 million US dollars in total to Yemen through cooperation with UN agencies and others, and Japan will continue to provide support for the stabilization of Yemen.

<sup>2</sup> Under UN mediation and at a conference between the disputing parties held in Sweden, both sides agreed to a ceasefire in Hudaydah, withdrawal from the city and port, and exchange of detainees, etc.

### (3) Iraq

In Iraq, since October, one year after the establishment of the government headed by Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi, there have been intermittent large-scale demonstrations in Baghdad and central and southern Iraq demanding radical reforms to the political system in addition to improvements to public services and measures to reduce unemployment and poverty. Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi promised to support the people's lives and implement various reforms, but announced his resignation in December among continuing demonstrations.

With regard to security, against the backdrop of the U.S.-Iran conflict, there were multiple rocket attacks targeting Iraqi military bases and U.S. interests in Iraq, as well as drone attacks on Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) bases. The Iraqi military and security agencies continue to wipe out remnants of the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" in northern and northwestern Iraq, although the threat has not been eradicated and sporadic terrorist activity by ISIL is still occurring in various parts of Iraq, including in Baghdad.

After the regional parliamentary elections in September 2018, arrangements for the formation of the regional government in the Kurdistan region progressed, and in June 2019 President of the Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani took office, with a regional government being formed in July, headed by Masrour Barzani, Prime Minister of the Kurdish Regional Government.

Japan continues to contribute to infrastructural reconstruction in Iraq through yen-loan projects in areas such as water and electricity supply. In June an exchange letter was signed on a yen loan to improve Iraq's largest refinery, and in September renovation work on a thermal power plant near Baghdad, which was rehabilitated through a yen loan project, was completed. Furthermore, Japan continued to provide support of 63 million US dollars through international organizations as an effort to stabilize Iraq for the purpose of the early return and settlement of the refugees and internally

displaced persons caused by ISIL's invasions. In September Prime Minister Abe received a courtesy call from Ms. Nadia Murad (an Iraqi recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize 2018) during the UN General Assembly, and she thanked Japan for its support of Iraq.

The 80th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Iraq diplomatic relations was celebrated in November, and exchanges between the two countries have advanced, centering on academic and intellectual exchanges. In February, six members of the Iraqi Parliament visited Japan and attended a "Seminar to Share Japan's Experiences and Knowledge" aimed at utilizing Japan's knowledge for reconstruction and national reconciliation.

### (4) Syria

#### A Situation

The ongoing Syrian crisis, which began in 2011 and is seeing continued military confrontation with no prospects of stabilization, has resulted in the deaths of as many as about 570,000 people as well as created more than 5.6 million refugees and approximately 5.9 million internally displaced persons. It is considered to be this century's worst humanitarian crisis.

ISIL, which had expanded its strength in Syria and Iraq since 2013, lost all of its territory in March 2019, and its decline became decisive in October when ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed while hiding in the Idlib region of northwestern Syria. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that there are still dormant ISIL cells in hiding, waiting for opportunities to carry out terrorism. Thus the international community continues to watch that trend.

In the Idlib region, Russia and Turkey agreed (commonly known as the Sochi Agreement) in September 2018 to tension mitigation measures, centering on the establishment of a demilitarized zone. The implementation of the agreement has not progressed. In April 2019 fighting intensified, between the dissidents and the Syrian government Army, which receives support from Russia,

causing a deterioration of humanitarian conditions and giving rise to more than 500,000 internally displaced persons. Amidst this, various factions within the opposition groups are also working together to defend their positions. It is expected that the situation will remain unchanged for an extended period of time.

Turkey, which has security concerns about the Kurdish forces (PKK / YPG) deployed in the northeastern regions of Syria, has eliminated terrorist organizations such as ISIL and other forces from the Syria-Turkish border area. Then Turkey launched the operation “Peace Spring” on October 9 to establish a “safe zone” in northeastern Syria in order to secure a return destination for Syrian refugees in Turkey. Following the launch of this operation, there was an occurrence of estimated 220,000 or more internally displaced persons, and the humanitarian situation became aggravated. Turkey has held discussions with the U.S. and Russia, and it appears that Turkey has achieved some of its initial operational goals, such as the partial withdrawal of Kurdish forces (PKK / YPG) and the implementation of joint patrols with Russia and others in the border areas. On the other hand, the outlook remains unclear as new issues arise, such as how Syrian refugees should return to the “safe zone,” or advances of the Syrian government troops stationed in the northeastern region, and approach between the Syrian Government and the Kurdish forces (PKK / YPG). Under these circumstances, even though the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the northeastern regions of Syria, it maintains armed forces in oil fields such as in the northeastern regions for anti-terrorism measures and other reasons.

Israel made attacks in Syria, worrying about the increasing influence of Iran and Hezbollah (a Shiite Muslim organization that campaigns against Israel) in Syria. In light of these Israeli concerns, U.S. President Trump on March 25 signed a U.S. Presidential Proclamation acknowledging the Golan Heights to be a part of Israel. In response to this, the international community reiterated

its position that Israel’s annexation of the Golan Heights would not be permitted, referring to UN Security Council resolution 497, etc.

### **B Political Process**

As for the political process, Syrian dialogue has been suspended since 2018, but in September 2019 UN Secretary-General Guterres announced that the Syrian Government and dissidents had agreed to establish a constitutional committee to discuss constitutional amendments, and the opening ceremony and the committee’s first meeting were held in Geneva in October. The international community welcomed the establishment of the committee, but many think that its future activities will not be easy because, prior to its establishment, there were difficult negotiations over the selection of people, management, and committee rules. The international community continues to call for progress in the political process, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254, which calls for a political resolution to the Syrian crisis.

### **C The Japanese Government’s Efforts**

Japan has consistently maintained its position 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 providing continuous support for improving humanitarian conditions. From this standpoint, following the aggravated situation in Syria, Japan has provided total assistance worth more than 2.7 billion US dollars to Syria and neighboring countries from 2012 to the end of 2019 for humanitarian assistance.

In September Japan decided to provide approximately 12 million US dollars of new support in order to restore the pediatric hospital in the eastern Aleppo area, which was damaged by fighting, and to quickly restore community health and medical services. Furthermore, in December Japan decided to provide additional assistance of 14 million US dollars as emergency humanitarian assistance for northeastern Syria, where the

humanitarian situation had deteriorated.

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.

### (5) 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 promoting 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, a foreign ministerial meeting was held in Stockholm (Sweden) in June, and a summit meeting was held in New York (U.S.) in September, in the margins between international conferences. In December State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke visited Jordan. From Jordan, His Royal Highness Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan, was in attendance for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October and met with Prime Minister Abe. Thus, Japan and Jordan have held active dialogues at the leader and ministerial levels and strengthened their strategic partnership. The two countries have shared the view 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 2019, held the bilateral First Foreign Affairs and Security Consultation (Pol-Mil Dialogue), decided on a free loan to Jordan of a Type 61 MBT (Main Battle Tank) for exhibition, and progressed security cooperation. In addition, on the economic front, in May 2019 Japan contributed 100 million



Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting (September 23, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

US dollars of the 300 million US dollar development policy loans that were signed during King Abdullah II's visit to Japan in November 2018.

Lebanon is a nation with a cultural and religious mosaic consisting of 18 religions and sects, including Christianity and Islam. In May 2018, elections for the Lebanese Parliament were held for the first time in nine years in a peaceful manner. Despite the required time due to difficulties in coordinating between religions, in January 2019 the third Hariri Cabinet was established.

However, large-scale anti-government demonstrations took place across Lebanon in October, triggered by opposition to the introduction of tax increases in the 2020 government budget. The demonstrators protested against the current sectarian political system and the eradication of corruption, and demanded early elections and the establishment of a "technocrat cabinet" that is not based on sectarianism. In response to this, Prime Minister Hariri announced his resignation, but the outlook for the situation in Lebanon was uncertain because of a lack of progress in coordination between religions over the state of the next cabinet. The absence of government seemed to have had a large impact on the Lebanese economy. It was hoped the next cabinet would be established soon. In this regard, when State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visited Lebanon in December 2019, he affirmed to government officials the importance of promoting dialogue with citizens.

Japan has also provided Lebanon with humanitarian aid for assistance to Syrian refugees and the host communities, and since 2012 has provided support of more than 210 million US dollars in total.

## (6) Turkey

Turkey is a geopolitically important country in the region. As a member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Turkey plays a significant role in regional security while proactively pursuing multifaceted diplomacy with states in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Turkey has traditionally been one of the friendliest countries with Japan, as typified by episodes such as the Ertugrul Frigate<sup>3</sup> incident in 1890.

After the presidential election in June 2018, Turkey moved from a parliamentary cabinet system to an executive presidential system in which entire executive authority belongs to the president. In the local elections held on March 31, 2019, the People's Alliance by the Justice and Development Party (AKP), which was the ruling party, and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) lost in six of the ten largest cities, including in Istanbul and Ankara. Following the AKP's appeal, the Istanbul's mayoral re-election was held on June 23, but the Imamoglu Republican People's Party (CHP, opposition) candidate won again with 54% of the vote.

Tensions in the U.S.-Turkey relationship increased for a time, with the U.S. imposing sanctions following Turkey's operation "Peace Spring" in Syria. An agreement was later reached between Turkey and the U.S., and between Turkey and Russia, ending military operations, and the U.S. lifted sanctions. However, discussions between the U.S. and Turkey continue over the introduction of Russian missile defense systems (S-400), which is a pending issue in bilateral relations. In addition to military operations in Syria, tensions



Japan-Turkey Foreign Ministers' Meeting (November 22, Nagoya)

with Western countries have continued over the repatriation of ISIL foreign combatants detained in Turkey to their home countries. On the other hand, Russia and Turkey, in addition to the situation in Syria, have established close relationships in the energy sector such as constructing gas pipelines and nuclear power plants. In Libya, which faces an unstable situation, Turkey has made moves such as the decision to dispatch troops to Libya. Turkey also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of National Accord of Libya concerning determination of the sea area in the Eastern Mediterranean. These decisions imply Turkey's interest in the natural gas fields of the Eastern Mediterranean.

In Turkey's relations with Japan, President Erdogan visited Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit, and a summit meeting was held in Tokyo in July. In October Minister of Culture and Tourism Ersoy attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and in November the Japan-Turkey Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on the margins of the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In addition, in December Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kihara Minoru visited Turkey and met with governmental officials, including Chief Advisor to the President of the Republic of Turkey Cevik.

3 For details for the Ertugrul Frigate incident, please refer to [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ms/da/page22\\_001052.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ms/da/page22_001052.html) (only in the Japanese language)





## (7) Middle East Peace Process

### A Developments in the Middle East Peace Process

The Middle East Peace Process has stagnated since negotiations between Israel and Palestine faltered in April 2014. Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank continue, but due to the occurrence of periodic rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, mutual mistrust has deepened and a return to talks has not been achieved.

Additionally, 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 in May, 2018. The Trump administration in August also decided to suspend all support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The Trump administration acknowledged Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights in March 2019, and in November Secretary of State Pompeo remarked that the establishment of Israeli settlements was not inconsistent with international law. The Palestinian side is strongly opposed to this series of U.S. policies.

In January 2020, the U.S. announced its vision for peace in the Middle East, and various discussions have been held in the international community; attention is being paid to future movements, including the resumption of dialogue between Israel and Palestine.

### B The Government of Japan's Efforts

Japan, while working with the international community toward the achievement of a “two-state solution” that would enable Israel and Palestine to coexist in peace, has actively contributed through the three pillars of political dialogue with stakeholders, trust building among the parties, and financial support for Palestinians. As a unique Japanese initiative, Japan, setting the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) as a flagship project, has been promoting the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” initiative, which is a medium- and long-term contribution to facilitate Palestinian

economic independence through regional cooperation with Japan, Palestine, Israel, and Jordan. As of the end of 2019, 15 private Palestinian companies are operating in the JAIP, which has created approximately 200 jobs.

In addition, Japan is mobilizing the resources and economic development knowledge of East Asian countries to support Palestinian nation building through the Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD). The Third Senior Officials Meeting of the CEAPAD was held in Palestine in July. The conference serves as an opportunity for business meetings with Palestinian companies, and has also steadily achieved results, such as a signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce.

## (8) Israel

Israel excels in the development of advanced technology and innovation and holds importance for the Japanese economy. It is also an important country in the stability of the Middle East region. In recent years, Israel has been expanding its relationship with Asian countries, including Japan, as a part of its efforts to diversify its diplomacy. As a result, the cooperative relations between Japan and Israel have been strengthened exponentially in the economic front. The number of businesses and the amount and number of investments from Japan to Israel are increasing. In addition, the Embassy of Japan in Israel established the Japan Innovation Center under its auspices, and is engaged in providing active support for developing relationships between Japanese and Israeli corporations.

General elections were held in Israel in April and September, but no agreement to form a government was reached, and another general election was held in March 2020. Despite this uncertainty about domestic politics, Japan and Israel are, based on Prime Minister Abe's visit to Israel in May 2018,

promoting the construction of multi-faceted relations, including political and economic relations. Approximately 200 people from 100 Japanese companies accompanied Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seko Hiroshige's visit to Israel in January 2019. In September a Memorandum on Protection of Information for the Exchange of Classified Information on Defense Equipment and Technology between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Ministry of Defense of Israel was signed. In addition, direct charter flights between Narita and Tel Aviv were operated in September and December, and direct flights by El Al Israel Airlines are also planned to begin in 2020. The exchange of high-ranking officials between Japan and Israel has also continued to flourish, as in May when Israeli Attorney General Mandelblit visited Japan, while in August the official delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and in December State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visited Israel.

### (9) Palestine

Based on the Oslo Accords of 1993 and other agreements, the Palestinian Authority (PA) began self-government rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 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



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visits the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) (December 21, Palestine)

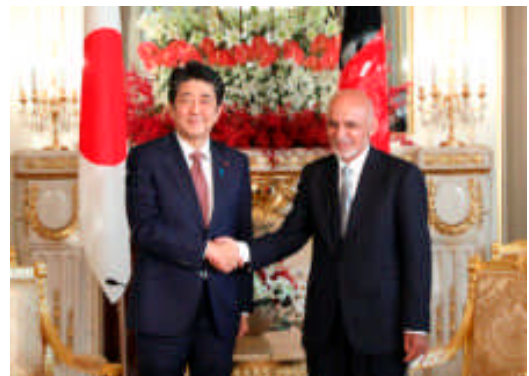
mediation efforts, Fatah and Hamas reached an agreement in-principle in October 2017 to transfer power in the Gaza Strip to the PA. However, the agreement has not been implemented and the division remains, with the West Bank still held by Fatah and the Gaza Strip remaining effectively under Hamas control.

In October 2019 Prime Minister Abe had a meeting with President Abbas, who visited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and President Abbas also had dinner with Foreign Minister Motegi. During these opportunities, they widely exchanged views on the issue of peace in the Middle East and discussed support for Palestine, including the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative led by Japan.

In December State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki visited Palestine and, in addition to meeting with President Abbas, Prime Minister Shtayyeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Malki, he also visited the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) and received an explanation about the JAIP's current status from Minister of National Economy Osaili.

### (10) Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic state located between Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. In the country, the severe security situation continues, with the Afghan government troops conducting cleanup operations against active



Japan-Afghanistan Summit Meeting (October 23, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## Special Feature

## Bringing Hope to Gaza: Inviting Teachers from the Gaza Strip, Palestine, to Japan

"At the beginning of 2019, we will invite to Japan approximately ten elementary and junior high school teachers from the Gaza Strip. This will be the first such group and we will continue to invite teachers annually."

This announcement was made by Prime Minister Abe at the UN General Assembly held in New York, the U.S., in September 2018. Palestine, in the Middle East, is not familiar to many of the Japanese people. What is happening in the Gaza Strip, and what has Japan begun to do?

Palestine consists of two areas separated by Israel which lies in between: the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Gaza Strip that is adjacent to the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. In addition to the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian sides since 1948, the region has also been affected by internal rivalry between Palestinian factions since 2007. As a result, the Gaza Strip has suffered from an enclosed environment for more than ten years, and its humanitarian and economic conditions continue to deteriorate. Amidst the unstable situation with unemployment rate exceeding 40%, the situation surrounding the people of Gaza has become intolerable, especially with regard to the sense of hopelessness among youths in the region.

The international community, including Japan, has to address the crisis that is present "right there and now" through food assistance and other forms of support. At the same time, however, from the medium- to long-term perspective, Palestine faces the pressing challenge of creating a sound educational environment so that the youths who bear the future of Palestine on their shoulders do not lose their hope for the future and their dignity as individuals.



The visiting teachers paying a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister (March 2019, Tokyo)

education. In addition to experiencing how education for peace is implemented in practice, the teachers also deepened their interaction with the children, such as by observing the serving of school meals.

In his address at the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe stated that, "Once 20 years pass, there will be 200 teachers who will have experienced visiting Japan. The number of students taught by them will number in the thousands." By continuing this invitation program for teachers from the Gaza Strip, the "Japan" that these teachers learn about during their stay is expected to spread gradually across the Gaza Strip. For the children of Gaza, this will definitely become an inspiration for the world outside they have yet to see, as well as their hope for the future. These children will also become the foundation for a solid relationship between Japan and Palestine in the future.

MOFA will continue to provide assistance and support to Palestine through various projects, including inviting teachers from the Gaza Strip to Japan.



Prime Minister Abe announcing the invitational program for teachers from Gaza, at the UN General Assembly (September 2018, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Half a year after Prime Minister Abe's address at the UN General Assembly, ten teachers from the Gaza Strip arrived at Narita International Airport on March 2, 2019. During their stay lasting about a week, they were lectured by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare about Japan's educational system and human resource development, visited the Tokyo Metropolitan School Personnel in Service Training Center and other sites, and deepened their knowledge about education in Japan. In Hiroshima, they visited Noboricho Elementary School, which is putting an emphasis on peace



The teachers visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park (March 2019, Hiroshima)

attacks by the anti-government Taliban and ISIL-related organizations, and realizing peace with the Taliban is one of the focal points.

Against this backdrop, the Afghanistan Government held a national great assembly (Loya Jirga), and there were efforts toward peace, such as the “Intra-Afghan Dialogue” in Moscow (Russia) and Doha (Qatar). In addition, although direct peace talks between the U.S. (Special Representative Khalilzad) and the Taliban, which begun in the fall of 2018, were suspended in September 2019 at the direction of President Trump, resumption of this effort was announced by President Trump, who visited Afghanistan for the first time in November.

On September 28, Afghanistan held the presidential election, which takes place once every five years. The current President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah were candidates in the election, and, after some confusion over the vote counting, on December 22, a preliminary result showed that President Ghani had won with 50.6% of the vote.

Japan is one of the major donors to Afghanistan, and in 2019 Japan continues to provide development assistance in areas such as health, education, agriculture, and human resources development, as well as support for the Afghan police, and a variety of other support so that Afghanistan can become truly independent. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which is represented by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Yamamoto Tadamichi, plays an active role in supporting the peace process, in political fields including elections, and in humanitarian and developmental fields including coordination among donors.

In May the Japan-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in Tajikistan for the first time in seven years. In addition, President Ghani visited Japan on the occasion of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in October, and a Japan-Afghanistan Summit Meeting was held for the first time in seven years,

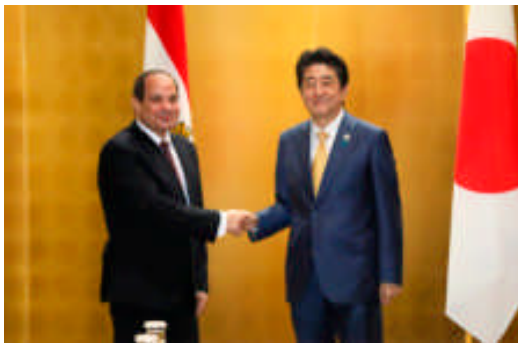
too. 2019 was a year in which bilateral relations between Japan and Afghanistan expanded even further, but on the other hand, it was also a year that saw the loss of two Japanese individuals who made great achievements internationally in supporting Afghanistan: Mrs. Ogata Sadako, who served as Special Representative of the Government of Japan on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan and as President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Dr. Nakamura Testu, the local representative of the Peshawar-kai, who made efforts in the medical field and in irrigation projects.

### (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.

Egypt’s domestic affairs are generally stable. In June 2018 the El-Sisi administration entered its second term, and the constitutional referendum in April 2019 made it possible for President El-Sisi to remain in office until 2030. On the economic front, there has been a significant improvement in macroeconomic indicators such as GDP growth and foreign exchange reserves by introducing a floating exchange rate system in autumn 2016 and decreasing the fuel subsidy system, as well as the introduction of value-added tax. In addition, for three years since 2016, Egypt has been the largest destination in Africa of the foreign direct investment.

Steady progress has been seen in the Japan-Egypt relations since President El-Sisi’s visit to Japan in February 2016. Cooperation covers various areas such as the construction program of the 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



Japan-Egypt Summit Meeting  
(June 27, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Technology (E-JUST). In addition, since April 2019, two Self-Defense Force personnel have been dispatched to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) stationed on the Sinai Peninsula.

In 2019 Egypt chaired the African Union (AU) and invigorated diplomacy with Africa. In addition, the G20 Presidency was held by Japan and many Egyptian dignitaries visited Japan to attend relevant conferences. In June, relevant officials such as President El-Sisi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shoukry visited Japan and attended the G20 Osaka Summit, and in August President El-Sisi and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shoukry visited Japan and attended the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). In addition, Minister of Antiquities El-Anany was in attendance for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. From Japan, there were visits to Egypt in February by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura Kentaro, in March by Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense Suzuki Takako, in August by State Minister of Cabinet Sato Akira, in September by Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Isozaki Yoshihiko, and in December by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani Shinichi.

Regarding bilateral business relations, a Japanese business mission (40 companies) visited Egypt in March, and, in addition, the Japan-Arab Economic Forum was held in September. It is expected that there will be increases in bilateral investment and exchange of people in the future.

The number of tourists from Japan to Egypt has also been increasing in recent years.

### 3 The Situation in the North Africa Region (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco)

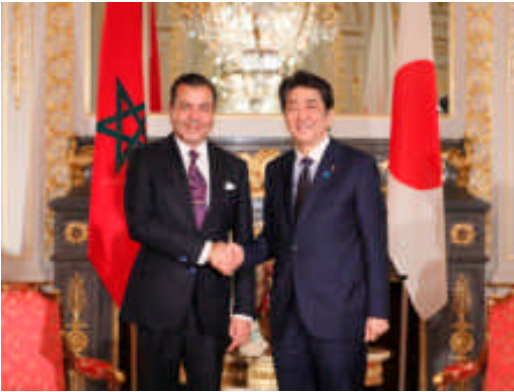
The Maghreb region is of great economic importance in Africa (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia are all in the top 10 GDP countries in Africa, and Morocco is home to the second largest amount of Japanese companies in Africa) because of its high potential from the geographic advantage of being located at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. It also has an abundant and inexpensive young labor force. Each country in the region rode out the “Arab Spring” through various methods and maintained political stability.

In Tunisia, presidential elections and National Assembly elections were held from September to October, and Mr. Kais Saied, an independent candidate, was elected president. Cabinet negotiations are ongoing as of January 2020, and attention is being paid to whether economic and social policy will be steadily implemented in the future.

On the other hand, in Algeria, since February 2019 protests against President Bouteflika's long-term government have taken place and been prolonged, and the administration was forced to resign in April. In a presidential election held in December, President Tebboune was elected, and the issue is whether the new administration will be able to ensure stable administration of the government.

In Algeria, the decline in energy income, which supports national finances, is becoming more serious, and overcoming regional disparities and high unemployment rates has also become an issue in Morocco and Tunisia. Additionally, there are concerns about the security effects of weapons and illegal immigration from Libya and the Sahel region.

Amidst this situation, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria have, with opportunities such as TICAD7 and the Ceremony of the Enthronement



Meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Prince Moulay Rachid of Morocco (October 24, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

of His Majesty the Emperor, actively continued exchanges of high-level officials since the end of 2018, when Foreign Minister Kono visited each country. Momentum for strengthening partnerships with each country is increasing, and Japan will continue contributing to economic and social stability in the region.

Japan and Morocco, in particular, have been developing friendly relations for many years on the basis of the relationships between the royal families of both countries, and high-level exchanges were successively realized in 2019, such as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Bourita's attendance at TICAD7. In September the Japan-Morocco Parliamentary Friendship League visited Morocco, and His Royal Highness Prince

Moulay Rachid, younger brother of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and met with Prime Minister Abe. Through such a series of exchanges of high-level dignitaries, both countries agreed to further develop close bilateral relations.

The security situation in Libya has been unstable since the collapse of the Qadhafi administration in 2011, with parliament and government taking sides in the east and west. In April 2019 General Khalifa Haftar of the "Libyan National Army," a powerful figure of the eastern side, ordered a march to Tripoli that developed into an armed conflict, including air strikes, with troops under the control of the Government of National Accord. Armed conflicts have continued since then, and the war has fallen into a deadlock. There have been more than 1,000 casualties, including ordinary citizens, and it is expected that a ceasefire will be realized and that the political process by the UN will be restarted.

Under these circumstances, Japan held a meeting in August with Foreign Minister Siala, who was visiting Japan to attend TICAD7, and it was agreed that there is no military solution to the Libyan conflict and that a peaceful solution is essential.

## Section 7

# Africa

### 1 Overview

Africa, with a population of over 1.3 billion in 54 countries, has attracted the interest of the international community, owing to its high potential and rich natural resources. Africa has been influential on multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations. Progress has been made on Africa's own efforts toward economic growth, including the entry into force of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA<sup>1</sup>) in May. Furthermore, as symbolized by the fact that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy, African-led conflict resolution efforts to stabilize the region are in progress.

On the other hand, in addition to conventional existing challenges, such as political instability, serious disparities and poverty, vulnerable health systems, and high unemployment especially among the youth, terrorism and violent extremism continues to be active on the continent. At the same time, new issues have emerged in some countries, such as worsening fiscal situations due to an increase in public debt. Overcoming these challenges is important not only for Africa, but

for the peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole.

In 1993, Japan started the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), under the principles of Africa's ownership (self-help efforts) and international partnership (cooperation), and has been supporting efforts by Africa.

At TICAD7, held in Yokohama in August, discussions on the development of Africa were held under the three pillars of Economy, Society, and Peace and Stability, with the participation of 53 African countries, including 42 leaders, as well as development partner countries, international organizations, and civil society. In particular, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7 (see the Opening Special Feature on page 6 and the Special Feature on page 160).

In the first pillar, Economy, it was confirmed that active private sector involvement, improving connectivity through quality infrastructure investment, human resource development, industry diversification including promotion of the blue economy,<sup>2</sup> and sound fiscal management including debt transparency and sustainability are the keys to sustainable economic growth in Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Signed by African countries in March 2018 at the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Kigali, Rwanda. Officially entered into force on May 30, 2019, establishing large-scale FTA in Africa with a population of over 1.3 billion people and a GDP of 2.5 trillion US dollars.

<sup>2</sup> Concept to promote sustainable growth by utilizing marine resources.

In the second pillar, Society, with the aim of moving toward an ever more sustainable and resilient society, there were discussions on the importance of health including the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Science and Technology Innovation (STI), the environment and disaster prevention, climate change, human resource development and education, and empowering women and youth.

In the third pillar, Peace and Stability, it was confirmed that African-led efforts are progressing in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region. In addition to that, discussions were held on the need for support from the international community to push the African efforts forward, and it was acknowledged that there is a need for further development, and boosting peace and security in the Sahel and other regions.

On the occasion of TICAD7, Japan announced “TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa,” declaring that Japan will (1) Promote Japanese private investment and innovation and support economic transformation that is taking off in Africa while contributing to the improvement of the business environment in Africa to achieve over 20 billion US dollars in private investment (Economy), (2) Contribute to building a resilient and sustainable society including in the health field to realize human security and SDGs, which are foundations of the betterment of livelihood and economic growth (Society), and (3) Implement the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)<sup>3</sup> that supports the African Union (AU) and other organizations-led

mediation and dispute resolution efforts and institution building to support Africa’s forward-looking initiatives (Peace and Stability), which are the preconditions for economic growth, investment, as well as the betterment of livelihood, and also provides support in a proper way to Japan, particularly long-term human resource development.

Furthermore, at the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting chaired by Foreign Minister Motegi, African development was taken up as one of the urgent issues facing the international community, and, based on the outcome of TICAD7, discussions were held on the need to support Africa’s own efforts as the international community. Participating countries expressed high appreciation for TICAD7 and pointed out that it is important for the international community, including the G20, to work closely with regards to African development. In addition, G20 members confirmed that the G20 must play a leading role for the steady promotion and establishment of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.

Outside of Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani Shinichi attended the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Dakar (Senegal) in November, and the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development held in Aswan (Egypt) in December. In both fora, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Nakatani explained discussions and achievements at TICAD7 and pointed out Japan’s concrete efforts, including NAPSA, toward peace and stability in Africa.

<sup>3</sup> A new approach proposed by Prime Minister Abe in August at TICAD7, held in Yokohama City. With respect to African ownership and the idea of addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism, it proposes (1) African-led initiatives such as conflict prevention, mediation and intervention by the AU, regional economic communities (RECs) and others, (2) institution building and strengthening of governance, and (3) support for preventing youth radicalization and resilience of local communities.



Special  
Feature

## Japan Business Council for Africa (JBCA)

Known as the largest frontier in the 21st century, Africa is considered to be a continent of future growth with high latent potential due to its rapid economic and population growth, and new products and services in Africa are being created one after another using innovative technologies. Expanding business relationships with African countries is considered to be a key to Japan's future growth as well, and, in fact, Western and Asian countries are rapidly entering the African market.

Against this background, in order to promote business relations including trade and investment between Japan and Africa, the Japan Business Council for Africa (JBCA) was established on June 6 as a permanent platform for Japanese companies, ministries and agencies, and government-related organizations to regularly share information about Africa and exchange opinions on business in Africa.

Establishment of the JBCA was recommended in the "Recommendations by the Japanese Private Sector." These recommendations were adopted in March at the "TICAD7 Public-Private Roundtable Meeting," which was established to discuss measures to promote the expansion of Japanese companies to Africa, based on changes in the business environment since TICAD VI and the progress of the international community's efforts ahead of TICAD7 (August). They recommended that the various existing public-private partnership frameworks outline the cooperation and collaboration needed to support Japanese companies considering an expansion to Africa. As for concrete activities, the JBCA listens to organizations and private companies to collect proposals and priority issues for business development in Africa, and, based on this feedback, relevant ministries and governmental agencies will consider and implement the strengthening or addition of support policies.

Based on requests from Japanese private companies and the African side, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7, which considers fast-growing Africa as a partner for mutual growth. The third plenary session in particular, "Public-Private Business Dialogue," was a milestone as, for the first time in TICAD history, private companies from Japan and Africa participated as official partners. The JBCA actively participated in the discussions, and sector-specific working groups (infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, and support for SMEs/startups), established under the JBCA, and announced specific efforts in each sector and proposals to the African side. In response to this, participants from the African side expressed their strong expectations for partnerships with Japanese private companies.

Additionally, the "Recommendations by the Japanese Private Sector" also suggested that a "Committee on the Improvement of the Business Environment" be established as a place for the public and private sectors of Japan and African countries to continuously discuss issues and consider specific solutions in order to solve the various problems facing private companies operating in Africa. Taking advantage of TICAD7, the Government of Japan agreed to set up the Bilateral Committee on the Improvement of the Business Environment with seven African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa). In response to this, the JBCA also established its own "Business Environment Improvement Working Group" and is following up on the state of the business environment in African countries, including the seven aforementioned countries.

The Government of Japan is working to strengthen business relations between Japan and Africa for the next conference, TICAD8, by using its various policy tools to fully support the JBCA's activities as "all-Japan" efforts.



First meeting of the Japan Business Council for Africa (June 6, Tokyo)

## 2 East Africa

### (1) Ethiopia

With the population of more than 100 million and home to the headquarters of the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ethiopia is the most populous country in the East Africa region and plays an important political role in the African continent. On the economic front, Ethiopia's economy continues to grow steadily, and aims to become a middle-income country by 2025. In October, it was announced that Prime Minister Abiy would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to peace in the region, including the resumption of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and its neighboring Eritrea, after 20 years of conflict.

Foreign Minister Kono visited Ethiopia in May and met with Prime Minister Abiy and State Minister of Foreign Affairs Markos. In addition, Prime Minister Abiy visited Japan in August with Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu to participate in TICAD7, and in October, Former President Mulatu visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with both of them respectively. Furthermore, in November, the Exchange of Notes was signed concerning an ODA yen loan (approximately 9.7 billion yen) for a project to upgrade the road between Jimma and Chida.



Japan-Ethiopia Summit Meeting  
(August 29, Yokohama; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

### (2) Eritrea

After Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993, a border dispute that broke out from 1998 to 2000 left the two countries in a state of conflict, but in July 2018, the diplomatic relations were resumed for the first time in 20 years. In addition, in November 2018, a resolution to lift sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council since 2009 was unanimously adopted.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Osman visited Japan in March 2019 upon invitation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. Minister of Foreign Affairs Osman visited Japan again in August to participate in TICAD7 and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

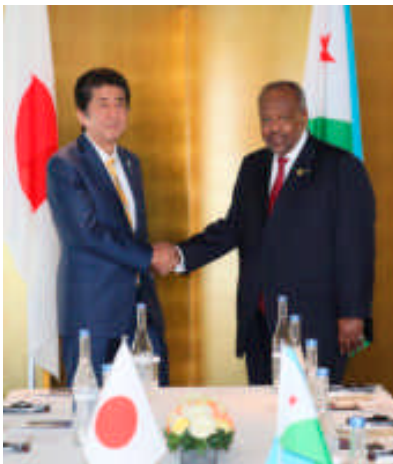
### (3) Kenya

Kenya plays a central role in the regional economy with its port of 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. In domestic affairs, President Kenyatta launched in 2017 the BIG4 five-year economic development plan consisting of four pillars in the fields of (1) manufacturing, (2) food security, (3) universal health coverage, and (4) affordable housing, and is engaged in a new nation building effort.

A number of important ministers, including Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Juma, visited Japan in August with President Kenyatta to attend TICAD7 and had meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono.

### (4) 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 also a key country in achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."



Japan-Djibouti Summit Meeting  
(August 29, Yokohama;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Since 2011, Djibouti has been hosting the facility of Japan Self-Defense Forces to carry out Japan's counter-piracy operations, and the two countries have been developing an excellent relationship. President Guelleh and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Youssouf visited Japan in August 2019 to attend TICAD7 and President Guelleh had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, Prime Minister Abdoukader visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a meeting with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kihara Minoru and Minister of Defense Kono. In December, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kihara and Minister of Defense Kono each visited Djibouti, making 2019 a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials.

In September, the Exchange of Notes was signed for ODA grant aid (grant limit of approximately 4.1 billion yen) for "The Project for the Reinforcement of Maritime Transport Capacity at the Gulf of Tadjourah," and, additionally, in case of heavy rain and flood disaster in November, a part of the Self-Defense Forces unit originally deployed for anti-piracy operations conducted

International Disaster Relief Operations such as drainage and cleaning work at an elementary school and transferring emergency relief goods provided by Japan.

### (5) 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 April, the Bashir administration, which had been in power for 30 years, collapsed, and the domestic security situation temporarily deteriorated. However, in August, a new provisional government based on power sharing between the armed forces and the people was established, with an agreement to form a new government by holding democratic elections after an interim three-year period. The new provisional government has put priorities on the end of the civil war and economic revitalization and aims to realize nation building in coordination and cooperation with the international community.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ilham attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region held at TICAD7.<sup>4</sup>

### (6) Seychelles

Although Seychelles has the highest gross national income per capita (GNI) of 15,600 US dollars (2018) in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a small island country with vulnerabilities in fields such as climate change and disaster prevention.

In January, the Embassy of Japan in Seychelles was newly established. In August, President Danny Faure and Secretary of State Ambassador Barry Faure visited Japan to attend TICAD7. They met with Prime Minister Abe and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato Masahisa, and confirmed the

<sup>4</sup> Following the decision of the AU to suspend Sudan's AU membership (June to September 5, 2019), Sudan did not participate in the TICAD7 plenary session but did participate in the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region.

strong bilateral relationship between Japan and Seychelles. In addition, in October, the Exchange of Notes was signed regarding ODA grant aid for the Project for the Capacity Improvement of Maritime Safety (800 million yen).

### (7) Somalia

In Somalia, a unified government was established in 2012 for the first time in 21 years, but Somalia is still in the process of building a country due to the humanitarian crises, such as droughts and continuing activities by the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab.

In August, President Mohamed visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In October, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdulkadir visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke. In November, the signing and exchange of notes regarding ODA grant aid (approximately 500 million yen) took place to provide Somalia with the equipment and data for creating topographic maps and to support improvements in map-making capacity.

### (8) Madagascar

The presidential election in Madagascar was peacefully held in 2018, following the presidential election in 2013, and President Rajoelina was elected. Based on the democratic outcomes of the last five years, Madagascar's economic growth is expected to accelerate.

2019 was a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials. In January, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Akiba Kenya (member of the House of Representatives), attended President Rajoelina's inauguration ceremony, and afterwards Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji also visited Madagascar. In addition, President Rajoelina visited Japan in

August to participate in TICAD7.

On the economic front, the integrated production of nickel and cobalt ores, which is the largest mining investment in Africa by a Japanese company, is contributing to Madagascar's economy. In addition, Japan is supporting the expansion of Toamasina Port, Madagascar's largest port, with yen loans.

### (9) 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)<sup>5</sup> are ongoing. The Khartoum Declaration relating to a permanent ceasefire was issued in June after the second conflict in July 2016, and President Kiir, former first Vice President Machar, and others signed a reinvigorated conflict resolution agreement in September. However, the establishment of the new transitional government was realized only in February 2020 after two postponements, in May and November 2019, due to provisional security measures and problems with borders and the number of states.

Foreign Minister Kono visited South Sudan in May, and Vice President Igga visited Japan in August to participate in TICAD7.

### (10) Rwanda

In 2019, 25 years after the Rwandan genocide, under the leadership of President Kagame, the country continues working toward economic growth and national reconciliation. In recent years, Rwanda has garnered interest from Japanese companies mainly in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), and, against this backdrop, 2019 was a year which saw a heightened momentum for further promotion of Japan-Rwanda relations.

In January, President Kagame visited Japan and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe

<sup>5</sup> IGAD: a regional economic community in eastern Africa.



Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting  
(August 29, Yokohama;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and a business forum. In March, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada visited Rwanda and attended the Africa CEO Forum,<sup>6</sup> where he discussed the upcoming TICAD, and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sezibera and Minister of ICT and Innovation Ingabire. In August, President Kagame visited Japan for the sixth time to participate in TICAD7, and held the second Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting for 2019.

The fields of cooperation between Japan and Rwanda are expanding, and, in September, Rwanda's RWASAT-1, jointly assembled by Rwandan engineers and the University of Tokyo, was launched into orbit.

### 3 Southern Africa

#### (1) Angola

Since the inauguration of President Lourenço (2017), the Government of Angola has been promoting economic reforms, including actively exposing corruption by individuals connected to the former dos Santos administration, fiscal and financial reforms including the introduction of a VAT, a reform of the exchange rate system, and improvements to the investment environment.

Angola is also working on diversifying the economy to depart from an economic structure that relies on natural resources.

In August, President Lourenço participated in TICAD7 for the first time as Angola's incumbent President, and demonstrated Angola's stance of attaching importance to the relationship with Japan by having a large number of accompanying ministers attend the meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, a technical cooperation agreement was signed, which is expected to further contribute to the social and economic development of Angola.

#### (2) Eswatini

Eswatini remains an absolute monarchy, with King Mswati III having overwhelming power in administration and legislation. The parliament remains an advisory body, and the royal family occupies important positions within the government. On April 19, 2018, it was announced that the country's name would be changed from the "Kingdom of Swaziland" to the "Kingdom of Eswatini," and the change came into force that same day. Eswatini has become the only country in Africa to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan after Burkina Faso severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 2018.

In August, Prime Minister Dlamini visited Japan to participate in TICAD7, and in October, King Mswati III visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Both of them had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe during their visits. In addition, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki made a courtesy call to King Mswati III during the Sixth Replenishment Conference of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria held in Lyon (France).

#### (3) Zimbabwe

Former President Mugabe, who had been in power since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980

<sup>6</sup> An international conference started in 2012, bringing together in one place business owners, investors, and government officials from inside and outside Africa for the purpose of conducting discussions focused on private investment in Africa.

until 2017, passed away in September 2019. While there has been little progress on reforms after the administration change, natural disasters such as droughts and hurricanes have caused great damages, leaving concern about the impacts on Zimbabwe's economy and on people's lives.

Taking every opportunity for the exchange of high-ranking officials, Japan has been continuously emphasizing directly to government officials, including the president, about the importance of promoting democracy and economic development in Zimbabwe, and Japan expects that President Mnangagwa and his administration will promote democracy and steadily implement economic reforms. In August, many ministers from Zimbabwe, including President Mnangagwa and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Moyo, visited Japan to participate in TICAD7, and held a summit meeting and a foreign ministers' meeting.

#### (4) Namibia

Namibia has abundant marine and mineral resources, and, as a distribution hub on the Atlantic side of the Southern Africa region, it is expected that trade and investment will expand in the fields of resource development and energy. March 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of Namibia's independence.

In August, President Geingob visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In November, the Namibian team participated as the African representative in the Rugby World Cup 2019, which was held in Japan for the first time and deepened grass root exchanges through sports.

#### (5) Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked country in Southern Africa that has maintained relatively stable domestic affairs since its independence in 1964, but the domestic situation remains fluid due in part to frequent demonstrations organized by human rights groups since the May 2019 presidential election.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has dispatched a total of more than 1,800 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi, the most in the world, and Malawi has deep grassroots exchanges with Japan, such as implementing the One Village One Product movement, which is the first in Africa, to cultivate specialty products for each region.

In August, Vice President Chimulirenji visited Japan to attend TICAD7 and had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

#### (6) South Africa

South Africa is the only African country that is a G20 member. It continues to garner attention from foreign companies including Japanese companies as a major economic power in Africa and as a base from which to carry out business expansion. South Africa has, for the third time, been serving as a member of the UN Security Council since 2019, and has a strong presence in the international arena.

In May, the incumbent President Ramaphosa was reelected in a general election, and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Seki Yoshihiro (State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) attended President Ramaphosa's inauguration ceremony in May, reconfirming to strengthen bilateral relations between Japan and South Africa, focusing on trade and investment.

President Ramaphosa visited Japan in June and August to attend the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7 respectively, and had meetings with Prime Minister Abe. At the G20 Osaka Summit, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Pandor had a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, witnessing the good progress of the bilateral relations. In November, President Ramaphosa visited Japan to watch the finals of the Rugby World Cup 2019 in which South Africa achieved its third victory, and 2019 resulted in a great year for bilateral exchanges in sports.

### (7) Mozambique

Mozambique is rich in natural resources especially in the Nacala Corridor region, and Japanese companies have shown great interest in Mozambique, including one that announced their participation in Mozambique's natural gas development projects in 2019.

In August, former President Chissano and Minister of Economy and Finance Maleiane visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono. In addition, President of the Assembly of the Republic Macamo visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and there were also active inter-parliamentary exchanges, such as meeting with the presidents of Japan's House of Representatives and Councilors. In October, the incumbent President Nyusi was reelected in the presidential election, and the ruling party won an absolute majority. In January 2020, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Mihara Asahiko (Member of the House of Representatives) attended President Nyusi's inauguration ceremony.

### (8) Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa, composed mostly of mountainous highlands, and continues to grow economically through mining and water resources development. In addition, trout aquaculture is carried out in the lake of the Katse Dam constructed by utilizing natural resources, providing a major export product to Japan.

In August, Prime Minister Thabane visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, King Letsie III and Queen Masenate visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and King Letsie III had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

## 4 Central Africa

### (1) Cameroon

In November 2018, President Biya established a National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (DDR) in order to stabilize the English-speaking regions, where independence movement is occurring, and the Far North region threatened by the Islamic extremist organization of Boko Haram. In September 2019, Prime Minister Ngute chaired a national dialogue on the situation in North-West and South-West regions that belongs to the English-speaking regions.

In August, Minister of External Relations Mbella Mbella attended TICAD7 and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

### (2) Democratic Republic of the Congo

President Tshisekedi was elected in the December 2018 presidential election, took office in January 2019, and established a new ruling coalition in August.

The Ebola outbreak continued in some of the eastern regions, and in July, the World Health Organization declared that it was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Japan provided emergency relief goods and emergency grant aid as well as dispatching Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Teams.



Japan-Democratic Republic of the Congo Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 21, Tokyo)

In August, President Tshisekedi attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, State Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Tumba visited Japan and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

### (3) Central Africa

President Tuadera, in cooperation with the international community, is continuing efforts to revitalize the country from the longstanding political instability. In Khartoum (Sudan) in January, negotiations were held between the Central African Government and armed groups, under mediation from the AU and the UN, and a peace agreement was signed on February 6.

In August, President Tuadera attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

## 5 West Africa

### (1) Ghana

Since President Akufo-Addo took office in 2017, his administration has adopted the concept of Ghana Beyond Aid, and is working to attract investment from foreign companies. Many Japanese companies are also expanding their business in Ghana.

As Japan and Ghana have a friendly bilateral relationship, 2019 also turned out to be a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials. In June, the 2nd High-Quality Infrastructure Conference was held in Accra, in which State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Otsuka Takashi participated. In addition, in August, President Akufo-Addo attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, First Lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and the chief attendant and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Charles Owiredu met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki.

### (2) Guinea

Guinea has been playing a role as a stabilizing force in the West African region by promoting regional cooperation in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and by accepting refugees from neighboring countries. On the other hand, since October, the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), which opposes a constitutional amendment that could allow a third term for President Condé, announced that it would hold demonstrations indefinitely and all over Guinea. Demonstrations have been held regularly since then, and there have also been conflicts between demonstrators and security forces.

In August President Condé attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

### (3) Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau peacefully held parliamentary elections in March, and Japan cooperated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide approximately 1 million US dollars in support. In August, Prime Minister Gomes attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Afterwards, President Vaz completed his term peacefully, the first ever case since independence. Following this, the first and second votes in the presidential election were held in November and December respectively. Japan cooperated with the UNDP to provide approximately 750,000 US dollars in support for that.

### (4) Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has maintained an average annual growth rate of approximately 8% in recent years and has been a driving force in the West African economy as a regional logistics hub.

Japan has maintained cordial relations with Côte d'Ivoire since its independence. In August, Prime Minister Coulibaly attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In



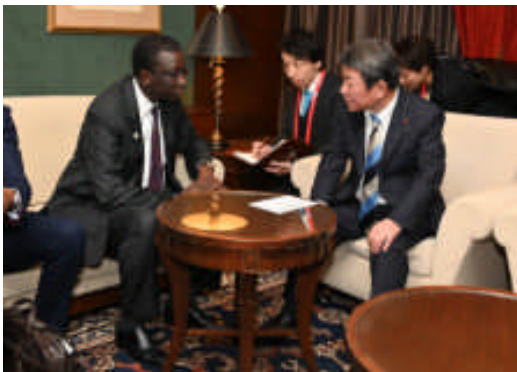
October, President Ouattara visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

On the economic front, Japanese companies still maintain a high interest in Côte d'Ivoire, and on January 13, 2020, the Japan-Cote d'Ivoire Investment Agreement was signed in Abidjan.

### (5) Senegal

Against a background of good bilateral relations, 2019 continued to be a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials between Japan and Senegal. A number of Japanese officials visited Senegal, including the January visit by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada to attend the Third Edition of the International Conference on the Emergence of Africa, the April visit by Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Mr. Kitamura Seigo (member of the House of Representatives) to attend the inauguration ceremony (reelection) of President Sall, and the November visit by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani to attend the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

From Senegal, in June, President Sall attended the G20 Osaka Summit and relevant Ministers participated in a series of G20-related ministerial meetings. In August, President Sall attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Furthermore, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad Ba attended the



Japan-Senegal Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
(November 23, Nagoya)

G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

### (6) Togo

After parliamentary elections in December 2018, the second Komi Klassou cabinet was formed in January 2019. Currently, third-term President Gnassingbe is working to improve the investment environment with the aim of reducing poverty through economic growth, and in November, a Japanese corporate mission by JICA and JETRO visited Togo.

In August, President Gnassingbe attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, President Gnassingbe revisited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. As President Gnassingbe also attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor for Emperor Heisei in 1989 as the Presidential Representative back then, this was his second consecutive time to attend the Ceremony.

### (7) Nigeria

Nigeria, with the largest population and economy in Africa, has high economic potential. While many Japanese companies are interested in expanding into Nigeria, the country is facing the problem of terrorism, mainly in the northeastern region, by Boko Haram and Islamic State (IS) West Africa Province (ISWAP).

As a result of the February presidential election, incumbent President Buhari was re-elected. President Buhari's slogan is to guide Nigeria to the "Next Level," and he has positioned economy, security, and anti-corruption measures as the three pillars to be prioritized.

Japan and Nigeria maintain amicable bilateral relations, and 2019 was a very active year for exchange of high-ranking officials. In June, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Shunsuke Takei (member of the House of Representatives) attended Democracy Day ceremonies and made a courtesy call to President Buhari.

In August, President Buhari attended TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In November, Speaker of the House of Representatives Gbajabiamila visited Japan at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan Oshima Tadamori, and paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe.

### (8) Niger

Niger, one of the Sahel countries, has recently faced the threat of terrorism from the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and ISAWP.

President Issoufou visited Japan in August and October to attend TICAD7 and the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor respectively, and held summit meetings with Prime Minister Abe.

### (9) Burkina Faso

The political situation in Burkina Faso has been comparatively stable since current President Kaboré was chosen in the November 2015 presidential election. On the other hand, there have been a number of terrorist incidents in recent years, and in January 2019, a state of emergency was declared in the eastern, northern, and south-western regions, which remains in effect.

In August, President Kaboré attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Barry attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

### (10) Benin

Since President Talon, who used to work as a businessman, was elected in the March 2016 presidential election, his administration is aiming to realize sustainable economic and social growth under the Government Action Program (PAG), the government's strategic policy.

In August, President Talon visited Japan to attend TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with

Prime Minister Abe, where they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena.

### (11) Mali

In 2015, a peace and reconciliation agreement was signed between the government and northern militants in Mali. Currently, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), French troops, and part of the G5 Sahel Joint Force (with the participation of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) are deployed to Mali to address the threat of terrorism. Nonetheless, terrorist incidents are successively occurring.

In response to such a situation in Mali, Japan is assisting the country with providing security maintenance equipment, strengthening the capacity of the national police, and supporting the PKO training center in collaboration with UN agencies.

In August, President Keïta attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

### (12) Mauritania

Mauritania is blessed with marine resources. Japan started cooperating with Mauritania in the fisheries sector in 1977, and the fisheries industry has developed into one of Mauritania's major industries. In particular, approximately 40% of its octopus exports go to Japan.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visiting an elementary school supported by Japan (February 27, Mauritania)

In February, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Mauritania and, in addition to paying a courtesy call on President Aziz, visited an elementary school constructed by the support of Japan.

In addition, Prime Minister Sidiya attended

TICAD7 in August and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Moreover, in November, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani paid a courtesy call on President Ghazouani at the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

# 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, inter-state competitions are prominently emerging, in which states seek to shape global and regional order to their advantage as well as 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 also been a security agenda. In the maritime domain, there have been cases where a 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 on the high seas. Given that national security has been expanding its scope to economic and technological fields in recent years, the enhancement of efforts regarding the security policy in these fields is necessary. The

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, as well as escalating international terrorism, remain grave challenges for the international community. Against such a background, qualitatively and quantitatively superior military powers are concentrating in the areas surrounding Japan, where clear trends are observed in further military buildup and an 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 the economy, contribute even more proactively to securing peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community, and achieve 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 preemptively, 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 terrestrial 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 Indo-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, 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

### A Efforts Under the Guidelines for Japan-U.S.

#### Defense Cooperation

The Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation, which were 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 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 April 2019, four cabinet-level officials from Japan and the U.S. concurred that the Japan-U.S. Alliance serves as the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and that Japan and the U.S. will work together to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” and to strengthen cooperation in cross-domain operations such as improving capabilities in non-conventional domains that include space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum. They also affirmed that cyberattacks could, in certain circumstances constitute armed attacks, for the purposes of Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Also at the meeting, the Ministers reaffirmed that Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty applies to the Senkaku Islands and that both nations oppose any unilateral action that seeks to undermine Japan’s administration of these islands. There have been active interpersonal exchanges between high-level officials, with visits to Japan by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Richardson in January, Commandant of the Marine Corps General Neller in March, Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan in June, Secretary of Defense Esper and Commandant of the Marine Corps General Berger in August, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Davidson in October, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General

Milley in November. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue was held in June and December, 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.

### B 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 to Japan under any circumstances.

### C Cyberspace

The two countries held the seventh Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo in October. 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 sixth dialogue held in July 2018. They also engaged in wide-ranging 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.

### D Space

Japan and the U.S. have held discussions on a wide range of cooperation on space through events such as the Sixth Comprehensive Dialogue on Space, held in July. 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, as well as concrete examinations of cooperation over hosted payloads (which refers to sending equipment and materials for missions along on artificial satellites).

### **E** Trilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Japan and the U.S. place importance on security and defense cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. At the Japan-U.S. “2+2” meeting in April, it was concurred that the U.S., Japan and the Republic of Korea would closely coordinate together. In occasions such as the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May, the leaders concurred to continue strengthening and expanding networks among allies and friendly nations, including Japan-U.S.-India, Japan-U.S.-Australia, as well as Japan-U.S.-Australia-India networks. In June, the second Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting was held and the leaders reaffirmed the critical importance of their trilateral cooperation in efforts to maintain and promote a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” In particular, the leaders concurred to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as maritime security, security in new domains including space and cyberspace, and quality infrastructure investment. At the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Ministerial in September, the Ministers from the four countries discussed collective efforts to advance a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

### **F** 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 forums 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. Additionally, at the “2+2” meeting in April 2019, four cabinet-level officials from the U.S. and Japan confirmed that both countries will jointly strengthen their presence in the region, including through joint exercises and port calls, while cooperating with partners in the region.

### **(3) Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan**

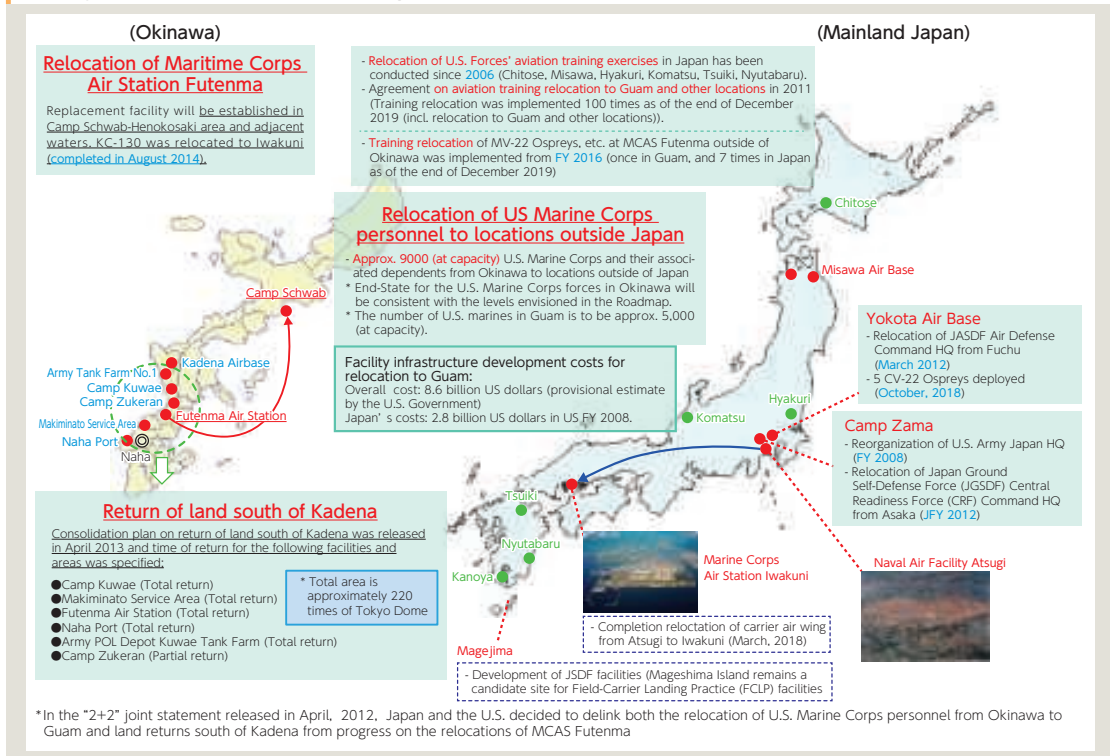
The Government of Japan will continue to make every effort to mitigate the impact on local communities, including Okinawa, by soundly promoting the realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan, including the prompt relocation to Henoko and the return of MCAS Futenma, while still maintaining the deterrence capabilities of said forces.

In the joint statement issued by Japan and the U.S. 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 April 2019, the two governments reaffirmed their understanding that the plan to construct the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) at the Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and adjacent waters is the only solution that avoids the continued use of MCAS Futenma, and underscored their strong determination to achieve its completion as soon as possible.

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.”



## Realignment of U.S. Forces in Japan - An Overview



In addition to the return of a major portion of the Northern Training Area (NTA, approximately 4,000 hectares) in December 2017, 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) in July 2017, the return of land along National Route No. 58 in the Makiminato Service Area (approximately 3 hectares) in March 2018, and the return of a zone of approximately 2 hectares near Gate 5 in the Makiminato Service Area was realized in March 2019. In addition, the rotation deployment of U.S. Marine Corps KC-130 aerial tanker unit to Kanoya Air Field in accordance with the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation established in May 2006 started from September 2019. This move will alleviate the impact of increased operations entailing relocation of the KC-130 unit and carrier airwing unit to Iwakuni Air Base.

### (4) Host Nation Support (HNS)

The security environment surrounding Japan 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 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 Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). In addition to this, under the Special Measures Agreement, Japan also bears labor costs, utility costs, and training relocation costs for USFJ.

Based on SOFA and Special Measures Agreement that came into force on April 1, 2016 (effective through fiscal 2020), the Government of Japan bears Host Nation Support (HNS).

### (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 mitigating the impact on Okinawa, where U.S. Forces' facilities and areas are concentrated, has been confirmed between Japan and the U.S. on numerous occasions, including the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2018 and the "2+2" meeting in April 2019. 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 utmost efforts to make improvements in specific issues in light of the requests from local communities. Among these issues are preventing incidents and accidents involving U.S. Forces, abating the noise by U.S. Forces' aircraft, and dealing with environmental issues at U.S. Forces' 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. In July 2019, revisions were made to the Guidelines Regarding Off-Base U.S. Military Aircraft Accidents in Japan that provide for entry by Japanese or U.S. personnel into a restricted area to be conducted quickly and in a timely fashion.

April 2019 saw the launch of the second TOFU: Think of Okinawa's Future in the U.S. program, which sent 24 high school students, university students, and other young people from Okinawa to the U.S. This program aims to provide an opportunity 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, as well as to promote mutual understanding by having them interact with local important officials and young people in English (see the Column on page 178).

## (6) United Nations Command (UNC) and U.S. Forces in Japan

Coincident with the start of the Korean War in June 1950, the United Nations Command (UNC) was established in July of the same year based on UN Security Council resolution 83 in June and resolution 84 in July. Following the cease-fire agreement concluded in July 1953, UNC Headquarters was relocated to Seoul, South Korea in July 1957, and UNC (Rear) was established in Japan. Established at Yokota Air Base, UNC (Rear) currently has a stationed commander and four other staff and military attachés 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.

In May 2019, General Abrams, Commander of the UN Command, the Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea made a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Kono, where the two sides reaffirmed the long-running partnership between Japan and the UNC. A joint board was then held in July between the Government of Japan and UNC that marked the first time in over 60 years that any substantial discussions had been held between the two sides over matters not concerning the usage of facilities and areas. The meetings saw discussions held over the situation on the Korean Peninsula, with the two sides reaching an agreement on notification procedures in case of unusual occurrences related to the United Nations Command Forces in Japan. The Government of Japan will continue to work closely with the UNC.

## Column

## TOFU: Think of Okinawa's Future in the U.S.

Since 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been sending high school and university students who will be the future leaders of Okinawa to the U.S. under the Think of Okinawa's Future in the U.S. (TOFU) program. This program aims to nurture those who can think about Japan-U.S. relations from a global perspective, and play an active role in the international community. In the second round of this program held in March 2019, 24 students representing Okinawa Prefecture visited Washington D.C. and New York for about one week. This column features the voices of the participants.

**Yamauchi Kento**

In Washington D.C., we visited the U.S. Department of State where we experienced what it was like to be a diplomat through a role-playing activity. We were divided into teams representing the Japanese Embassy and the U.S. Embassy with a scenario in which a volcanic eruption or demonstration has occurred in a certain country. Our task was to figure out how we would evacuate and rescue the citizens of our own countries. It was very difficult to come up with the best solution within the time limit, and all the students were puzzled over the task. However, we enjoyed working on it, and it was a very valuable experience. We also visited the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the National Archives, and the Embassy of Japan in the U.S. Furthermore, we interacted with local high school students, and made presentations about the culture and attractiveness of Japan and Okinawa, covering topics such as karate, traditional Ryukyu dance, tea ceremony, and kanji. In New York, after listening to talks by Ambassador Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, and Mr. Komatsubara, TICAD Programme Adviser at the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), we met with Ambassador Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan. We expressed our opinions and asked questions about the U.S. military bases in Okinawa. Since views on the issue vary from generation to generation in Okinawa, citizens of Okinawa too understand that the removal or relocation of the bases has been a very difficult problem. Ambassador Kennedy stated that the U.S. military is always looking for the best solution, and I felt that there is a need to transform the presence of the bases into Okinawa's strength.

After the program, we brought our experiences back to Okinawa and shared our new knowledge through social media. We also gave presentations at our schools. Since the TOFU experience, I have begun watching the news and reading newspapers more frequently.

The experience of meeting people I would definitely not have been able to meet in my daily life and being able to exchange views with them has become something I will never forget.

**Tamaki Yurino**

Through this program, I experienced the joy of being able to communicate our thoughts and views directly to those who play an active role on the frontlines of politics, including Ambassador Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Moreover, I gained a solid sense of what it is like to be involved in politics and social issues, which seemed very far from my personal life. What left a particular impression on me was raising questions at the White House and the exchange with Ambassador Kennedy. Our visit to the U.S. coincided with when the White House petition website was receiving many signatures to oppose the relocation of the U.S. military base to Henoko. I had been cynical about whether these signatures were actually reaching the intended authorities, but they had in fact been delivered. I realized that efforts are also being made overseas to consider and do something about this issue. Ambassador



TOFU program participants visiting the Department of State (March 21, Washington D.C., U.S.)

Kennedy places importance not only on political issues, but also on traditional culture as well as exchanges between high school students of Okinawa and the U.S. Her obvious and heartfelt love for Okinawa made me feel a sense of affinity with her.

Through this experience, I strongly felt that Okinawa is an island to be proud of. That is precisely why I feel that, by sharing Okinawa's strengths and issues, I could gain various perspectives and contribute to realizing a better future for Okinawa. I will never forget all the things I have learned through this program, and I will continue to put my best efforts into doing everything I can for Okinawa.



TOFU program participants paying a courtesy call to Ambassador Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and exchanging opinions with her (March 25, New York, U.S.)

### 3 Global Security

#### (1) Regional Security

The security environment surrounding the Asia-Pacific region is becoming increasingly severe for 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 multifaceted and multilayered levels. Japan is also striving 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 works to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance as well as to enhance security cooperation with various other countries in addition to the U.S. In relation to ASEAN Member States, Japan pursues synergy between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) which was announced

by ASEAN in June 2019, and a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP), and contributes to stability and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific region. For instance, Japan offers continuous assistance for improving maritime security including through providing the Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and other countries with patrol boats.

In relation to India, at the first Japan-India Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting (“2+2”) in November, recalling their commitment toward a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region, both sides welcomed the significant progress made in the negotiations of Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and expressed their desire for an early conclusion of the negotiations.

In relation to Australia, regarding the realization of FOIP, the leaders concurred at the Japan-Australia Summit Meetings in June and August to collaborate further in the field of aid for capacity building in maritime security and infrastructure in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Island countries, as well as to promote cooperation on security issues, including the negotiations of the Japan-Australia Reciprocal Access Agreement.

In relation to the UK, at the Japan-UK Summit Meeting in January the leaders welcomed the UK's further involvement in the Indo-Pacific region and concurred on making greater efforts to strengthen cooperation in maritime security and other areas toward achieving FOIP. This was reaffirmed in

December during the Japan-UK Summit telephone call following Prime Minister Johnson's victory in the UK general election.

In relation to France, the ministers at the fifth Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") in January concurred that Japan and France, which are both maritime and Pacific nations, would promote concrete cooperation toward maintaining and strengthening a free and open Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the Roadmap on Japan-France Cooperation for Opening New Horizons between Japan and France under an "Exceptional Partnership" was issued at the Japan-France Summit Meeting in June. The Roadmap, which was centered on promoting cooperation in a variety of areas, placed maritime security as one of the three pillars of Japan-France cooperation and confirmed both countries' intent to deepen concrete cooperation in the areas of defense and security. Furthermore, the Japan-France ACSA entered into force in June.

In relation to Canada, at the summit meeting in April, the leaders shared the view on strengthening their strategic partnership under the vision of FOIP. In addition, the Japan-Canada ACSA entered into force in July.

In relation to the ROK, based on the recognition of the importance of Japan-ROK support for the U.S.-North Korea process and of Japan-ROK as well as Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperation, the two countries held, *inter alia*, a Japan-ROK Summit Meeting (December), Japan-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meetings (January, February, May, twice in August, September, November, and December), a Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August) and Meetings of Japan-U.S.-ROK Leading Officials to the Six-Party Talks (March, August, and October). The two sides confirmed that Japan and the ROK, as well as Japan, the U.S. and the ROK, would work closely together.

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: Japan-U.S.-India Summit Meeting (June), a Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August), a Japan-U.S.-Australia Ministerial Meeting of the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (August), and a Japan-U.S.-Australia-India Ministerial (September).

Furthermore, it is also important to enhance the relationship 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 friendship and cooperation from a comprehensive perspective. 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 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 2018 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 three summit meetings and seven foreign ministers' meetings in 2019, Japan has been energetically continuing negotiations to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the issue of attribution of the Four Northern Islands. In the area of security, Security Consultations took place in March and the Japan-Russia Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting ("2+2") was held in May. The two countries held candid discussions on defense and security on such occasions as the visit to Japan by the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Patrushev in September.

Peace and stability in the Middle East region

is vital to the peace and prosperity of the international community including Japan. The Middle East is one of the world's key energy suppliers and approximately 90% of Japan's crude oil imports rely on the region. It is therefore extremely important to ensure the safety of navigation of Japan-related vessels in this region. Under the rising tensions in the Middle East, attacks on vessels have occurred, including the case in which a Japan-related vessel was damaged in June 2019, and each country is reinforcing its efforts to ensure the safety of navigation by utilizing naval vessels, etc. In light of this, as Japan's independent efforts toward ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East region and the safety of Japan-related vessels, the Government of Japan has made a Cabinet decision on (1) making further diplomatic efforts toward easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East, (2) taking thorough measures for ensuring safety of navigation including robust information sharing with relevant stakeholders, and (3) utilizing vessels and aircraft of the SDF for strengthening its information gathering posture. Information gathering activities using SDF vessels and aircraft in the waters of the Middle East began in 2020.

Japan held the first Politico-Military (PM) Dialogue with Jordan (July), as well as the 7th PM Dialogue with Pakistan in June, the 8th PM Dialogue with the Philippines in June, the 17th PM Dialogue with the UK in February, the 17th PM Dialogue with Germany and the 5th PM Dialogue with Cambodia in December. Japan also held the 16th Japan-China Security Dialogue (February) and the seventh Japan-Viet Nam Strategic Partnership Dialogue at the deputy minister level in June.

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. The ARF aims to improve 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 which various entities participate including North Korea and the EU and which focuses on confidence building through various initiatives. At the 26th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in August, where participating ministers candidly exchanged views mainly on regional and international affairs, including the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea. Japan is also making a proactive contribution through, for example, serving as the co-chair of the Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) on Maritime Security twice to date.

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, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke attended the Regional Security Summit (Manama Dialogue) (Bahrain) in November, and Foreign Minister Motegi attended the Munich Security Conference (Germany) in February 2020, as 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)

As of December 31, 2019, 13 UN PKO missions are on active duty, primarily in the Middle East and Africa, to handle a wide range of duties that include monitoring ceasefires, promoting the political process, and protecting civilians. More than 90,000 military, police, and civilian personnel have been 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 forums, primarily within the UN.

Based on the Act on Cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO Act), since 1992 Japan has dispatched more than 12,500 personnel to a total of 28 missions, including UN PKOs. More recently, since 2011 Japanese staff officers have been dispatched to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), while engineering units used to be deployed there from 2012. The engineering units in the South Sudanese capital of Juba and the surrounding areas have undertaken such activities as developing infrastructure that includes roads, supporting displaced persons through the provision of water supplies, as well as site preparation, and concluded their activities in May 2017. As of December 31, 2019, four SDF officers are on active duty at the UNMISS Headquarters, who continue to work toward peace and stability in South Sudan. Additionally, since April 2019, Japan has been conducting activities contributing to peace and stability in the Middle East by dispatching two SDF officers to the Force Headquarters for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), which is stationed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," by building on the past experiences of peacekeeping operations and making use of its own strengths, Japan will continue to contribute proactively in the field of international peace cooperation in the future by means such as enhancing capacity building support and dispatching units and individuals.

### **(B) ODA and Other Cooperation to Facilitate Peacebuilding**

Japan attaches importance to peacebuilding as part of its international cooperation and positions it as one of the priority issues in Japan's Development Cooperation Charter.

For addressing humanitarian crises, it is effective to combine peacebuilding and conflict

prevention with a coordination between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. 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 peacetime. Japan places great importance on this "humanitarian-development-peace nexus" and has been providing support for peacebuilding particularly in the following countries and regions.

#### **a Middle East**

Japan has provided comprehensive support for peace and stability in the Middle East. This includes providing food and refugee assistance in collaboration with international organizations for countries affected by conflicts, including Syria and neighboring countries, Yemen and Afghanistan. In 2019, Japan accepted 30 people from Afghanistan, including government officials, expected to contribute to such fields as agricultural, rural, and infrastructure development for the reconstruction of the country. Japan also accepted 22 students from Syria to offer education to young people who were deprived of opportunities to attend school due to the Syrian crisis. In Jordan, amid growing urgency for tighter border control in response to a worsening regional situation in recent years, Japan is providing support for the enhancement for customs security in Aqaba, the only city in Jordan that abuts an ocean. Enhanced customs search capability made possible through this support should help prevent the inflow of such things as narcotics, guns and explosives, and contribute to the stability and safety of Jordan and its surrounding areas.

#### **b Africa**

At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in August 2019, Japan put Peace and Stability as one of the three pillars of its cooperation policy. At the

conference, Prime Minister Abe advocated the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA), expressing Japan's intent to take concrete measures, under the principles of respecting Africa's ownership in conflict resolution and addressing the root causes that hamper peace and stability. Japan is in fact contributing to achieving peace and stability in Africa in various ways.

For example, Japan has conducted criminal justice training since 2014 for police officers, prosecutors, judges and others from Francophone African countries, and has supported stabilization of the Sahel region by strengthening the capabilities of investigative and judicial bodies. Japan also provides support for elections. During the presidential election in Guinea-Bissau at the end of 2019, Japan contributed to consolidating peace through fair election, working with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to purchase and ship voting machines. Japan is also providing security equipment to strengthen countries' ability to maintain security against frequent terrorist attacks and transnational crimes. In 2019, Japan made a decision to provide equipment to such countries as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Mali. In South Sudan, along with dispatching Headquarters staff to UNMISS, Japan has been supporting peace negotiations and ceasefire monitoring through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional organization in East Africa to help fulfill the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS<sup>1</sup>). Furthermore, Japan has been supporting Peacekeeping Training Centers operated by African countries. In collaboration with the UNDP, Japan has disbursed a total of 54 million US dollars between 2008 and 2019 to the centers in 13 countries, contributing to strengthening Africa's capacity for peacekeeping activities.

### B 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 consistent advice on assistance, from conflict resolution to recovery, reintegration, and reconstruction. The PBC conducts discussions to identify priority issues and formulate peacebuilding strategies in the agenda countries.<sup>2</sup> 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, 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 February 2018. The report makes a variety of proposals for, inter alia: enhancing financing for peacebuilding; increasing operational and policy coherence of the PBC; strengthening UN leadership, accountability, and capacity; and boosting partnerships with international organizations and civil society.

At the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace held in April 2018, Japan expressed support for the Secretary-General's initiatives in the area of peacebuilding. At the meeting, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/72/276),

<sup>1</sup> R-ARCSS: Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan  
An agreement concluded in response to the sluggish implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan issued in 2015 by IGAD. Provides for matters such as a schedule for fulfilling the agreement, including bringing together concerned individuals in South Sudan to observe ceasefires.

<sup>2</sup> Four countries of Guinea-Bissau, Central Africa, Liberia, and Burundi



which included 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 with 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 52.5 million US dollars (2 million US dollars in 2019) and ranks sixth among the major donor countries as of December 2019.

### C Human Resource Development

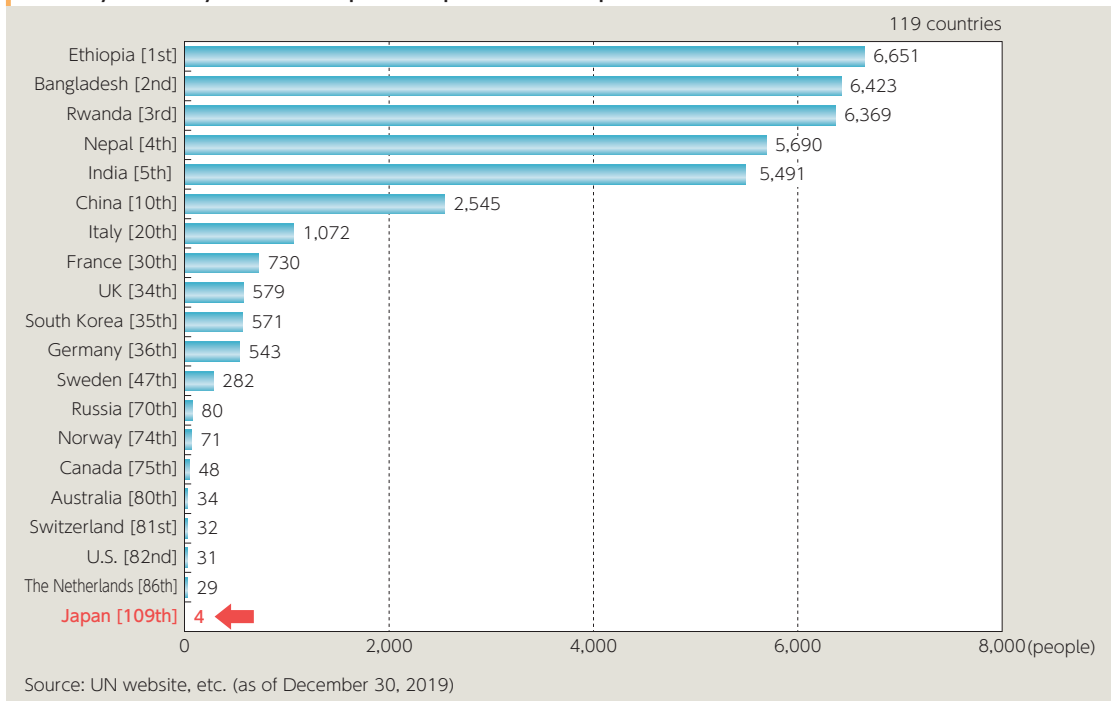
#### (A) The Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development

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 FY2019, a total of about 800 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 FY2019 program, a training course for entry level human resources and a training course for mid-career practitioners with experience in the fields of peacebuilding and development were conducted. In addition, a course was conducted to assist those with certain professional and transferable experience in this field in order to start building up their new careers at international organizations.

#### Military, security, and headquarters personnel dispatched to UN missions



### (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. Since 2015, in conjunction with cooperative efforts among the UN, supporting member states, and personnel-dispatching countries, Japan has provided support for the Triangular Partnership Project (TPP), a framework for innovative cooperation aimed at addressing the urgent need to improve the capabilities of PKO personnel. For example, Japan has sent 172 SDF personnel and other individuals to Kenya and Uganda as instructors and conducted training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 277 people from eight African countries that expressed intentions to dispatch engineering units to UN PKOs. Additional regions have been added to this project, which now includes Asia and surrounding regions. Along with carrying out trial training in 2018 and full-scale training in 2019, Japan has dispatched 39 SDF and other personnel to Viet Nam and conducted training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 36 people from nine countries. Additionally, in October 2019 a buddy-first-aid program was begun in the medical field, a considerably problematic area for UN PKOs. Separate from this project, Japan also dispatches instructors and other personnel to Peacekeeping Training Centers in Asian and African nations while also providing them with financial assistance.

Furthermore, Japan provides financial support



UN Triangular Partnership Project (TPP) training for Asia and its surrounding regions (Viet Nam)

for a training course that is conducted by UN Women and that is offered to female military officers from different countries who are expected to be dispatched to UN PKOs.

### (3) Initiatives to Combat Security Threats

#### A 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 at one time effectively liberated the areas dominated by ISIL, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism is now 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 the terrorist attack that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand in March, a mass shooting brought about an unprecedented incident where the live video was streamed by the perpetrator on social media as he committed the act and it went viral. In Sri Lanka, which was seen to have achieved stability in public safety and the consolidation of a peaceful environment 10 years after the civil war, the largest series of terrorist attacks in Asia in recent years occurred in April, claiming the lives of 250 people, including a Japanese national. In the face of such incidents, which represent an increasing diversity in the form and background of the terrorist attacks being perpetrated in recent years, there is a need to further strengthen measures to counterterrorism and violent extremism. At the same time, building social environments that will prevent people being drawn to violent extremism is an urgent issue.

Based on the “G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism” compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, Japan has implemented the following actions (1) concrete counterterrorism measures, which includes utilizing Interpol databases and passenger name records (PNR), (2) cultivation of tolerance in communities to prevent violent extremism, and (3)

capacity building assistance to developing countries. In 2019, following the two aforementioned terrorist attacks, Japan expressed its firm commitment to combat terrorism in cooperation with New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and the international community. The Osaka Leaders' Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet was formulated at the G20 Osaka Summit in June under Japan's Presidency and we have been steadily implementing the statement through public-private partnership.

Cutting off the funding of terrorism is of great importance to preventing and eradicating it. As such, March saw the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2462, which focuses on the technical aspects of the financing of terrorism. Japan co-sponsored the resolution, which is a timely response to a perceived need to address the dangers of terrorists exploiting new financial technologies being constantly developed. Furthermore, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1373, Japan has implemented asset freezing measures against terrorists or terrorist organizations in cooperation with the U.S. and the other members of G7. Japan designated five additional entities in November to the sanction list set out in this resolution.

With respect to the issue of returning and relocating FTFs, there are two very important issues: (1) taking measures that include properly prosecuting, de-radicalizing, rehabilitating, and socially integrating former terrorists and their families, and (2) strengthening awareness programs and communities at the grassroots level to prevent people from being drawn to violent extremism, especially young people and women. In addition, Japan is implementing projects through providing financial contribution to international organizations to address imminent issues, including strengthening maritime security, preventing violent extremism and treating prisoners properly in prisons.

Japan provided contributions in the amount of 2.8 billion Japanese yen (supplementary budget for FY2018) to the projects implemented by

international organizations and funds, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), by using their respective strengths and expertise effectively.

As an initiative that Japan has carried out continuously for 16 years, Japan also runs an exchange program that invites Islamic school teachers to come engage in interfaith dialogue and visit places of Japanese culture and education. Japan will continue to implement such initiatives in future, in order to help promote moderation and the creation of more tolerant societies that are receptive to different values.

Japan also holds bilateral and trilateral counterterrorism consultations aimed at exchanging information on terrorism situations and enhancing coordination. In 2019, the Japan-UK consultation, Japan-U.S.-Australia consultation, and, as a consultation with a regional framework, Japan-ASEAN consultation were held.

The Government of Japan has promoted counterterrorism 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. Regarding the incident in which a Japanese national being detained in Syria was safely released in October 2018, this outcome is owed to CTU-J playing a key role in requesting the cooperation of the countries concerned and handling the situation by leveraging Japan's information network. Following the series of terrorist bombings that occurred in Sri Lanka in April 2019, the Director General in charge of the region and others from CTU-J were immediately dispatched to the area to gather information.

Close coordination between the Consular Affairs Bureau and CTU-J had played an important part in executing their critical responsibility of securing the safety of Japanese nationals overseas. Japan will continue to further enhance its information gathering through the CTU-J and take all possible measures to counterterrorism to 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. Japan prepared for the 14th Congress, which was scheduled to be held in April 2020 in Kyoto, by coordinating with relevant countries, organizations, ministries, and agencies. The Kyoto Congress has been postponed due to the situation over the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In accordance with the overall theme, “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,” the Kyoto Congress will adopt a political declaration setting measures on crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as approaches for international cooperation. To lead discussions on the content and structure of this declaration, Japan invited representatives of each regional group to Kyoto in September 2019 and held the Governmental Expert Meeting on Preparation for the Kyoto Congress. Japan, as the chair, has also led discussions over a draft political declaration in Vienna since October.

Furthermore, Japan provides support to improve the 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), which establishes a global legal framework for promoting cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime such as terrorism more effectively. In accordance with the UNTOC, Japan advances international cooperation that includes investigation assistance.

### **C** 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 the effective implementation of the UNCAC and strengthening international cooperation on preventing and eradicating corruption at opportunities such as the eighth Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, held in December 2019. In addition, Japan has been conducting trainings for anti-corruption authorities in developing countries with the aim of strengthening their investigation and prosecution capabilities through financial contributions to UNODC. In 2019, Japan contributed approximately 50,000 US dollars to UNODC in order to support the operation of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, which reviews the status of implementation of the Convention by each state party, as well as the effective implementation of the Convention. Japan also held seminars to assist the improvement of the protection of whistleblowers by the States Parties.

Within the context of the G20, as the co-chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, Japan focused on promoting integrity and transparency in infrastructure development and strengthening whistleblowers protection as priority issues for the group. It also led discussions on the development of the G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development and the G20 High Level Principles for Effective Protection of Whistleblowers, which lay out the

G20 member states' commitment to strengthening initiatives in these areas. These documents, adopted under Japan's initiative, were ultimately published as documents accompanying the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration.

Japan is an active participant in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Bribery, which verifies the implementation of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions by each state party to prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials. Japan has also supported the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative jointly promoted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the OECD as part of its contributions toward enhancing anti-corruption measures in the region.

#### **D Measures to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism**

Regarding 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 and conducts peer reviews to assess levels of implementation. As a founding member, Japan has actively participated in these discussions. In recent years, the FATF has been engaged in initiatives to prevent financing for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has issued the FATF statement that calls for the eradication of illegal financial activities by North Korea. In the Fourth Round of Joint FATF/APG Mutual Evaluations of Japan, conducted in 2019, Japan, under cooperation between the Government and the private sector, provided explanations on its measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism to the FATF's assessors.

Furthermore, in order to support international initiatives to stamp out money laundering and block terrorism financing flows, Japan works with the UNODC to provide assistance for capacity building that includes the development of legal

systems in countries and regions such as Mongolia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

#### **E Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

Japan has strengthened its domestic mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons while proactively providing assistance to developing countries in accordance with "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 2019, Japan continued to conduct training programs through JICA to deepen mutual understanding on human trafficking countermeasures (especially prevention, protection and support to restore the autonomy of victims) of stakeholders in Asian countries, including Japan, and to promote more effective regional cooperation. With respect to cooperation with international organizations, in 2019, 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 to carry out social rehabilitation support programs to prevent the repetition of trafficking after they return 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.

#### **F 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 the container control capacity of regulatory authorities at air and sea ports,

and put in place measures against illicit drug trafficking, which is spreading across borders (see the Column below). In relation to Afghanistan, the world's largest region for the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, Japan has contributed 5.3 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 neighboring countries. Furthermore, at the ministerial segment held during the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2019, a general debate statement was made by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji, who attended as the head of the governmental delegation. The statement mentioned the threat

posed by the world drug problem to public health and social security and the urgent issue of international organized crime countermeasures, including for narcotics, in the context of counterterrorism measures in the case of Japan, which is expecting major international events. It also touched on the necessity of the international community taking a multifaceted and multilayered approach to new challenges in preventing the worsening of the narcotics problem while maintaining existing frameworks. Additionally, as an ongoing member of the CND, which comprises 53 members, Japan was reelected to the Asia-Pacific Group (eight seats) in the election held in April. Japan will serve a new term as a member from 2020 to 2023.

## Column

### Maritime Law Enforcement Capacity Building Project for Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean

Mitsuhashi Kazuyo

Project Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

If we open a world map and look at the Indian Ocean, we would see that the Indian Ocean is a dynamic environment which has the coastlines of Asian, Middle Eastern, and African countries. This vast ocean area plays an important role as a lifeline for global logistics and the economy. On the other hand, it comprises various types of trafficking routes running from Asia to Eastern Africa and Southern Africa which provide an illicit drug trafficking channel for countries around the world. In addition, as we face the increasing challenges posed by the sea routes, such as the rising number of refugees and migrants in recent years, and the movement of arms and terrorists from unstable region to the other. In this regard, it is a great challenge for the international society how we ensure the maritime safety and security in the region.

To tackle these issues, the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is implementing a maritime law enforcement capacity building project for countries along the coast of the Indian Ocean, and Japan is one of the donor countries of this project.

The project provides comprehensive supports to the respective agencies for developing their maritime law enforcement capacity. For example, in policy making and skills needed for law enforcement and prosecution. The goal of the project is to strengthen the criminal justice system necessary for maintaining maritime security in the area. In addition, we conduct trainings and workshops at the regional level to promote inter-regional cooperation among the recipient countries.

As maritime crimes are cross-border issues, it is important to provide an environment that enables practitioners from each country to share their common knowledge and expertise. To meet such needs,



Training in a communications operations room (Photo: Paolo Film & TV, Denmark)

this project seeks to benefit people from Africa to Asia who have various cultural backgrounds and levels of capacity. For this reason, more careful and detailed preparation is required.

On the other hand, it is an excellent example of support for experts across countries and regions, as we gather human resources from various countries with one purpose of combatting maritime crime.



Scene of VBSS training (Photo: UNODC)

My involvement in this project is mainly related to coordination with the Government of Japan.

In particular, VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) training is an area in which the UNODC and the Japan Coast Guard have been cooperating.

During the training conducted in Sri Lanka and Seychelles, the Japan Coast Guard dispatched two instructors for one month, and it resulted in satisfying more needs of the participants as a joint program of the UNODC and the Japan Coast Guard.

Our collaboration with the Japan Coast Guard is strengthened every year. Most recently, an officer from the Japan Coast Guard participated as an observer in a workshop conducted for prosecutors from Southeast Asia, and it contributed to connecting the law enforcement officers with the judicial officers.

My work in the GMCP includes such collaboration with Japan and monitoring support. The job scope covers a wide range of duties and there are many difficult moments. However, it gives me exceptional joy when I am able to provide support successfully while experimenting with what works and what does not work.

In addition, while the partnership between relevant countries and organizations is expanding, I am so honored to have the opportunity to be a part of such partnership and to witness Japan's active role such as the training conducted by the Japan Coast Guard.

I will continue to work hard to contribute to enhancing global criminal justice and security from the seas through delivering heartfelt support from Japan and other donor countries to the beneficiaries.



Participants exchanging opinions at VBSS training (Photo: Paolo Film & TV, Denmark)

#### (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 are of great importance to securing its peace, stability, and prosperity. They are the basis for economic survival and include freedom of navigation and overflight and the development of marine resources. To safeguard these maritime rights and interests in the long term and in a stable manner, it is essential to maintain and strengthen maritime order and ensure safe maritime transport.

Furthermore, "Free, Open and Stable Seas," which are upheld by maritime order governed by

law and rules rather than force, are essential for the 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 was necessary to fully uphold the “Three Principles of the Rule of Law at Sea” (see 6(2)). Recently, at the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Dinard, France, in April 2019, Japan and other G7 countries expressed their serious concerns over the situation in the East and South China Seas and expressed their commitment to maintaining international rules-based maritime order, combating illegal activities at sea, including acts of piracy, and supporting regional maritime security through such means as comprehensive capacity building assistance including maritime domain awareness (MDA). Outside the framework of the G7, Japan has also utilized forums that are related to the East Asia Summit (EAS) including the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) as well as the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security to actively show the importance of “Free, Open and Stable Seas” and Japan’s stance and initiatives, as well as the importance of international cooperation in the area of maritime security. For example, at the EAS held in November 2019, Prime Minister Abe expressed full support for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) that ASEAN announced, and stated Japan’s willingness to cooperate with ASEAN toward materializing AOIP by achieving synergy with the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) concept advocated by Japan.

Combining various assistance programs 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 maritime order governed by the rule of law. Japan regards maritime order with the Convention at the core as the cornerstone that safeguards Japan’s maritime rights and interests while facilitating its maritime activities across the international community. As such, Japan actively contributes to discussions among concerned international organizations at conferences that include the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention, as well as to the sharing of ideas for achieving stability in the maritime legal order, in order to ensure that the convention will be even more widely applied and implemented appropriately (see 6(2) on page 224).

##### **(B) Challenge to Maritime Sovereignty (Situation Surrounding the East China Sea) (see Chapter 1, 1(2) and Chapter 2, Section 1, 3(1)(D))**

In the East China Sea, Chinese Government vessels have continued to intrude into Japan’s territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands in 2019, 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 the continental shelf are pending delimitation. In recent years, Japan has found numerous research projects being conducted by China in the waters surrounding Japan, such as the East China Sea. Much of the research was carried out 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



### Uotsuri Island of the Senkaku Islands



Photo: Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty, Cabinet Secretariat

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.

#### **(C) Challenge to the Maritime Order and Response by Japan and the International Community (Problems Surrounding the South China Sea) (see Chapter 1, 1(2) and Chapter 2, Section 1, 7 (2))**

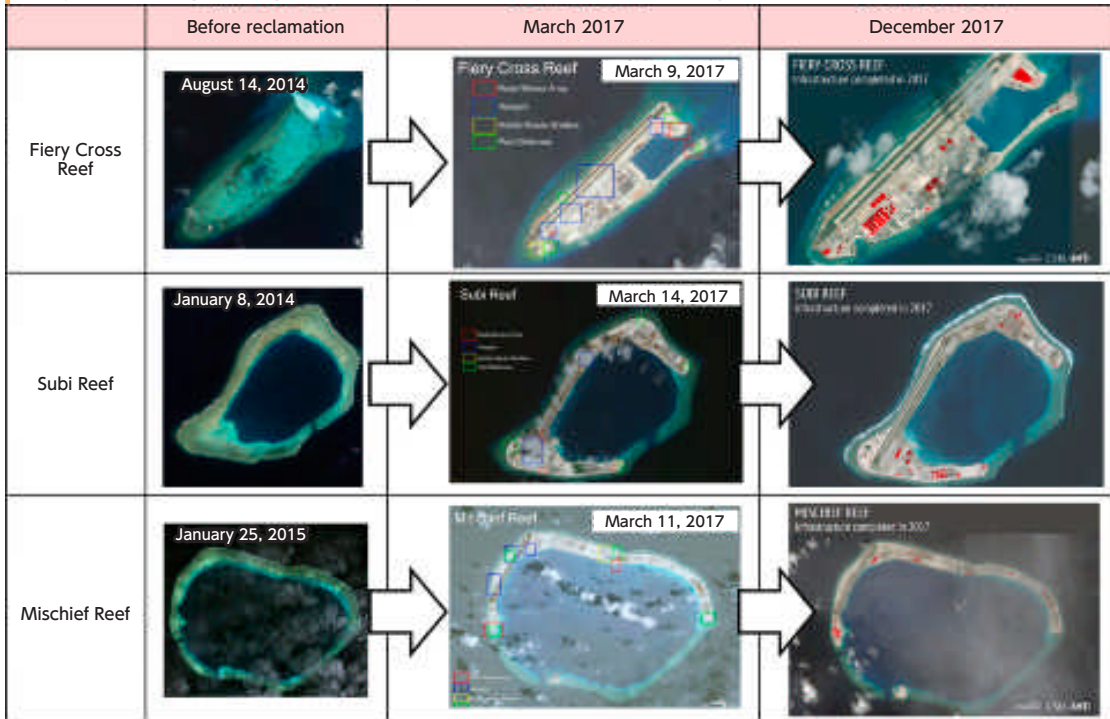
In the South China Sea, China has been further conducting unilateral actions that aim to change the status quo and that increase tensions. These include the large-scale and rapid building of outposts and the use of them for military purposes, as well as attempts to create a *fait accompli*. The international community, including Japan, has expressed serious concerns over these actions. Japan has consistently supported the full enforcement of the rule of law in the South China Sea,

while focusing on ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and ensuring the safety of sea lanes. Japan has also emphasized the importance of all parties involved with the South China Sea to work toward the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. With regard to dialogues between China and ASEAN concerning issues surrounding the South China Sea, Japan maintains that the easing of tensions through such initiatives should lead to demilitarization of the area and to a peaceful and open South China Sea.

In the arbitration proceedings instituted by the Government of the Philippines on the dispute 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 arbitral award<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> Based on the judgment that historic rights would not, under international law, be considered a legal basis for the "Nine-dash Line" claimed by China, the Arbitral Tribunal ruled that the Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands do not generate EEZs or continental shelves. The ruling also found China's land reclamation and public vessel navigation to infringe on the sovereign rights of the Philippines and to violate obligations under international law, including environmental mandates.

## Large-scale, rapid outpost building in the South China Sea by China



Source: CSIS Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative/Digital Globe

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 on marine transport for much of its resources and energy and which is a stakeholder that utilizes the South China Sea. Cooperation within the international community is of great importance in maintaining and developing "Free, Open and Stable Seas." For this reason, Japan supports the U.S. Freedom of Navigation

Operations.<sup>4</sup>

### B Ensuring Safe Maritime Transport

Japan actively contributes to ensuring 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 coping with incidents such as acts of piracy in Asia, Japan took the initiative in formulating 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 incidents such as acts of piracy in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Government explains its "freedom of navigation" operations as efforts to challenge excessive claims that can infringe freedom of navigation and overflight, and the right of lawful uses of the sea. One example of this is the navigation of the U.S. Navy's Montgomery littoral combat ship through the waters around the Spratly Islands on January 25, 2020.

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. Moreover, Japan is carrying out programs to enhance maritime law enforcement and surveillance capabilities in Asia, which have been highly acclaimed 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 60 in 2018 and 53 in 2019. In recent years, there have been some incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea in Southeast Asia, posing a threat to vessels navigating in these waters. In light of this situation, Japan will continue to actively support maritime safety capacity building through efforts such as providing patrol boats and maritime safety equipment as well as dispatching experts to maritime safety agencies of Southeast Asian countries located along Japan's sea lanes.

## **(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 in the Gulf of Aden was 237 at its peak in 2011 but has since declined to a low level (zero in 2015, two in 2016, nine in 2017, three in 2018, and zero in 2019). Despite sustained efforts such as maritime operations of the navies and 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 anti-piracy operations, without any interruption, by deploying Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers (with coast guard officers on board) and P-3C maritime patrol aircraft off the coast of Somalia and to the Gulf of Aden. On November 12, 2019, 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 30 escort operations between January and December 2019, while the P-3Cs carried out 240 mission flights, in which they conducted surveillance, gathered information, and provided information to the naval vessels of other countries.

### **c Promotion of international cooperation in anti-piracy measures**

To solve the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, Japan has been making multi-layered efforts that include support for enhancing the maritime law enforcement capacity of Somalia and its neighboring countries and ensuring the stability of Somalia. Japan has supported the establishment of Information Sharing Centres in Yemen, Kenya, and Tanzania, as well as the construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre (DRTC), by contributing 15.1 million US dollars to a fund established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Japan and France co-organized a seminar on maritime security at the DRTC in October 2017. Japan has also supported seminars at the DRTC aimed at capacity building for maritime law enforcement authorities and other organizations. Moreover, Japan has contributed 4.5 million US dollars to a trust fund to support the enhancement of piracy prosecution capacity, which assists Somalia and its neighboring countries in establishing courts and training judicial officers as well as in repatriating to Somalia those found guilty of piracy in

its neighboring countries such as Seychelles. In addition, Japan provided two patrol vessels to the Djibouti Coast Guard in 2015 and has been supporting the enhancement of its capacity to secure maritime safety and security through JICA's technical cooperation. With a view to promoting the stability of Somalia, Japan has provided a total of 480 million US dollars since 2007 aimed at supporting improvement in basic services and public security through support for the police, as well as revitalization of the domestic economy through vocational training and job creation, among other measures.

### (5) Cyber

With the advent of new technologies such as 5G (fifth-generation mobile communications system) and the IoT (Internet of Things), cyberspace has become indispensable for social and economic activities. At the same time, however, cyber attacks are growing in scale and impact every year, and cybersecurity is a matter of urgent priority as the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 draw near.

Against this backdrop, Japan has promoted cyber diplomacy based on the three pillars of "Promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace," "Development of confidence-building measures," and "Cooperation on capacity building" in accordance with the Cybersecurity Strategy, revised in July 2018 (see the Special Feature on page 196).

"Promotion of the rule of law in cyberspace" maintains that existing international law is applicable to cyber activities, and Japan is therefore taking active roles in discussions in the international community through the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) and other forums. Having been selected to be a member of the sixth UNGGE, which was established in 2019, Japan leads discussions concerning the application of international law in cyberspace and norms of responsible state behavior. Japan also actively contributes to discussions held by the UN Open-ended Working Group, established in 2019,

with attention paid to complementing discussions had by the UNGGE. In addition, Japan collaborates with other likeminded countries in taking initiatives to deter malicious cyber activities. In December 2018, Japan issued a statement resolutely condemning the long-running, widespread attacks perpetrated against private organizations, academic institutions, and other organizations by the China-based hacking group APT10. Japan participated in a ministerial-level meeting on cybersecurity hosted by the U.S. in September 2019. At the meeting, Japan expressed its support for a joint statement on cooperation toward encouraging the acceptance of responsibility by states acting against frameworks on responsible state behavior in cyberspace. Concerning countermeasures against cybercrime, 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, Japan has actively participated in the Plenaries of the Cybercrime Convention Committee and the preparation of a draft Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention that seeks to improve the effectiveness of investigative cooperation. In line with Japan's efforts to add more nations to the treaty, especially nations in Asia, Japan explained the importance of the Budapest Convention to Asian nations, and encouraged their participation in the convention, at The ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue in January and November meeting of the Council of Europe.

Regarding "Development of confidence-building measures," gaining a better understanding of one another's views and enhancing mutual confidence are critical to prevent unforeseen situations stemming from cyber activities. With this purpose in mind, Japan has held consultations and dialogues with 14 countries and regions, and in 2019 held bilateral cyber policy consultations with Australia, the EU, France, India, Russia, and the U.S., as well as a trilateral dialogue with China and the Republic of Korea. Within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) framework, Japan

Special  
Feature

## Toward a Free, Fair, and Secure Cyberspace

Advances and improvements in technology and services in cyberspace, including the popularization of the Internet and smartphones as well as the development of Big Data and cloud technology, have brought our global society closer than ever before and enriched our lives in every way. On the other hand, the use of cyberspace by malicious actors, including those whose involvement is suspected to be state-sponsored, poses new security challenges.

Against this backdrop, a “free, fair, and secure cyberspace” has become even more important for ensuring peace and security in the international community. In order to promote the realization and development of a free, fair, and secure cyberspace, it is necessary to clarify that existing international law, which has been established over a long period of time, is applicable to the rapidly-developing cyberspace, and at the same time, it is also essential to ensure stability and predictability in the international community by formulating norms of responsible state behavior in cyberspace. Furthermore, with regard to “invisible” activities in cyberspace that cross national borders easily, it is also essential to put in place confidence building measures to deepen trust and mutual understanding between countries on their legislations and strategies, and to support capacity building to respond to cyber attacks.

Japan has been contributing to international discussions through the UN's Group of Governmental Experts (GGE<sup>\*1</sup>) on cybersecurity, as a part of the UN's efforts to advance and achieve these aims. The GGE has engaged in discussions on topics such as Existing and potential threats, International laws, rules, norms, and principles, confidence-building measures, and capacity building. Japan has participated in three sessions from 2012 to 2013 (third session), 2014 to 2015 (fourth session), and 2016 to 2017 (fifth session). The GGE Report for 2015 recommended 11 norms for the responsible state behavior in cyberspace, and at the same time, reaffirmed the application of existing international law, including the whole of the UN Charter, to cyberspace. Through a General Assembly Resolution thereafter, all member states are required to act in accordance with the report. Japan was elected as a member of the sixth session of the GGE, newly established in 2019, and has contributed actively from the standpoint of advancing discussions upon the basis of the GGE Reports drawn up to date.

Japan is also actively involved in the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG<sup>\*2</sup>) established for the first time under the auspices of the UN in 2019, as a space where all UN member states can participate in discussions. Japan contributes to discussions while also paying attention to mutual complementarity with discussions in the GGE.

Japan will continue to work more actively on addressing security challenges in cyberspace in cooperation with the international community, through discussions on the application of international law and code of responsible conduct for states.

<sup>\*1</sup> The GGE is a space for discussions by experts, established based on a UN General Assembly Resolution. Members comprised experts from 15 countries from the first to third sessions, 20 countries for the fourth session, and 25 countries for the fifth session. Members from 25 countries are participating in the sixth session from 2019 to 2020, and a report will be submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2021 after four meetings have been convened.

<sup>\*2</sup> The official title is “Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.”

has also led discussions at inter-sessional meetings on cybersecurity as co-chair, and in 2019 made progress on efforts such as proposing new confidence-building measures (CBM) related to establishing contact points.

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 in developing countries is important for ensuring Japan's security, as well. Japan has been providing support, including

the capacity building of the Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)<sup>5</sup> and the relevant administrative and investigative agencies, mainly in ASEAN countries. For example, Japan provides lectures, exercises, facility tours, and other opportunities to policy advisors, criminal justice practitioners, and others in regions such as Asia, the Middle East, and Africa as part of the JICA's Group and Region-focused Trainings. Japan also conducts "Cooperation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime" with INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Within the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting, Japan has been engaging in efforts that involve trainings in cybersecurity exercises, critical information infrastructures protection, and awareness raising. Japan will continue to provide strategic and effective assistance through the efforts of the entire Government.

## (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, the increase of space debris due to factors such as Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests and satellite collisions poses a growing risk to the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

In order to cope with this situation, Japan has been engaging in mission assurance for space systems while working on international rule-making and international space cooperation, which includes cooperative efforts with other countries, notably its ally, the U.S.

### A Realizing and Strengthening the Rule of Law in Outer Space

Based on environmental changes concerning outer space, the international community has been discussing international rule-making

concerning outer space activities in a variety of ways. Japan has also been actively involved in these discussions with the aim of establishing and strengthening the rule of law in outer space. After nine years of discussions, the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines) were adopted, which were built on the momentum gained by a joint proposal by four countries, namely Japan, the U.S., Canada, and France, at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in June 2019. The decision was also made to establish a five-year working group, under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which will hold discussions on implementing the adopted guidelines. Moreover, a Japanese space law expert will be serving as Chair of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee in 2020 and 2021. Through efforts such as these, Japan is actively participating in and contributing to discussions at international conferences and other meetings while playing a significant role in international rule-making (see the Special Feature on page 198).

With regard to the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), a Group of Governmental Experts was established by a resolution submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2017. Meetings of the Group were held in January 2018 and March 2019 and attended by experts from 25 countries, including Japan. However, recommendations issued by the Group were not adopted.

### B International Dialogues and Consultations on Outer Space

Japan conducts bilateral and trilateral dialogues and consultations on outer space with primarily major space-faring nations and nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the first meeting of the Japan-India Space Dialogue held in Delhi in March 2019, the two countries exchanged information on their space

<sup>5</sup> A general term which refers to a group that deals 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 cyber attacks, consider solutions and measures, and cope with the incidents.

Special  
Feature

## Japan's Efforts in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) is a permanent committee established through the UN General Assembly Resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, adopted in 1959. There are the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee under COPUOS, each of which reviews various issues surrounding space activities from technical and legal perspectives respectively. In COPUOS, member States actively discuss rules applied in outer space, while various space treaties and guidelines, such as the Outer Space Treaty, also known as the "Constitution of Outer Space," have been drafted. Japan is actively involved in such discussions with a view to realizing and strengthening the rule of law in outer space.

A recent highlight is the adoption of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities by the 62nd session of COPUOS held in June 2019. With the aim of realizing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities such as space debris mitigation and the safety of space objects, the LTS Guidelines summarize best practices that member states should implement on a voluntary basis.

The LTS Guidelines were discussed in a working group established under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS in 2010, but the working group was concluded in June 2018 without the adoption of the Guidelines.

On the first day of the 62nd session of COPUOS convened in June 2019, Japan, in cooperation with the U.S., Canada, and France, jointly proposed the establishment of a new working group for the LTS Guidelines and emphasized the importance of the Guidelines, thereby contributing actively to advancing the discussions. As a result, the LTS Guidelines were adopted unanimously by 92 member states (95 member states as of March 2020) on the final day of the session. At the same time, it was decided that a working group would be established under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to discuss matters such as the implementation of the Guidelines, marking the culmination of nine years of discussions. The unanimous adoption at the UN of wide range of international rules related to outer space activities, such as space debris mitigation and the safety of space objects, carries great significance, and represents Japan's significant contribution to rule-making in COPUOS.

Furthermore, Professor Aoki Setsuko of Keio University Law School will be appointed as the chair of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, which engages in discussions on legal matters related to outer space activities, for 2020 and 2021.

In these ways, Japan continues to contribute actively to international rule-making, with a view to securing the sustainable and stable use of outer space.



United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (Vienna, Austria)

policies and held discussions on space security, cooperation between relevant agencies, space industry, and international norms on outer space. The parties also decided to conduct the dialogue on a regular basis to enhance their cooperation. At the fourth meeting of the Japan-EU Space Dialogue, held in Tokyo in March, the two parties exchanged information on the latest space policy

of each side and held discussions on matters such as the possibility of cooperation in civil uses. At the sixth meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space, held in Washington DC in July, the two sides engaged in a comprehensive exchange of views from a broad perspective on civil and security topics toward ensuring the continuous, safe, and stable use of outer space, and

issued a joint statement as an outcome document. Furthermore, regarding Japan-U.S. cooperation in this field, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Minister of Defense of Japan, Secretary of State of the U.S. and Secretary of Defense of the U.S. confirmed in April that Japan will host U.S. space situational awareness (SSA) sensors (as hosted payloads) on the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System scheduled to be launched in FY2023.

With respect to multinational meetings, the 26th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP) was held in Nagoya in November, co-organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to further enhance the framework for space cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the G20 Osaka Summit in June, Prime Minister Abe stated the need for cooperation by the international community to address the risk to the stable use of space posed by the increase in space debris, as well as expressed Japan's plan to begin a large-scale debris removal project in 2019 as the first nation and its intention to play a leading role in this area.

### **C Space Science and Exploration, Overseas Development of Japanese Space Industry, and Contributions to Addressing 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 regarding outer space. The Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" is capable of deploying cube satellites, and is also used to deploy satellites on behalf of many emerging and developing countries with the aim of providing support for capacity building in the space field. Plans call for the deployment of RWASAT-1, Rwanda's first satellite, in November 2019, to be

followed by Guatemala's first satellite, Quetzal-1, in the spring of 2020.

Meanwhile, Japan's participation in a program proposed by the U.S. to conduct moon exploration, including the development of a human outpost in the lunar vicinity (Gateway) on the basis of international cooperation, was decided at a meeting of the Strategic Headquarters for National Space Policy in October, in light of the fact that at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May, 2019 the view to accelerate discussions on cooperation regarding moon exploration was shared between the two leaders. Japan will coordinate with partners to participate in this program strategically in areas where Japan has advantages.

Leveraging the growth of the expanding markets of space development and utilization, largely in emerging nations, is important for the Japanese space industry. The public and private sectors are working together to promote the entry of Japan's commercial space industry into overseas markets by such means as high-level campaigns, mobilizing diplomatic missions, and the promotion of the utilization of Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) "Michibiki," which commenced operations in November 2018, in the Asia-Pacific region, including support for overseas demonstrations of autonomous driving agricultural machineries using the QZSS. In addition, through international cooperation using space technologies, Japan has been addressing global issues in such fields as climate change, disaster management, forest conservation, marine fisheries resource management, and energy and resources to contribute to achieving the SDGs, as well as supporting capacity building regarding space in developing countries. For example, with countries such as Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan has begun cooperation aimed at operating a forestry monitoring system that will utilize JJ-FAST (JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics), tropical forest monitoring through the Daichi 2, also known as the Advanced Land Observation Satellite.



### (7) Emerging Security Challenges

Due to the development of technological innovations such as the IoT, 5G, AI, and quantum technology that could bring about fundamental changes in the very fabric of society and people's lives, the scope of security has broadened to encompass the field of the economy and technology.

Each country is going head-to-head over the development of these technologies, which directly impact a country's competitiveness, while stepping up moves to apply these technologies to the security domain. It is foreseen that the success of innovation would greatly impact the security environment.

For example, the U.S. is working to maintain its military superiority in all domains through technological innovation and other means, with the goal of developing military forces to respond to the emerging challenges. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, with the largest defense budget to date, the U.S. lays out a policy for large-scale investment in research and development into emerging technologies such as 5G, AI, quantum technology, hypersonic technology, and unmanned technology. China, meanwhile, pursues its "Military-Civil Fusion" strategy, which aims at multifaceted development of both military and civil sectors. With a focus on research and development of advanced technologies, China is also working to recruit high-level foreign personnel through its "Thousand Talents Plan" and other initiatives. The 2019 national defense white paper entitled "China's National Defense in the New Era" mentioned the military sector applications of advanced science and technologies such as AI, quantum information, big data, cloud computing, and IoT, and expressed its intention to promote innovation and development of science and technology for national defense. Russia, in addition to modernizing its nuclear capability, continues to modernize its military capability through such efforts as developing new weapons utilizing emerging technologies

including hypersonic speed.

Given these circumstances, there is a growing awareness about the importance of sensitive technology control that goes beyond the frameworks of conventional security trade control. In the U.S., for example, discussions are being held about adding emerging technologies and fundamental technologies such as AI and quantum technology that are at risk of diversion to military use to the list of regulations, in addition to general-purpose technologies regulated under conventional security trade control protocols. Furthermore, measures are taken to prevent leakage of sensitive technologies for security reasons. This is in response to the diversified leakage channels of technology information and personnel, including the transfer of researchers and other personnel enabled by globalized research and corporate activities, corporate acquisitions, and cyber attacks enabled by increasingly sophisticated ICT.

Japan's advanced technological capabilities, while being the base for its economic and defense capabilities, serve as a valuable resource that the international community expects of Japan. While broadly assessing trends of research and development, and the application of science and technology being developed faster than ever before, the Government of Japan continues to combine its efforts of the Government, industry, and academia, aiming for the effective use of technologies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to conduct these efforts as government activities and to work closely with the allies and like-minded countries to take stock of trends and programs of science and technology in other countries, and to actively promote the development of international norms, in order to promote diplomacy over addressing the emerging security challenges.

## 4 Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

### (1) Nuclear Disarmament

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during wartime, Japan has the responsibility to take the lead in efforts by the international community to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

The global security environment has been severe in recent years. As seen in discussions over the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted in July 2017, there exists an apparent divergence of views on how best to advance nuclear disarmament, a divergence that 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 persistently advance realistic and practical measures with the cooperation of nuclear-weapon states in order to promote nuclear disarmament.

Japan continues to pursue bridge building between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states with the aim of realizing a world without nuclear weapons. It has done this through such means 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 bilateral consultations. Moreover, Japan intends to carry out realistic and practical measures that also involve nuclear-weapon states, including maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and commencing negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

### A Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Japan places great importance on maintaining and strengthening the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. NPT Review Conferences have been held once every five years with the aim of achieving the goals of the treaty and ensuring compliance with its provisions, and discussions that reflect 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 failed to arrive at a consensus regarding the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and other issues, and the Conference ended without a consensus document. Against this backdrop, there is a growing importance for efforts aimed at the next NPT Review Conference.

The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, held from April to May 2019 in New York, was attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto, who held a general debate. Meanwhile, the Government of Japan has actively participated in discussions through issuing statements at each cluster; cooperating with NPDI member countries to submit working papers concerning Disarmament and non-proliferation education, and transparency; leading efforts to formulate joint statements on Disarmament and non-proliferation education; and holding side events. (see the Special Feature on page 203).

### B Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament

The “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament” (EPG; consisting of 17 experts from countries of different positions, including Japan) was launched by Japan in 2017 with the goals of rebuilding trust among countries with divergent views on how to

proceed with nuclear disarmament 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, and the same recommendations were proposed at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in April 2018. The third and fourth meetings were held in November 2018 in Nagasaki and March 2019 in Kyoto. Based on discussions at these meetings, further discussions were held concerning international initiatives needed to carry out nuclear disarmament under the present circumstances. These latter discussions culminated in the “Kyoto Appeal,” which Prefectural University of Kumamoto Chancellor and EPG Chair Shiraishi Takashi submitted to Foreign Minister Kono in April. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto presented the Kyoto Appeal at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. During the fifth meeting, held in July in Tokyo, meeting members agreed to produce a report encompassing all discussions heretofore held at EPG meetings. The “Chair’s Report” was submitted to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wakamiya Kenji by EPG Chair Shiraishi in October.

### **C The Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)**

The NPDI, a group of 12 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. It leads efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through its realistic and practical proposals

with the involvement of the foreign ministers of its member states. The NPDI has actively contributed to the NPT review process through realistic and practical proposals, including the submission of 19 working papers to the 2015 NPT Review process and 15 to the 2020 NPT Review<sup>6</sup> process.

At the 10th NPDI Ministerial Meeting, co-organized by Japan and Australia and held during the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in November, an NPDI Joint Ministerial Statement was issued concerning the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT framework.

### **D Initiatives Through the United Nations (Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament)**

Since 1994, Japan has submitted draft resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the UN General Assembly. They incorporate issues of the time related to nuclear disarmament, as well as concrete and practical measures toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As a means to facilitate the building of a common ground between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states, the 2019 resolution focused on joint courses of action to be taken immediately by the international community toward nuclear disarmament as well as the importance of future-oriented dialogues. The resolution was adopted with the broad support of 148 countries at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in November and of 160 countries at the Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly in December. While other resolutions that comprehensively addressed nuclear disarmament were submitted to the General Assembly in addition to Japan’s draft resolution on the total elimination of nuclear weapons, Japan has enjoyed support among a larger number of states. For more than 20 years, Japan’s resolutions have continued to enjoy the broad support of states with divergent

<sup>6</sup> In March 2020, the UN announced that States Parties had reached an agreement to postpone the conference that had been scheduled for April but was postponed due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and that, should circumstances permit, the conference would be held no later than April 2021. For convenience’ sake, the statement refers to the conference as the “2020 NPT Review Conference.”

Special  
Feature

## Initiatives Toward the Convention of the NPT Review Conference

The Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT) is scheduled to be convened in 2020. It is also a milestone year that marks the 50th year since the NPT entered into force, and the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The NPT aims to realize nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and 191 states are parties to the treaty (as of December 2010), with the exclusion of India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Sudan.

At the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the parties failed to reach an agreement on the issue of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction\*<sup>1</sup>, and the Conference concluded without the adoption of a draft final document. Thereafter, amidst the growing severity of the security environment surrounding Japan, differences in opinion surrounding nuclear disarmament were also observed within the international community. Nevertheless, the NPT has a major role to play in securing peace and security in the international community, and the Government of Japan places great importance on maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime, and is doubling its efforts to that end.

In the three years prior to 2020, the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference was held every year. At the First Session of the Preparatory Committee held in May 2017, discussions were held on the status of compliance with the NPT's three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Foreign Minister Kishida attended this meeting, where he appealed for the importance of rebuilding relationships of trust between countries, and announced the launch of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament (see 4(1) (b)) to provide recommendations to that end.

At the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee convened in April 2018, Foreign Minister Kono introduced the recommendations submitted by the aforementioned Group of Eminent Persons, and also contributed actively to the theme-based discussions.

At the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee held in April 2019, discussions were held on the proposed recommendations by the chair to the 2020 NPT Review Conference. However, the parties could not bridge the gap in their opinions on matters such as the approach to nuclear disarmament and the regional issues, and failed to reach an agreement on the chair's recommendation. Despite this situation, the Government of Japan held a side event at this session of the Preparatory Committee, on the "Kyoto Appeal"\*<sup>2</sup> submitted by the Group of Eminent Persons to MOFA, and on enhancing transparency on the status of fulfillment of the obligations and commitments under the NPT by each country. At the same time, under Japan's leadership, 55 countries came together to issue a joint statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education\*<sup>3</sup>. As a member of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) (see 4(1) (c)), Japan also contributed to discussions at the Preparatory Committee for the NPDI through the submission of working papers and holding a side event.

In November 2019, the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the NPDI was convened with Foreign Minister Motegi as co-chair. At this meeting, an NPDI joint ministerial statement was issued, setting forth NPDI's commitment toward maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime.

On the other hand, even after a number of such discussions, differences in standpoint remain among countries in the international community, over matters such as the vision for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and the approach to nuclear disarmament such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The pillar of non-proliferation is also confronted by the question of how to settle the arguments on matters such as the positioning of Additional Protocols (AP) (see 4(2) (a)), and the relationship between non-proliferation measures and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Despite the considerable number of difficult issues, the Government of Japan has continued to implement practical and concrete initiatives and proposals so as to ensure that the 2020 NPT Review Conference produces a meaningful outcome. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan will continue to put in place concrete initiatives toward the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons, through means such as the utilization of the outcomes of discussions by the Group of Eminent Persons, resolutions aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons, and the activities of the NPDI.



Foreign Minister Kono attending the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference (April 2018, Geneva, Switzerland)



Foreign Minister Motegi attending the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the NPDI (November 2019, Nagoya)

- \*1 At the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the Middle East Resolution was adopted through a joint proposal by the three depository states of the U.S., Russia, and the UK. This Resolution aims to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including nuclear weapons. However, partly due to differences in views between the Arab nations and Israel, the zone has not been established even to the present day (as of December 2019).
- \*2 At the third session (November 2018, Nagasaki) and fourth session (March 2019, Kyoto) of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament, discussions were held on the initiatives that the international community has to implement in order to advance nuclear disarmament under the current conditions. The "Kyoto Appeal," which summarizes the results of the discussions, was submitted to Foreign Minister Kono in April the same year.
- \*3 Japan has taken the lead in the formulation of the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, which aims to call for attention among the parties to the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education in the NPT process and to realistic methods for advancing such education, as well as demonstrate once again Japan's presence in this area. At the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee held in 2019, a joint statement was prepared that emphasizes cooperation between countries and other entities, the further utilization of the Internet and social media, and the importance of greater commitment among young people. This joint statement was approved by 55 countries including the UK, which is a nuclear-weapon state.

views in the international community.

### **E 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. Japan also has continued diplomatic efforts to encourage countries that have not signed or ratified the CTBT, including those countries whose ratifications are required for its entry-into-force. Zimbabwe ratified the CTBT in February. At the 11th Conference on

Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT held in September, Foreign Minister Motegi presented Japan's initiatives toward facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT and expressed his hope and determination for the steady advancement of nuclear disarmament efforts.

### **F Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT: Cut-off Treaty)<sup>7</sup>**

A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) has great significance for both disarmament and non-proliferation as it would prevent the emergence of new states possessing nuclear-weapons by banning the production of fissile materials

<sup>7</sup> 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) that are used as materials to produce nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

such as highly-enriched uranium and plutonium for weapons purposes. At the same time, it limits the production of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon states. For many years, however, no agreement has been reached on commencing negotiations for the treaty in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Consequently, it was decided at the 71st UN General Assembly in December 2016 to establish the FMCT High-Level Experts Preparatory Group. Japan actively participated in the Group's discussions, and through discussions at the 1st meeting (August 2017) and 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. Japan will continue actively contributing to FMCT discussions.

## **G** Disarmament and Non-proliferation

### **Education**

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan places great importance on education in 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 Disarmament,<sup>8</sup> providing assistance for holding atomic bomb exhibitions overseas through its overseas diplomatic missions,<sup>9</sup> and designating atomic bomb survivors who have given testimonies of their atomic bomb experiences as “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons.” In 2019, the “Under a Mushroom

Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb” exhibition was held in Los Angeles and two other cities in the U.S.

Additionally, as the atomic bomb survivors age, it is becoming increasingly important to pass on the realities of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings across generations and borders. To this end, from 2013 to 2019, Japan conferred the designation of “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” for more than 300 youths in Japan and overseas.

## **(2) Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security**

### **A** Japan's Efforts of Non-Proliferation

To ensure Japan's security and to maintain peace and security of the international community, Japan has been making efforts concerning non-proliferation policy. The goal of such policy is to prevent the proliferation of weapons that could threaten Japan or the international community (weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons and biological/chemical weapons, as well as missiles with the ability to deliver said weapons and conventional weapons) and of related materials and technologies used to develop such weapons.

In today's international community, economic growth in emerging countries has enabled a growing capacity to produce and supply weapons in those countries as well as materials that could be diverted to the development of such weapons. Meanwhile, methods for procuring these materials are becoming more sophisticated, due in part to increasing complexity in means of distribution.

Furthermore, the emergence of new technologies is spurring a growing potential for private sector technologies to be diverted to uses for military purposes, and increasing the proliferation risk of weapons that could pose a threat and of related materials and technologies.

<sup>8</sup> Implemented since 1983 by the UN to nurture nuclear disarmament experts. Program participants are invited to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and taught the realities of atomic bombing through such means as museum tours and talks by victims about their experiences in the atomic bombings.

<sup>9</sup> Opened as a permanent exhibition about the atomic bomb in New York, U.S.; Geneva, Switzerland; and Vienna, Austria, in cooperation with Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City.

Under these circumstances, Japan has been implementing its non-proliferation policies, focusing on maintaining and strengthening international non-proliferation regimes and rules, taking appropriate non-proliferation measures domestically, and promoting close coordination with and capacity building support for other nations.

Japan's three main measures of preventing proliferation are (1) IAEA safeguards, (2) export control, and (3) the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

Safeguards refer to verification activities conducted in accordance with safeguards agreements between states and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and aim to ensure that nuclear energy will not be diverted from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

As a designated member of the IAEA Board of Governors,<sup>10</sup> Japan has made various efforts, including supporting the IAEA. For example, based on the view that the IAEA safeguards are at the core of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, Japan enhances the understanding and implementation capabilities of safeguards of other countries. Japan also encourages other countries to conclude the Additional Protocol (AP)<sup>11</sup> to the IAEA safeguards agreements by supporting the IAEA's regional seminars, as well as through other forums. Furthermore, Japan actively contributes to regional and international efforts to strengthen safeguards through efforts such as attending and acting as facilitator in the area of human resources development at the Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) held in August, in which the IAEA participated as an observer and which aims to strengthen safeguards in the Asia-Pacific region.



Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and IAEA Director General Grossi (February 25, 2020, Tokyo)

In the election to determine the next IAEA Director General held following the passing of IAEA Director General Amano Yukiya in July (see the Column on page 209), Argentina-born Mr. Grossi was elected to the first Director General from the Latin American region. Mr. Grossi has expressed his intention to address the problem of nuclear non-proliferation with professionalism and technological expertise. During his visit to Japan as a guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2020, he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe and held a meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi. Japan and the IAEA shared the view that both sides would work together to build a further cooperative relationship. Japan will continue providing utmost support to Director General Grossi, who has extensive knowledge and experience in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, and will continue to work with other member countries to strengthen the role of the IAEA.

Export control is a useful measure in the so-called supply-side regulation toward countries of proliferation concern, terrorist organizations, and other entities attempting to acquire or distribute weapons or related materials or technologies. There are currently four export control

<sup>10</sup> 13 countries are designated by the IAEA Board of Governors. The designated member states include Japan and other G7 countries with advanced nuclear energy capabilities.

<sup>11</sup> An Additional Protocol is concluded in addition to a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement that is applied on all nuclear materials pertaining to the peaceful nuclear activities in that country, and that non-nuclear-weapon NPT States Parties must conclude with the IAEA pursuant to Article 3 Paragraph 1 of the NPT. 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 October 2019, 136 countries have concluded the Additional Protocol.

frameworks (international export control regimes) in the international community. Japan has participated in all of them since their inception, engaging in international coordination and practicing strict export control. Each of the four regimes, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for nuclear weapons, the Australia Group (AG) for chemical and biological weapons, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for missiles,<sup>12</sup> and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) for conventional weapons, establishes a list of dual-use items and technologies which contribute to weapons development. To ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, participating countries to the regimes implement export control measures on the listed items and technologies in accordance with their domestic laws. The export control regimes also exchange information concerning trends in countries of proliferation concern and are engaged in 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. Additionally, in terms of international contributions in nuclear non-proliferation, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna serves as the Point of Contact of the NSG.

Furthermore, Japan seeks to complement the activities of the international export control

regimes by actively participating in the activities of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).<sup>13</sup> Through efforts such as hosting the maritime interdiction exercise “Pacific Shield 18”<sup>14</sup> in July 2018, Japan is working to enhance coordination among countries and concerned institutions.



Ship embarkation during a PSI training organized by Japan (July 25, 2018, off Boso Peninsula)

Japan also holds Asia Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP)<sup>15</sup> and Asian Export Control Seminars<sup>16</sup> every year in order to promote a better understanding of the non-proliferation regimes and strengthen regional efforts, mainly in Asian countries. At the 15th ASTOP, held in March, discussions were conducted concerning strengthening export control as well as PSI, the IAEA’s safeguards, and the Additional Protocol. 32 countries and regions participated in the 26th Asian Export Control Seminar, held in February. At the seminar, participants held discussions concerning measures to strengthen the effectiveness

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- <sup>12</sup> Apart from export control regimes, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOOC), which includes the principle of exercising restraint in their development and deployment, addresses the issue of ballistic missiles. 143 countries subscribe to the HCOOC.
- <sup>13</sup> 107 countries participate in and support the PSI as of December 2019. 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 actively participated in training and related conferences hosted by other countries. This includes a rotation exercise in the Asia-Pacific region and the High-Level Political Meeting in the U.S. in January 2016. Most recently, Japan took part in a High-Level Political Meeting to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the PSI, held in France in May 2018.
- <sup>14</sup> Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the ROK, Singapore, and the U.S. contributed assets and personnel to the exercise, which was held in Yokosuka City, off the Boso Peninsula and the Izu Peninsula, and 19 countries from Indo-Pacific region and other countries sent observers.
- <sup>15</sup> A multilateral Director-General-level meeting hosted by Japan to discuss various issues related to the strengthening of the nonproliferation 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.
- <sup>16</sup> A seminar hosted by Japan to exchange views and information toward strengthening export controls in Asia, with the participation of export control officials from Asian countries and regions. It has been organized annually in Tokyo since 1993 and was most recently held in February 2020.



of export control with a view to capacity building for export control personnel in Asian countries and regions.

Furthermore, with regards to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540,<sup>17</sup> 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, Japan contributes to maintaining and strengthening international non-proliferation frameworks through Japan's contributions to support the execution of the resolution by Asian nations.

### **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.

The second U.S.-North Korea Summit between the U.S. and North Korea was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in February. President Trump and Chairman of State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un met and held negotiation in Panmunjom in June. In the meantime, North Korea frequently and repeatedly conducted launches of ballistic missiles, counting more than 20 from May to November. Under these circumstances, 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.

Meanwhile, the IAEA Acting Director General's report in August pointed out activities at some nuclear facilities in North Korea continued or developed further. It also noted that North Korea's nuclear activities remain a cause for serious concern, and that these activities are clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions and that it is regrettable. At the IAEA General Conference in September, a resolution based on the report was adopted by consensus, and IAEA member countries expressed their solidarity on achieving the denuclearization of North Korea.

Japan will continue to coordinate closely with related countries, including the U.S. and the ROK, as well as 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 the UN Security Council resolutions, Japan will work on capacity building for export control particularly in Asia.

With respect to Iran, the IAEA has continuously monitored and verified Iran's implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)<sup>18</sup> 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. In response, Iran announced a phased suspension of its commitments under the JCPOA in May 2019. It has taken a succession

<sup>17</sup> 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, which comprises Security Council members and has a mandate to review and report to the Security Council the level of Resolution 1540 implementation by member states.

<sup>18</sup> 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
  - Limit on the number of centrifuges in operation to 5,060 unit
  - Upper limit on enriched uranium at 3.67%, and limit on the amount of stored enriched uranium at 300 kg, etc.
- Constraints on the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor, and reprocessing
  - Redesign / remodeling of the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor so that it is not able to produce weapon-grade plutonium and to transfer spent fuel out of the country
  - No reprocessing including for research purposes, no construction of reprocessing facilities, etc.

## Footprints Left Behind by Mr. Amano as Director General of the IAEA

Mr. Amano Yukiya, who was the first Japanese to be elected as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in December 2009, and continued to serve as the IAEA's fifth Director General for nearly ten years thereafter, passed away in July 2019, midway through his term. He did his work as Director General of the IAEA with sincerity and left behind many great achievements. Known also for his diligence, joke-loving and friendly nature, Mr. Amano was adored by the IAEA staff and people from all walks of life. On his passing, leading figures from various countries, including U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, and Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif, and countless others from Japan and abroad, expressed their condolences and honored his achievements.

This column features some of Director General Amano's achievements.



Address at IAEA's 60th anniversary event  
(Photo: IAEA)

### 1. Response to the nuclear accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

In response to the nuclear accident that occurred at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station on March 11, 2011, the Government of Japan reported the accident to the IAEA in April as a Level 7 accident (major accident)\* on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES). One week after the accident, Director General Amano visited Japan to consult with the Government of Japan, and strived to grasp the situation accurately for himself by visiting the sites in July the same year and December the following year. Under his leadership, the IAEA cooperated with Japan on the initial response, including the Director General's visit to the site immediately after the accident and the provision of information to the international community, and through the advices about measures on decommissioning and contaminated water. The IAEA also disseminated objective and science-based information about the accident. After that, Director General Amano prepared "The Fukushima Daiichi Accident - The Report by the Director General," in which he presented an assessment of the causes and results of the accident. Furthermore, he also worked on the preparation and implementation of an action plan based on the lessons learned from the accident in order to improve nuclear safety in the world, which is one of the important roles of the IAEA.

### 2. Efforts toward the issue of non-proliferation

The IAEA has the important mission of responding to the issue of non-proliferation, a challenge that the international community is confronted by today.

The start of the implementation (January 2016) of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), agreed in July 2015, was made possible by Director General Amano's personal visit to Iran in September 2015, and the final assessment by the IAEA in December the same year on outstanding issues related to possible military dimensions regarding Iran's nuclear program. Thereafter, Director General Amano took responsibility for directing the important activities of verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, in IAEA's spirit of impartiality and professionalism. Mr. Amano is probably one of the most well-known Japanese people in Iran today.

Although the IAEA is currently unable to conduct activities in North Korea, it regularly publishes reports on North Korea's nuclear issue. Moreover, in the summer of 2017 when there were heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, the IAEA proactively responded the situation under Director General Amano's leadership, enhancing its capacity by promptly establishing a "DPRK Team" within the IAEA.

### 3. "Atoms for Peace and Development"

Director General Amano pursued the wide range of possibilities of nuclear technology. Taking the opportunity of IAEA's 60th anniversary in 2017, he changed IAEA's motto from "Atoms for Peace" to "Atoms for Peace and Development," and made efforts to promote the use of nuclear technology in a wide range of sectors in developing countries, such as medical care and agriculture, as well as the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project of the IAEA.

At the IAEA General Conference held in 2019 after Director General Amano's passing, his achievements were commended and a resolution was adopted to name one of the research buildings of the IAEA Seibersdorf laboratories located in the suburbs of Vienna, Austria the "Yukiya Amano Laboratory." This research building was scheduled to commence operation in the spring of 2020.

We highly esteem Director General Amano's leadership and achievements, and once again express our deep respect for his dedication in life. We will also continue to provide our full support for the efforts of Director General Grossi who succeeded Mr. Amano, and will strive to strengthen the IAEA's role in close cooperation with other member states.

\*International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES): International indicator was developed jointly by the IAEA and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/NEA) in 1990 to communicate the safety significance of accidents and incidents in nuclear facilities, etc. It is classified into seven levels. Use of the scale in Japan began in 1992. In cases where radioactive substances are released into the environment, the incident would basically be rated as INES Level 4 or higher. The criteria, which is calculated as an equivalent dose of iodine, for determining each level is as follows: Level 7: More than several tens of thousands of terabecquerels; Level 6 (serious accident): the order of thousands to tens of thousands of terabecquerels; Level 5 (accident with wider consequences): the order of hundreds to thousands of terabecquerels; Level 4 (accident with local consequences): the order of tens to hundreds of terabecquerels. The level of radioactive substance emissions from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident was approximately 630,000 trillion becquerels at the time of the announcement by the (then) Japanese Nuclear Safety Commission, and about 370,000 trillion becquerels based on the estimate by the (then) Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (both are calculated as an equivalent dose of iodine).

of steps that include exceeding the limit on the stockpile of low-enriched uranium and level of uranium enrichment, conducting activities related to its centrifuge research and development beyond the limits of the JCPOA and restarting uranium enrichment activities at a fuel enrichment facility in Fordow, located in Qom County in central Iran. In November, the IAEA Director General reported that the IAEA detected natural uranium particles at a location in Iran not declared to the IAEA. In light of this situation, Director General Grossi said he would tackle Iran's nuclear problem in a firm but fair way.

Japan, deeply concerned about Iran's continued reduction of its commitments under the JCPOA, strongly urges Iran to comply with the JCPOA, and to immediately return to its commitments, while also strongly urging Iran to refrain from further measures that may undermine the JCPOA. Japan is also calling upon Iran to fully cooperate

with the IAEA based on the JCPOA and in accordance with all its nuclear obligations, in particular its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), and the Additional Protocol.

With respect to Syria's implementation of the IAEA safeguards, it is important that Syria fully cooperates with the IAEA and that Syria signs, ratifies and implements the Additional Protocol in order to clarify the facts.

### **C** Nuclear Security

With regards to nuclear security that aims to prevent acts of terrorism such as those involving the use of nuclear and other radioactive materials, the IAEA, the UN, and like-minded countries have strengthened international cooperation on nuclear security through various efforts. These include the Nuclear Security Summit, which was hosted 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 continues to actively participate in and contribute to these efforts.

Based on “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,” signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IAEA in February 2018, relevant Japanese ministries and organizations conducted a table-top exercise on nuclear security measures for major public events with the participation of experts from the IAEA and the U.S. in October, 2019.

In November 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the International Transport Security Symposium on nuclear and other radioactive materials in collaboration with the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA). More than 100 experts from international organizations including the IAEA and relevant countries participated in this symposium, and shared good practices and exchanged views on common challenges related to transport security.

### (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 research, production, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Reflecting the increase in international energy demand, many

countries use or are planning to use nuclear power.<sup>19</sup>

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 neighboring countries. For these reasons, with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is vital to ensure the “3S”<sup>20</sup>: that is, (1) Safeguards, (2) Nuclear Safety (e.g. measures to ensure safety to prevent nuclear accidents), and (3) Nuclear Security. As the country that experienced the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, it is Japan’s responsibility to share its experiences and lessons learned from the accident with other countries and to contribute to strengthening global nuclear safety. In this regard, Japan and the IAEA have been working in cooperation. The IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) Capacity Building Centre (CBC) in Fukushima Prefecture was designated in 2013 and workshops were held in August and November in 2019, for Japanese and foreign officials to strengthen their capabilities in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

Decommissioning, contaminated water management, decontamination and environmental remediation have been progressing steadily at the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Nevertheless, these works are difficult in ways that are unprecedented in the world, and efforts have been made to tackle the challenges by leveraging collective technologies and knowledge of the world. Japan has been cooperating closely with the IAEA since the accident. In June 2019, Japan hosted an expert mission of the IAEA on marine monitoring. In addition, the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) published a report in 2014

<sup>19</sup> According to the IAEA, as of January 2020, 447 nuclear reactors are in operation worldwide and 52 reactors are under construction (see the IAEA website).

<sup>20</sup> “3S” is used to refer to the IAEA’s efforts toward nuclear safety, nuclear security, and nuclear safeguards, which are typical measures for non-proliferation.

on the levels and the impact of radiation from the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, and the report has been updated since 2018 in order to carry out assessment based on the latest information.

It is necessary to disseminate accurate information in a timely and appropriate manner in order to make progress in the decommissioning works and to promote recovery, with the support and correct understanding of the international community. From this perspective, Japan periodically releases comprehensive reports through the IAEA that cover matters such as progress in decommissioning and contaminated water management at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, results of the monitoring of air dose rate and seawater radioactivity concentration, and food safety. In addition, Japan submits reports on the current situation to all the Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo and to the IAEA every month in principle. Furthermore, Japan has organized more than 100 briefing sessions to all the Diplomatic Missions in Tokyo since the accident, and provided information through overseas diplomatic establishments. With respect to the status of contaminated water management at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, Japan prepared an information sheet in English in order to clearly explain the difference between contaminated water and ALPS-treated water,<sup>21</sup> which are often confused, to the international community, and distributed the information sheet at international conferences including the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna in September 2019.<sup>22</sup> Japan continues to provide information to the international community in a courteous and transparent manner, based on scientific evidence, and to make explanations securely so as to prevent causing further reputational damage.

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 uses. 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. The IAEA also contributes to technical cooperation for developing countries and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Against this background, Japan has been providing active support to the IAEA's activities, through such means as the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and IAEA technical cooperation that includes cooperation based on the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development, and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA). At the NPT Review Conference held in April 2015, Japan announced that it would be contributing a total of 25 million US dollars over five years to the PUI. In 2019, through the PUI, Japan supported IAEA projects including the renovation project of the IAEA's Seibersdorf Laboratories.

### **B** Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements are concluded to secure a legal assurance from the recipient country, when transferring nuclear-related material and equipment, 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 have set out provisions regarding nuclear safety and nuclear security to affirm mutual compliance

<sup>21</sup> ALPS-treated water is water purified using multiple purification systems, including advanced liquid processing systems (ALPS).

<sup>22</sup> The most recent English language materials that are distributed at IAEA General Conferences and other assemblies and that concern the differences between polluted water and ALPS-treated water are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000564692.pdf>).



with international treaties on nuclear safety and nuclear security. They have also facilitated the promotion of cooperation in the field of nuclear safety under the agreements.

Countries in the world continue to express their high expectations to Japan's nuclear technology, even after the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. Taking into account the situations, intentions, and desires of the partner countries, Japan can continue to provide nuclear-related material, equipment, and technology with the highest safety standards. Furthermore, in bilateral nuclear cooperation, Japan is called upon to share its experience and lessons learned from the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident and to continue cooperating on improving nuclear safety with other countries. 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 2019, 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, Viet Nam, Jordan, Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and India<sup>23</sup> in the order of effective date.

#### (4) Biological and Chemical Weapons

##### A Biological Weapons

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)<sup>24</sup> 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 are neither

provisions governing the means of verifying compliance with the BWC nor an implementing organization for the convention.

Since 2006, decisions have been made to establish the Implementation Support Unit (fulfilling the functions of a Secretariat) and to hold inter-sessional meetings twice a year in between the Review Conferences held every five years. During this time, progress has been made with respect to initiatives aimed at strengthening the regime of the BWC.

Agreement has been reached with regard to discussing the five topics, namely international cooperation, reviews of developments in the field of science and technology, national implementation, assistance for preparedness and response, and institutional strengthening of the convention. The discussions are to be conducted at the inter-sessional meetings up until the ninth Review Conference, scheduled to be held in 2021. Japan actively participated in discussing these themes at the December 2019 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention.

##### B Chemical Weapons

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)<sup>25</sup> 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 a verification system consisting of declarations and inspections, making this convention 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

<sup>23</sup> Negotiations are currently ongoing concerning the agreement with the UK.

<sup>24</sup> Entered into force in March 1975. There are 183 Signatory States as of December 2019.

<sup>25</sup> Entered into force in April 1997. There are 193 Signatory States as of December 2019.

a world without chemical weapons were highly acclaimed, and the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

Japan, which has a highly developed chemicals industry and numerous chemicals factories, also accepts many OPCW inspections. Japan also actively cooperates with the OPCW in many other concrete ways, including 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 Chinese territory by working in cooperation with China.

During his visit to Japan in June, OPCW Director-General Arias agreed to continue coordinating with Japan.

### (5) Conventional Weapons

Conventional weapons generally refer to arms other than weapons of mass destruction and include a wide variety of weapons ranging from large weapons such as landmines, tanks, and artillery to small arms and light weapons such as handguns. The problem of conventional weapons, which are used in actual wars and cause injury and death to civilians, is a serious one for both national security and humanitarian concerns. The disarmament agenda presented in 2018 by UN Secretary-General Guterres categorizes disarmament of conventional weapons as one of the three pillars, “Disarmament that Saves Lives.” Japan is making active efforts involving cooperation and support based on international standards and principles concerning conventional weapons.

#### **A** Small Arms and Light Weapons

Described as “the real weapons of mass destruction” due to the many human lives they

take, small arms and light weapons continue to proliferate due to the ease with which they can be obtained and used. They contribute to conflict prolongation and escalation, hindering the restoration of public security and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Since 1995, Japan has been working with other countries to submit a resolution on the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons to the UN General Assembly, and the resolution has been adopted every year. In areas around the world, Japan has also provided support for projects to address the issue of small arms and light weapons, including training and the collection and destruction of weapons. In 2019, Japan contributed two million US dollars to a mechanism for preventing small arms and light weapons established under UN Secretary-General Guterres’ disarmament agenda.

#### **B** The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)<sup>26</sup>

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which seeks to establish common standards to regulate international trade in and prevent the illicit trade of conventional arms, entered into force in December 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 significantly to the establishment of the treaty. Even after the treaty entered into force, Japan has actively participated in discussions at Conferences of States Parties and other opportunities. In August 2018, Japan hosted the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in Tokyo as the first chair country elected from the Asia-Pacific region.

<sup>26</sup> As of January 2020, there are 105 states and regions that are parties to the ATT. Japan signed the Treaty on the day that it was released for signing and became a State Party in May 2014.

### C Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)<sup>27</sup>

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. It comprises a framework convention that sets forth procedural and other matters, as well as five annexed protocols that regulate individual conventional arms. The framework convention entered into force in 1983. Japan has ratified the framework convention and annexed Protocols I to IV, including the amended Protocol II. Prompted by concerns in the international community about the rapidly advancing military applications of science and technology, meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) have been held under the CCW framework since 2017. At meetings of the Group held in March and August 2019, Japan again actively participated and contributed to discussions.

### D Anti-personnel Mines

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the entering into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty).<sup>28</sup> 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. Along with calling on countries

in the Asia-Pacific region to ratify or accede to the Convention, since 1998 Japan has provided support worth over 78 billion Japanese yen to 51 countries and regions to assist them in dealing with the consequences of landmines (for example, landmine clearance and victim assistance).

In November 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Asako Omi attended the 4th Review Conference of the Convention, held in Oslo, Norway. At the conference, Japan looked back on its initiatives and achievements in supporting mine action. It also expressed Japan's continued resolve toward playing an active role in achieving a mine-free world.

### E Cluster Munitions<sup>29</sup>

The international community takes very seriously the humanitarian consequences brought about by cluster munitions. Japan is therefore taking steps to address this issue via victim assistance and unexploded ordinance clearance,<sup>30</sup> while also continuing its efforts to increase the number of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).<sup>31</sup> At the September 2019 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, Japan again participated in discussions concerning these issues.

## 5 Japan's Efforts at the United Nations

### (1) Japan-UN Relationship

The UN is an international organization with a universal character and nearly all the countries in the world are members (193 countries as of December 2019). With a high level of expertise, it

<sup>27</sup> As of November 2018, 125 countries and regions are parties to the CCW.

<sup>28</sup> The Convention, which entered into force in March 1999, bans the use and production of anti-personnel mines while mandating the destruction of stockpiled mines and the clearance of buried mines. As of January 2020, there are 164 states and regions that are parties to the Convention, including Japan.

<sup>29</sup> Generally speaking, it refers to bombs or shells in the form of large containers that open midair and release submunitions that spread over a wide area. They are said to be highly likely to not explode on impact, leading to the problem of civilians being accidentally killed or injured.

<sup>30</sup> See the White Paper on Development Cooperation for specific efforts on international cooperation regarding cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines.

<sup>31</sup> Entered into force in August 2010, it prohibits the use, possession, or production of cluster munitions, while mandating the clearance of cluster munitions in contaminated areas and the destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions. As of November 2019, there are 107 states and regions that are parties to the Convention, including Japan.



addresses various challenges that the international community faces in diverse areas such as conflict resolution and peacebuilding, counterterrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, poverty and development, human rights, the refugee problem, the environment and climate change, disaster risk reduction, and infectious diseases.

Japan has been strengthening cooperative efforts through the UN in an effort to make a “proactive contribution to peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, and has been actively working to achieve diplomatic goals not achievable by one country alone. Japan has also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council 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 also continues to proactively engage in UN reform, including Security Council reform, 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 Motegi attended the high-level week of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

Prime Minister Abe referred to the international events to be held in Japan between 2019 and 2020 at the general debate, including the G20 Osaka Summit, the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), the Kyoto Congress, and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. He also touched upon Japan's contributions to education and the role of women in society, regional situations such as those in North Korea in the Middle East, and the importance of addressing polarization by using multinational frameworks.

Prime Minister Abe attended the UN high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and made a closing remarks that achieving UHC with the introduction of the national



UN Headquarters (Photo: UN Photo/Steven Bomholtz)



Prime Minister Abe attending a session of the UN General Assembly (September 24, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

health insurance system provided a foundation for Japan's social and economic development and a healthy aging society. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe referred to the discussions made at the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7, to promote a cross-sectoral approach, combining health development with nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as to strengthen health financing, and emphasized their importance.

At the SDG Summit, Prime Minister Abe shared the progress made in promoting the SDGs over the last four years, including achievements presented during the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7. Additionally, as the chief of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, whose members consist of the Prime Minister and his entire cabinet, Prime Minister Abe introduced the nationally concerted efforts that Japan has made toward achieving the SDGs, including the Japan SDGs Awards<sup>32</sup> and the

<sup>32</sup> Awarded to companies and groups taking exemplary initiatives toward achieving the SDGs

SDGs Future City<sup>33</sup> initiatives. He also expressed his intention to show, by December, an “SDGs Model,” by revising the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, Japan’s mid- to long-term national strategy for the promotion of the SDGs.

Prime Minister Abe also held summit meetings with the U.S., Iran and Jordan, held talks with President-Elect of the European Council Michel (Prime Minister of Belgium) and UN Secretary-General Guterres, and participated in a dinner with European Council President Tusk. In addition, Olympic Committee Chairman Bach and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad made courtesy calls to the Prime Minister.

In the meeting with Secretary-General Guterres, both sides affirmed the importance of the reform of the UN, including the Security Council, as the UN approaches its 75th anniversary in 2020. There was also an exchange of views on North Korea, during which they affirmed the importance of the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe issued a renewed call for understanding of and cooperation for the prompt resolution of the abductions issue, a call for which Secretary-General Guterres offered his support.

Foreign Minister Motegi, in addition to holding a meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, attended a total of seven multilateral meetings that included a Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Ministerial as well as the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 on UN Security Council reform. 11 Foreign Ministers’ Meetings, including between Japan and the U.S. and Japan and China, were held that saw countries’ foreign ministers strengthen trust-based relationships with one another through the opportunity afforded by their attendance at the UN General Assembly.

These examples show how Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Motegi took full advantage of the opportunity of the UN General Assembly,



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with UN Secretary-General Guterres (June 28, Tokyo:  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

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 talks with leaders from different countries in aiming to strengthen bilateral relations, and assertively conveyed Japan’s policies and positions to the international community.

UN Secretary-General Guterres visited Japan twice this year, in June and August. During his visit in June, his third visit to Japan since becoming Secretary-General in January 2017, he attended the G20 Osaka Summit. During his meeting with Prime Minister Abe on the fringes of the Summit, the Prime Minister indicated his intention to continue taking concrete steps toward solving global problems, including achieving the SDGs, for which Secretary-General Guterres expressed his support, and emphasizing the importance of initiatives to address climate change. Prime Minister Abe indicated that Japan would make every effort possible to support the Secretary-General’s initiatives on UN reform and peacebuilding, to which Secretary-General Guterres expressed his gratitude. The leaders exchanged views on regional situations such as North Korea and shared the view on the need to ease tensions over the Iran situation.

Secretary-General Guterres visited Japan again

<sup>33</sup> The cities selected propose exemplary initiatives toward achieving the SDGs through local governments

in August for TICAD7 and held talks with Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Abe indicated that he would support Africa's initiatives to achieve peace and stability, a major theme of TICAD7, and expressed his intention to provide all possible support for Secretary-General Guterres' initiatives, which center on sustaining peace. The two affirmed their intention to continue making efforts in these areas. Secretary-General Guterres highly commended Japan's support efforts for Africa.

At the end of July, the President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly Muhammad-Bande visited Japan prior to assuming presidency in September. Along with a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe, President-elect Muhammad-Bande exchanged views with Foreign Minister Kono on global issues that included the reform of the UN Security Council, the situation of North Korea, SDGs, climate change, marine plastic litter, and health.

## (2) United Nations Security Council and its Reform

### A 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 has been 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. It has served more frequently than any other UN Member State and has contributed proactively to discussions on topics such as country-specific situations and peacebuilding. During its 11th term on the Council, Japan made every effort to resolve North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, including contributions to drafting the six UN Security Council resolutions adopted in response to North

Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and three nuclear tests conducted in January and September 2016 and September 2017. At the UN Security Council Briefing on Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea in December 2019, Japan was fully engaged in discussions related to maintaining international peace and security by stating that North Korea's ballistic missile launches were in violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and posed a serious challenge not only for Japan but also for the international community as a whole, as well as calling for the importance of the full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

### B Reform of the UN Security Council

In the almost 75 years since the UN was established, the structure of the international community has changed significantly while the UN's functions have grown increasingly diverse. Despite this, the composition of the UN Security Council has basically remained unchanged to this day. There is broad recognition of the necessity for 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 to pursue the early realization of UN Security Council reform, with the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats and Japan's admission as a permanent member.

### C Recent Activities Regarding UN Security Council Reform

Since 2009, in the UN General Assembly, Member States have been engaging in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UN Security



Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries (Japan, India, Germany, and Brazil) on UN Security Council reform (September 25, New York, U.S.)

Council reform. At the Intergovernmental Negotiations during the 73rd session of the General Assembly (held a total of five times from January to June, 2019), the Co-chairs (UN Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Luxembourg) worked to revise the document from the previous session based on the comments made by each country and group. The decision to pass on the existing documents, which include the document compiled at the 73rd session, to the 74th session (from September 2019 to September 2020) was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in June 2019.

President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande reappointed the UN Permanent Representative from the United Arab Emirates to continue serving as a Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, as a carry-over from the 72nd session, while also appointing the UN Permanent Representative from Poland 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 UN Security Council reform. Foreign Minister Motegi attended the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries that was held on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-level Week in September 2019. At the meeting, to achieve progress for the current session, the ministers agreed

to improve the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, coordinating with UN General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande. They also agreed that the G4 countries, given their capacity and willingness to take on responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of peace and security, will cooperate closely and continue their engagement with like-minded countries, including those in Africa, as the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 approaches. Japan will continue to engage proactively in the process for realizing 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

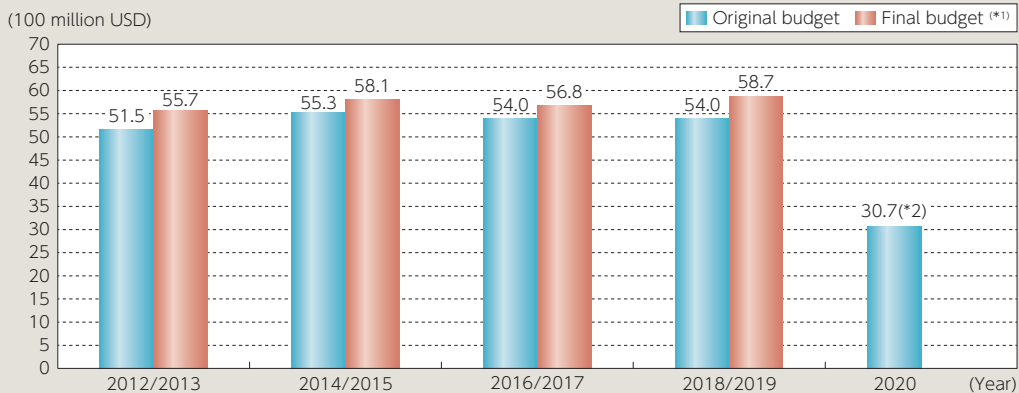
The UN budget is mainly composed of the regular budget, which is a biennial budget for the period from January to December of the next year (an annual budget from January to December of the same year will be implemented on a trial basis from 2020 to 2022), and the peacekeeping budget, which is an annual budget for the period from July to the following June.

With regard to the regular budget, a budget for 2020 amounting to approximately 3.1 billion US dollars was approved in December 2019 at the UN General Assembly. The budget for peacekeeping operations for the period of 2019-2020 amounting to approximately 6.52 billion US dollars in total was approved in July 2019 (a decrease of approximately 8% from the final budget of the previous period).

#### 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 Member States' policy needs. With regard to the assessed contributions, Japan contributed approximately 238.8 million US dollars to the UN regular budget for 2019, ranking third after the U.S. and

### Two-year regular UN budgets

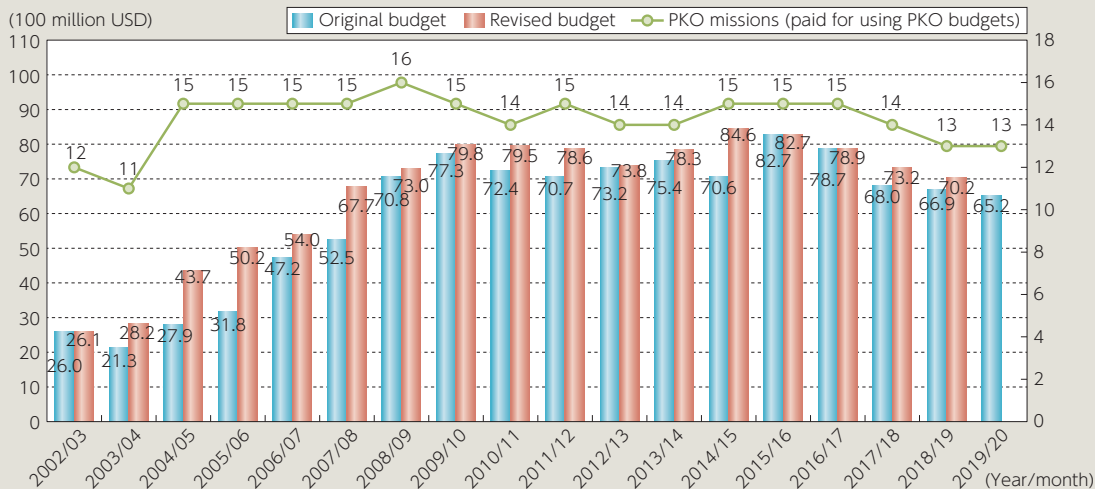


(\*1) The final budget includes an added budget necessitated by additional demand, inflation adjustments, etc. that occurred during the two-year budget

(\*2) Only 2020 has a single-year budget

Source: UN documents

### PKO budgets and missions paid for with PKO budgets (2003-2020)



\*Includes UNSOS (United Nations Support Office in Somalia)

Source: UN documents

### UN regular budget allocation percentages from major nations

Ranking*	Country	2016 - 2018	2019 - 2021	Change
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

\*Ranking from 2019 to 2021

## UN regular budget allocation percentages

Ranking*	Country	2018	2019	2020 - 21
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	South Korea	2.0390%	2.2670%	

\*Ranking from 2019 to 2021

Source: UN documents

China. Its contribution to peacekeeping operations for 2019 was approximately 814.3 million US dollars, again ranking 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.

UN Secretary-General Guterres places priority on the management reform of the UN, 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 the reform, is urging the UN to advance its reform without additional financial burdens to Member States in light of their difficult financial circumstances. Based on the General Assembly resolution adopted at the end of December 2017 on the policies for management reform, a new organizational structure was launched in January 2019. It is expected that, under the new structure, the financial, budgetary, and human resource management of the UN will be made more efficient.

## 6 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 peaceful settlement of disputes between states and in promoting “good governance” in each state. Based on this view, Japan promotes bilateral and multilateral rule-making and the proper implementation of these rules in various fields that include 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 both human and financial resource contributions. In addition, Japan has been working to enhance the rule of law in the international community, including Asian countries, through provision of legal technical assistance, participation in international conferences, exchanges of views with various countries, and hosting events on international law.

### (1) Japan's Diplomacy to Strengthen 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, and initiatives to promote, 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. With a view to 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, the 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 accepts<sup>34</sup> the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN, and constructively contributes to establishing the rule of law in the international community via cooperation in providing human and financial resources to numerous international courts. For example, Japan is the largest financial contributor to 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, including Judge Yanai Shunji to ITLOS (incumbent since 2005, President of ITLOS from October 2011 to September 2014) and Judge Akane Tomoko to the ICC (incumbent since March 2018). With regard to the ICJ, following the retirement of Judge Owada Hisashi (who served from February 2003 until June 2018, including a term as President of the ICJ from March 2009 until June 2012), Japanese candidate Iwasawa Yuji, Professor of the University of Tokyo, was elected at the ICJ judge

by-election in June 2018. Professor Iwasawa is ICJ's fourth-ever Japanese judge (see the Column on page 223). Through these contributions, Japan strives to enhance the effectiveness and universality of international courts and tribunals. To further strengthen the capability 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 2015.

#### **B** International Rule-making

International rule-making to respond to issues the global community faces is one of the important efforts toward strengthening the rule of law. Along with actively promoting the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral treaties aimed at building a legal foundation for achieving goals it shares with other countries, Japan is demonstrating initiative starting at the planning phase in creating rules for developing international laws that reflect its ideals and positions in cross-sectoral efforts in the framework of the UN and other fora. Specifically, Japan has been actively involved in the rule-making processes within various international frameworks that include codification work in the field of public international law at the International Law Commission (ILC) and the sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as the preparation of conventions and model laws in the field of private international law at fora such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). In the ILC, Dr. Murase Shinya, Professor Emeritus of Sophia University, serves as a Special Rapporteur on the topic of

<sup>34</sup> 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 74 countries, including Japan, have made such declaration to date.

## Column

## Serving as a Judge at the International Court of Justice

Iwasawa Yuji

I have been serving as a judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) since June 2018. The ICJ is an international court for settlement of inter-state disputes located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the “principal judicial organ” of the United Nations. It contributes not only to settling international disputes but also to the clarification and development of international law through its interpretation and application, and thus can be described as the most authoritative international court in the international community. Many important concepts and legal principles of international law have been pronounced by the ICJ and accepted by states. An example is the concept of “obligations *erga omnes*,” namely, obligations owed by states to the international community as a whole. The ICJ is composed of 15 judges of different nationalities, elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council. I am the fourth Japanese judge at the ICJ, following my predecessors Dr. Tanaka Kotaro (former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court), Dr. Oda Shigeru (former Professor of Tohoku University), and Mr. Owada Hisashi (former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the UN). Actually, I am the seventh if we include Dr. Oda Yorozu (former Professor of Kyoto University), Dr. Adachi Mineichiro (former Ambassador to France), and Dr. Nagaoka Harukazu (former Ambassador to France), who served on the Permanent Court of International Justice, which preceded the ICJ.

The ICJ has many pending cases at present (17 cases as of December 2019). This is to be welcomed as proof of confidence in the Court that cases are brought to it successively. Many observers and reporters crowd into the courtroom for oral proceedings and for the delivery of judgments in cases attracting public attention. In recent years, oral proceedings and delivery of judgments have been broadcast through the Internet, and thus are watched closely by a considerable number of people around the world.

In the approximately one and a half years since my appointment as a judge, I have sat in eight cases. The ICJ finalizes judgments after numerous deliberations. While it is an honor to participate in preparing judgments in important cases, I have felt a sobering sense of responsibility at the same time. Before I was appointed as a judge, I had lectured on international law at the Faculty of Law, the University of Tokyo. My experience in research and teaching in the field of international law for more than 40 years has given me a strong grounding in fulfilling my duties as a judge. I have previously studied and conducted research abroad, including three years in the U.S., three and a half years in the UK, and one year in France. In addition, I have practical experiences in international law, serving for three years as a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, nine years as a judge on the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal (including three years as Vice-President), and eleven and a half years as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (including three and a half years as Chairperson). These experiences are also very helpful in my present work.



At the Peace Palace where the International Court of Justice is located



At the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace

Although the ICJ hears about six cases per year in recent years, the total number of staff including 15 judges is just over 100. People are often surprised that the ICJ has consistently delivered important judgments with such limited human resources.

I live within walking distance to the Court and usually walk to work. At universities where I used to work, when I had no lectures, I often conducted research at home. Similarly, at the ICJ, I frequently work from home. I am leading a very busy life, conducting research between working for the ICJ. The Hague is a nice and quiet city full of greenery. When I have time, I would like to enjoy my life in The Hague more, such as by taking walks around the area.



“Protection of the Atmosphere,” contributing to the development of international law through the deliberations in the ILC, especially those on the draft guidelines of the said topic. Japan also sends Government representatives to various meetings of the HCCH, UNCITRAL, and UNIDROIT, taking an active lead in the discussions. In addition, Dr. Kanda Hideki, Professor of Gakushuin University, contributes to the development of the work plan at UNIDROIT. Japan has also been showing its presence as a member nation of UNCITRAL since the founding of the commission.

### C 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, while cooperating internationally on efforts related to further developing 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. The Asia Cup is an international law moot court competition for students, which aims to raise awareness about the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes, nurture future generations in the field of international law, and strengthen exchange and communication among them. The 21st Asia Cup held in 2019 recorded participation from 73 universities in 17 countries.



Final round of the 2019 Asia Cup (August 7, Tokyo)

Here, university students from 15 countries (Japan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, the ROK, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) were selected to take part in the oral round (the main event). They competed in the written and oral proceedings in English on given fictional inter-state disputes concerning the law of the sea and the exemption of government officials from another country's criminal jurisdiction. Japan is also engaging in cooperation concerning human resources and finances with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), the only inter-governmental organization in the Asia/Africa region that is engaged in international law.

### (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 14th East Asia Summit (EAS), held in November 2019, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law forms the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) serves as a foundation for the rule of law at sea. This convention has been ratified by 167 countries, including Japan (including some regions not officially recognized as nations by Japan), and the EU. The convention comprehensively provides for principles governing the sea, including the freedom of navigation and overflight of the high seas. It also stipulates rights and obligations under international law

on the development of marine resources, among other things. The provisions of this convention that concern 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 problems concerning the oceans and seas grow more complex and diverse, it will be important to preserve and strengthen the maritime order based on this convention, which serves as a comprehensive and universal legal framework.

Under the 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 the preservation and advancement of law and 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 has successively dispatched two Japanese judges to the tribunal since its establishment.

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) established pursuant to the 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 through means such as continuously producing members (Japan's current member of the Commission is Professor Yamazaki Toshitsugu from the University of Tokyo). Another recent development has been the continued formulation of fair rules on exploitation of deep sea-bed mineral resources that began in 2018 under the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which was established pursuant to the UNCLOS for the primary purpose of managing deep sea-bed mineral resources. Japan actively takes part in

negotiations in order to reflect its standpoint on 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 the creation of rules governing the deep sea-bed.

The decision was made to convene an intergovernmental conference (IGC) to formulate a new international agreement under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was adopted by resolution 72/249 of the UN General Assembly in December 2017. Three meetings of the IGC were held by August 2019. The Government of Japan actively takes part in discussions in order to ensure that Japan's perspective is reflected in the 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

In order to strengthen its legal basis for diplomatic activities, Japan is actively engaged in concluding international agreements concerning political and security fields. In the field of security, Japan advanced efforts to conclude the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), which sets out the settlement procedures and other matters on the mutual provision of supplies and services between the JSDF and foreign armed forces, the Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology, which sets out provisions on the handling of defence equipment and technologies to be transferred, and the Agreement on the Security of Information, which serves as the basis for the sharing of classified information on security with the relevant countries. ACSAs with France and with Canada entered into force in June and July respectively, while an Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology with Italy entered into force in April. Japan also

reached an agreement in principle with Germany in February toward concluding an Agreement on the Security of Information. In addition, the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the EU and EU member states, which serves as the legal foundation for future cooperation in political, security and other fields, provisionally went into effect in February. 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 for promoting the liberalization of trade and investment, as well as people-to-people exchanges, and for strengthening the foundations for the overseas activities of Japanese citizens and companies. The agreements that Japan signed or concluded include tax conventions, investment treaties, and social security agreements with various countries and regions in 2019. 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). In addition, the Japan-EU EPA was signed in July 2018 and entered into force in February 2019. The Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement were signed in October 2019 and entered into force in January 2020 following a written notification to this effect issued in December 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 areas such as human rights, environment, fisheries, maritime affairs, aviation, labor and social security, which are closely linked to 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. In the fisheries field, for example, Japan concluded the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean in July. In the field of maritime affairs, Japan concluded the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (the Hong Kong Convention) in March.

#### (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 15.7% of the entire assessed contributions to the Court as of 2019. With regards to human resources, Japan has consistently produced judges since its accession to the ICC. The current judge, Ms. Akane Tomoko, former Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation and Public Prosecutor of Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan, began serving her nine-year term in March 2018. In addition, Mr. Noguchi Motoo, Ambassador for International Judicial Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public Prosecutor at the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, serves as an independent expert, while Mr. Kozaki Hitoshi of the Committee on Budget and Finance serves as Committee Chair. As the ICC evolves into a

full-fledged international criminal justice institution, it is imperative to secure cooperation with the ICC, establish the principle of complementarity, and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in its judicial procedures. Japan engages in addressing these challenges through its participation in the Assembly of States Parties, including continuing to serve as Co-chair for the Study Group on Governance.

Along with these efforts, 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. Specifically, as efforts to improve 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),<sup>35</sup> the Treaty on Extradition,<sup>36</sup> and the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.<sup>37</sup> Additionally, the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime entered into force in January. In July, Japan signed the Treaty between Japan and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

## **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), January 2013 to December 2015 (the third term), and from January 2017 to December 2019 (fourth term). Most recently, Japan was elected in the elections held in October 2019, and currently serves as a member of the Council from January 2020 to December 2022 (fifth term).

At the high-level segment (meeting of the main representatives of each country) of the 40th Session in February and March 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Tsuji delivered a statement. In his statement, he expressed Japan's intention to continue contributing to the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide based on the concept of human security. He also emphasized the importance of the early resolution of the abductions issue. In addition, he presented efforts Japan is making to improve human rights and advance democratization in Asia, and efforts to protect and promote the rights of the socially vulnerable.

During the same session, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, submitted by the EU, was adopted without a vote (adopted for 12 consecutive years). This resolution refers to the urgency and importance of the abductions issue and of the immediate return of all abductees, 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, the decision was made to extend,

<sup>35</sup> A legal framework that allows for an efficient and prompt cooperation with legal authorities of other countries in criminal investigation and procedures.

<sup>36</sup> A legal framework having comprehensive and detailed provisions regarding the extradition of criminals to enable more effective cooperation for repressing crime.

<sup>37</sup> A legal framework aiming to facilitate the social rehabilitation of foreign prisoners by giving them the opportunity to serve their sentences in their own countries.

for a period of two-years, the steps taken to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which was decided by the UN Human Rights Council resolution in March 2017.

At the 42nd Session in September, Japan submitted a resolution on the human rights situation in Cambodia, as the main sponsor of the resolution, and this resolution was adopted without a vote. This resolution reflects the concerns of the international community on the recent human rights situation in Cambodia and decided a two-year extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in Cambodia.

### **B** 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 those concerning 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.

At the 74th session of the General Assembly, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), submitted by the EU and co-sponsored by Japan, was adopted without a vote at a session of the Third Committee in November and a plenary session of the UN General Assembly in December. The resolution refers to the urgency and importance of the abductions issue and of the immediate return of all abductees, the long years of suffering experienced by abductees and their families, the resolution of all issues related to the return of Japanese abductees at the earliest

possible date, and to provide accurate information to the families of the victims on the fates and whereabouts of their missing relatives.

In addition, Japan also actively participated in discussions on the human rights situations in individual countries such as Syria, Iran, and Myanmar, as well as discussions on various human rights issues that include social development and the rights of the child. 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 74th session of the UN General Assembly, as it has done previously.

### **C** Ending Violence Against Children

Since 2018, Japan has participated in the Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPeVAC). Japan has been actively involved in Partnership activities as a "pathfinding country," engaging in ending violence against children. As part of this effort, Japan cooperates with civil society and private companies to formulate a country-specific action plan aimed at ending violence against children. From August to October, Japan conducted the "Children's Public Comment" online to facilitate the incorporation of children's views into the action plan. Japan will continue promoting efforts to end violence against children at home and abroad, in collaboration with the international community.

### **D** 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 UN 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework (UNGPs)" that was endorsed at the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. As part of our commitment, 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.

After conducting a baseline study in 2018 to capture the landscape of the existing legislation and policies regarding the protection of human rights in the course of business activities, in the process of the NAP formulation, Japan established a Working Group, with a view to bringing together relevant parties including those from relevant ministries and agencies, the business sector, a trade union, a bar association and academia, etc., to exchange views. Japan also established an Advisory Committee and held numerous discussions, for the purpose of obtaining views from experts on matters discussed at the Working Group, upon request from relevant ministries and agencies. In addition, Japan provided opportunities to exchange views among not only national experts but also overseas experts, including members of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

Through formulating the NAP and thereby promoting responsible business activities, Japan aims to contribute to promoting and protecting human rights for society as a whole, including the international community, to enhance the trust in and reputation of Japanese companies, and help achieve and improve international competitiveness and sustainability for these companies. Japan will continue to drive the process of formulating the NAP while taking into account the views of various stakeholders.

## (2) Initiatives Concerning International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

### A International Human Rights Law

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is a subsidiary body of the UN Human Rights Council and consists of 18 independent experts. The function of the Advisory Committee is to provide expertise to the Human Rights Council, focusing mainly on studies and research-based advice. At a Human Rights Council Advisory

Committee member election conducted during the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council held in September, Ms. Nakai Itsuko, the candidate from Japan and a professor at Konan University's Faculty of Law, was elected. Japan has continued to send members to the committee since 2008, when the committee began its activities, to the present: Professor Nakai is the third committee member from Japan.

Furthermore, with respect to the human rights treaties that Japan has concluded, Japan has faithfully responded to periodic reviews of government reports on the implementation status of the treaties in Japan, pursuant to the rules set forth in those treaties. In January, a government report concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child was reviewed in Geneva.

### B International Humanitarian Law

Japan has been actively engaged in strengthening implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including through participating in the intergovernmental process on IHL in Geneva, the final meeting for which was held in March. In October, Japan co-organized a meeting of the National IHL Committee with the Japanese Red Cross Society. At the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in December, Japan submitted a joint pledge with other countries toward raising awareness for and promoting the usage of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFCC). Japan also made its own statement concerning the importance of further disseminating IHL and strengthening its implementation, as the emergence of new technologies such as cyber warfare and lethal autonomous weapons systems is dramatically reshaping conflicts. Furthermore, as it does every year, Japan dispatched instructors to the IHL Moot Court Competition, an event organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as part of awareness-raising efforts for IHL.

### (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 13th Japan-Iran Human Rights Dialogue was held in Tehran in January, the 6th Japan-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue in Tokyo in March, and the 10th Japan-Cambodia Human Rights Dialogue in Phnom Penh in August. While sharing information on their respective initiatives in the field of human rights, the parties to 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 had been residing temporarily in Malaysia since FY2015, the Government of Japan allowed accepting eligible family members of those who already resettled in Japan on the condition that mutual aid be provided with those remaining in Thailand. From FY2010 to FY2019, a total of 194 people from 50 families have come to Japan under this program.

While local governments in the Tokyo metropolitan region have traditionally played a central role 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, aimed at promoting a better nationwide understanding of the refugee issue. In 2018, resettlement commenced in Kure City in Hiroshima Prefecture, Fujisawa City in Kanagawa

Prefecture, and in Kobe City in Hyogo Prefecture in 2019.

The international situation surrounding refugees is undergoing dramatic change. In light of this movement among the international community and to better balance the burden for the refugee problem among the international community, Japan made the decision in June to accept more refugees resettling from third countries under part of a new framework. Specifically, beginning in FY2020, Japan will now accept up to 60 refugees temporarily residing in Asia once or twice a year without restriction on their birthplace or region of residence, and any of the family members of the refugees who have already been accepted in Japan under a resettlement program.

The acceptance of resettled refugees has been done primarily by Western countries. Japan is the first country in Asia to accept resettled refugees, and this decision to accept more refugees has drawn attention from the international community as a committed effort by Japan to tackle the refugee problem.

## 8 Women

### (1) G7 Biarritz Summit

At the G7 Biarritz Summit in August, chaired by France, gender equality was discussed under the theme of “Fight Against Inequalities,” and “the Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” was adopted. During the Africa session, leaders discussed the promotion of female entrepreneurship in Africa and “Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa” was issued as an annex.

### (2) G20 Osaka Summit

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, women’s issues were raised as one of the major topics and a leaders’ declaration was issued. The declaration noted such matters as promoting women’s participation in the workplace and support for girls’ education including improving access to STEM

(science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and included the importance of feedback from female business leaders, including women entrepreneurs. A Leaders' Special Event on Women's Empowerment was also held as an official side-event. There, G20 leaders and the heads of international organization reaffirmed their G20 commitments to women's empowerment.

### (3) World Assembly for Women (WAW!)

Japan has held the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014 to communicate, both at home 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, economy, and social fields. The 5th WAW! was held in March 2019 side by side 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 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" (see the Special Feature on page 233).

In addition, there were discussions at the W20 entitled "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."

The 6th WAW! was scheduled to be held on April 3 and 4, 2020, but was postponed due to the circumstances surrounding the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

### (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 3rd WAW! held in December 2016, Prime Minister



Discussions held during the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (March 23, Tokyo)



Abe promised to provide support amounting to more than 3 billion US dollars for women in developing countries until 2018, with a focus on the following: (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, economy, and other public fields. These measures were also steadily implemented. At the 5th WAW!, held in March 2019, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed his pledge, which he announced at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, to provide high-quality education and career development opportunities to at least 4 million women and girls over the three years between 2018 and 2020 as a means to expand educational opportunities for women in developing countries.

### (5) Initiatives in the UN

#### **A** United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held in March. In attendance were Representative of Japan Tanaka Yumiko (Visiting Professor at Josai International University), as well as a representative group comprising members from Japan's ministries and agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and NGOs. The priority theme for discussions held at the session was "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." In a general debate, Representative Tanaka emphasized relevant efforts in Japan including ramping up support for childcare and caregiving, as well as efforts to combat sexual crime and sexual violence. She then introduced Japan's international contribution for better access to education and health services and more participation in economic activities for women and girls by providing safer and more comfortable public transportation. She also talked about Japan's ongoing efforts to promote universal health coverage and provide

support in the field of education, one of the priorities for the Japanese G20 Presidency.

#### **B** UN Women

Japan is stepping up cooperation with UN Women. Along with increasing its contribution of approximately 2 million US dollars in 2013 to 17.9 million US dollars in 2019, Japan provides a range of support for primarily Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey that are taking in refugees from Syria and Iraq, as well as conflict-stricken countries in Africa that include Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Mali, and South Sudan. This support consists of securing dedicated facilities for women according to the needs of female victims of sexual or gender-based violence, psychological and social support, and economic empowerment support that includes vocational training. To prevent violent extremism, Japan supports efforts to build resilient communities through women's empowerment, as well as efforts to encourage women's participation in broad-based peacebuilding and in the peace and reconciliation process in Lebanon and Sri Lanka.

#### **C** Dealing with Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is used as a tactic of war which cannot be overlooked. It is vital to put an end to impunity and to support victims of violence. Japan has been actively engaging in efforts to ensure that the 21st century is a world where women do not suffer violation of human rights. Japan places importance on cooperating with international organizations that include the 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 2019, Japan provided financial support of approximately roughly 1.5 million US 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, the Democratic Republic

Special  
Feature

## 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!): Speech by Ms. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

The 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!), organized by the Government of Japan, was held on March 23 and 24. Female foreign ministers from seven countries and 82 top leaders active in various fields from Japan, 27 countries and regions, and three international organizations took the podium. Approximately 3,000 people participated over the course of the two-day event. Based on the theme “WAW! for Diversity,” discussions were held on issues in Japan and abroad by participants with diverse backgrounds, including youths and male participants, with a view toward the realization of a sustainable, inclusive, and diverse society where no one is left behind, as established under the SDGs. The ideas and proposals presented by each participant were compiled in a summary document and registered as a UN document (No. A/73/861).

This Special Feature introduces the keynote speech presented by Ms. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, as well as the panel discussion “Human Resource Development in a Changing Society with Technology Transformation” that she participated in.

### Keynote speech by Ms. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate

In the keynote speech, Ms. Yousafzai spoke about her background in Pakistan, her home country where she was born and raised and where girls were not allowed to attend school, as well as why she decided to speak out at the age of 11, leading to her activities in the present day. On top of that, she pointed out that a life without education means it is shut off from the future, and deprived of its opportunity to contribute to society. She emphasized that the promotion of education for girls in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM subjects) can also contribute to technological innovation, and appealed to G20 and business leaders for further investment and support toward education for girls.



Ms. Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate (March 23, Tokyo)

### Panel discussion “Human Resource Development in a Changing Society with Technology Transformation”

At the panel discussion, the participants exchanged views on how to nurture human resources amidst the development of the IT industry, which has also been labelled as “the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” and how people can enjoy its benefits fairly without leaving anyone behind. Ms. Yousafzai pointed out that as many as one billion girls are being left out of the technological innovation, and called on governments and business leaders to provide support. Moreover, she appealed for the move toward a society where everyone can exercise their rights. She also expressed her joy at Prime Minister Abe’s commitment to provide opportunities for quality education to at least 4 million girls in developing countries by 2020, and expressed her hopes for more of such initiatives from other countries. Other panelists presented concrete examples of initiatives that are being implemented by companies, universities, and as part of national policies. For example, Bulgaria achieved the highest number of female students becoming IT engineers, through cooperation from companies in the private sector. In addition, a member of a certain university introduced the university’s activities to raise awareness among parents and guardians, with the aim of encouraging girls to further their studies in the STEM subjects under the recognition of the future need to develop human resources who have specialized knowledge in a dedicated field, as well as a broad spectrum of knowledge in other areas.



At the panel discussion (March 23, Tokyo)

of the Congo, and Central Africa. Furthermore, Japan continues to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC), earmarking approximately 600,000 Euros out of a cumulative contribution of about 800,000 Euros for victims of sexual violence. Efforts are also being made to protect victims of such violence.

#### **D Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**

Japan formulated a national action plan in 2015 to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 and other related resolutions on women, peace, and security. In March 2019, Japan launched the revised second version of the plan. In accordance with the national action plan, Japan has contributed to advancing the WPS field in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia through various financial support to international organizations, mainly UN Women and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Japan also compiles

an annual report as monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the plan which is published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. G7 Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Partnerships Initiative was established at the 2018 G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Toronto. With Sri Lanka as its partner country, Japan has supported the implementation of the WPS agenda including formulating a national action plan on the WPS of Sri Lanka beginning since 2019, as well as the economic empowerment project for female headed households, including conflict-affected widows.

#### **E 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), which comprises 23 independent experts. Professor Akizuki Hiroko of Asia University was elected to a member of the CEDAW at its member election held in 2018.

## Section 2

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

### 1 Development Cooperation (ODA, etc.)

#### (1) Development Cooperation Charter and Strategic Use of ODA

More than 65 years have passed since Japan started its Official Development Assistance (ODA)<sup>1</sup> 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 government (corporations, local governments, NGOs, etc.). In this new era, it is essential for ensuring Japan's national interests that Japan should consider development cooperation as a part of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and strategically use ODA to address development and human rights issues while continuing to

adhere to the course that Japan has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. Under the Development Cooperation Charter established based on this recognition (decided by the Cabinet in February 2015), there is a need to steadily implement the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," the development goals for the whole international community, including developed countries. It is also 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, including measures for the outbreak of infectious diseases, 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 2019, in particular, Japan advanced cooperation with various countries that leverages ODA with a view to achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." It also reaffirmed at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May continued bilateral cooperation to this end. With the vast demand for infrastructure in today's world, it is vital in developing infrastructure to secure openness, transparency, economic

<sup>1</sup> Official Development Assistance ODA: For details on Japan's international cooperation, refer to "White Paper on Development Cooperation: Japan's International Cooperation."

efficiency, and debt sustainability, the elements which were included in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment endorsed by the leaders at the G20 Osaka Summit under Japan's Presidency in June, and to spread and put these into practice as international standards. 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 "Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy" (revised in June 2019) and the "Follow-up on the Growth Strategy 2019" (revised in June 2019), 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 its efforts in the future so that Japan can lead the international community as a major responsible country in the world and ensure that the international environment and order are in line with Japan's national interests.

## (2) The Current Status of ODA

### A FY2019 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, the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs (MOFA) has positioned the following (items (A) to (C)) as priority issues for FY2019, and tackles these challenges while strengthening cooperation with various entities.

#### (A) Achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP)

Japan is promoting infrastructure assistance, both in the "hard" aspect such as ports, railways, and roads, and in the "soft" aspect such as systems and standards as well as technological and operational expertise. This aims to help achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" with stronger regional connectivity and a foundation for region-wide, self-sustained economic development. Also, Japan is promoting cooperation aimed at helping strengthen rule-based international order. This includes provision of equipment to countries for their capacity building in the areas of maritime law enforcement and Maritime Domain Awareness.

#### (B) Addressing global challenges

Japan will promote cooperation toward achieving the SDGs based on the concept of human security, in fields such as health, food, nutrition, women (gender), education, disaster risk reduction, water and hygiene, and climate change and global environmental issues. Japan will work on developing leaders in the field of development while utilizing collaboration with the JICA Development Studies Program,<sup>2</sup> from the perspective of fostering the circle of people with great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan and contributing intellectually to international development. Japan will also promote visible development cooperation by strengthening international cooperation NGOs. In addition, Japan will promote humanitarian aid including support for refugees, peacebuilding, and nation-building, while taking into consideration the perspective of responding

<sup>2</sup> A program which invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan, and offers the opportunity to learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences, which differ from those of Europe and the U.S., and its wisdom as a country that provided cooperation toward the progress of developing countries after World War II.

to humanitarian crises through a humanitarian-development nexus approach.

### (C) Diplomatic efforts that boost the Japanese economy

In order to realize greater overseas expansion of Japan's cutting-edge technology, in addition to promoting the acquisition of business rights and operation rights of Japanese corporations through means such as the provision of grant aid for public projects implemented through public-private partnership, Japan will also promote technical cooperation that contributes to quality infrastructure investment, such as trade facilitation and securing debt sustainability. As for efforts toward the overseas expansion of local governments as well as private-sector corporations including SMEs, Japan will strive to create sustained demand and raise the profile and visibility of products and equipment that can contribute to resolving the issues faced by developing countries, through the provision of such products and equipment. At the same time, it will promote support for overseas expansion by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the construction industry, including in local regions. Through human resource development, Japan will also contribute to advancing the improvement of the business environment, thereby promoting investment and overseas expansion by corporations.

### **B** Safety Measures for Personnel Engaged in International Cooperation Projects

A terrorist attack occurred in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in July 2016. Seven Japanese engaged in ODA lost their lives and one Japanese was injured in the attack. The Government of Japan is determined to never give in to terrorism

and to continue supporting developing countries. The international terrorism situation is becoming increasingly severe. It is vital to establish a system for ensuring utmost preparedness in order to ensure the safety of Japanese personnel engaged in international cooperation abroad.

The Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects was established under MOFA from the standpoint of such awareness. After five meetings with participation from many 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 MOFA and JICA should take together with the relevant parties. Five pillars of the measures are following: (1) strengthening 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) crisis response; and (5) heightening crisis management awareness and improving the organizational structure of MOFA and JICA. These measures of the final report have been steadily implemented by MOFA and JICA since then.

As a responsible major power, Japan will continue to ensure the safety of its personnel, while contributing proactively to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community through international cooperation.

### **(3) Japan's Development Cooperation Performance and Approaches to Major Regions**

#### **A** Japan's ODA Performance

In 2018, Japan provided approximately 14.16 billion US dollars in ODA,<sup>3</sup> based on the grant

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

equivalent (GE) system<sup>4</sup> newly introduced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) as the standard method for calculating ODA. Japan ranks fourth among the member states of the DAC, following the U.S., Germany, and the UK. The ODA/GNI ratio based on the GE system was 0.28%, placing Japan in 16th place among member states of the DAC. In terms of net disbursements,<sup>5</sup> Japan's ODA fell by 6.6% year-on-year to approximately 17.25 billion US dollars, once again ranking fourth after the U.S., Germany, and the UK.

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

Approximately 56.5% of the total bilateral ODA of Japan went to the Asia region in 2018. 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. Specifically, Japan has steadily been implementing projects that contribute to improving connectivity in the ASEAN countries,

such as the Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project (Phase 1 section commenced operation in March 2019) in the Jakarta Special Capital Region of Indonesia. This project contributed to the easing of heavy traffic in this region, which faces the problem of serious traffic congestion. Furthermore, based on the Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0 announced in November 2018, Japan is promoting the development of approximately 80,000 industrial human resources who will take on the responsibilities of establishing and advancing key industries in ASEAN countries. In Thailand, Japan is engaged in cooperation toward the establishment of Kosen schools (Colleges of Technology), which is an educational institution unique to the Japanese education system, and the implementation of technical education at a level that is on par with Japan.

Japan is also advancing cooperation to support initiatives aimed at strengthening the centrality and unity of ASEAN. In May, Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement, and implemented the project of Training in Cybersecurity for ASEAN countries based on the agreement. Furthermore, in order to meet the



Opening ceremony for Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project (Phase 1), and the groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2 (March, Indonesia; Photo: JICA)

<sup>4</sup> The Grant Equivalent (GE) system calculates ODA loans based on the amount that is equivalent to the grant. The GE is calculated by applying the terms of the loan, such as amount disbursed, interest rate, and maturity, to a formula. The softer the terms of the loan are, the larger the amount will be. Compared to the net flow system (the full amount of loan disbursement is included, but the amount repaid is calculated as a negative figure) that has conventionally been used as the standard method of the OECD/DAC, the GE system reflects Japan's loan aid more accurately.

<sup>5</sup> The total amount Japan contributed as ODA during the year in question (without deductions of amounts repaid by the beneficiary country to Japan during the year in question for loans borrowed in the past)

massive demand for development funds in the ASEAN region, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Thailand) in November. To materialize the initiative, Foreign Minister Motegi announced in December that the initiative aimed at mobilizing 3 billion US dollars from public and private sectors over next three years (2020 to 2022), including through a total of 1.2 billion US dollars overseas loan and investment for ASEAN by JICA in the fields of quality infrastructure development, improving financial access and supporting women, and green investment.

Japan is also actively providing support for capacity building for maritime law enforcement to ASEAN countries positioned along Japan's sea lanes such as the Philippines and Viet Nam, with the aim of building the free and open international

order. Such efforts include providing equipment such as patrol vessels and coastal monitoring radars, as well as human resource development through the long-term dispatch of experts. In addition, Japan is providing consistent support to eradicate domestic and regional disparity, and support for the creation of a sustainable society in areas such as disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, and energy. Japan aims to strengthen Japan-ASEAN cooperation, including through the pursuit of synergies between "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" and the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)."

At the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in November, the leaders confirmed the progress of "Tokyo Strategy 2018," the guideline for cooperation between Japan and the Mekong region, and adopted the "Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030." Under this initiative, Japan announced that it would prioritize the following three areas of cooperation: (i) environmental and urban issues; (ii) sustainable natural resource management and utilization; and, (iii) inclusive growth. Japan has also been working on projects such as the development of Sihanoukville port in Cambodia and the reconstruction of the bridges on the National Road No. 9 in Laos, and will continue to contribute to enhancing connectivity in the Mekong region under "Tokyo Strategy 2018."

#### (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 immense economic potential, such as India, where economic growth and massive infrastructural demand are anticipated in the future. On the other hand, the region is still faced with by many unresolved issues such as undeveloped infrastructure, poverty, and natural disasters. Japan provides a range of assistance through ODA to assist the region in overcoming these challenges, bearing in mind the improvement of the investment environment for Japanese companies, and



Ceremony for the handing over of 15m-class high-speed boat to the Philippine Coast Guard (November 11, Philippines)





Foreign Minister Motegi inspecting the Port of Colombo in Sri Lanka, which Japan has been providing infrastructural development support for (December 13, Sri Lanka)

ensuring human security.

In recent years, India has been the largest recipient of Japanese yen loans. In addition to providing support for the development of economic and social infrastructure in India, including in the areas of electricity and transportation that contribute to enhancing connectivity and strengthening industrial competitiveness, Japan has also provided support for the realization of sustainable and inclusive growth, such as implementing projects in the forestry sector that serve afforestation and the improvement of livelihoods, as well as projects in the health sector that help improve health and medical services for women and children.

With regard to Bangladesh, Japan is actively offering cooperation under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative,<sup>6</sup> in areas such as developing economic infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, and improving the investment environment. A large-scale influx of displaced persons over a short period of time from northern Rakhine State, Myanmar, has resulted in the deterioration of humanitarian situations in camps for displaced persons and 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.

With the inauguration of the new Rajapaksa administration in Sri Lanka in November, Foreign Minister Motegi held meetings with the new administration including a foreign ministers' meeting, whereupon he affirmed the strengthening of bilateral relations, and the promotion of cooperation toward the achievement of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" in areas such as maritime safety and infrastructural development. In response to the series of terrorist bombings that occurred in Sri Lanka in April, Japan expressed its support for capacity building in the fields of counter-terrorism and security measures, such as the decision to provide counter-terrorism and security equipment under a grant aid programme.

### (C) Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

In addition to being Japan's neighbors connected by the Pacific, the PICs also share deep historical ties with Japan. Moreover, as these countries possess a vast exclusive economic zone (EEZ, or waters over which a country's economic rights extends), they are a key region for Japan's maritime transportation, and provide vital fishing grounds for Japan's bonito and tuna distant-water fisheries. As such, the stability and prosperity of the PICs are also of great importance to Japan.

The PICs share common issues that are unique to their region, such as smaller economies that are dependent upon primary industries, territories that are scattered over a wide ocean area, difficulty in breaking into the international market, and vulnerability to damages from natural disasters. In light of these circumstances, Japan, as a good partner of the PICs, is providing support to boost their autonomous and sustainable development.

The 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture,

<sup>6</sup> A vision aimed at cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh with a view to the development of economic infrastructure, improving the investment environment, and enhancing connectivity, focused on the region connecting the capital Dhaka and Chittagong in the south.



Development of the Pacific Climate Change Center as a hub for work on climate change measures for the Pacific Island Countries (Samoa; Photo: JICA)

in May 2018. With the pillars of (i) free, open, and sustainable oceans; (ii) strengthening the foundations for resilient and sustainable development, and (iii) revitalization of people-to-people exchanges, and based on the achievement so far, Japan announced its commitment to continuing robust development assistance as before in keeping with the achievement so far. Japan also announced to further strengthen human resource development and exchanges (5,000 people over a three-year period), which are the foundation for growth and prosperity. The Interagency Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries determined the basic policy of reinforcing and concentrating resources for the PICs and strengthening initiatives with “All Japan” efforts. Based on the basic policy, Japan is implementing concrete initiatives such as bilateral development assistance on basic infrastructure such as ports and airports as well as technical cooperation targeting multiple countries in areas such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), disaster risk reduction, waste management that contributes to measures against marine plastic litter, and climate change issues.

#### (D) Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with which Japan has enjoyed friendly relations for a long time. The region also has deep historical ties with Japan, as demonstrated by the fact

that more than 2 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 emerging market with gross regional production exceeding 5 trillion US dollars. On the other hand, as many countries in the region are still confronted by problems such as income inequality within country, poverty in rural and mountainous regions, and natural disasters, Japan is engaged in various cooperative efforts while also taking into account the characteristics of each country in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specifically, Japan has provided support to Cuba to improve power supply in the Isle of Youth, the country’s largest offshore island, and to increase the percentage of renewable energy out of total power generated. It has also provided public buses as a part of efforts to improve public transportation services in the Province of Havana in Cuba. With regard to Honduras, Japan provides made-in-Japan equipment to obtain agricultural water, with a view to securing water resources and developing water storage functions in order to address the increasingly severe droughts caused by prolonged dry seasons.

As for other Caribbean countries, Japan has decided to provide support to the Commonwealth of Dominica through the rehabilitation of fishery buildings that were damaged by hurricanes, as well as the exchange and update of related equipment. In addition, Japan has decided to provide fishery-related equipment and maritime safety equipment under grant aid programmes to Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Jamaica. Japan also signed an Exchange of Notes with Haiti in March and November respectively to provide government-controlled rice (approximately 6,000 tons) to the people of Haiti who are in need of food and nutrition as the country continues to be confronted by the serious problem of hunger.

The recent economic and social turmoil in Venezuela has led to an influx of about 4.8 million



Signing ceremony for the exchange of notes on grant aid aimed at providing assistance for measures against drought (April 3, Honduras)

Venezuelan refugees and migrants into neighboring countries by December. This has in turn contributed to the deterioration of the living environment for residents in the host communities, as well as instability in the region, and response to the issue has not been sufficient. To support the neighboring countries, Japan, in cooperation with international organizations (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)), has carried out cooperation projects with Brazil and Colombia in June and July respectively to strengthen registration and protection systems. Japan also exchanged notes with Ecuador in November to provide food such as wheat in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP).

#### (E) Central Asia and Caucasus

Central Asia and Caucasus are surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The stability and development of this region are important for the whole of Eurasia, including Japan. Japan supports the “open, stable, and self-sustained” development of Central Asia and the Caucasus region, and upholds the ideal of Japanese diplomacy that contributes to regional and international peace and stability. 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.

When Foreign Minister Kono attended the Seventh Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue held in Tajikistan in May, he spoke about cooperating in a way that strengthens the resilience of infrastructure and connectivity of the region through a uniquely Japanese approach, such as through human resource development. He also pointed out that from the perspectives of global challenges such as the fight against terrorism and counter-narcotics measures, the stability of Central Asia and Afghanistan is closely linked to the security of the entire international community, and that regional cooperation to address these challenges is indispensable. Based on this recognition, he expressed that the Government of Japan would continue to provide support to Central Asia and Afghanistan in areas such as improving border management.

#### (F) 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 provided comprehensive support till 2018 at a sum of about 6 billion US dollars to stabilize the Middle East, including human resource development for about 20,000 people, as it announced at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit (2016), with a view to achieving peace and stability in the region. Thereafter, Japan is still continuing to provide support to the Middle East.

With regard to Syria, where civil war has been prolonged, in 2019, Japan provided assistance of approximately 12 million US dollars in support of women and children, who are the most vulnerable in a conflict, as well as support for the health sector. This was used in the East Aleppo region to rehabilitate pediatric hospitals damaged in the conflict, and to bring about the early recovery of community healthcare and medical services in

the same region. In December, Japan decided to provide support of 14 million US dollars toward the humanitarian crisis in north-eastern Syria, in the areas of water, hygiene, health, and relief supplies, among others. Furthermore, in order to foster human resources who can contribute to Syria's reconstruction in the future, 79 Syrian students have been accepted in Japan since 2017.

In order to provide support for strengthening the stability of Jordan, which is receiving many Syrian refugees, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato Masahisa announced, at the "Jordan Support Conference" held in February, that Japan will be providing support up to a maximum of 730 million US dollars over the next five years, including a development policy loan of 300 million US dollars that was signed in November last year. In July, the two countries signed and exchanged notes on a grant aid for the enhancement of customs security. At the summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe and His Majesty King Abdullah, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in September, the latter expressed his gratitude for the wide range of cooperation that Japan has offered to Jordan to date.

Based on the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity 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). At a meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Abbas of Palestine in October, President Abbas expressed his appreciation for the great support that Japan has given to Palestine.

Human resource development is vital to realize stability in the Middle East in the medium- to long-term. Japan commenced the technical cooperation project, Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) Project Phase 3, in Egypt from February, and is providing support for the development of industrial human resources as well as science and technology human resources in Egypt, the Middle East, and the Africa region. At

the Japan-Egypt Summit Meeting held in August, President El-Sisi expressed his appreciation for Japan's cooperation to date.

In Yemen, where the crisis is still ongoing, Japan continues to cooperate with international organizations to provide humanitarian support such as food aid. In Afghanistan, to support the reconstruction effort by the government, Japan is providing assistance to encourage the growth of a self-reliant economy and poverty reduction in the country. In 2019, Japan again decided to provide support to Afghanistan in cooperation with international organizations, in areas such as enhancing literacy among adults.

### (G) Africa

Africa has been gradually recovering from the economic depression caused by the rapid drop in natural 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 for its potential. Japan has been leading the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process for a quarter of a century since 1993, aiming at further strengthening relations between Japan and Africa. The TICAD process has been highly appraised by African countries.

TICAD7 was held in August, with more than 10,000 participants including 42 state leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, and 108 heads of international and regional organizations, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society such as NGOs.

The adopted outcome document, "Yokohama Declaration 2019," affirmed priority areas for the realization of Africa's inclusive and sustainable development under the three pillars of TICAD7, Economy, Society, and Peace and Security. Japan will continue to contribute to the growth of Africa through the effective use of ODA, among others, based on the three pillars of TICAD7.



Technical cooperation project in Ghana, "Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book" (2018-2021) (Photo: JICA)

For example, in the pillar of Economy, Japan will expand efforts to foster industrial human resources through the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE initiative) 3.0 and other means, in order to contribute to the promotion of African businesses. The ABE Initiative provides opportunities for youths in Africa to study at graduate schools in Japan and participate in internships in Japanese companies. Since TICAD V (2013), Japan has accepted more than 1,200 trainees through JICA. At TICAD7, Japan announced that it would be fostering 3,000 industrial human resources over a six-year period. Furthermore, with a view to strengthening connectivity, Japan will also promote investment in quality infrastructure with a focus on the three priority regions (East Africa Northern Corridor, Nacala Corridor, and West Africa Growth Ring). For example, in September, the signing and exchange of notes on ODA loans and grant aid took place for the development of the Mombasa region in Kenya, which will contribute to the development of the East Africa Northern Corridor.

In the pillar of Society, Japan will further promote initiatives toward expanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It will improve access to primary healthcare and hygiene environment for 3 million people, as well as enable widespread health insurance. For example, technical cooperation projects are being implemented in

Ghana (Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book) and Kenya (Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa (PHSSA) Phase 2). In addition, Japan will provide quality education to 3 million children through measures such as science and mathematics education, and the improvement of the learning environment.

In the pillar of Peace and Security, Japan will provide support for institution building and governance strengthening in Africa through human resource development and the provision of security equipment such as border control equipment, under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) (see Chapter 2, Section 7(1)). In November, Japan decided to provide support in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with the goal of facilitating trade in Eastern Africa and building border control capacity.

#### (4) Approaches to Appropriate and Effective Implementation of ODA

##### A Approaches to Appropriate Implementation of ODA

In the implementation of ODA, efforts are made to enhance transparency and quality 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, exchanges views with independent committee members that have knowledge of the relevant field, and affirms the validity of the project. Furthermore, JICA publishes ex-post evaluation results for all projects valued at 200 million Japanese yen or more (4,547 projects published as of the end of 2019) on the "ODA Mieru-ka Site" after the implementation of the projects in view of enhancing the transparency of the projects. Ex-post evaluations for projects valued at 1 billion Japanese yen or more are also conducted

## Column

## The Achievements of Ms. Ogata Sadako: The "Five-Foot Giant"

On October 22, the world was engulfed by grief at the passing of a great leader in the field of international cooperation. Ms. Ogata Sadako had successively held key positions throughout her exceptional career, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), demonstrating excellent leadership on the frontlines of the fight to resolve global issues such as refugee crisis, poverty, and conflicts.

In 1991, she became the first Japanese to be appointed as the High Commissioner of the UNHCR. Throughout her ten-year tenure, she made many historical decisions that became turning points for the agency. A little more than two months after her appointment, a situation arose in which 400,000 Iraqi Kurds were forced to evacuate but were unable to cross the border and became stranded in Iraq. In light of the situation, she took the resolute decision to expand the mandate of UNHCR to extend protection not only to refugees who had crossed the border but also to internally displaced persons.



Ms. Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visiting a foster home in Burundi (Photo: UNHCR/Paul Stromberg)

Ms. Ogata had also been known as the "Five-Foot Giant" for the respect that she inspired through her ability to take actions and her decisiveness in promoting support toward self-reliance through a humanitarian development nexus.

A refugee at the Gihembe Refugee Camp in Rwanda, managed by the UNHCR, named her daughter after Ms. Ogata. In this way, Ms. Ogata still lives on among the people even today.

From 2001, Ms. Ogata took on heavy responsibilities as Japan led the international community in providing assistance to Afghanistan. For example, she served as the co-chair and as Special Representative of the Government of Japan on Reconstruction Assistance at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo. She also visited Afghanistan many times in person and exerted her best efforts toward building a new nation, such as by setting out Japan's support measures. These measures, known as the "Ogata Initiative," aim to provide seamless support from humanitarian aid to recovery and reconstruction. Leading figures around the world have expressed their heartfelt respect and profound gratitude to Ms. Ogata at the news of her passing. Among these, many senior government officials from Afghanistan, including former President Karzai and incumbent President Ghani, offered their condolences.

Thereafter, Ms. Ogata was appointed as the President of JICA in 2003, where she demonstrated her characteristic leadership and built the foundations for present-day JICA, which has grown to be the world's largest bilateral aid agency. Once again, she advocated a hands-on approach to assistance. During her term, she made close to 100 business trips in and out of Japan, and took the lead in putting human security into practice. Her unprecedented stance on human security—to realize freedom from fear and privation through the protection of individuals and empowerment, and for individuals to pursue the right to live with happiness and dignity—has left a deep imprint on the UN and around the world. Ms. Ogata also put effort into supporting peacebuilding and reconstruction, and had worked tirelessly to enable assistance in the immediate aftermath of conflicts in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan, as it had previously been difficult to include people of such countries in the scope



Ms. Ogata, President of JICA, visiting a school at the Palestinian refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria (Photo: JICA)

of development projects. Moreover, she also poured her energy into strengthening support for Africa. During her term of office lasting eight and a half years, the percentage of technical cooperation and grant aid provided to Africa increased by approximately three times.

Over the years, Ms. Ogata had made significant contributions to peace, stability, and development in the world. Throughout this time, her strong leadership and decisiveness, as well as her approach of listening to the voices of the people facing difficulties, touched the hearts of many people. Today, the concepts of “human security” and “hands-on approach” that she had developed continue to be passed on not only in Japan, but also widely across the international community as important principles in development assistance and humanitarian aid.

### Column

## Responding to the Largest Postwar Humanitarian Crisis

Currently, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has risen to the highest level since World War II, to approximately 70 million people, and the humanitarian crisis that is arising as a result of conflicts and natural disasters is becoming increasingly complex and prolonged. In cooperation with international organizations, Japan is providing efficient and sustainable assistance to meet the growing needs for humanitarian aid through the development of innovative technology and cooperation with the private sector, including universities and corporations.

### **Innovative initiative by ICRC: Technological development for landmine and unexploded ordnance disposal**

Regis Savioz

Head of Delegation in Japan, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Explosive remnants such as landmines and unexploded ordnance give rise to casualties among civilians, destroy means of livelihood and services that are indispensable for everyday life, and obstruct the repair of infrastructure and humanitarian aid activities. As such, they continue to have severe humanitarian impacts over several decades after a conflict. The Weapon Contamination Unit of the ICRC has established the goals of providing support to victims, ensuring the safety of ICRC staff, and engaging in existing assistance and protection activities. To that end, it has formulated strategies for the prevention and mitigation of crises caused by explosive remnants and is engaged in related activities.

In November 2018, ICRC concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Waseda University and launched a joint project that aims at developing solutions for the humanitarian sector by using innovative technology. In August 2019, at the TICAD7 conference, Waseda University and ICRC jointly organized a public seminar. Titled “Building a Better World Through Business – Challenges in Humanitarian Assistance in Africa and the Role of Private Sector,” the seminar discussed the projects with the greatest needs as well as the challenges faced in the frontlines of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, in the field of detection and disposal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, experts from the ICRC Weapon Contamination Unit and Waseda University are currently engaged in a research project on the utilization of a thermal image detection system operated from air using a drone. As no innovative solution has yet been found for this field to date, ICRC is conducting testing and verification on the possibility of applying newly developed technologies not only to activities related to the detection and disposal of explosive remnants, but also to a wider range of projects in the humanitarian sector.



Drone used for demonstration experiment for the acquisition and analysis of thermal images of landmines and unexploded ordnance

In recent years, cooperation with the private sector, with a particular focus on humanitarian aid, has been advancing in various fields. The ICRC delegation in Japan has also been putting effort into academia-industry collaboration in Japan and is anticipating the participation of private-sector corporations in the abovementioned project in the future.

#### Providing sustainable employment support to the youth through cooperation with private-sector corporations

Sato Mio

Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Japan

In recent years, diverse actors with a wide range of experience, knowledge, and skills, have been active on the sites of humanitarian aid to fulfill their respective missions. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with its reliable partners, is also engaged in ongoing efforts to deliver support that best meets the needs and situation of each individual site more effectively. In Sierra Leone, where unemployment rates have remained at a high level even after the end of civil war in 2002, IOM, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, is providing various forms of support to young people who are choosing to migrate as irregular workers to other countries, so as to help them gain employment in their own country. As a part of this support, for example, in cooperation with Japanese corporations that operate fruit processing plants (processed fruit is a specialty of Sierra Leone), preparations are underway for the implementation of vocational training that is aligned with the needs of the local job market. By combining, at an appropriate timing, the knowledge that corporations have of the local job environment, with the knowledge that IOM has accumulated through the assistance it has provided to date as well as the information it has obtained about the needs of young people, IOM provides continual support to ensure that vocational training increases the possibility of future employment. By improving the stability of the living environment for young people and their families, we also anticipate the creation of a virtuous cycle for the communities that they live in. At the same time, we aim to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by cooperating with local private-sector partners to provide support that realizes a society where no one, including the youth, is left behind.



Scene of the completion ceremony for young people who have attended the entrepreneurship training implemented with support from Japan (Sierra Leone)

by third parties. MOFA primarily conducts third-party evaluations at policy level such as country assistance evaluation, thematic evaluation, and aid modality evaluation. With regard to grant aid projects implemented by MOFA, internal ex-post evaluations are carried out for projects over 200 million Japanese yen or more, while third-party ex-post evaluations are conducted for projects over 1 billion Japanese yen or more. Efforts are made to apply the lessons drawn from the results of such ex-post evaluation to the policy formulation and project implementation of future ODA. From the perspective of fulfilling accountability, MOFA also publishes the evaluation reports on

MOFA's website.

#### **B** Approaches to Effective Implementation of ODA

ODA is implemented through three frameworks corresponding to the needs of the partner country and the scale of the project: grant aid, loan aid, and technical cooperation. In order to utilize the limited budget efficiently and achieve a high level of development, MOFA and JICA take into account the needs of the partner country, draw up a development cooperation policy for each country, and formulate projects while going beyond the boundaries of each framework. For



example, while Senegal has begun to formulate a national strategy for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and to promote the establishment of coverage for medical care (community health insurance and free medical care policy), it faces various technical and financial issues. In light of that, Japan is providing support toward policymaking in the area of UHC and strengthening administrative capacity through technical cooperation. At the same time, it is also providing financial support toward the materialization of the relevant policies by providing policy loans aimed at achieving UHC. Furthermore, comprehensive support is also provided on initiatives by the Senegal Government to achieve UHC, such as efforts to procure medical equipment through grant aid.

### C Efforts with regard to International Discussions on ODA

Japan also contributes actively to international discussions on ODA. The OECD/DAC is advancing efforts to modernize ODA, including changing the ODA calculation rules for ODA loans, and efforts to promote the mobilization of private-sector funds. Japan also strives to ensure that ODA is aligned with the modern times, and that efforts by donors are reflected accurately. Japan has also contributed actively to discussions on the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, as well as ending sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

From 2019 to 2020, Development Co-operation Peer Review for Japan, which is to review policies, systems, budgets, and other elements of Japan's development cooperation by other DAC members, is being conducted for the first time in six years. Through the review process, Japan shares its strengths with other members and aims to contribute to discussions on better approaches to development cooperation.

### D Efforts toward Promoting Understanding of ODA

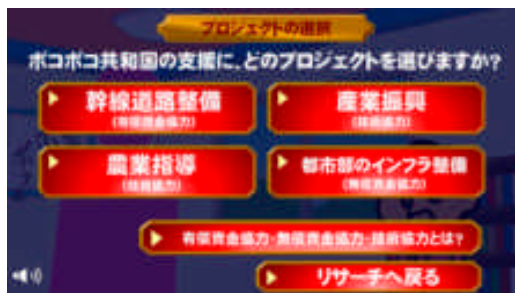
It is vital to have the understanding and support of the people when implementing development cooperation. To that end, efforts are made to promote understanding among the citizens through the effective dissemination of information. In addition to engaging in publicity activities through events that the public participates in, such as Global Festa Japan 2019, Japan's largest international cooperation event held in Odaiba, Tokyo in September, and the One World Festival held in Osaka in February, MOFA is also putting effort into introducing Japan's development cooperation



Global Festa Japan 2019 (September, Tokyo)



"Save the World Through ODA": ODA publicity short animation, "Go! ODA-Man" based on the popular anime "Eagle Talon"



Simulation game "You can be an ODA-Man too!"

activities around the world in an easy-to-understand manner through the production of the short animation series “Go! ODA-Man” based on the popular anime “Eagle Talon,” and the simulation game “You can be an ODA-Man too!” This short animation series is available to the public through MOFA’s YouTube account, and is also broadcast on trains such as JR and Tokyo Metro with the aim of reaching a wide audience. MOFA also dispatches officials to educational institutions and other organizations, and actively conducts “ODA Delivery Lectures” as a part of its efforts to promote understanding of development cooperation.

Furthermore, based on the Development Cooperation Charter, which declares enhanced efforts for overseas publicity, MOFA 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 and materials in English and local languages.

## 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.

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 that set out Japan’s medium- to long-term strategy toward the achievement 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 nine Round Table Meetings on the promotion of the SDGs, bringing together stakeholders from a wide range of fields including the private sector, civil society, experts, 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 for the empowerment of women and the next generation, and strengthening cooperation with the international community.

To date, eight meetings of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters have been held. At the eighth meeting held in December 2019, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles were revised for the first time in three years since their formulation in 2016, based on the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and the SDG Summit 2019, as well as the recommendations by members of the Round Table Meetings and all stakeholders. In addition, the key initiatives of MOFA and the relevant government ministries and agencies toward the achievement of the SDGs were published in the SDGs Action Plan 2020. This Action Plan sets out three pillars for Japan’s SDGs: (i) business and innovation; (ii) regional revitalization; and, (iii) empowerment of the next generation and women. In line with these, Japan will further promote efforts toward the achievement of the SDGs in both the aspects of domestic implementation and international cooperation.

On the same day as the eighth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the conferment ceremony for the third Japan SDGs Award was held to commend companies and organizations that have put in place excellent initiatives toward


 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS


Logo for all 17 SDGs goals

(Source: United Nations Information Center)

the realization of the SDGs. This year, Uomachi Shopping District Organization (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture) received the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chief's (Prime Minister's) Award for its efforts to implement the "SDGs Declaration" as a shopping district, and to engage in people- and environmentally-friendly activities through events and services.

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, the SDGs were raised as one of the main agenda items, and the "Osaka Update" was adopted, setting out the renewed resolve by the G20 to play a leading role in achieving the SDGs, and summarizing the G20's initiatives in areas such as health, education, and quality infrastructure. In September, the SDG Summit 2019 was held to coincide with the UN General Assembly. During this Summit, Prime Minister Abe communicated information about Japan's initiatives (see the Special Feature on page 251). Japan will continue to present to the world its stance as a strong leader in the promotion of the SDGs in various opportunities.

On the other hand, to achieve the SDGs by 2030, it has been estimated that there is an annual



8th meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (December 20, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development (September 26, New York, U.S.)

Special  
Feature

## SDG Summit 2019: Toward the Realization of a Society Where “No One is Left Behind”

In September 2019, SDG Summit 2019 was held at the UN Headquarters in New York, with the aim of following up, at the leader's level, the SDGs initiatives implemented over the past four years, as well as increasing momentum toward the achievement of the SDGs. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and the agreement by all UN member states on the SDGs that set out the future vision of the Earth for 2030 and beyond, the world has swiftly begun moving toward the achievement of these common goals. We now stand just over a quarter of the way on our path toward their achievement.

### SDG Summit 2019

At the SDG Summit 2019, UN Secretary-General Guterres announced the designation of the decade leading up to 2030, as the “Decade of Action” toward the achievement of the SDGs. At the Summit, Prime Minister Abe shared with the participating leaders the initiatives that he had led as chair of the G20 Osaka Summit (June) and TICAD7 (August) held in Japan. These included initiatives in the areas of environment, education, health, disaster risk reduction, and quality infrastructure investment. In addition, as the head of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters of the Government of Japan, he announced the firm resolve to accelerate efforts in and out of Japan by the next SDG Summit, including those by the private sector and in regional revitalization programs. He also introduced a “SDGs Model,” which Japan is now implementing with three pillars: (1) Business and innovation; (2) Regional revitalization; and, (3) Empowerment of next generations and women.

### Japan's initiatives toward the achievement of the SDGs

In order to promote the SDGs in Japan, the government's first initiative was to develop the domestic infrastructure. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters was established in 2016, with the Prime Minister as its head, the Chief Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Minister as the deputy heads, and all Cabinet ministers as members. Under this organization, the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting comprising a wide range of stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, experts, international organizations and various organizations, engaged in discussions and formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles as a national strategy toward the achievement of the SDGs, as well as the SDGs Action Plan with concrete measures. At the eighth SDGs Promotion Meeting convened in December 2019, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles were revised to take into account initiatives taken over the past four years and the latest trends in the international community. Furthermore, under the SDGs Action Plan 2020, the group renewed its resolve to further accelerate the widespread roll-out of Japan's SDGs Model.

For example, as prescribed in the new curriculum guidelines to be fully implemented at elementary schools from FY2020 and junior high schools from FY2021, it is required for schools to educate each student for being a creator of sustainable society in the future. This is expected to raise awareness of the SDGs among the young and their parents, and to encourage the generations that have learnt about the SDGs in school to play an active role in 2030 and beyond.

There are contributions that Japan can make toward the realization of a society where “no one is left behind.” Under this strong resolve, Japan will exert its leadership amidst this global trend, and continue to push forward in its efforts to strengthen its initiatives in Japan and overseas.



SDG Summit (September 24, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

funding shortfall of approximately 2.5 trillion US dollars (approximately 280 trillion yen) every year, and the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration clearly sets out the importance of innovative financing to overcome this financing gap. In September, Japan chaired a high-level meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development in New York, a group that is made up of voluntary countries and organizations, and is advancing reviews on innovative financing for the achievement of the SDGs.

### **A** Human Security

Human security is a concept aiming at creating a community in which people can fully develop their rich potential through protecting all individuals, and at the same time empowering them to solve their own problems. Japan positions human security as a guiding principle that lies at the roots of Japan's development cooperation in the Development Cooperation Charter approved in 2015. Japan has led discussions on human security in the UN, and supported the dissemination and implementation of the concept of human security by UN organizations through the contribution of a cumulative total of about 47.6 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 SDGs, which advocate a people-centered approach and the vision of leaving no one behind, also position human security at its core. In February 2019, the Government of Japan co-hosted the High-Level Event "Human Security at 25" with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the UN Human Security Unit and the relevant countries, at the UN Headquarters in New York. Marking the 25th anniversary since the introduction of the concept of human security into the international community, this meeting looked back on the history of human security, and affirmed that the

human security approach is becoming increasingly important in the era of the SDGs.

### **B** 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 approximately 140 billion US dollars according to estimates by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Disaster risk reduction is essential for realizing poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Japan makes the most of the expertise in disaster risk reduction, built up through its numerous experiences with disasters, to actively 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 also announced the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" as its independent contribution, which includes provision of 4 billion US dollars toward cooperation and training of 40,000 people in the four years from 2015 to 2018. With the achievement of these goals, the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2 was announced in June 2019, under which Japan plans to provide support to at least 5 million people from 2019 to 2022, in areas such as flood measures.

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 every year, 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 a possible Nankai Trough earthquake, the participants make proposals for future challenges and implementation in their home countries.

Japan will continue to share the experiences and lessons drawn from past disasters with the world, and to promote the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction” that incorporates the perspectives of disaster risk reduction in the policies of every country.

### **C Approaches in the Area of Education**

In the area of education, Japan is engaged in various forms of educational support around the world under the “Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth,” announced by Japan in line with the timing for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. Japan also participates actively in meetings related to support for education, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).<sup>7</sup> At the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (see Chapter 3, Section 1 (8)(3)) held in March 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will continue its efforts to provide opportunities for quality education and training to at least 4 million women in developing countries by 2020. Furthermore, at the meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held immediately prior to the G20 Osaka Summit in June, Japan announced its commitment to the “Education x Innovation” initiative, which aims to provide education for innovation, and education through innovation to at least 9 million children and youths. At the G20 Osaka Summit chaired by Japan, an agreement was reached on the “G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development,” which places the focus on education, and the commitment to invest in human capital and promote access to inclusive, equitable and quality education for all people was affirmed in the Initiative.

### **D Approaches in Agricultural Areas**

In coordination with the relevant countries, such as G7 or G20 member states and international organizations, Japan has delivered assistance for agriculture and rural development in developing countries. The G20 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting was held in May, during which the participants affirmed the importance of various issues related to agriculture and food, such as new technology and the creation of human resources, food value chains, and the SDGs. The G20 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Declaration 2019 was also adopted.

### **E Approaches in the Area of Water**

Japan has continuously been the largest donor 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 building upon its contributions to date. There was a plan to hold the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto, in October 2020, but this has been postponed for about a year in view of the situation of the novel coronavirus disease outbreak.

## **(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 improve people's health and realize an international community

<sup>7</sup> GPE: An international partnership to support the education sector in developing countries, with the participation of developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil society, etc. Focusing on support for primary education, it implements support for post-primary education, preschool education, education for women, and education in areas affected by conflict.

that ensures the right to health through assistance in the area of 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; the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT).

Bearing in mind the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that ensures the provision of basic health services throughout a life, for everyone, Japan has demonstrated leadership and has taken the lead in international discussions based on the "Basic Design for Peace and Health," a theme-based policy for the Development Cooperation Charter formulated in 2015.

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June 2019, Japan, as the Presidency, included the achievement of UHC, aging population, and the health crisis as one of the main agenda items, and held the inaugural G20 Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers to promote sustainable health financing. At the TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August, Japan also characterised health as one of the pillars of the foundation for realizing sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe attended the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC in September, where he emphasized the importance of promoting cross-sectoral initiatives for areas such as nutrition, water and hygiene, as well as strengthening health financing. The political declaration for this High-Level Meeting reaffirmed the goals of providing basic health care to all people and eradicating impoverishment due to health-related expenses

by 2030 (see the Special Feature on page 255).

Japan positioned nutrition, one of the cross-sectoral initiatives, as an issue that is related to human security and indispensable for the achievement of the SDGs, and has been advocating the importance of nutrition at the UN and other fora with a view to hosting the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

### (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 2019, 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 January, the second Japan-ILO Annual Strategic Consultation Meeting was held in Tokyo. Taking the opportunities presented by the centenary year of ILO's founding, the G20 Osaka Summit, the G20 Matsuyama Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting, and TICAD7, Japan and the ILO affirmed the following points: (i) further strengthening of cooperation on the "Future of Work" initiative;<sup>8</sup> (ii) Japan's financial

<sup>8</sup> An initiative by ILO aimed at understanding the ever-changing world of work, engaging in discussions on policies that will determine society in the future, and widely reviewing opportunities and issues on the future of work.

Special  
Feature

## UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Aiming to Realize Health and Peace of Mind for All the People of the World

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people can access quality essential health services at an affordable cost. In September 2019, a High-Level Meeting on UHC was held for the first time at the UN General Assembly.

UHC has been established as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015, and the international community aims to achieve UHC by 2030.

Japan achieved UHC with the introduction of a national health insurance system in 1961. The realization of UHC has made significant contributions to Japan's economic growth and social stability. Based on this experience, Japan has been proactively engaged in promoting UHC in the international community. Strengthening of health systems was advocated at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in 2008, and at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, UHC was included in the main agenda of a leader's level meeting for the first time and the G7 Ise-Shima Vision was adopted. The UHC Forum 2017 was held in Tokyo in 2017, where the Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, which incorporated concrete initiatives such as securing sustainable financial resources, was adopted. Furthermore, the first G20 Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers was held to discuss the importance of cooperation among financial and health authorities to promote UHC at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019.

With the growing political momentum toward promoting UHC in the international community as a result of Japan's sustained and proactive initiatives, the first High-Level Meeting on UHC was held at the UN General Assembly in September 2019, and the Political Declaration was endorsed. While more than 50 leaders and 85 ministers attended the event, Prime Minister Abe gave the closing speech at the Closing Ceremony on behalf of the member countries. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of UHC, health financing as well as promoting cross-sectoral initiatives in areas such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

In order to achieve UHC, cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders is indispensable. This includes not only governments, but also civil society, the private-sector, and international organizations. The voices of these stakeholders were also actively incorporated in the Political Declaration. Japan also established the "Group of Friends of UHC" as a UN platform, where it played a central role in developing the text for the Political Declaration.

The Political Declaration warns of the severe situation currently facing the world, stating that "at least half of the world's population lack access to essential health services [...] and out of pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year." It also sounds an alarm bell, emphasizing that "at the current pace, up to one third of the world's population will remain underserved by 2030, and acceleration of taking measures is urgently needed." To address the current severe situation, it reaffirms the target of covering all people with essential health services by 2030, and eradicating poverty caused by the payment of out-of-pocket health expenditure, and establishes concrete initiatives including additional investment in public health and creating employment for health workers.

Hence, the Political Declaration expresses the strong will of the international community to achieve UHC. Now that the Political Declaration has been adopted, each country faces the important challenge of transforming that into concrete action.



Prime Minister Abe presenting his speech at the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (September 23, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



and human resource contributions to date through its development cooperation support in the field of employment, and further strengthening of the partnership; and, (iii) adopting joint concrete action toward further reinforcement of Japanese staff in the ILO.

#### (4) Environmental Issues and Climate Change

##### A Global Environmental Issues

Awareness is building worldwide on the importance of addressing global environmental issues, as exemplified by the 2030 Agenda, which ascribes environmental goals. Japan is committed to conserving the natural environment and realizing sustainable development through active participation in multilateral environmental negotiations and engagements with other contracting parties to various environmental treaties. Japan is also contributing to projects that are addressing global environmental issues, and is the largest donor to the World Bank Group's Global Environment Facility, a financing mechanism for the treaties on biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and chemical contamination.

##### (A) Conservation of the Marine Environment

Addressing the problem of marine plastic litter is growing in importance in recent years, given its potential adverse impact on marine ecology, tourism, fisheries, and human health. These issues are caused by factors such as the illegal dumping of waste and incomplete waste disposal. At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, Prime Minister Abe, with other leaders of the G20, orchestrated a common vision, "the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision," which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. Leaders agreed on a concrete implementation framework toward the achievement of this Vision, and Japan announced the Marine Initiative (see the Special Feature on page 257), an assistance program designed to support capacity building and infrastructure development on waste management in

developing countries, to reinforce the achievement of this vision. As part of the package, Japan announced that it will nurture 10,000 waste management specialists worldwide by 2025. A follow-up meeting was convened in October 2019, based on the implementation framework, leading to a report on the measures of tackling marine plastic litter, compiling knowledge and lessons learned on voluntary initiatives conducted by each country.

With a view to further leveraging the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit on promoting international cooperation in marine plastic litter, Japan called for embracement of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision and its implementation framework, at the ASEAN Plus 3 (Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea) Summit in November 2019. Furthermore, under the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative launched in 2018, Japan announced reinforced cooperation measures, including support to drafting national plans for waste management and establishing the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris under the auspices of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (comprising leaders of maritime nations) was established to discuss matters such as the conservation of the marine environment, the fishery industries and the utilization of marine resources, with a view to contributing toward the achievement of the SDGs. At the second meeting of the Panel which was held in New York, U.S., in September, Prime Minister Abe, in his message for the meeting, shared the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit with panel members, emphasizing the importance of initiatives related to marine plastic litter and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

##### (B) Conservation of Biodiversity

The illegal trade of wildlife, which has worsened in recent years, has drawn international

Special  
Feature

## Demonstration of Japan's Leadership: The Marine Plastic Litter Problem

In recent years, the marine plastic litter problem has been attracting much attention both in Japan and abroad. There are worries that the discharge of such litter into rivers and seas as a result of acts such as incomplete disposal of plastic products, littering, and illegal dumping, can have an adverse impact on marine ecosystems, tourism, fisheries, and the aquaculture industry. There are also concerns that fine particles known as microplastics can be accidentally consumed by fish. Consequently, the chemical substances that adhere to the microplastics are absorbed into the food chain, which can then have a negative impact on human health.

It is estimated that G7 countries generate about 2% of all marine plastic litter, while G20 countries make up approximately 48% of all marine plastic litter. Hence, it is vital for the international community as a whole to address and resolve the marine plastic litter problem. At the G20 Osaka Summit, which garnered participation from emerging and developing countries, Japan, under its Presidency, demonstrated its leadership in drafting the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution from marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.

During this Summit, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the MARINE Initiative as Japan's own effort to materialize this Vision. The initiative is based on the understanding that reducing the amount of marine plastic litter worldwide cannot be achieved through one country's efforts alone; it recognizes the need to assist developing countries' efforts to put in place measures to prevent further discharges of marine plastic litter. In acknowledgement of this reality, Japan seeks to leverage its ODA programs and other means to help improve waste management in developing countries, focusing on the following areas:



G20 Osaka Summit (June 28, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

### MARINE Initiative

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Management of Wastes | (2) Recovery of marine litter |
| (3) Innovation           | (4) Empowerment               |

As a part of this Initiative, Japan is committed to training 10,000 officials engaging in waste management worldwide by 2025. In June, Japan decided to provide assistance toward expanding the use of marine biodegradable plastic in South Africa, and has plans to implement various other projects under this Initiative.

To date, Japan has consistently and proactively addressed the problem of marine pollution. For example, since 2004, Japan has supported Bangladesh, where plastic litter discarded in rivers has caused serious marine pollution in the Bay of Bengal. Japan has supported Bangladesh, for example, by training sanitation staff and providing equipment such as waste collection vehicles. Through this support, Dhaka's waste collection rate, which had been 44% in 2004, improved to 80% by 2018, thus helping to reduce pollution in the Bay of Bengal by a significant margin.

Japan will continue to take a proactive approach toward addressing the marine plastic litter problem by leveraging the technology and experience it has built up over the years to support developing countries in areas such as waste management and human resource development.



Illegally dumped waste at a river on the outskirts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh (Photo: JICA)



Waste collection vehicles granted by Japan (Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: JICA)

attention as one of the key sources of funding for international terrorist organizations. To help address the problem, Japan conducted a capacity building workshop on measures against illegal trade of wildlife in Malaysia, in cooperation with the UK in February, 2019. In addition, Japan provided elephant anti-poaching operation facilities in Uganda (April) and Mozambique (July), underscoring Japan's drive to address this issue seriously. Japan also participated actively in international negotiations on these matters, including the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (held in Geneva, Switzerland) and the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG1), held in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss how these issues could be handled in the new framework that would succeed the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Japan also contributed substantively to international discussions on the global conservation and sustainable uses of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, with a view to enhancing sustainable agriculture and food security worldwide. At the eighth session of the Governing Body to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Japan contributed to the work of enhancing the multilateral system on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits, and at the forum, introduced Japan's gene bank initiatives (in particular, the development of unmanned, AI-based long-term storage systems for seeds), as well as its cutting-edge initiatives in the conservation and use of genetic resources, in collaboration with developing countries.

At the 55th Session of the Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan engaged in discussions on the promotion of sustainable forest management and the establishment of timber supply chains that can

track the flow of legally harvested timber and timber products.

### (C) International Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Waste

Japan also attended the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in November in Rome, Italy, to discuss matters such as the operation of the revised protocol with the addition of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) as a controlled substance.

At the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention on Mercury held in Geneva, Switzerland in November, Japan contributed to the establishment of international rules pertaining to the regulation of mercury through several ways such as the submission of a resolution proposed jointly with the European Union. Japan was elected as a member of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, after being recommended alongside with China and Jordan from the Asia Pacific region. Through this Committee, Japan works to promote the implementation of the Minamata Convention by verifying the contracting parties' compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

## B Climate Change

### (A) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Paris Agreement

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 2019). In November 2019, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

Upon the adoption of the Paris Agreement, negotiations commenced on the implementation guidelines of the Agreement toward its full implementation after 2020, and these were adopted at COP24 held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. At COP25 held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, the parties could not reach a complete agreement on negotiations for the implementation guidelines of the market mechanisms, which are carried over from COP24. It was decided that negotiations will continue at COP26 toward the adoption of the guidelines. On the other hand, concrete progress was observed on for agenda items such as loss and damage (loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change), gender and climate change, and the impact of implementation of response measures (social and economic impacts arising from the implementation of mitigation policies and actions).

#### **(B) Virtuous Cycle of Environment and Growth**

Japan reached a Cabinet decision on the “Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy” (hereafter, “Long-Term Strategy”) in June 2019, and submitted it to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

The Long-Term Strategy proclaims a “decarbonized society” as the ultimate goal, and aims to bring about the realization of “a virtuous cycle of environment and growth” with business-led disruptive innovation. In the financial sector, there are also moves that can lead to restraining the use of fossil fuels that emit large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> including coal, through engagement (encouraging invested companies to take action), divestments

(withdrawing investment on assets related to fossil fuels) and others. However, divestment alone cannot address climate change. Rather, it is considered that investment in environment, society, and governance (ESG) to positively evaluate capital investments and innovation for decarbonization will attain further importance. To that end, it presents concrete measures to develop an environment for the mainstreaming of ESG financing, and to foster a proactive stance among corporations and financial institutions.

Moreover, all the G20 members agreed on the importance of the concept of “a virtuous cycle of environment and growth” at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture in June, and at the G20 Osaka Summit.

#### **(C) 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 for developing countries to address climate change. In addition to its initial contribution of 1.5 billion US dollars (2015 to 2018), Japan expressed at the High-Level Pledging Conference for the GCF's First Replenishment held in October 2019 that it will contribute up to 1.5 billion US dollars. Serving as a board member of the GCF, Japan has actively participated in its management as well as policy-making. By December 2019, the GCF Board has approved 124 support projects, which are projected to abate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.6 billion tons and reach about 350 million beneficiaries.

#### **(D) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**

The JCM is a mechanism for contributing to worldwide global warming measures, by

evaluating contributions from Japan to GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner, and using them to achieve Japan's emission reduction target, through the application of its excellent low carbon technologies, as well as the implementation of mitigation actions in developing countries. As of December 2019, Japan has established the JCM with 17 partner countries, and implemented more than 160 projects related to the reduction or removal of greenhouse gases. In 2019, the initiative has steadily produced results, such as through the issuance of credits from projects in Laos, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Maldives, and Thailand.

#### (E) Japan's efforts in Climate Change and Fragility Risk

In response to suggestions at the Roundtable Seminar on "Climate Change and Fragility Implications on International Security" held in January 2017 and other fora, to which Japan will focus on the Asia Pacific and conduct studies and engage in discussions on climate change and fragility, Japan convened the International Conference on Climate Change and Fragility in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2019 following from the conference in July 2018, as one of its initiatives on climate change and fragility risk. The 2019 conference (although scheduled to be held in Yokohama in October, was reduced in scale due to Typhoon Hagibis and held online in November) was organized as a symposium based on the theme of climate change and the Pacific. Participants of various backgrounds introduced the latest scientific findings and initiatives related to climate change, and deepened understanding on the impact of the oceans on climate change and the role of the seas in climate change measures, as well as the approach that each party should adopt.

#### (F) Climate Change Measures by Non-State Actors

Measures by non-state actors such as private corporations, local governments, and NGOs are also important in tackling climate change. In Japan as well, non-state actors have made further progress in their efforts, as demonstrated by keen activities of the network of non-state actors, Japan Climate Initiative (JCI), which aims to take proactive action in the area of climate change, the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP), a corporate group with the same goal, and "RE Action - Declaring 100% Renewable," a corporate group whose members have established the goal of procuring 100% renewable energy for the electricity required in the operation of their businesses, as well as the increase in the number of Japanese corporations participating in the international initiative "RE100" and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)<sup>9</sup>. Japan aims to advance climate change diplomacy in cooperation with such initiatives by non-state actors.

### (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 is expected to expand the navigable area, there have been growing economic opportunities such as the use of the Northern Sea Route and the development of resources. Alongside this, Russia is promoting resource exploitation and freight shipping on the Northern Sea Route, while China has also published a white paper on its Arctic policy in 2018

<sup>9</sup> The TCFD was established by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) as a task force on the disclosure of financial information related to climate change, led by the private sector. In its final report, it presented a framework on voluntary information disclosure by corporations pertaining to climate-related risks and opportunities.

and is observed to be proactively advancing into the Arctic. Against this backdrop, the U.S. is also enhancing its engagement in light of changes in the situation of the Arctic.

As for Japan, the Headquarters for Ocean Policy approved the “Japan’s Arctic Policy” in October 2015 as its basic policy on the Arctic. In addition, the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, adopted by the Cabinet in May 2018, added a separate section on Arctic policy for the first time and positioned it as one of the main policy items in Japan’s ocean policy.

### (B) Japan’s International Activities on the Arctic

Japan has appointed an Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs. The Ambassador attends international conferences on the Arctic including the Senior Arctic Official’s meeting of the Arctic Council (AC),<sup>10</sup> in which Japan participates as an observer, and presents Japan’s efforts and views on issues surrounding the Arctic. The fourth Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic among Japan, China and the Republic of Korea (ROK), launched as the outcome of the Sixth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in 2015, was convened in Busan in June 2019, where a candid exchange of opinions was carried out on their Arctic policies. The seventh Arctic Circle Assembly<sup>11</sup> was held in Iceland in October 2019, where the Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs delivered a speech on Japan’s efforts considering Japan co-hosting the third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) with Iceland, the current Chair of the AC, in November 2020. Japan will continue to secure the interests of Japan and the international community and contribute to solving global issues surrounding the Arctic.



Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs delivering a speech at the seventh Arctic Circle Assembly (October 10-12, Reykjavik, Iceland)

In addition, 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 has 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 addition, Japan invited Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs of Iceland and a group of Alaskan indigenous peoples to Japan in September and December 2019 respectively and provided them with opportunities for interaction and exchange of opinions with Japan’s Arctic researchers to promote their

<sup>10</sup> A high-level intergovernmental consultation body established in 1996 with the aim of promoting cooperation, coordination, and exchanges between the eight Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the U.S.), while gaining the involvement of indigenous communities on common issues related to the Arctic region (in particular, sustainable development, environmental protection, etc.). (It is clearly affirmed that it does not address military and security issues.) Japan acquired an observer status in 2013.

<sup>11</sup> An international conference established by Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, former President of Iceland and others in 2013 and attended by about 2,000 participants including government representatives, researchers, and business people. Japan has been participating in it since the first assembly with the attendance of the Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs and other delegates. They deliver speeches at the plenary session, while Japanese researchers present the outcomes of their scientific research at breakout sessions.

understanding of Japan's efforts on the Arctic.

## **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 42nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 42) held in Prague, Czech Republic, in July 2019, discussions were held on recent issues, including the microplastics pollution in the Antarctic Ocean, and 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, 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. Kishi Teruo (Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs), who assumed office in September 2015, 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 April 2019, Prof. Kano Mitsunobu was newly appointed as the Science and Technology Co-Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to support the work of Prof. Kishi.

In 2019, the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, chaired by Prof. Kishi, was held in March, July, and November, during which various issues related to science and technology, and diplomacy were discussed. Prof. Kishi submitted the summary recommendations to TICAD7 from the March meeting, titled "Achieving an innovation ecosystem together with Africa," to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko, and the recommendations were reflected in Japan's initiatives at TICAD7.

Prof. Kishi also works in cooperation with the Cabinet Office and MOFA to promote public

relations activities on science, technology, and innovation.<sup>12</sup> He visited Argentina and Brazil in March, and Israel and Egypt in May, conducted lectures, and engaged in discussions with the relevant organizations and researchers on matters such as future potential for collaboration.

Prof. Kishi also puts effort into exchanging opinions with science and technology advisors of the governments of other countries, such as the U.S., the UK, and New Zealand, and into building and strengthening networks. In November, he introduced Japan's Science and Technology Diplomacy at the World Science Forum (WSF) held in Hungary, and deepened discussions with science and technology advisors from various countries at the meeting of the Foreign Ministries Science and Technology Advice Network (FMSTAN) held in Austria. MOFA co-hosted the 2nd Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in December, and drew ideas from experts on the direction for Science and Technology Diplomacy. Furthermore, Prof. Kishi also regularly holds Science and Technology Diplomacy seminars to raise the level of knowledge within MOFA.

Japan has concluded 32 science and technology cooperation agreements, and these are now in force with 46 countries and the EU.<sup>13</sup> Based on these agreements, it organizes regular joint committee meetings with these countries to engage in



2nd Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy  
(December 11, Tokyo; Photo: GRIPS)

intergovernmental dialogue. In 2019, joint committee meetings were held with Canada, Germany, the U.S., the Netherlands, Australia, and the EU 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.

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.

<sup>12</sup> 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).

<sup>13</sup> The Japan-USSR Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was succeeded by Kazakhstan, the 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.



## Section 3

# Economic Diplomacy

### 1 Overview of Economic Diplomacy

As inter-state competition arises in the fields of politics, the economy, and the military, the balance of power in the international community is changing in an increasingly rapid and complex manner, while uncertainty over the existing international order is growing. Japan is tackling a range of issues, particularly in the economic sphere, that include the changing structure of the domestic and global economy, the rise of protectionism, and trade conflicts.

Amid such circumstances, Japan held the Osaka Summit in June as this year's G20 Presidency. At the Summit, Japan took leadership as the Presidency with a uniquely Japanese approach marked by a persistence in identifying common grounds and points of agreement. As a result, leaders of the major countries showed their unity to grapple with global economic issues, by reaffirming basic principles supporting the international free trade system, such as free, fair non-discriminatory and level-playing field. At the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November, Foreign Ministers confirmed the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and made the event a springboard leading to concrete action in the future.

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. Reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the cornerstone of the Multilateral Trading System, is especially necessary now given the numerous challenges it currently faces, among which is the paralysis of the Appellate Body. The Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement entered into force on January 1, 2020, which, along with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) and Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, has created a free economic sphere covering 60% of the global GDP (see the Special Feature on page 265). Japan is also playing a leading role toward the early signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. In addition, Japan is aiming to promptly begin trade negotiations with the UK, which left the EU at the end of January 2020.

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 described above; (2) supporting the overseas business expansion of Japanese companies through promotion of public-private partnerships; and (3) promoting resource diplomacy along with inbound tourism to Japan.

**Special  
Feature**

## The Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement

Based on the Joint Statement of Japan and the U.S. issued in September 2018, Foreign Minister Motegi (Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization until September 2019) and U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer held eight ministerial consultations for a five-month period from April 2019. Consequently, the two leaders reached a final agreement on the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in September 2019, and issued the Joint Statement. The two agreements entered into force on January 1 2020. Despite the protectionism spreading across the world, Japan showed its presence in the global arena with regard to promoting free trade through the conclusion of these two agreements. This Special Feature introduces the significance and overview of the two agreements.

### Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement

The Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement, which covers approximately 30% of global GDP, aims to enhance bilateral trade between Japan and the U.S. in a robust, stable, and mutually beneficial manner. This agreement, together with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) and the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which had already entered into force, has created a free economic sphere, covering approximately 60% of the global economy, with Japan at its center.

The agreement is mutually beneficial and well-balanced for both Japan and the U.S. Japan's agricultural products are all within the scope of previous economic partnership agreements. The Agreement is fair for the U.S. as well. Amid the TPP11 and other agreements already come into effect, the agreement realizes a situation in which the U.S. will not be subordinate to other countries. Regarding automobiles and automobile parts exported to the U.S., the U.S. annex stipulates that they will be subject to further negotiations with respect to the elimination of customs duties. Moreover, custom duties on other industrial products, especially the products of Japanese companies' interest and of large trade volume, will also be eliminated or reduced soon. At the same time, this agreement also attaches great significance in its elimination of measures that distort the global supply chain, including the quantity restrictive measures to automobiles, voluntary export restraint, and strict rules of origin; therefore, the agreement helps to enhance bilateral trade in a stable manner. The agreement contributes not only to the further growth of the Japanese economy, but also to the development of a free and fair world economy.

### Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement

The Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement establishes high-standard rules in the digital field, and lays the foundation on which Japan and the U.S. will play a leading role in developing global rules on digital trade. The Agreement includes clauses that correspond to the latest situation in the digital field, such as the same clauses as the electronic commerce chapter of the TPP, including provisions of not only prohibiting the imposition of customs duties to digital products distributed electronically, but also of ensuring non-discriminatory treatment of digital products. The agreement also includes provisions that prohibit the requirement of disclosure of algorithms and cryptography, and of civil liability to information content providers, including social media providers.



Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting (September 25, 2019, New York, U.S.):  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## 2 Rule-Making to Bolster Free and Open Global Economic Systems

### (1) Promotion of Economic Partnerships

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)<sup>1</sup> and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)<sup>2</sup> help capture the vitality of the growing markets 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. To date, the Government of Japan has signed 18 EPAs and FTAs with 21 countries and regions, all of which have entered into force. The EPA/FTA ratio in Japan's trade (the ratio of trade value with countries which have FTAs

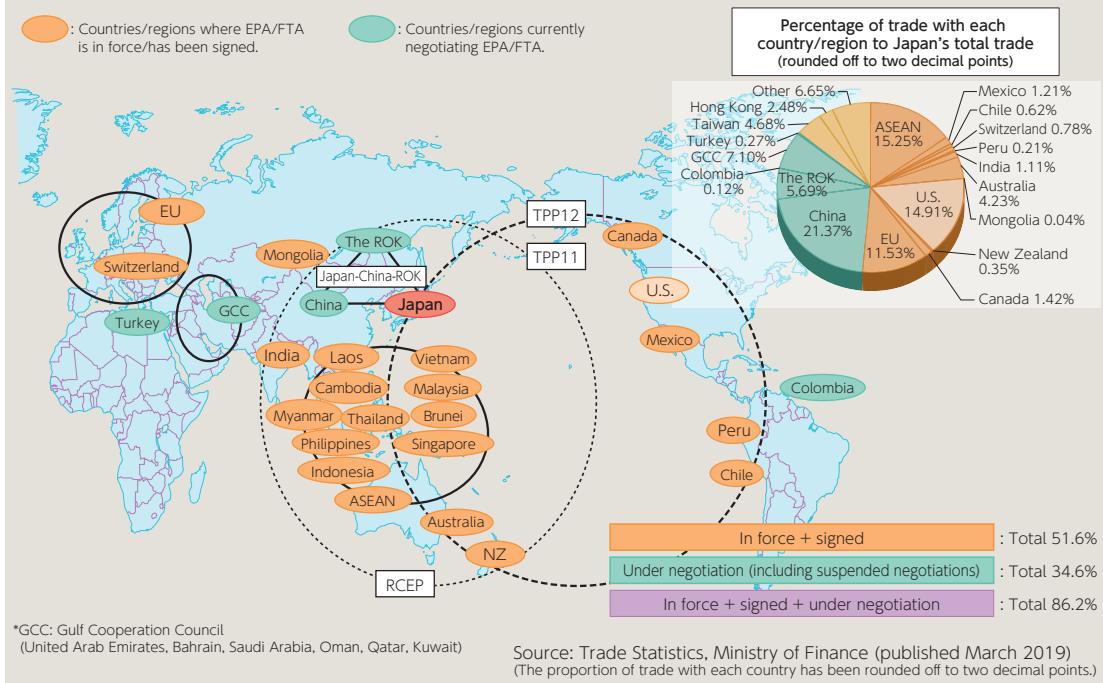
already signed or entered into force with Japan, to that of total trade value) was 51.6% at the end of December 2019, which reached 86.2% when including the trade value of countries and regions with EPAs and FTAs in negotiations. Following on the enactment of TPP11<sup>3</sup> on December 30, 2018, the Japan-EU EPA entered into force on February 1, 2019. The First Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (AJCEP) was signed by Japan on February 27, the nine ASEAN nations on March 2, and Viet Nam on April 24, as a result of many years of tireless negotiations.

### Japan's Initiatives on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA/FTA) (as of March 2020)

18 EPAs/FTAs have come into effect/been signed with 21 countries/regions to date.

- 51.6% of total trade is conducted with countries with which EPAs/FTAs have come into effect/been signed.

- 86.2% of total trade is conducted with countries with which EPAs/FTAs have come into effect/been signed, or with which EPA/FTA negotiations are ongoing.



1 Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are agreements that aim to create rules concerning trade liberalization, investment, the movement of people, intellectual property protection, and competition policy, and seek to strengthen wide-ranging economic relationships by providing for, among other things, factors for cooperation in various fields.

2 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are agreements that aim to reduce or eliminate tariffs on goods or trade in service barriers among specified countries or regions.

3 TPP11: Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

As a flag bearer of free trade, Japan will work toward the steady implementation and expansion of the TPP11 Agreement as well as the steady implementation of the Japan-EU EPA, while promoting global trade liberalization through negotiations of other EPAs.

**A TPP11 Agreement, Japan-EU EPA, RCEP, Japan-China-ROK Free Trade Agreement, and FTAAP**

**(A) TPP11 Agreement**

The TPP11 Agreement is an effort to establish new economic integration rules for the 21st century in a wide range of areas such as 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 economic growth in Japan. Furthermore, the strengthening of the interdependent relations in economic terms with countries that share fundamental values through the TPP11 Agreement has great strategic significance for the security of Japan and the stability of the Asia-Pacific region, leading to peace and prosperity in the region and the world at large.

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 January 2017. As such, Japan proactively led the discussions in order to bring about

the early realization of the TPP as soon as possible among the 11 countries. 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. Mexico, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia completed necessary domestic procedures and the Agreement entered into force on December 30. Viet Nam became the seventh Party to conclude the Agreement in January 2019.

Amidst the spread of protectionist sentiments around the world, this sends a strong message to the world that Japan is committed to promoting free trade, and is a major step toward extending the free, fair, and modern trade of the 21st century, and investment rules in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition, Japan became the TPP Chair in January and hosted the First Commission of the TPP at the ministerial-level (with Minister Motegi, then in charge of Economic Revitalization, serving as Chair). Decisions were made about four subjects at the meeting; matters concerning administration, accession process of the TPP11 Agreement, rules for resolving disputes involving Parties to TPP11, and about a code of conduct for investor-State dispute settlement. At the second meeting of the TPP Commission, held in October in Auckland (New Zealand), two decisions were made that concerned rules for TPP Commission procedures (rules of procedure concerning execution of Commission activities, including the process for conducting meetings and planning agendas) and for establishing a Roster of Panel Chairs (subcommittee) for dispute resolution. Japan will continue to take the lead on discussions toward the implementation and expansion of the TPP11 Agreement.



TPP11 Agreement signing (March 8, 2018, Santiago, Chile; Photo: TPP Headquarters at the Cabinet Secretariat Office)

**(B) Japan-EU EPA**

The Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force on February 1. Along with realizing a high-level elimination or reduction of tariffs, it also serves as a model for the 21st century's modern economic order based on free and fair rules. Almost six years since negotiations for the agreement started in April 2013, a giant economic zone was created comprising 600 million people and 30% of the world's GDP.

While Japan and the EU are geographically distant from one another, they have forged collaborative relationships in numerous fields as important global partners sharing the same basic values. With the enactment of this agreement, Japan-EU relations take a new step forward, supported by a legal foundation for strengthening collaboration. It is expected that trade, investment, and people-to-people exchange between Japan and the EU will become more active than ever leading to closer relations among the citizens of Japan and the EU. One of the concrete examples is the fairs related to the Japan-EU EPA organized by numerous retailers and restaurants followed by the agreement's enactment, which has showed the real advantages of the agreement to SMEs and consumers (see the Column on page 269).

At the First Japan-EU Joint Committee meeting



First Joint Committee of the Japan-EU EPA (April 10, Tokyo)

held in April, participants mutually confirmed the levels of agreement implementation and discussed possible further ways for Japan-EU future collaboration, expressed by the slogan “Beyond EPA, beyond trade.” Japan and the EU are working to strengthen their multilayered collaboration to address various issues through 12 specialized committees and working groups as well as existing policy dialogues among authorities and public-private initiatives.

**(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's 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 high-level agreement in areas that include trade in goods, trade in services, investment, competition, rules of origin, intellectual property, and electronic commerce, and customs procedures and trade facilitation. As of December 2019, 19 ministerial meetings and 28 rounds of have been held. At the 3rd RCEP Summit Meeting held in November in conjunction with the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, leaders of 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) released the Joint Leaders' Statement on the RCEP. The statement noted that the 15 RPCs have concluded text-based negotiations for all 20 chapters<sup>4</sup> and essentially all their market access issues, and tasked legal

4 1) Initial Provisions and General Definitions; 2) Trade in Goods; 3) Rules of Origin, including Annex on Product Specific Rules; 4) Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation; 5) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; 6) Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures; 7) Trade Remedies; 8) Trade in Services, including Annexes on Financial Services, Telecommunication Services, and Professional Services; 9) Movement of Natural Persons; 10) Investment; 11) Intellectual Property; 12) Electronic Commerce; 13) Competition; 14) Small and Medium Enterprises; 15) Economic and Technical Cooperation; 16) Government Procurement; 17) General Provisions and Exceptions; 18) Institutional Provisions; 19) Dispute Settlement; and 20) Final Provisions.

## Column

## Achievement of Target and Promotional Activities for Exporting Japanese Beef: Entering into Force of the TPP11 Agreement and Japan-EU EPA

Suneya Masahiko

Secretary-General, Japan Livestock Products Export Promotion Council Secretariat

Under the government's target of expanding Japan's value of exports for agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products as well as food products to 1 trillion yen in 2019, the Japan Livestock Products Export Promotion Council Secretariat (J-LEC) is engaged in relevant activities through five export committees for beef, pork, chicken, egg, and milk and dairy products. Among these products, the target export value of 14 billion yen for milk and dairy products was achieved in 2018, and the target export value of 25 billion yen for beef was achieved in November 2019. Wagyu beef, a variety of beef that is produced in Japan, has now become synonymous with high-quality beef and has a growing reputation around the world as luxury food.

The framework that supports trust in Japanese beef comprises elements such as a pedigree registration system with a more than 100-year history for Wagyu beef, a traceability system based on the law, and a proprietary meat rating system. This framework is the decisive factor that differentiates Japanese Wagyu beef from "WAGYU" beef produced in other countries.

The J-LEC has established the "Universal Wagyu Mark" as an indication of Wagyu beef produced in Japan, and has conducted Wagyu seminars in various countries. At these seminars, crowds throng in once the sampling session begins. Cutting techniques that brings out the unique appeal of Japan-produced Wagyu beef, including the artistic beauty of its marbling and its unique fragrance and soft texture, as well as a menu that reflects the food culture of Japan, are also indispensable. The J-LEC also provides support by inviting overseas stakeholders in the industry and dispatching experts for activities such as domestic training programs in cutting techniques, on-site visits, and exchange of opinions with those involved in the industry.

The tireless business development efforts by the beef production industry in Japan as well as initiatives by the J-LEC, including the Beef Export Committee, have resulted in the steady expansion of Japanese beef exports, while the majority of exports is bound for Asia in terms of export volumes by country and region. The TPP11 Agreement, the Japan-EU EPA, and the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement entered into force in 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively. The value of exports to the EU for the ten-month period after the Japan-EU EPA entered into force (February to November 2019) showed a 28% year-on-year growth. Furthermore, the value of exports to countries that joined the TPP11 Agreement after it entered into force also shows an increasing trend for each country, with the value of exports to Canada growing by 8% year-on-year for instance. The effects of the agreements, such as the immediate abolition of tariffs on beef as a result of the Japan-EU EPA and the reduction in tariffs as a result of the TPP11 Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement, are expected to further expand exports not only to Asia but also to Europe and the U.S.

In the Asian market, certification marks that are similar to the "Universal Wagyu Mark" have emerged on the back of the popularity of Japanese Wagyu beef. In addition, in luxury beef markets in different parts of the world such as Europe, the U.S., and the Middle East, brand awareness of Japanese Wagyu beef—which entered the market later—is still relatively lower than that of "WAGYU" beef produced overseas. Moreover, with the strong consciousness of *terroir* (referring to environmental factors that characterize the habitat of food production) in Europe, there are also strong calls for the provision of accurate and detailed information.

In response, the QR code that describes the individual identification numbers of cattle was integrated with the "Universal Wagyu Mark" in June 2019, and a system that provides quality information on the



QR code integrated with the "Universal Wagyu Mark"

spot, such as individual identification, registration, and rating, as well as unique information on individual suppliers, was launched as a model project. This system is scheduled to enter full-scale operation from FY2020.

The Japan-EU EPA includes provisions on the mutual protection of a geographical indication (GI), which is a system that protects the name of specialty products unique to the respective production-area, by registering them as intellectual property. Such provisions strengthen the protection of the Japanese Wagyu beef brand in the EU, and are expected to enhance its differentiation from other products.

Moves to resume beef exports to China are currently attracting the greatest attention among various export strategies for respective countries. There are growing expectations of the market potential not only on the Japanese side, but also on the Chinese side. With the signing of the Japan-China Agreement on Cooperation in Animal Health and Quarantine in November 2018 and other developments, the acceleration of negotiations with a view to resume Japanese beef exports, including Wagyu beef, is anticipated.

In order to further protect the brand of Japanese Wagyu beef and expand its market, in addition to the initiatives that have been implemented to date, we are facing the urgent task of establishing a supply system that can meet global demand. This can be achieved by promoting compliance with Standards of Rearing Hygiene Management and HACCP\* certification for farms, as well as by increasing the number of Wagyu beef cattle and expanding HACCP-compliant meat processing facilities for export. Furthermore, in order to realize stable production and export of Japanese Wagyu beef, it is also important to prevent the invasion of virulent, infectious diseases from overseas, such as foot-and-mouth disease, through a complete and secure animal quarantine system. To that end, the J-LEC will cooperate closely with the government's proactive economic diplomacy to work on each and every possible measure.

\*A method for hygiene control to ensure the safety of products and management procedures that are particularly important for eliminating or mitigating hazards in all processes, from the procurement of raw materials to the shipment of products, based upon an understanding by the food (or other products) business operator of hazards such as contamination by food poisoning bacterium or foreign substances.

scrubbing by them to commence for signing the RCEP Agreement in 2020. RPCs also agreed to work together to resolve outstanding unresolved issues concerning India. Japan will continue to play a leading role, following the Joint Leaders' Statement.

#### (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 16 rounds of negotiations were held by December 2019. 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

Discussions are being held at the meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on next-generation trade and investment issues to be addressed, and capacity building programs mainly for developing economies (countries and regions) are being implemented. The Lima Declaration on the FTAAP adopted at the 2016 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting confirmed mainly the following three points: (1) the FTAAP should be high quality and comprehensive, and incorporate and address next-generation trade and investment issues, and it should be built on the TPP11 Agreement, the RCEP, and other agreements as the pathway; (2) APEC would begin on implementing the work programs supporting capacity building aimed at promoting the realization of FTAAP; and (3) progress made toward realizing the FTAAP would be

reported to the Leaders in 2018 and 2020.

Following workshops in 2017 and 2018, Japan held a workshop on “competition chapters” in the FTAs and EPAs in 2019, with the goal of capacity building of developing economies in APEC. Through the sharing of successful cases, particularly from the perspective of regulations, with regard to “desirable and optional elements” in competition chapters, Japan has provided capacity building support for FTAs and EPAs policy makers and negotiators.

From the viewpoint of achieving a comprehensive and high-quality FTAAP, it is significant that the TPP11 Agreement entered into force at the end of December 2018 and that negotiations are progressing toward the early signing of the RCEP Agreement.

## **B** Bilateral and Other Agreements

### (A) EPAs Currently Being Negotiated

#### a Turkey

As an important country that serves as a hub among Europe, the Middle East, the Central Asia and Caucasus region, and Africa, Turkey has considerable economic potential and is attracting attention as a production base for exports to surrounding regions. The country has signed FTAs with over 20 countries and regions, and the need for developing conditions of competition for Japanese companies through the conclusion of the current EPA has been recognized. Furthermore, business communities in both countries have high expectations for the early conclusion of an EPA between the two countries. The leaders of Japan and Turkey agreed to launch EPA negotiations at the summit meeting in January 2014, and 17 rounds of negotiations had been held as of the end of December, 2019.

#### b Colombia

In December 2012, Japan began the EPA negotiations with Colombia, a country with rich natural resources and high economic growth. Colombia has concluded FTAs with several countries (the

U.S., Canada, the EU, the ROK, etc.), and there is a growing need to regulate the competitive environment for Japan as well. The strengthening of bilateral relations through the conclusion of an EPA is expected to lead to improved cooperation in the international arena and promote cooperation among Japan and the Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Chile). 13 rounds of negotiations have been held to date.

### (B) Suspended EPA and FTA Negotiations

#### a ROK

Japan and the ROK 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 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 natural gas supplier and an important market for exporting infrastructure, among 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.

#### c 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 a stable supply of energy, minerals and food to Japan. However, since the TPP11 Agreement entered into force with six countries including Japan and Canada on December 30, 2018, the EPA negotiations between the two countries have not been



held.

### (C) 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 these existing EPAs.

### C Movement of Natural Persons

In accordance with the EPAs, Japan has been accepting candidates for nurses and certified care workers from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. In 2019, 335 Indonesians (38 nurses and 297 care workers), 330 Filipinos (42 nurses and 288 care workers), and 217 Vietnamese (41 nurses and 176 care workers) were accepted into Japan. 2018 also saw 69 nurses (15 Indonesians, 31 Filipinos, and 23 Vietnamese) and 266 care workers (78 Indonesians, 95 Filipinos, and 93 Vietnamese) pass the national examination. A total of more than 400 nurses and 950 certified care workers have passed the exam as of the end of FY2018.

### D Investment Treaties, Tax Conventions and 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, and other matters. 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 May 2019, the Japan-Armenia Investment Treaty entered into force. As of the end of December 2019, there are currently 44 investment-related treaties that have entered into force (30 investment treaties and 14 EPAs), and five (three investment treaties and two EPAs) that have been signed but not yet entered into force, bringing the total to 49, covering 76 economies. Including investment-related treaties that are currently under negotiation, 94 economies and around 93% of Japan's direct investments overseas will be covered (as of the end of December 2019).<sup>5</sup>

#### (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), or to prevent tax evasion or avoidance, and provide an important legal basis for promoting sound investment and economic exchange between the 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 the sound overseas business expansion of Japanese companies, through the conclusion of new treaties with countries/regions where investment relations with Japan are expected to develop, as well as amending existing treaties." ("Growth Strategy 2019" (Cabinet decision, June 21, 2019)).

Entering into force in 2019 were a new (completely revised) tax treaty with Belgium in January, a revised protocol to the tax treaty with the U.S. in August, a tax convention with Croatia in September, and a tax treaty with Ecuador in December. Additionally, the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (Convention to Implement Measures

<sup>5</sup> Regional balance of Direct Investment (Assets), Ministry of Finance (All regions)

to Prevent BEPS) entered into force for Japan. Meanwhile, Japan signed tax treaties with Argentina in June, Uruguay in September, Peru in November, Jamaica in December, and Uzbekistan (new, completely revised treaty) in December. Negotiations for tax treaties reached an agreement in principle with Morocco in September and Serbia in November. As of the end of 2019, Japan has signed 76 tax conventions that apply to 135 economies.

### (C) Agreements on Social Security

Agreements on social security aim to resolve the issues of social security insurance premium double payment and annuity insurance non-refunds. They are expected to facilitate interpersonal exchange and strengthen further bilateral relations, including economic exchange, 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 23, as of the end of 2019. In 2019, Japan signed agreements with Sweden and Finland and enacted agreements with Slovakia and China.

## (2) Initiatives with International Organizations (WTO, OECD, etc.)

### A World Trade Organization (WTO)

#### (A) Issues Confronting the WTO

The remarkable economic growth that Japan achieved with scarce natural resources after World War II is owed to the free trade system. The WTO has facilitated free trade through various efforts such as rule-making for trade liberalization, dispute settlement between WTO Members, and conducting monitoring to ensure the implementation of the WTO Agreements. But the WTO is now facing considerable challenges.

Hampered by dysfunctional rule-making mechanisms due to the stall of the Doha Round,<sup>6</sup> the WTO has been unable to adequately address structural changes in the international economy, including the rise of emerging nations and the digitalization of the economy.

As explained below, criticism became heightened over the Appellate Body being blamed for overstepping its expected role by making overreaching judgments. In December 2019, following a disagreement among WTO Members to elect successors for outgoing members, the Appellate Body ceased to function.

Moreover, to monitor that the WTO agreements are observed, the WTO's system requires countries to notify about their trade-related measures. In reality, however, notifications concerning mainly policy to protect domestic industries, including subsidies, are often not being made, and WTO obligations are sometimes not complied with as needed.

#### (B) Increasing Momentum and the Push for WTO Reform

In light of the above-mentioned circumstances, the need for WTO reform is becoming broadly acknowledged at numerous multinational fora while momentum builds toward implementing such reform.

In particular, G20 meetings chaired by Japan have significantly pushed the discussion forward concerning WTO reform (see the Special Feature on page 280). At the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy in June, despite a difference of opinions among participants, a ministerial statement that encapsulated an agreement on necessary WTO reform leading to the summit was released as G20. In the same vein, the G20 Osaka Summit affirmed a

<sup>6</sup> "Rounds" are trade liberalization negotiations in which all WTO Members participate. There were eight rounds of negotiations held during the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) years, from the first negotiations held in Geneva in 1947 to the last round held in Uruguay in 1994, and with each round held in response to the global economic demands of the time. The Uruguay Round saw decisions made to implement rules for new fields at the time, including trade in services and intellectual property, and strengthen mechanisms that included establishing the international organization that is the WTO. Later, the Doha Round became the first round to be held under the WTO system.

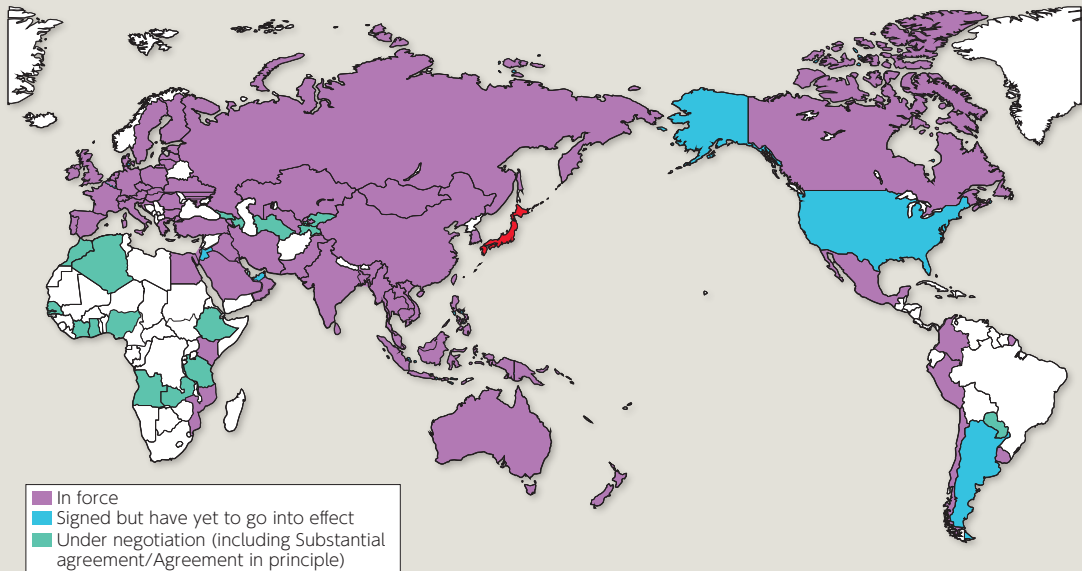
## Current investment-related treaties (as of March 2020)

## Status of investment-related treaties (\*) (\*) Investment treaties and EPA/FTA including investment chapters

- In force: 44 (30 investment agreements, 14 EPAs)

- Signed but have yet to go into effect: 5 (3 investment treaties, 2 EPAs) } 76 Countries/Regions covered

- Under negotiation: 23 (19 investment treaties, 4 EPAs) — Combined with treaties under negotiation, 94 Countries/Regions covered


**■ In force (excluding expired agreements)** ( ): Year of entry 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 Vietnam (2004)*	25 Uruguay (2017)*
11 Cambodia (2008)*	26 Iran (2017)
12 Laos (2008)*	27 Oman (2017)
13 Pakistan (2009)*	28 Kenya (2017)
14 Peru (2009)*	29 Israel (2017)*
15 Papua New Guinea (2014)	30 Armenia (2019)*

Note: Japan has a Japan-Taiwan Private Investment arrangement based on liberalization in 2011.

**EPAs including investment chapters**

1 Singapore (2002)*	9 Switzerland (2009)*
2 Mexico (2005)*	10 India (2011)*
3 Malaysia (2006)*	11 Australia (2015)*
4 Chile (2007)*	12 Mongolia (2016)*
5 Thailand (2007)*	13 Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement
6 Brunei (2008)*	for Trans-Pacific Partnership (2018)
7 Indonesia (2008)*	14 EU (2019)*
8 Philippines (2008)*	

**■ Under negotiation****Investment treaties**

1 Angola	11 Senegal
2 Algeria	12 Kirghiz
3 Qatar	13 Nigeria
4 Ghana	14 Zambia
5 Morocco	15 Ethiopia
6 Tanzania	16 Tajikistan
7 Ivory Coast	17 EU*
8 Bahrain	18 Paraguay
9 Turkmenistan	19 Azerbaijan
10 Georgia	

**EPAs/FTAs including investment chapters**

1 Canada
2 Japan-China-ROK
3 RCEP**
4 Turkey

\*Negotiating on rule for investment protection and investment dispute settlement

\*\*RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

**■ Signed but have yet to go into effect**

- TPP\* agreement (signed in February 2016, approved by the Diet) (EPA)\*
- Argentina (signed in December 2018, approved by the Diet)\*
- United Arab Emirates (signed in April 2018, unapproved)
- Jordan (signed in November 2018, unapproved)
- ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (signed February 2019, unapproved)\*

\*TPP: Trans-Pacific Partnership

commitment to the basic principles of free trade — free, fair, non-discriminatory, and open markets, as well as fair competition — even amid growing tensions over trade issues. After it agreed to promote WTO reforms, such as the development of a dispute settlement system and rule-making including on electronic commerce, the G20 Osaka Summit gave political support to WTO reform by “reaffirming our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization.” Furthermore, at the G7 Biarritz Summit held after the G20 Osaka Summit, leaders expressed their desire to “change the WTO.” In response to this international momentum, moves for WTO reform are accelerating in the following three areas: (1) reform of the dispute settlement system, (2) rule-making appropriate for the current global economy, and (3) strengthening monitoring functions for agreement compliance.

### **(C) Reform of the Dispute Settlement System**

In the aftermath of the accident at TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in March 2011, the ROK imposed a series of import restrictions on foods and other products from Japan. Despite Japan’s explanation on the safety of Japanese food products based on scientific evidence, the ROK made no indication of relaxing or removing its restrictions. In response, Japan initiated the WTO dispute settlement procedures on the grounds that the said measures were trade-restrictive in violation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

While Japan held consultations with the ROK in accordance with the procedures, no mutually agreed solution was reached. Japan then turned to a WTO panel for a first instance adjudication in September 2015. In February 2018, after considering the opinions of five experts, including the committee members of international organizations, the panel ruled that the measures by the ROK were unnecessarily restrictive, arbitrary and unjustifiably discriminatory, which constituted

violations of the WTO Agreement, and published a report recommending the ROK take corrective action. Dissatisfied with the panel’s ruling, the ROK appealed to the Appellate Body for a second instance adjudication in April 2018.

In April 2019, the Appellate Body reversed the panel’s ruling on the grounds that the panel’s legal analysis was insufficient. It then offered no ruling on the WTO-consistency or inconsistency of the ROK’s restrictive measures.

The Appellate Body report was not only extremely regrettable and putting a damper on recovery efforts for disaster-stricken areas in Japan, but failed to deliver a judgement whether the ROK’s disputed measures were WTO consistent or not. For its failure to fulfill its function of settling disputes, the report significantly undermined the confidence in the WTO dispute settlement system itself. With this concern in mind, Japan has been proactively participating in discussions on the dispute settlement system reform.

The panel’s factual findings on this case that Cesium concentrations in Japanese food products fall below the levels that the ROK itself set in accordance with international standards have been accepted without contestation. Japan is now explaining the panel’s findings to countries and regions with import restrictions still in place, while taking every opportunity to encourage the relaxation or removal of such restrictions (see the Column on page 287).

### **(D) Rulemaking Appropriate for the Current Global Economy**

The situation above makes it clear that accommodating the digitalization of and structural changes in the international economy will require more than just the existing rules of the WTO Agreements. At the 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11), in December 2017, Japan issued a joint statement concerning e-commerce with 71 WTO Members, including the U.S., the EU, and many developing country Members, and in January 2019 issued a joint statement together with WTO

Members that affirmed their intention to begin negotiations.

With respect to negotiations participated in by all WTO Members, as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress is being made with negotiations on fishery subsidy aimed at regulating subsidies that adversely impact fishing resources. Japan is also actively participating in these negotiations.

The WTO allows Members to self-declare as to whether or not they are a developing country, and even economically-advanced countries may be exempted from the WTO Agreements obligations by declaring themselves to be a “developing country” (Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)).<sup>7</sup> Japan and other developed countries see it as a problem that exemptions are granted to the “developing countries” that make up two thirds of the WTO’s membership. The situation is gradually changing in 2019, as exemplified by the fact that Brazil, Singapore, and the ROK are renouncing the S&DT in current and future negotiations.

#### (E) Strengthening of Monitoring Functions

The WTO’s system is based upon transparency and predictability with regard to Members’ trade policies, and requires that Members notify their trade-related measures. In reality, however, notifications mainly concerning policy to protect domestic industries, including subsidies, are often not being made, and sometimes WTO obligations are not complied with as needed.

Japan is actively leading discussions in this regard, which includes coordinating with the U.S. and the EU, among other parties, to submit a notification reform proposal aimed at strengthening the monitoring function of the WTO Agreements. By thoroughly explaining the purport and goal of the proposal together with the U.S. and the EU, Japan aims to gather support from WTO Members

and achieve reform as early as possible.

#### (F) International Economic Dispute Cases

The WTO dispute settlement system is for resolving disputes among WTO Members under the covered agreements according to the dispute settlement procedures. It serves as a pillar that imparts stability and predictability to the WTO system. In addition to “Korea — Import Bans, and Testing and Certification Requirements for Radionuclides” (DS495),<sup>8</sup> Japan has most recently been directly involved in the following cases (as of December 2019):

- Korea - Anti-Dumping Duties on Pneumatic Valves from Japan (DS504): A panel was established in June 2016. In April 2018, the panel found the ROK’s measures to be in violation of the WTO Agreements. In September 2019, the Appellate Body issued a report reaching the same conclusion, which led to the DSB recommendation vis-a-vis the ROK to take corrective action.
- India - Certain Measures on Imports of Iron and Steel Products (DS518): A panel was established in April 2017. Appellate Body procedures have been suspended due to the cessation of Appellate Body function since December 2019.
- Korea - Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Duties on Stainless Steel Bars (DS553): A panel was established in October 2018. Panel procedures are currently ongoing.
- Korea - Measures Affecting Trade in Commercial Vessels (DS571): Japan requested bilateral consultations with the ROK in November 2018. The consultations were held in December, 2018.
- India - Tariff Treatment on Certain Goods (DS584): In May 2019, Japan requested bilateral consultations concerning whether the tariff increase measures by India for information and communications technology products were consistent with the WTO Agreements.

<sup>7</sup> S&DT: Special and Differential Treatment

<sup>8</sup> “DS xxx (numbers)” is the serial number since the launch of the WTO’s dispute settlement system in 1995 assigned to each and every dispute at the time a request for consultations is received by the WTO Secretariat.

- Japan – Measures Related to the Exportation of Products and Technology to Korea (DS590): In July 2019, Japan announced on the application of its export control measures on three semiconductor materials (Fluorinated polyimides, Resist, and Hydrogen fluoride) to the ROK and implemented individual export licensing requirements for such materials. In September, claiming that Japan’s measures violated the WTO Agreements, the ROK requested bilateral consultations and the two countries conducted two rounds of such consultations. In November, the ROK announced that it would suspend the WTO dispute settlement procedures while the Export Control Policy Dialogues were pursued on a normal course of action between the relevant authorities. In December, the Seventh Japan-Korea Export Control Policy Dialogue was held for the first time in three and a half years.

## **B 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, the environment, and science and technology. It makes policy recommendations and forms international norms, including through discussions at relevant committees. Japan acceded to the OECD in 1964 as the first country to do so outside of the U.S. and Europe. Since then, Japan has been actively engaged in 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 Gurría to Japan**

During his visit to Japan in April 2019, Secretary-General Gurría held 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 establishing fair competition conditions. They also reaffirmed the importance of strengthening outreach in anticipation of Southeast Asian countries’ future membership in the OECD, while affirming cooperation toward the G20 Osaka Summit, which is chaired by Japan. The talks also saw the announcement of the OECD Economic Survey of Japan, which praised Japan for its Abenomics strategy and set forth policy proposals for improving productivity, among other matters.

### **(C) 2019 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting**

Chaired by Slovakia and co-chaired by Canada and the ROK, the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting was held in May under the theme of “harnessing digital transition for sustainable development.” At the meeting, Japan expressed its views and points concerning such issues as the digital economy, including data flow; quality infrastructure investment; innovation-based efforts toward achievement of the SDGs; free and open trade; securing a level playing field; and the importance of WTO reform. It also emphasized the importance of Southeast Asian nations’ future accession to the OECD. Japan’s statements contributed to discussions in the OECD, many of which were incorporated into the outcome documents, and drove discussions toward the relevant G20 Ministerial Meetings and the G20 Osaka Summit that followed.

### **(D) Initiatives in Various Sectors**

For the issue of steel excess capacity, following the G20 Hangzhou Summit, 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. As the standing G20 Presidency and the Chair of the GFSEC since December 2018, Japan has demonstrated strong leadership toward and played an active role in solving the above-mentioned

problems, including at the third GFSEC ministerial meeting in Tokyo in October 2019.

Meanwhile, the OECD is strengthening its cooperation with the G20 in the areas that include reviewing international taxation principles in response to economic digitalization, as well as the formulation of principles concerning quality infrastructure investment and corporate governance.

#### (E) Strengthening Relations with Asia

In light of the growing importance of Southeast Asia as a center for global economic growth, the OECD places importance on strengthening relations within the region. The 2019 Forum of the Southeast Asia Regional Programme was held in Paris in March. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji attended and delivered a speech on such matters as Japan's ongoing commitment toward the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme, which was established under the leadership of Japan in 2014, as well as Southeast Asia's connectivity and the role of the OECD. Going forward, it is important to effectively utilize the Southeast Asia Regional Programme in order to continue to support economic integration and domestic reform in the region with a view to the future accession to the OECD by ASEAN countries.

#### (F) Contributions in Terms of Financial and Human Resources

Japan was the second largest financial contributor to the OECD after the U.S. in 2019, covering 9.4% of the OECD's mandatory contributions (Part I Budget). Moreover, Japanese nationals have successively served as the Deputy Secretary General (currently Deputy Secretary General Kono Masamichi), the second-highest position at the OECD Secretariat. Japan was the largest contributor to the OECD Development Centre in 2019, and a Japanese national (Ms. Ueda Naoko) serves as a Deputy Director of the Centre. Thus, 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 G20 and G7

Japan actively participates in G20 and G7 Summits, which are attended by the world's major nations, and makes efforts to maintain and strengthen the international order.

##### (A) G20 Osaka Summit

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, discussions were held on subjects that include the G20's efforts to promote free trade, drive global economic growth through innovation, address disparity, and contribute to solving environmental issues and other global problems. With Japan as the Presidency, Prime Minister Abe actively led discussions, issued the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, which covered a wide range of initiatives, and demonstrated the G20's strong commitment to the world.

- (1) Leaders agreed on principles in support of the international free trade system amid global trade-related tensions, including free, fair, non-discriminatory, and open markets, as well as a level playing field. Leaders also reaffirmed their support for WTO reform, including reform of the dispute settlement system and establishing rules relevant to the times.
- (2) Japan shared its Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) concept inspired by economic digitalization, and used the Summit as an opportunity to give political momentum to international rulemaking concerning digital economy



G20 Osaka Summit  
(June 29, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

particularly data flow and electronic commerce by launching the Osaka Track (see the Special Feature on page 280). Japan also formulated the G20 AI Principles based on a human-centered approach to AI. Japan also issued an individual statement about the exploitation of the Internet and social media by terrorists, and emphasized the importance of initiatives taken in cooperation with the digital industry.

- (3) Leaders agreed to promote women's empowerment through women's participation in labor market, girls' and women's education and training, and improved women's access to business leaders and entrepreneurship. They also announced a policy for addressing disparities fueled by gender inequality.
- (4) With an eye to achieving global inclusivity and sustainability, leaders approved the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," which include elements of international standards concerning things such as openness, transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability. With respect to global health, leaders focused on (1) Universal Health Coverage (UHC) achievement, (2) population aging, and (3) health emergencies. They also agreed to strengthen measures aimed at the debt issue in developing countries, disaster prevention, education, and achieving the SDGs by utilizing science, technology, and innovation (STI).
- (5) Regarding urgent issues concerning the global environment, leaders agreed on the importance of achieving a "virtuous cycle of environment and growth" through innovation. Additionally, concerning the problem of marine plastic litter that grows more serious every year, Japan shared details on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.

#### **(B) G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

At the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers'

Meeting, which was held in November and closing the year of Japanese G20 Presidency, discussions were held on the themes of (1) promotion of free trade and global governance, (2) SDGs, and (3) Africa's development. Representatives from local high schools also gave a presentation themed on educational disparity.

Chaired by Foreign Minister Motegi, this meeting affirmed leaders' achievements made at the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7 and served as a springboard for discussing concrete measures toward future action. During the closing session, Foreign Minister Motegi handed over the presidency mallet, a symbol of the G20 Presidency, to Saudi Arabia, which will become the G20's next Presidency.



G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting (November 23, Nagoya)

#### **(C) G7 Biarritz Summit (France)**

At the G7 Biarritz Summit held in August, G7 leaders held candid discussions on the theme of "Fight Inequalities" with regard to major topics for the G7, namely the global economy, global trade, diplomacy, and security. On the topics of Africa, the environment, and digitalization, views were exchanged from a diversity of viewpoints, with participation by invited outreach countries, international organizations, and civil society. With the goal of the G7 nations banding together on its foundation of shared values to play a leading role in the international community, Prime Minister Abe led candid discussions among G7 leaders on the back of achievements at the G20 Osaka Summit.



Special  
Feature

## The “Osaka Track” and Promotion of WTO Reforms: Promoting International Rule-making on Digital Economy

During the period of the G20 Osaka Summit, the words “Osaka Track” were featured in the headlines of many newspapers. You may recall seeing this photograph of Prime Minister Abe, U.S. President Trump, and Chinese President Xi Jinping sitting at a desk. This was the moment, in Osaka, when Prime Minister Abe declared the launch of the “Osaka Track,” which is the road toward promoting international rule-making on the digital economy.

We face the urgent task of establishing rules for data flow and electronic commerce, which are the engines of growth for the digital era. Based on this perspective, Prime Minister Abe advocated the launch of the “Osaka Track” at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos in January, with the aim of advancing discussions on global data governance. Five months later, Prime Minister Abe took the opportunity of the G20 Osaka Summit in June to host the Leaders’ Special Event on Digital Economy, during which he declared the launch of the “Osaka Track” as a process for promoting international rule-making on the digital economy, and in particular, data flow and electronic commerce.

The leaders of the 24 countries and regions participated in the launch of this initiative and affirmed the importance of maximizing the benefits that digitalization and emerging technologies bring, of promoting innovation and harnessing the full potential of the digital economy, and of promoting international policy discussions on the digital economy to that end.

With the boost provided by the “Osaka Track,” more than 80 like-minded countries are now advancing negotiations on electronic commerce in the WTO, with a view to establishing rules on the digital economy. The WTO, established in 1995, has fulfilled a major role in the world economy as an international organization responsible for establishing and enforcing rules related to goods and services trade. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the existing rules set out in WTO agreements are inadequate for responding to the various challenges raised by Internet trading and the digital economy. Negotiations on electronic commerce in the WTO bring stability and predictability to trade in the ever-changing digital society. At the same time, it ushers in a new phase for the WTO, which has not succeeded in new rule-makings in recent years, and also represents one of the pillars of WTO reforms. Negotiations are now ongoing in Geneva, where the WTO is headquartered, with the aim of achieving substantial progress at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, and Japan is taking the lead in these negotiations as the co-convenor. The progress achieved here is also expected to serve as an important guidepost along the path of the “Osaka Track.”

On the other hand, the “Osaka Track” is not limited to negotiations in the WTO. Diverse stakeholders, including international organizations that possess specialized knowledge in various fields and private-sector corporations that play an active role on the frontlines of the digital economy, collaborate to advance a wide range of discussions on the digital economy. While each country has its own national strategy on the digital economy and legal systems on data flow, the “Osaka Track” has an important purpose of establishing rules that overcome such differences in the standpoints of each country in order to realize “Data Free Flow with Trust” (DFFT).

Japan will continue to exert its leadership toward the realization of a world where all people can enjoy the fruits of digitalization fairly and equally.



Prime Minister Abe speaking at the “Leaders’ Special Event on Digital Economy” on the sidelines of the G20 Osaka Summit (June 28, Osaka; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



G7 Biarritz Summit (August 25, Biarritz, France; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

- (1) With respect to discussions on diplomacy and security, Prime Minister Abe led discussions on North Korea as one of the foremost priorities for the G7. G7 leaders agreed on the importance of achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges, and confirmed the international community's commitment to fully implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions while continuing to support the process between the U.S. and North Korea. Moreover, support was expressed to Prime Minister Abe's call for understanding and cooperation toward an immediate resolution of the abductions issue. Discussions were also held on Iran, Syria, and other aspects of the Middle East situation, as well as recent conditions in China, including the situation in Hong Kong.
- (2) With respect to global economy and trade, Prime Minister Abe called for leaders to instruct their ministers to provide support for rule-making at the WTO under the Osaka Track established at the G20 Osaka Summit, and to ensure that substantial progress will be made before the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference is held.
- (3) Regarding Africa, leaders agreed on matters including the importance of improving

transparency in public procurement with a regard for the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment. They also expressed their expectations for TICAD7, which was held immediately after the Summit. On the environment, leaders welcomed the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision concerning measures to combat marine plastic litter, while also affirming the Metz Charter on Biodiversity at the summit level.

### **B Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

APEC is a framework of economic cooperation in which 21 economies (countries and regions)<sup>9</sup> 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, 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.

At APEC Chile 2019, discussions were held under the overall theme of “Connecting People, Building the Future” at various meetings throughout the year in line with four priority areas: (1) Digital Society, (2) Integration 4.0,<sup>10</sup> (3) Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth, and (4) Sustainable Growth. Japan, which chaired the G20 in 2019, shared in APEC the G20's outcomes related to the digital economy, marine plastic litter, and women's empowerment, and achieved synergy through

<sup>9</sup> Countries and regions are referred to as “economies” in APEC terminology.

<sup>10</sup> Discussions were held concerning initiatives that include using technologies arising from Industry 4.0 to promote global value chains (GVCs), with a focus on strengthening connectivity and achieving regional economic integration.

cooperation with Chile, the APEC Chair. At forums such as the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting held in May, as a standard-bearer of free trade, Japan expressed its commitment to continuing efforts aimed at achieving growth and development throughout the Asia-Pacific region, which is the core of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting discussed such subjects as driving APEC support for the WTO, promoting regional economic integration, and advancing comprehensive and sustainable growth in the digital age, and gained a positive outcome, the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting Joint Statement, which was adopted for the first time in four years. The 2019 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting was canceled due to domestic instability in Chile as stated in an announcement on October 30 by Chile's President Piñera. Meanwhile, despite being scheduled to be held immediately prior to the Leaders' Meeting, the Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting was held on December 7 at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore. In the meeting, three roadmaps related to women and inclusive growth, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and marine debris were endorsed as the main outcome documents. Chile also released the APEC Chile 2019 Host Economy Leader's (read: President of Chile's) Statement.

Malaysia will host APEC in 2020.

#### (4) Intellectual Property Protection

Strengthening intellectual property protections is extremely important to promoting technological innovation and, ultimately, economic development. Japan has actively participated in multilateral consultations such as APEC, the WTO (TRIPS),<sup>11</sup> and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and is working to develop an environment for ensuring that Japanese intellectual property is appropriately protected and utilized overseas. During bilateral talks, as well, Japan calls on other

countries to proactively strengthen intellectual property protections. With respect to China, at the first Japan-China Innovation and Cooperation Dialogue and Japan-China Economic Partnership Consultation, held in April 2019, Japan called on China to prohibit forced technology transfers, protect trade secrets, and stamp out counterfeit and pirated goods. For EPAs as well, Japan strives to establish regulations on intellectual property rights to ensure the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property. The Japan-EU EPA, which entered into force on February 1, 2019, and the TPP11, which entered into force on December 30, 2018, both incorporated contents on further promotion of the protection and use of intellectual property. Moreover, for the purpose of rapidly and efficiently providing assistance for Japanese companies that have suffered from counterfeit and pirated goods, MOFA appoints Intellectual Property Officers at almost all of Japan's 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).

### 3 Communicating Japan's Economic Strengths (Including the Promotion of Japanese Food Exports)

#### (1) Promotion of Japanese Companies' Overseas Business Expansion by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Accompanying Diplomatic Missions Overseas

Recent years have seen a rise in the number of branches operated by Japanese companies with branches overseas, reaching 77,651 as of October 2018. One of the reasons behind this is that many

<sup>11</sup> Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

Japanese companies, which underpin Japan's economic development, have embarked more actively than ever before on overseas expansion with the aim of further cultivating foreign markets. There is considerable momentum behind economic growth abroad, mainly in Asia. To capture this for the Japanese economy, it is becoming increasingly important for the Government to support Japanese companies.

In light of the situation, alongside the diplomatic missions overseas, MOFA is actively engaged 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 while lobbying foreign governments under the leadership of ambassadors and consuls-general. Under the motto of being "open and responsive government offices," these missions aim to provide meticulous and specific support that corresponds with the conditions in that respective region. They also offer information about local legal systems through seminars, consultations, and other means. In FY2019, these were provided at 16 diplomatic missions in 12 countries, with a focus on Asia.

In addition to consultations about business problems, another important function performed by diplomatic missions overseas for Japanese companies is promotion and publicity of the "Japan Brand" for products, technologies, and services, as well as for agricultural, forestry, and fishery products, from Japanese companies at receptions to celebrate the Emperor's birthday and various other events and exhibitions. These missions actively offer the embassies and official residences of the ambassadors for use as publicity and advertising spaces for Japanese companies to hold product exhibitions, or for local governments to hold local product exhibitions and food-tasting events. These spaces can be used for conducting seminars on business expansion, or for exchange with local companies and concerned organizations. A wide range of publicity activities are

being implemented that target countries ranging from those that already have a strong affinity with Japan to those that have not yet had much contact with Japan.

From the perspective of public-private cooperation and support for companies, it is important not only to support Japanese enterprises seeking to expand their businesses overseas, but also to support those already operating overseas. Following the June 2016 national referendum in the UK on whether to remain in or to leave the EU, the UK left the EU on January 31, 2020. As Japanese businesses and the global economy could be significantly impacted by the actions taken by the UK and EU, as well as the results of their negotiations, the Government of Japan launched the Government Task-force regarding the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU, chaired by the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, in July 2016 (convened 15 times as of the end of January, 2020). The task force took all necessary measures to minimize such impact, including consolidating and analyzing information across all sectors of the Government. Negotiations concerning the future relationship between the UK and EU are scheduled to be conducted, and the Government of Japan will continue to closely observe all relevant trends while taking all necessary measures, including providing information to Japanese companies.

## **(2) Promotion of the Japanese Infrastructure System in Overseas Business Expansion**

In order to capture infrastructure demand mainly in emerging countries and promote infrastructure exports by Japanese companies, the "Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation," comprising relevant cabinet ministers and the Chief Cabinet Secretary serving as chair, was established in 2013. A total of 44 meetings have been held as of December 2019. Along with discussions on annual revisions to and follow-ups for the Infrastructure System Export Strategy, discussions have also been held concerning issues in individual fields

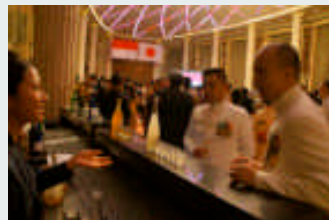
## Japanese Sake as an Asset in Diplomacy: Japanese Sake Course for Diplomats

The International Wine Challenge, one of the world's largest competitive fairs held in London every year, established the Sake Awards category in 2007. Today, Japanese sake is becoming increasingly popular around the world. Since early 2013, when *washoku* (traditional Japanese cuisine) was designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, the volume and amount of Japanese sake exports have begun to exhibit significant growth. In 2018, Japan exported 25,746 kiloliters (approximately 14 million 1.8-liter bottles) of sake, and the export value exceeded 20 billion yen for the first time. While exports from Japan are increasing, a growing number of countries have breweries that are producing their own sake, in addition to importing sake from Japan.

Japanese diplomatic missions overseas are trying to make the most of all opportunities to introduce Japanese sake. Japanese sake is served at banquets and meals with VIPs and used for a toast in large-scale events such as receptions to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. It is generally said that Japanese sake goes well with a wide variety of cuisines. Many of the foreign guests highly appreciate the Japanese sake served at these occasions.

When Japanese sake is served at diplomatic missions overseas, it is important to provide explanations based on accurate knowledge of Japanese sake. The growing popularity of Japanese sake overseas is precisely why it is necessary for each and every Japanese diplomat to have an in-depth understanding about it. With this in mind, since 2011, MOFA has been inviting experts and sake brewers to conduct Japanese sake courses for officers who are going to be posted overseas, from Ambassadors and Consuls-General to general staff members. The aim of the Japanese sake course is to enable MOFA officers to use Japanese sake more effectively as an asset in their diplomatic activities, through opportunities such as dinners and receptions with important guests, which are held to promote understanding of Japan and for networking purposes. At the same time, the course also aims to further raise the standing and repute

of Japanese sake overseas. The contents of the course include the purpose of serving Japanese sake, how to choose a brand of sake, how to offer sake in a way that is tailored to the people of the respective countries, the recommended way of drinking sake, and the differences between Japanese sake and other types of alcohol in the scientific respect. Through the course, participants learn to deliver clear explanations on the aforementioned topics to foreign people with different food cultures. Participants also gain the knowledge on how to select Japanese sake to pair with food. MOFA will continue to put an effort into enriching the contents of the course in cooperation with experts and sake brewers, so that every diplomat at a diplomatic mission overseas can learn to promote Japanese sake effectively.



Japanese sake being served at a reception hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia



During the Japanese sake course  
(Photo: Lecturer, Ms. Hiraide Toshie)

and specific regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus and third country cooperation (39th meeting), and the environment (42nd meeting).

The first edition of the Infrastructure System Export Strategy was drawn up in May 2013. The 2019 revised edition, in addition to strengthening Japanese corporate competitiveness, sets out guidelines to promote specific policies under the following four pillars while taking into account international contributions from quality infrastructure, further expanding business investment, etc.: (1) strengthening competitiveness between the public and private sectors, (2) strategic initiatives aimed at increasing orders, (3) promoting quality infrastructure, and (4) efforts for a wide range of infrastructure.

Japan has also been furthering the dynamic development of trade promotion by the Government, along with systemic improvements aimed at the strategic use of ODA loans and overseas loans and investments. As a result, at the 14th Meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues, held in December 2018, gradual steps were taken toward an association of Japanese companies (Sojitz Corporation, Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd. (JATCO), and Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN)) establishing and operating a passenger terminal, which included the signing of a shareholders' agreement with Khabarovsk Airport.

With regard to diplomatic missions overseas, MOFA has appointed "Officers in charge of Infrastructure Projects" to gather and consolidate information on infrastructure projects in diplomatic missions overseas in countries of focus (200 personnel at 96 diplomatic missions overseas in 73 countries as of the end of December 2019). This initiative has also shown results.

### **(3) Promotion of the Export of Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products and Food (Regulations on Japanese Food Imports after the Great East Japan Earthquake)**

The Government of Japan has set a goal to expand the value of Japanese agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and food exports to 1 trillion yen by 2019 ("Economic Measures for Realizing Investment for the Future" (Cabinet decision, August 2016)), and all Government agencies have been working toward further increasing these exports. MOFA is also collaborating with the relevant ministries and agencies, as well as Japanese companies and local governments, to utilize the function and facilities of diplomatic missions and unique connections all over the world to enthusiastically promote 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. Leveraging personal relationships built up locally, Japan has made energetic efforts toward such promotion at numerous opportunities such as receptions and cultural events to which ambassadors, consuls-general, and other dignitaries have been invited from countries and regions around the world (see the Special Feature on page 284).

One of the biggest barriers to increasing exports is import restrictions placed on Japanese agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and food by countries and regions following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. Although nine years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the fact that 21 countries and regions (as of December 2019) continue to impose import restrictions on Japanese agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and food remains a serious problem. As eliminating these restrictions and addressing Japan's reputational damage are top

### Import restrictions on Japanese marine products by South Korea (the result of WTO dispute settlement procedures)

#### 1st instance (panel)

- Panel report published in February 2018
- The panel deliberated on statements from Japan and the ROK and on views expressed by five experts selected by the panel (including members of international organizations such as the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and UNSCEAR (United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation))
- Japan was found to have provided sufficient evidence that its food safety control efforts have kept cesium concentrations in foods from Japan below the level (100 becquerels/kg) conservatively set in accordance with international standards (1 mSv/year).
- The ROK's import restrictions were found to be "unnecessarily restrictive, arbitrary, and unfairly discriminatory," while being a violation of the WTO Agreement and SPS Agreement (Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures).

#### Second Instance (Appellate Body)

- The Appellate Body's report was published on April 11, 2019
- The Appellate Body affirmed that the panel's ruling lacked sufficient legal analysis (not all matters normally considered were considered with respect to the ROK's import restrictions), and reversed the panel's ruling that the ROK's import restrictions violated the WTO Agreement.

A partially revised panel report and Appellate Body report were adopted by the WTO on April 26  
→ Results were confirmed

priorities for the Government of Japan, MOFA is also making every effort in collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies. Regarding import restrictions imposed by the ROK on marine and other products, following efforts to address the issue by utilizing the WTO framework, a report was issued at a February 2018 WTO Panel meeting (equivalent to a first instance) which stated that the ROK's measures were unnecessarily restrictive, arbitrary and unjustifiably discriminatory, while constituting violations of the WTO and SPS Agreements. However, in April 2019 the Appellate Body, which serves as the WTO's court of last resort, issued a report reversing the Panel's ruling on the grounds that the body was not able to conduct a sufficient legal analysis of the matter (did not sufficiently consider all matters normally considered). While the Appellate Body did not explicitly rule on the compliance of the ROK's measures with the WTO Agreement itself, its report confirmed without contestation the Panel's findings that the radioactivity concentration in Japanese foods fell below the levels prudently established based on international standards. To

prevent this incident from causing further reputational damage, Japan has been thoroughly explaining the contents of the report at all possible opportunities to all concerned countries and regions since the report's release, and has once again assertively requested the prompt lifting of import restrictions based on scientific evidence.

As a result of these efforts, import restrictions were lifted in Bahrain (March), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (June), and Brunei (October). So far, 33 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, Turkey, New Caledonia (territory of France), Brazil, Oman, and the three above-mentioned countries. In addition, restrictions were eased in 2019 by Singapore, the U.S., the Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Macau, and the EU. In the case of Singapore, a decision has been made to conduct a conditional cancellation of import suspensions beginning in

January 2020. Examples such as this show how quickly international understanding is spreading and how the number of restricted product categories and regions imposing those restrictions are decreasing (as of the end of December, 2019).

Working closely with the relevant ministries, agencies, local governments, and other

organizations, MOFA will continue taking every opportunity and making every effort to disseminate information and appeal to countries and regions that maintain import restrictions, with the goal of having restrictions promptly removed and reputational damage repaired based on scientific evidence.

**Column****Harnessing the Power of “Working Together” to Dispel Harmful Rumors**

Uchibori Masao  
Governor of Fukushima Prefecture

**Initiatives to abolish import restrictions following the Great East Japan Earthquake**

Fukushima Prefecture has a beautiful natural environment, and a rich history steeped in tradition. It is also blessed with a diverse range of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products cultivated in its great climate. However, as a result of the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and the ensuing nuclear power station accident, the environment in which the residents of Fukushima Prefecture live has undergone dramatic changes.

Immediately following the nuclear accident, 54 countries and regions placed restrictions on the import of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products from the Prefecture. For a period of time, export volume fell by about 90% in comparison with pre-earthquake levels. However, as a result of the efforts of the central government, as well as ongoing work to conduct monitoring inspections for radioactive substances in food and disseminate accurate information in Japan and overseas, the number of countries and regions imposing import restrictions fell to 20 and export volume hit a record high in FY2018.

**Initiatives to dispel harmful rumors**

Due to the image of Fukushima in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the number of foreign tourists to the Prefecture fell to about 30% of pre-earthquake levels. Fukushima Prefectural Government, in addition to actively disseminating information through social media and other means, has made efforts to distribute publicity videos produced by foreign creators and animations based on the themes of agricultural products. As a result, the total number of foreign tourists staying in Fukushima reached a record high in 2018. Going forward, efforts will be made to strengthen the strategic dissemination of information from the foreign perspective by taking advantage of the unique charms of Fukushima such as its breath-taking scenery, food, and “samurai spirit.”

I believe that the best method for dispelling harmful rumors is to spread information carefully, but with zeal and enthusiasm. While exerting our originality and creativity, we will continue to actively progress both our “defence” measures of disseminating accurate information and our “offence” measures of promoting Fukushima’s appeal to people in Japan and abroad.

**Expectations for the central government**

In 2019, I visited Europe and held seminars, receptions, and markets in various countries. In particular, my meeting with Ms. Anne Bucher, Director-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), the European Commission, provided an extremely important opportunity to foster understanding about Fukushima’s initiatives toward securing food safety.

We hope that the central government will continue to put its best efforts into further expanding the export of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products from Fukushima Prefecture and dispelling harmful



rumors both inside and outside of Japan by taking actions. These actions include urging countries and regions to abolish import restrictions as soon as possible while at the same time disseminating accurate information based on scientific grounds.

### Outlook for the Prefecture

In 2020, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held. The Grand Start of the Olympic Torch Relay will take place in Fukushima Prefecture in March, while softball and baseball matches will be held in Fukushima City in July. The Games, which have also been promoted as the "Reconstruction Olympics," offer an excellent opportunity to express our gratitude for the support we have received from people around the world, and to present to Japan and the world the steady progress that Fukushima Prefecture has made toward revitalization. Hence, we will be working together with the central government, the relevant agencies, and all the people who care for Fukushima Prefecture to advance initiatives aimed at facilitating the correct understanding of Fukushima's current situation and to encourage visits to Fukushima.

(Note: This column was written in January 2020.)



Trade promotion event hosted by the Governor in Viet Nam (August 25, 2017, Ho Chi Minh)



Trade promotion event hosted by the Governor in France (March 24, 2018, Paris)



Paying a courtesy call to Ms. Anne Bucher, Director-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), the European Commission (October 11, 2019, Brussels, Belgium)



The "Future of Fukushima Seminar" (October 11, 2019, Brussels, Belgium)

## 4 Promoting Resource Diplomacy along with Foreign Direct Investment in Japan

### (1) Securing a Stable Supply of Energy and Mineral Resources at Reasonable Prices

#### A Current Situation Concerning Energy and Mineral Resources in Japan and Abroad

##### (A) Situation in the World

Recent years have seen structural changes in the international energy market with respect to three things: (1) demand (consumption), (2)

supply (production), and (3) resource selection. Regarding (1) demand, global demand for primary energy has shifted toward non-OECD member countries, primarily China and India. With respect to (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 2015. The U.S. is promoting energy export policies such as by announcing the promotion of further exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) under the Trump

administration. Regarding (3) resource selection, based on the fact that energy production and use account for about two-thirds of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the transition to cleaner energy resources such as renewable energy is accelerating. Additionally, since the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted in December 2015, companies have made further advances toward low-carbonization.

Concerning crude oil prices, attacks on a natural gas refinery (in August) and oil refinery (in September) in Saudi Arabia have increased geopolitical risk. This has caused increased oil prices while prompting the U.S. and other non-OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) member countries to increase crude oil production. Furthermore, trade friction between the U.S. and China has stifled growth in oil demand, leading to drops in oil prices. It is important that continued attention is paid to the impact of these oil price fluctuations on future energy security.

### (B) Situation in Japan

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the percentage of fossil fuels in Japan has reached about 90% of the country's power generation in 2012, up from about 60% before the earthquake, due to the shutdown of nuclear power plants. LNG has seen a particular increase, now accounting for roughly 40% of total power generation. At the same time, Japan's primary energy self-sufficiency ratio (including nuclear power), which relies on imports from overseas for almost all of its oil, natural gas, coal, and other energy resources dropped sharply from 20% before the earthquake to 6.4% in 2014. It remains at a low level despite a rise to 8.3% in FY 2016. Furthermore, nearly 90% of crude oil and more than 20% of natural gas imported by Japan come from the Middle East (both in 2019). Under the circumstances, efforts to secure a stable supply of energy at reasonable prices are becoming increasingly important.

Against this backdrop, the Cabinet decided on the "5th Strategic Energy Plan" in July 2018.

Aiming to realize a stable, low-burden, and environmentally compatible energy supply and demand structure under the 3E+S principle ("Energy Security," "Economic Efficiency," "Environment," and "Safety"), this new Plan includes efforts aimed at utilizing renewable energy as the major power source and promoting energy system reform. It aims to steadily achieve the energy mix needed to realize a 26% greenhouse gas reduction by FY2030 (compared to FY2013).

### **B** 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 a vital Japanese economy and the livelihoods of its people. MOFA has been strengthening diplomatic efforts with a focus on the following activities.

#### (A) Gathering and Analysis of Resource-Related Information at Diplomatic Missions Overseas

With a view to strengthening the function of diplomatic missions overseas, as of the end of 2019, "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. MOFA also holds "Strategy Meetings on Energy and Mineral Resources" every year, which bring together officials assigned to diplomatic missions overseas in countries that are important to ensuring a stable supply of energy and mineral resources. The most recent meeting was held in Tokyo in February 2019 and attended by representatives from the relevant ministries and private-sector agencies. Lively discussions were held on the international situation surrounding energy and mineral resources, as well as on the direction of Japan's strategies in light of this situation. Additionally, since 2017 MOFA has held Regional Meetings on

Energy and Mineral Resources for specific regions. At the 2019 meeting, held in Egypt and focused on the Middle Eastern region, participants discussed the importance of strengthening collaboration among MOFA, diplomatic missions overseas, and government-affiliated organizations, as well as Japan's plan for conducting energy resource, mineral resource, and renewable energy diplomacy effectively.

### **(B) Securing Transportation Route Safety**

Piracy threatens the sea lane stretching from the Middle East to Japan, through which approximately 90% of all imports to Japan pass, as well as other internationally important sea lanes in places such as the Gulf of Aden and waters off the coast of Somalia. In response, Japan has supported the coastal countries along these lanes through such measures as enhancing counter-piracy capacities, cooperating on information sharing among countries concerned, and developing navigation facilities. Japan has also been dispatching Japan Self-Defense Force units and Japanese Coast Guard officers to areas off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden to engage in escort operations for any countries' 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. While endeavoring to strengthen its capability to respond to emergencies such as disruptions in oil supply, Japan strives to quickly and accurately grasp information such as trends in the global energy markets and resource-producing countries, as well as revisions to the medium- and long-term outlooks for supply and demand.

The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth was held in Karuizawa, with Japan as G20 Presidency and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seko Hiroshige and Minister of the Environment Harada Yoshiaki

serving as co-chairs. Attending from MOFA was Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto. In the Ministers' Communiqué and "G20 Karuizawa Innovation Action Plan" adopted at the meeting as outcome documents, ministers agreed on the importance of a virtuous cycle of environment and growth and, in the field of energy, on the importance of energy innovations such as hydrogen, CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage), and carbon recycling to drive an energy transition that will achieve the 3E+S principle (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Security). In the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 Osaka Summit in June, leaders affirmed the importance of achieving energy security and of further developing innovative, clean, and efficient technologies toward realizing an energy transition. At the 27th Ministerial Meeting of the International Energy Agency (IEA), held in Paris in December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wakamiya Kenji and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Matsumoto Yohei attended from Japan. Chaired by the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD, the Meetings saw discussions held concerning strengthening relationships with non-IEA members, including emerging countries in Asia. Serving as the chair country for the Meeting, Japan led the ministers to an agreement to begin discussions aimed at establishing a "strategic partnership" with India. A Ministerial Communiqué was adopted at the Meeting for the first time in 10 years, with Japan making a contribution.

At the East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting, Japan presented initiatives concerning achieving a hydrogen-fueled society, reducing CO2 emissions in the transport sector, carbon recycling initiatives, and distributed energy initiatives, while also launching the "Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA)" and speaking on the importance of regional clean coal technology development and natural gas utilization. Japan also welcomed attendees from abroad

at three international conferences on energy that were held in Japan (the Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting, International Conference on Carbon Recycling, and LNG Producer-Consumer Conference).

### **C Major Efforts Concerning Energy and Resource Diplomacy in 2019**

#### **(A) Consideration and Launch of New Energy and Resource Foreign Policy**

At the Ninth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in January 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji Kiyoto gave a speech while standing in for Minister for Foreign Affairs Kono. In the speech, he spoke on the increasing momentum in the international community toward solving the problem of climate change and on the dramatic drop of renewable energy generation costs in recent years. He explained that Japan is working to achieve a policy centered on making renewable energy Japan's main power source, and how Japan is leveraging its experience in driving renewable energy adoption and making efforts as a country with visionary solutions to problems faced by other IRENA member states. He then explained that this positions Japan to play a role in responding to a worldwide desire for further adoption of renewable energy, giving examples of efforts Japan is making in terms of developing and supporting advanced technologies and innovation.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Tsuji giving a speech at the Ninth Session of the IRENA Assembly (January, Abu Dhabi, UAE)

Mr. Tsuji also touched on the fact that Japan aims to use opportunities such as the TICAD7 and G20, for which it is the president, to contribute to promoting worldwide efforts concerning renewable energy with the goal of achieving a virtuous cycle of environment and growth while improving the world's access to energy.

#### **(B) Strategy Meeting on Diplomatic Missions Overseas Concerning Energy and Mineral Resources**

The Strategy Meeting on Energy and Mineral Resources was held over two days on February 25 and 26 at MOFA. In attendance were seven Special Assistants for Energy and Mineral Resources and officials working at diplomatic missions overseas that are located in seven countries and regions and that are engaged in securing a stable supply of energy and mineral resources for Japan. These meetings have been held in Tokyo every year since 2009. Attending this year's meeting were Director General of the Economic Affairs Bureau and other MOFA officials, the aforementioned seven foreign mission officials, officials from relevant ministries, and people from various organizations and companies. Attendees held in-depth discussions on issues and measures related to securing a stable supply of resources in Japan and actively conducting energy and resource diplomacy.

The discussions at this strategy meeting touched on how countries' energy policies amid the recent energy situation are both directly and indirectly impacting not just the energy situations in surrounding countries and regions but the entire world, and how the environment surrounding the international energy situation is becoming increasingly diverse and uncertain. Based on this premise, attendees affirmed matters such as the necessity for diplomatic missions overseas to correctly ascertain the current situation concerning energy policy and the supply and demand situations in other countries and regions in order to create a system that can rapidly respond to short-term changes while keeping in mind a long-term

outlook.

### (C) Study Tour of Hydrogen Energy Facilities in Kawasaki City and Yokohama City for the Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo

On Tuesday, March 19, MOFA conducted a study tour of hydrogen energy facilities in the cities of Kawasaki and Yokohama for the Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo, in cooperation with the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, the Ministry of the Environment, and the city of Kawasaki.

This study tour was held to provide the Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo with information about the efforts Japan is making based on the Basic Hydrogen Strategy (formulated in December 2017), which aims to make Japan one of the first countries in the world to achieve a hydrogen-based society, and to inform the world of Japan's hydrogen technologies and related projects. 13 embassy staff from 12 countries participated in the tour.

The coastal regions of the cities of Kawasaki and Yokohama are home to a number of facilities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. During this study tour, participants observed a hydrogen station owned by Mitsubishi Kakoki Kaisha, Ltd., Chiyoda Corporation's SPERA Hydrogen demonstration plant, and a stand-alone hydrogen energy supply system from Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation.

Additionally, a seminar on policies and technologies for expanding the usage of hydrogen was held at the Kawasaki King Skyfront Tokyu REI Hotel, which itself uses hydrogen energy.

The attending diplomatic corps expressed great interest in the state-of-the-art hydrogen energy technologies, with members engaging in a lively Q&A session. The corps members later said that the study tour had given them a comprehensive understanding of Japan's hydrogen energy policies and companies' hydrogen energy projects.

## (2) Ensuring Food Security

According to reports by the UN Population

Division, the 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 9.7 billion by 2050. Furthermore, should dietary habits in the developing world change in the future and lead to greater livestock consumption, demand for grain to feed that livestock would increase several times over. According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2013, there is a need to increase food production by approximately 60% by 2050 compared to the level in 2005/2007. Shifting focus to 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 leveling out in recent years, reaching 37% in FY2018. Japan continues to be dependent on imports for much of its food over the long-term. To ensure a stable food supply for its people, Japan needs to increase domestic food production achieving the optimal ratio of importing to stockpiling. Amid global concern over the untenable supply and demand situation over the medium- to long-term, Japan must make active efforts to increase the food supply globally if it is going to continue enjoying stable food imports. As a member of the international community, Japan must also prepare for the possibility of global food supply shortfalls caused by simultaneously-occurring events such as drought in major food producing countries. Furthermore, rather than temporarily increasing food production demand, there is a need to achieve a sustained food production increase while reducing the burden on the environment. In addition, as food quality deteriorates over time and food is easily damaged by diseases and pests, stable agricultural produce markets and trading systems must be created and logistics must be improved. Through initiatives such as these, Japan must take steps to ensure food security.

## Diplomatic Efforts for Food Security in Japan

### [Background]

#### Situation in Japan

- Japan relies on imports to supply 60% of the food it consumes on a calorie basis and 30% in terms of agricultural output value
- Challenges concerning expanding production (Diminishing farmland, graying of the farming population, etc.)



#### International situation

- Growing global population
- Dietary changes caused by economic development in emerging nations
- Biomass energy production increases
- Climate change and frequent occurrence of unusual weather events
- Few countries with surplus export capability
- Growing instability in food prices, agricultural products being turned into financial commodities

### [Diplomatic efforts]

#### 1. Promoting global food production

##### - Investment promotion

Includes implementing the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems formulated by the Committee on World Food Security (CF5), and conducting bilateral dialogues and public-private missions aimed at building food value chains through public-private cooperation

##### - Agriculture and farming community development, research and development, technology proliferation

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), etc.

##### - Combating climate change, etc.

Preventing drought and other natural disasters, building early warning systems, etc.

#### 2. Creating stable agricultural produce markets and trading systems

##### - Efforts to maintain and strengthen a free-trade environment, monitoring market functions

Includes reaching out about banning, in principle, export restrictions under the WTO, strengthening export restriction-related laws in economic partnership agreements, tracking price trends (Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)), and combating price volatility

#### 3. Support and safety nets for vulnerable populations

##### - Setting goals at multilateral forums

Setting a goal to achieve zero hunger, the second of the Sustainable Development Goals  
Formulating the G7 Vision for Action and Food Security and Nutrition at the 42nd G7 summit, held in 2016, toward the goal of "aiming to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030" established at the G7 Elmau Summit in 2015

##### - Multilateral support Agricultural development support through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), etc.

##### - Food supply and nutrition support through cooperation with international organizations

Includes making financial contributions to organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), and Food Assistance Convention (FAC), providing nutritional supplements, granting means of making a living wage, and implementing the Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NJPPP)

#### 4. Creating an environment for responding to emergency situations and food crises

##### - Creating cooperative international frameworks

ASEAN Plus Three Emergency (Japan-China-ROK) Rice Reserve, G20 Rapid Response Forum (RRF)

### A Cooperation in International Frameworks Concerning Food Security

Within the G20 framework, at the G20 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held in May, the ministers discussed human resource development, new technologies, the agro-food value chain (FVC), and the SDGs under the theme of "Toward Sustainable Agro-Food Sector – Emerging Issues and Good Practices." The ministers also discussed measures to address transboundary animal diseases and plant pests. In particular, ministers shared a view on the importance of international cooperation toward tackling African Swine Fever (ASF).

Cooperative efforts are also being made at the regional level. In APEC, member countries are engaging in related cooperation through the

APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) in the form of collaborations between not just authorities in member nations and regions but also within the private sector. Under the leadership of Chile, 2019's APEC chair, discussions were held on fostering sustainable food system, utilizing innovations and new technologies, promoting collaboration, strengthening FVC and trade, and ramping up regional development for better opportunities.

### B Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan supports the activities of the FAO, a specialized agency of the UN in the fields of food and agriculture. Japan, a major donor

to the FAO as the second highest contributor of assessed contributions, significantly contributes to strengthening global food security through efforts such as providing development assistance in the areas of food and agriculture for developing countries, and creating international rules that include phytosanitary measures and food safety standards. Japan also works to strengthen its relationship with the FAO, holding Annual Strategic Consultations and conducting seminars for the general populace aimed at raising awareness for the FAO domestically and increasing the number of Japanese FAO personnel.

### (3) Fisheries (Including Whaling and Tuna)

As one of the major fishing countries and consumers of fishery products in the world, Japan, in coordination with international organizations, plays an active role in the proper conservation and management measures and sustainable use of marine living resources.

With regard to whaling, Japan has consistently maintained the basic position to promote sustainable use of marine living resources based on scientific evidence. In accordance with this policy, Japan resumed commercial whaling in July 2019 following its withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) on June 30. Whaling is conducted within Japan's territorial sea and its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and within the catch limits calculated in line with the method adopted by the IWC (RMP). It has been confirmed that the continuous harvest of a calculated number of whales for 100 years would have no harmful effect on the targeted stock.

Japan has conducted scientific whale research programs for many years with the aim of gathering the scientific data needed to sustainably use and properly manage whale resources. In coordination with international organizations and in line with a policy of cooperating with international efforts to manage marine living resources, Japan will continue to conduct research programs that include Japanese Abundance and Stock structure

Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A), as well as joint sighting surveys with the IWC (IWC-POWER), while providing information to the IWC and other international organizations (see the Column on page 295).

As calls within the international community intensify for urgent action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Japan is stepping up efforts to combat IUU fishing. For instance, Japan took the initiative in referring to "the importance of addressing IUU fishing for ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and conserving the marine environment including biodiversity" in the leaders' declaration issued at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, where Japan served as chair. Japan also urges countries to accede to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which establishes rules for port countries to take measures against IUU fishing vessels, including denial of port entry.

In the Central Arctic Ocean, while commercial fishing is unlikely to become viable in the near future, there have been concerns that unregulated fishing will begin as ice coverage in that area has diminished due to global warming. Consequently, nine countries and the EU, including Japan and five nations bordering the Arctic Ocean, signed the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean in October 2018. Japan deposited the instrument of acceptance of the Agreement on July 23, 2019.

As one of the largest tuna consumers, Japan has joined all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) for tuna, and leads discussions on strengthening conservation and management measures (CMM). With regard to the Pacific Bluefin tuna, at the 2019 meeting of the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), based on scientific knowledge such as the recovery of adult fish stock, Japan proposed an increased catch limit to an extent that the certain probability of achieving the rebuilding target

is maintained. While some cautious comments resulted in the catch limit not being increased, revisions to the CMM were adopted at the meeting of the Northern Committee and the Regular Session of the WCPFC that stated that members of the WCPFC may carry their initial 2019 catch limits from the current 5% to 17%, which remain uncaught, to 2020 and 300 tons of the catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna may be transferred from Chinese Taipei to Japan in 2020, subject to a notification by Chinese Taipei to the Secretariat. At the 2017 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Annual Meeting, it was decided that the total allowable catch (TAC) for Atlantic bluefin tuna until 2020 was increased based on the state of resource recovery. At the 2019 ICCAT Annual Meeting, draft convention amendments were adopted concerning matters such as the expansion of fish species, while the decision was made to decrease the TAC for tropical tuna such as bigeye tuna.

With respect to Pacific saury, at the 5th Annual

Session of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), held in July 2019, Japan led discussions toward the first ever decision that the TAC in the NPFC convention area (high seas) shall be limited to 330,000 metric tons for the 2020 fishing season. It was also decided that each Member of the Commission shall ensure that the total catch by fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag in 2020 will not exceed its reported catch in 2018, and that Members of the Commission shall consider allocation of the TAC in the Convention Area among Members at the Commission Meeting in 2020. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, the further decision to strengthen resource management is expected.

As for Japanese eel, in April 2019, at the informal consultation on international cooperation led by Japan, Japan, the ROK, and Chinese Taipei agreed to regularly hold scientific meetings with the goal of providing scientific advice on conservation and management measures and to cooperate toward improving traceability in international trade.

### Column

#### Japan's Whaling Policy: Practices of Public Diplomacy Addressed to the International Community

On December 26, 2018, Japan announced its withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Thereafter, in accordance with the stipulations of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the withdrawal became effective on June 30, 2019, and Japan's whaling resumed on July 1 for the first time in 31 years.

With regard to this decision, 67.7% of the respondents in the FY2018 Domestic Opinion Survey on Japan's Diplomacy rated it positively. On the other hand, when news of Japan's withdrawal from the IWC spread throughout the world, there were reports with a critical tone overseas. To deepen understanding among the international community about Japan's whaling policy, the Government of Japan made use of every possible opportunity to disseminate accurate information about whaling. These included contributing articles to the major newspapers (such as the New York Times and Washington Post), appealing to the public through Japan's diplomatic missions overseas, and presenting lectures when senior MOFA officials traveled overseas on official business, while highlighting the following key points.

##### **1. The perception that "Japan's whaling drives whales to extinction" is inaccurate.**

Japan is committed to the conservation of whale resources. Specifically, Japan sets a catch quota every year in line with calculation methods adopted by the IWC. In fact, based on these calculation methods, even if whaling was to be carried out continuously for 100 years, it would not have an adverse impact on resources.



In addition, Japan only permits the capture of whale species that the IWC has recognized as species for which there are abundant stocks.

## **2. The perception of “Japan versus the world” with regard to whaling is contrary to the facts.**

Japan's basic position is to achieve a sustainable use of fishery resources. Of the 89 member countries of the IWC (as of May 2019 prior to Japan's withdrawal), 41 countries that share this position, including Japan, had consistently been working in cooperation toward realizing sustainable whaling.

Furthermore, Japan's whaling has been a part of Japanese culture inherited over the centuries. Just as it has been in Norway and Iceland, which have continued whaling while remaining in the IWC, as well as in the U.S. and Russia where whaling is recognized as the culture of the indigenous people.

## **3. The perception that “Japan is not cooperating with the international community after withdrawing from the IWC” is also contrary to the facts.**

Even after its withdrawal from the IWC, Japan is committed to the management of international marine living resources in coordination with international organizations. At the meeting of the IWC Science Committee held in May 2019, Japan stated clearly its policy of continuing to contribute to the management of whale resources based on scientific evidence in cooperation with international organizations. For example, it will continue to engage in the joint scientific program with the IWC. In this respect, Japan's engagement is welcomed by the member countries.

Whaling has been a subject for debate for decades, based on a fixed perception of anti-whaling groups versus those who support whaling. However, as Japan continues to disseminate accurate information, rational arguments on whaling are now also taking place. In order to foster an environment that facilitates debate based on mutual respect and open-mindedness, while taking into consideration the latest scientific knowledge and evidences, and in line with Japan's basic policy of using fishery resources in a sustainable manner, Japan is tenaciously bringing forth counterarguments and disseminating accurate information in simple terms at every possible opportunity. The Government of Japan will strive to gain support both inside and out of Japan for its whaling policy. For information on the concrete practices, please visit MOFA's website.

(<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/fishery/whales/japan.html>)



## **(4) Foreign Direct Investment in Japan**

The target to double (compared to 2012) foreign companies' direct investment in Japan to 35 trillion yen by 2020 was laid out in the “Follow-up on the Growth Strategy” (June 2019 Cabinet Decision) (30.7 trillion yen as of the end of 2018). With the “Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan,” which has been held since 2014, spearheading initiatives 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. These reforms contribute to the improvement of the investment environment in Japan, respond to the needs of foreign companies, and support measures to expand investments effectively. Based on the Five Promises for Attracting Foreign Businesses to Japan, decided at the second 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<sup>12</sup> since April 2016 and

<sup>12</sup> A system that seeks to prepare an environment in which companies who have made important investments in Japan can easily consult with the Government of Japan through State Ministers and other officials that oversee the main industries in which these companies engage.

are meeting with the relevant State Ministers in charge and the State Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The sixth meeting of the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, held in May 2018, finalized 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. The seventh meeting, held in April 2019, further strengthened this initiative and finalized the Program to Intensively Attract Foreign Direct Investment in Regional Japan.”

MOFA, along with implementing various measures adopted by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, is also utilizing diplomatic resources to engage in initiatives through diplomatic missions overseas and trade promotion by key government officials. MOFA 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 with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to conduct surveys of requests for improvements to Japanese regulations and systems, call for investments in Japan by making use of networks of contacts at diplomatic missions overseas, and hold events for promoting foreign direct investment in Japan, among other initiatives. Diplomatic missions conducted more than 700 cases in FY2018. As part of a trade promotion effort during senior officials’ overseas visit, Prime Minister Abe encouraged executives and representatives of a wide range of UK companies, at a business reception held at 10 Downing Street, the office of the Prime Minister of the UK, to invest in Japan. In Japan, MOFA held a Global Business Seminar in March of 2019 (supported by JETRO and relevant ministries and agencies), which focused on the importance of expanding a free

and fair economic sphere around the world, promoting bi-directional investment between Japan and Southeast Asia, the U.S., and Europe, while inviting more investment into regional Japan.

### (5) The Road to 2025 World Expo Osaka, Kansai, Japan

Following the decision on November 23, 2018 to hold the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, Kansai, 2019 has seen efforts to plan for the event. January 30 saw the establishment of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition (a public interest incorporated association since October 21). This was followed by the April 19 formulation and May 23 enactment of the Act on Special Measures Necessary for Preparing for and Managing the World Expo in 2025 by the Government of Japan. On May 31, based on this law, the Association was designated as the corporation responsible for conducting operations related to preparing for and conducting the 2025 World Expo. In December, the decision was made to hold the expo from April 13 to October 13, 2025.

As is also indicated in the Follow-up on the Growth Strategy decided by the Cabinet on June 21, once Japan receives approval for its expo plan (Registration Dossier) at a Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) General Assembly meeting on June 21, it will begin full-fledged invitation efforts aimed at getting as many countries to participate in the expo as possible.

With the theme of “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” World Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai aims to accelerate initiatives toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are all to be achieved by 2030. The expo will also be a golden opportunity to communicate the appeal of Japan to the world. Japan will continue making a concerted national effort aimed at ensuring the expo inspires and surprises people around the world, while also bringing joy to everyone in Japan.

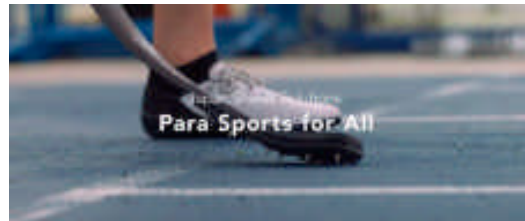
## Section 4

# 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) making further efforts to disseminate Japan's policies and initiatives, including the accurate image of Japan, (2) sharing Japan's rich and varied attractiveness, and (3) expanding the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan, while enhancing the capabilities of its overseas missions, which are on the frontlines of public diplomacy. Regarding pillar (1), MOFA focuses mainly on promoting public understanding of Japan's contributions to peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community, and the maintenance and strengthening of the international order based on the rule of law, as well as on enhancing public awareness of issues concerning the recognition of history and the maintenance of territorial integrity. Specifically, MOFA is actively communicating Japan's position and viewpoints through opportunities such as daily press conferences, interviews, contributions of articles, and speeches at official visits to foreign countries and international conferences by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and other government officials. Japan's diplomatic missions overseas are also actively communicating to the Governments of assigned countries, their citizens,



"Japan Shares Solutions: Para Sports for All" promotional video on Japanese policy (published beginning July 19, 2019 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' YouTube channel and broadcast by CNN)

and the media on Japan's position and viewpoints on a range of subjects including the recognition of history and the maintenance of territorial integrity. When foreign media outlets publish reports that include factual errors, MOFA promptly sends rebuttal pieces or provides explanations under the name of ambassadors, consuls-general, or the Press Secretary of the ministry to ensure that media reports are made based on objective facts. In addition, MOFA actively communicates 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. Furthermore, in order to make Japan's basic position and viewpoints on policy issues understood, it is also important to enhance coordination with experts and think tanks. From this perspective, MOFA invites influential experts and media personnel to Japan from abroad, and provides them with opportunities to exchange views with various people including Japanese

government officials, as well as to visit various places around Japan for study tours and to conduct interviews. MOFA dispatches Japanese experts abroad, while extending its support for Japan-related seminars conducted by overseas research institutions.

In 2019, in the face of disturbances in the rules-based, free, and open international order and the increasing unpredictability and uncertainty in the international community, Japan has taken opportunities, such as hosting the G20 for the first time and holding the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), to actively share its efforts in demonstrating its leadership under the principle of international cooperation and contributing to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community.

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, for baseless criticism of the Rising Sun Flag, the Government of Japan is providing accurate information about the flag in a variety of forms, including making multi-language explanatory materials available on MOFA’s website, to gain understanding from the international community.<sup>1</sup>

Concerning pillar (2), “sharing Japan’s rich and varied attractiveness,” a variety of efforts involving public relations and cultural projects are being made mainly through diplomatic missions to promote understanding and support for Japan, thereby promoting inbound tourism, an area of concerted national effort. Diplomatic missions around the world have conducted cultural projects (see 2(1)), while the Japan Foundation (JF) has taken initiatives such as the “WA Project”

(see 2(2)) and “Japan 2019 (see 2(2)),” as well as the 13th 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.

Concerning pillar (3), “expanding the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan,” MOFA has been making various efforts to promote people-to-people and intellectual exchanges, and Japanese language education. The efforts include youth exchange programs with Asia, North America, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean under Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, holding the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON, see 2(4)), and providing support for Japanese studies at universities and research institutions in major countries around the world. To ensure the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (the TOKYO 2020 Games), the “Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)” program has been launched to contribute to the international community through sports. Moreover, Japan has worked on initiatives in cooperation with people in the country and abroad to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage throughout the world and to promote the inscription of Japan’s cultural heritage on the World Heritage List and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

MOFA will continue to effectively utilize a budget for strategic communications while making strategic and effective use of initiatives in accordance with the above-mentioned three pillars, in order to enhance Japan’s communication and contribute to the realization of its foreign policy and national interests, through opportunities such as the TOKYO 2020 Games.

<sup>1</sup> Explanatory materials concerning the Rising Sun Flag are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000481576.pdf>



## (2) JAPAN HOUSE

MOFA has established JAPAN HOUSE overseas communication hubs in three cities, namely São Paulo (Brazil), Los Angeles (U.S.), and London (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 base of the people who are interested and well-versed in Japan by communicating Japan's rich and varied attractiveness and policies and initiatives.

JAPAN HOUSE promotes effective communication by (1) communicating through “All-Japan” efforts by the central and local governments, private sectors and other actors, (2) promoting outreach that reflects the needs of local communities, and (3) providing a “one-stop-service” where various information related to Japan can be obtained from one location.

Some of the JAPAN HOUSE exhibitions are chosen based on public proposals in Japan. The

proposals selected by specialists are exhibited in all three hubs as touring exhibitions. This format aims to encourage participation by a wide range of groups and individuals while communicating the very best of Japan. MOFA works to provide high-quality exhibitions by leveraging the know-how of experts in those cities and in Japan.

JAPAN HOUSE São Paulo, which opened in 2017, conducts exhibitions themed on Japan's various charms, including architecture, technology, food, fashion, and art. At the “JAPAN 47 ARTISANS” exhibition held from April to July, 2019, aspects of Japanese tradition and history were introduced through pieces made by artists from Japan's 47 prefectures and a series of seminars, which were organized in cooperation with local associations of Japan's prefectures. The exhibition attracted a large amount of public attention. Forums were also held on a variety of topics such as Japan's foreign policy, Japan-Brazil relations, economic cooperation, science and technology, and soccer exchanges. JAPAN HOUSE São Paulo has had a total of 2 million visitors as of February 2020, and it has become one of the city's major cultural facilities.

JAPAN HOUSE London, which opened in 2018, holds a wide spectrum of exhibitions ranging from those themed on traditional Japanese natural dyeing techniques to video installations that use state-of-the-art technologies. From April to May 2019, the facility held the “Living Colours: Kasane – the Language of Japanese Colour Combinations” exhibition, which explored Japan's beautiful traditional colors. August to October saw an exhibition of the works of Mr. Anno Mitsumasa, an artist from Shimane Prefecture. This event, which focused on the life of the artist as well as his works, successfully expressed the Showa era through a variety of means that included installations and workshops. The “WOW: City Lights and Woodland Shade” video installation, exhibited from November 2019 to March 2020, gained considerable public attention by selling traditional toys made in the Tohoku region, which were



“Living Colours: Kasane – the Language of Japanese Colour Combinations” exhibition at JAPAN HOUSE London (London, UK; Photo: JAPAN HOUSE London)



BAKERU: “Transforming Spirits” exhibition at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles (Los Angeles, U.S.; Photo: JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles)

related to the content of the exhibition. The facility also held a number of forums and seminars on such topics as international relations, earthquake disaster reconstruction, Japan-UK investment promotion, and science and technology.

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, which fully opened in 2018, conducts a variety of events such as exhibitions themed on architecture and manga, interactive programs on Japanese food, seminars and forums, and film screenings. From July to September, the venue held an exhibition of interactive media projection installation titled “BAKERU”, which incorporated elements of regional festivals and traditional events in Tohoku. In addition, during the exhibition period, in September, the Tokyo 2020 “ARIGATO” Host Town Initiative was held in cooperation with government-affiliated organizations and regional public bodies. JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles also hosted forums on such topics as Japan’s foreign policy, Japan-U.S. relations, and women’s empowerment and gender equality.

### (3) Reports by Foreign Media on Japan and Communications through Foreign Media

Regarding the reports on Japan by foreign media in 2019, their attention was centered on such topics as the G20 under Japan’s Presidency; issues concerning Japan-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations, including the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information (GSOMIA); Japan-U.S. relations, including the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement; Japan-China relations; Japan’s response to North Korea; and the domestic economy. The numerous overseas visits made by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister as part of “Japan’s foreign policy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map” also captured foreign media attention, particularly in the countries they visited.

MOFA actively provides foreign media with timely information and offers assistance with press coverage in order to gain understanding and

support from the international community about Japan’s positions and activities. Communication through foreign media includes interviews with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, regular press conferences by the Foreign Minister, 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 in a timely manner based on the diplomatic schedule.

For example, prior to his visit to Russia in January, Prime Minister Abe conducted an interview with Russia’s Interfax where he talked about his outlook on peace treaty negotiations between Japan and Russia. In an interview in February with Vietnam News Agency (VNA), which was visiting Japan, Prime Minister Abe spoke on his assessment of friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Viet Nam, as well as his outlook on the future. In April, after attending the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (2+2), Foreign Minister Kono was interviewed by the Washington Post where he spoke about prospects for Japan-U.S. trade negotiations and Japan’s position on North Korea, while stressing the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation.

Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Kono, and Foreign Minister Motegi also engaged in active communication at international conferences such as the UN General Assembly and the G20. During his visit to India in January, Foreign Minister Kono was interviewed on the television channel WION where he talked about the importance of further strengthening Japan-India relations. Prior to the G20, at an interview with pan-Arabic newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat in June, Prime Minister Abe spoke of Japan’s role in easing tensions in the Middle East and ensuring safe maritime navigation. In November, Foreign Minister Motegi was interviewed by the Financial Times where he talked about his assessment of an outlook for the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement, as well as on Japan’s stance on Japan-ROK relations.

In 2019, Prime Minister Abe contributed and held nine articles and interviews, while Foreign Minister Kono and Foreign Minister Motegi contributed and held a total of 38 articles and interviews. Additionally, Prime Minister Abe held two press conferences during overseas visits, and Foreign Minister Kono participated in one press conference for the foreign press during an 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 350 people attended the press briefings held during the G20 Osaka Summit in June.

In addition to these initiatives, to promote a better understanding of Japan's priority policies and positions, MOFA invited 104 journalists and two TV teams from abroad that have no correspondents in Japan. For example, to engage in communication at the G20 Osaka Summit and related meetings under Japan's Presidency, MOFA invited four press groups (29 people total from G20 countries, outreach countries, and others) and two TV teams to Japan and provided them with opportunities to cover the Summit and related meetings, and the charms of the host city, Osaka. As an example of efforts toward free trade, MOFA invited two journalist groups in March and October respectively and made opportunities for media coverage on the theme of the Japan-EU EPA. In July, MOFA received a group of journalists for preliminary PR of TICAD7 (six people from six countries in Africa), and took opportunities to explain the nature and achievements of Japan's support for Africa. August and September saw MOFA invite press groups from Southwest Asia (five people from five countries) and Pacific Island countries (four people from four countries) to Japan to foster a better understanding of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In November, MOFA provided media coverage opportunities to a press group (five people from five countries) to dispel harmful rumors, and offer information regarding Fukushima food safety and Fukushima

recovery efforts.

#### (4) Sending Information through the Internet

MOFA has been actively engaged in offering information through the Internet, such as websites and social media, in order to gain the understanding and support of people in and outside Japan on Japan's foreign policy. In 2019, MOFA sent information about various diplomatic events such as the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7.

Considering MOFA's English website to be an important tool for public diplomacy, MOFA has been enhancing its efforts to send out information in English on Japan's foreign policy concerning such subjects as territorial integrity, recognition of history, and security, as well as Japan's position on international affairs and Japan's various appeals. MOFA has also been working to spread information in local languages through the websites of Japan's embassies, permanent missions, and consulates-general overseas.

## 2 Cultural, Sports, and Tourism Diplomacy

### (1) Overview

For a very large number of foreign nationals who develop an interest in Japan, Japanese culture is a motive for their interests. MOFA and the JF carry out various projects ranging from introducing Japanese culture and sports to promoting inbound tourism, aimed at creating positive images of Japan abroad, boosting the overall Japanese brand, and encouraging a deeper understanding of Japan, as well as fostering the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan and increasing the number of foreign visitors to Japan. For example, diplomatic missions overseas organize "Cultural Projects of Diplomatic Missions Overseas" that introduce a wide range of Japanese culture, from traditional arts such as the tea ceremony and flower arrangement to aspects of modern culture such as anime, manga, and fashion. Under the "Japan Brand Program," MOFA has dispatched experts of

various fields overseas to share Japan's outstanding cultural assets, which represent a culmination of Japan's experience and wisdom, as well as to establish a national brand and give Japan a stronger presence in the world. MOFA holds seminars, workshops, and demonstrations that reflect each expert's characteristics and that share their values and experiences with the audience, paving the way for international exchange.

It is also important that Japan takes the opportunity of the TOKYO 2020 Games to further enhance Japan's presence in the field of sports. As part of the "Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)" program, MOFA is engaged in various initiatives such as sports exchanges and sports promotion support projects overseas, dispatching sports instructors through the JICA volunteer program or the JF. MOFA also donates sporting equipment and improves sporting facilities through Cultural Grant Assistance. In addition, MOFA provides information about these initiatives in Japan and abroad through MOFA's "MofaJapan x SPORTS" twitter account. Furthermore, MOFA supports the Host Town Initiative that promotes mutual exchange with the countries and regions participating in the TOKYO 2020 Games.

MOFA conducts a range of activities to promote a deeper understanding of Japan by fostering the circle of the next-generation of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan and encouraging Japanese studies. These include providing information on studying in Japan through Japan's diplomatic missions overseas; building alumni networks comprising foreign nationals who have studied in Japan; cooperating with the JET Program, which invites young foreign nationals to come work for local governments in Japan; holding exchange programs for youth and adults from Asia and the U.S.; and providing support for Japanese studies.

Promoting the Japanese language overseas fosters individuals who engage in exchange with Japan, deepens understanding of Japan, and creates foundations for friendship between Japan and

other countries. Therefore, through the JF, MOFA dispatches Japanese-language education specialists overseas, invites overseas Japanese-language instructors to attend training programs in Japan, and develops Japanese-language education materials. To address the labor force shortage in Japan, Japan began accepting foreign workers under the "Specified Skilled Worker" residence status in April 2019. MOFA has therefore been working to meet a new type of need by providing Japanese language education to foreigners interested in coming to Japan for work.

In cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Japan has been actively engaged in preserving the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, Japan is actively taking part in the international framework for safeguarding heritage through conventions such as the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (see 2(7)).

By promoting such cultural and sports diplomacy, and by appealing Japan's charms to the world, MOFA helps bring more foreign visitors to Japan.

## (2) Cultural Programs

For Japan's diplomatic policies to be smoothly implemented in the international community, it is important to promote a better understanding of Japan among the 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 perception, MOFA engages in communicating information about the diverse attractions of Japan through diplomatic missions overseas and the JF.

In 2019, MOFA conducted activities including exhibitions focused on the Tale of Genji and drama performances and concerts by Japanese artists, among other efforts to communicate attractions of Japanese culture as part of "Japan 2019," a project aimed at introducing Japanese





Performance at National Cherry Blossom Festival as "Japan 2019" (concert in Washington DC, U.S. by Ms. Kawai Ikuko and a Japanese traditional instrument ensemble; Photo: Japan Foundation)



Scene from an installation at the "The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated" and "Murasaki Shikibu: A Thousand Years of Anonymous Fame" exhibitions in New York: as "Japan 2019" (Photo: The Metropolitan Museum of Art / BFA.com)

culture to the U.S. as well as promoting inbound tourism.

In 2019, "Photo Exhibitions on Japan-Russia Relations" were held for about three weeks each in Krasnodar and Ekaterinburg, following on exhibitions held in 2018 in Moscow and St. Petersburg as part of the "Japan Year in Russia" initiative. In addition, the 53rd Japanese Film Festival was organized by the JF in Moscow. A Japanese director took the stage to speak at the opening of the festival, which continues from the festival held in 2018.

Diplomatic missions overseas carry out a range of cultural projects as part of efforts to promote a deeper understanding of Japan and expand the circle of people with a knowledge of Japan in the areas they cover. For example, they plan and implement events such as workshops on the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and origami,

as well as Japanese film screenings, Japanese music performances, martial arts demonstrations, traditional craft exhibitions, and Japanese speech contests. In recent years, they have also actively introduced Japanese life style and culture including pop culture such as anime and manga, as well as Japan's food culture.

Furthermore, in years that mark diplomatic milestones, MOFA collaborates with governmental and private organizations to carry out large-scale and comprehensive commemorative projects that include mutual visits of dignitaries, various conferences, and public relations and cultural projects with the aim of effectively promoting a deeper understanding of Japan. In 2019, a Noh performance and various other events were conducted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Poland.

In collaboration with MOFA and diplomatic missions overseas, the JF promotes and provides support for Japanese-language education and Japanese studies, as well as runs two-way arts and cultural exchange projects to promote Japanese culture and arts in a variety of forms throughout the world. In September the Japan Matsuri was held in London, attended by roughly 70,000 people and co-organized by the JF, Embassy of Japan in the UK, and other organizations. The event served to appeal various charms of Japanese culture and strengthen cultural exchange among both countries through an introduction to Japanese folk entertainment and a performance of Iwami Kagura, a traditional performing style originating in western Shimane Prefecture.

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 provides support for Japanese-language education along with interactive arts and cultural exchange projects. One highlight of 2019 was the "Asia in Resonance 2019" event, which brought together



Cultural program: Japan Festival Chicago (June 16, Chicago, U.S)



Noh performance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Poland (June 28, Warsaw, Poland)



Cultural projects: Japanese Cuisine Lecture & Demonstration (October 8, Lyon, France)



NIHONGO Partners at a host institution (Indonesia; Photo: Japan Foundation)

the activities conducted in Japan and abroad over the last five years. The “NIHONGO (Japanese-language) Partners” program is a core project to support Japanese-language education, and part of pre-dispatch training was provided this year through Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University with the goal of regional revitalization. Following this training, 2,375 Japanese citizens were dispatched mainly to secondary educational institutions in 10 Southeast Asian countries, China and Taiwan, where in addition to providing Japanese-language support they also engaged in exchange projects that entailed introducing Japanese culture. These efforts were warmly commended by many people affiliated with the schools in these countries and region, who appreciated the NIHONGO Partners helping motivate students to learn.

In the two-way arts and cultural exchange program, the area of performing arts saw an international joint production of performances

such as “DANCE DANCE ASIA,” which seeks to connect Asia through Street dancing. 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: Asia-Pacific Gateway Initiative. In the area of sports, a soccer exchange program was held in collaboration with the Japan Football Association and J-League, among other initiatives.

The Japan International MANGA Award was launched by MOFA in 2007 with the aim of rewarding manga creators who have contributed to the spread of manga culture overseas. The 13th International MANGA Award, held in 2019, received 345 entries from 66 countries and regions, and the Gold Award was given to a work from Israel. This year, there were Award entries from Zambia, Georgia, Bangladesh, Haiti, and Malta for the first time.

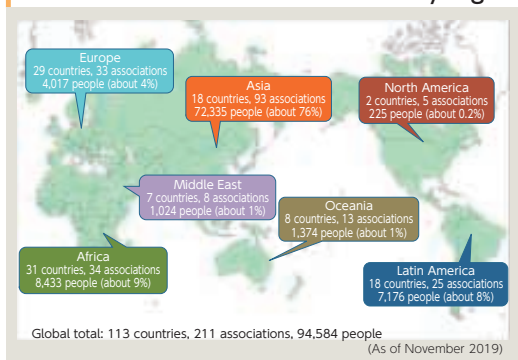
### (3) People-to-People Exchange and Exchanges in the Area of Education and Sports

To build personal relationships and promote a better understanding of Japan, MOFA carries out a number of projects that invite foreign nationals who have a significant influence on shaping public opinion and the policymaking process and who are expected to play a leading role in various fields. In the area of education and sports, MOFA conducts various activities to promote people-to-people exchanges. These projects not only promote mutual understanding and friendships but also enhance Japan's presence in the international community, which considerably benefits Japan's national diplomatic interests.

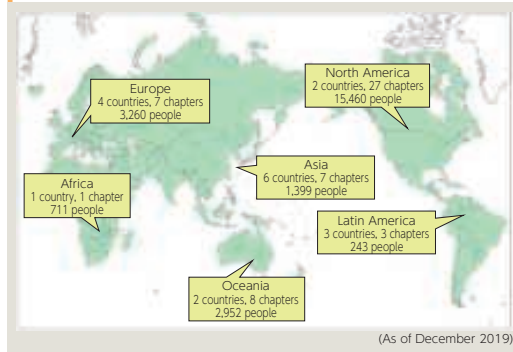
#### A Student Exchange Programs

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 the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship to promising students abroad. 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.

#### Alumni associations and members by region



#### JET Alumni Association Chapters and members



Get-together for alumni students (November, Costa Rica)

#### 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 exchange with Japanese citizens in local areas. In FY2019, a total of 5,761 people, including 2,091 new participants from 57 different countries, took part in the program and were dispatched all over Japan. This program is administered by local authorities and other organizations 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 Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). Through the program, young foreign nationals are invited to Japan and appointed 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), which operates in 18 countries and has about 24,000 members. JETAA conducts activities to introduce Japan in many countries. Many



Foreign Minister Kono chatting with JET participants from China at a farewell party before their departure to Japan (April, China)

of those who went through the JET Program go on to work in a variety of fields around the world as supporters for Japan and Japan experts. They also become important human and diplomatic assets for Japan.

### C Sports Exchange

Sports enable communication beyond language and can be an effective tool for promoting friendly relations and a better understanding of Japan. As Japan gains more attention for the TOKYO 2020 Games, since January 2014 the Government of Japan has been implementing the “Sport for Tomorrow (SFT)” program as an international cooperation initiative through sports. This program offers various types of sports exchanges, and human development projects with the goal of spreading the value of sports to over 10 million people in more than 100 countries by 2020. The program achieved this goal ahead of schedule in September 2019. SFT also includes the “Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement” scheme, started in 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 to respond even more promptly and meticulously to requests from foreign governments and sports associations and develop bilateral relations. In the international sports community, these SFT programs have contributed to enhancing the presence of those engaged in sports in Japan. (see the



SFT Program: Peruvian Para-badminton athletes who participated in training with the Japan team (November, Japan)

Column on page 310).

### D Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs

Through these programs, the Government of Japan invites and dispatches future leaders in information dissemination and the development of bilateral and region-to-region relationships between Japan and countries in the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. Along with promoting a better understanding of Japan’s politics, economy, society, culture, history, foreign policy, and other elements, the programs produce supporters and experts of Japan. By having program participants actively conveying Japan’s foreign policies and charms via social media and other channels, we are strengthening external communication and expanding Japan’s diplomatic infrastructure.

#### (4) Exchange in the Intellectual Field

##### A Japanese Studies

The JF comprehensively supports a range of overseas research activities related to the politics, economy, society and culture of Japan. In 2019, the JF sent visiting professors, expanded the collection of books on Japan, provided dispensed research grants, and extended support for seminars and symposiums, to a total of 59 institutions of Japanese studies in 30 countries and regions. Fellowship was also granted to 150 Japanese studies researchers in 34 countries and regions, including those who started the fellowship in

## Column

## The Rugby World Cup 2019: Playing as "One Team"

The first Rugby World Cup (RWC) in Asia was held in Japan from September 20 to November 2, 2019. The Japan national rugby union team ("Japan team") impressed many Japanese people with its players of various nationalities uniting as "One Team." In this column, we interviewed three players of the Japan team about the keys to success in working with people from diverse backgrounds.



Group photo at RWC2019 (Photo: JRFU)

**Mr. Matsushima Kotaro** (plays for Suntory Sungoliath, FB/WTB) \*As of July 2020, he plays for ASM Clermont Auvergne in France.

**Q:** What do you think are the important factors for people of different backgrounds, such as nationalities, to work for the same goal and play as "One Team"?

**Matsushima:** In many cases, you cannot make yourself understood unless speaking out. It is essential to communicate with each other by speaking your mind and listening to others. By doing so, I believe you can make your purposes and goals clearer.

**Q:** I understand communication is extremely important, but I suppose some of the players faced a language barrier.

**Matsushima:** When the team does not perform well, we tend to have less communication. In the Rugby World Cup matches that we won through our own tactics and rugby style, we did communicate more closely than usual. In these matches, we communicated well through rugby without being hampered by the language barrier.

**Q:** With the advancement of globalization, it is becoming increasingly important to gain experiences abroad. Please tell us any lessons learned through your own experiences?

**Matsushima:** Because of my small build, I always place great importance on looking around. It is indispensable to understand what is required by your team while emphasizing what you want to do. Some foreign players are so intensely motivated that they are not allowed to play in games as they clash with their teammates.

In order to survive in such situations, I tried to find out my roles in the team and what I can do there. By doing so, I was able to gain valuable experience while abroad.

**Q:** What do you think is necessary for Japanese people to succeed on the global stage?

**Matsushima:** Regardless of where you are in the world, it is important to carry with you the spirit of "always improving yourself." I believe that the Japan team has successfully demonstrated that Japan is internationally competitive, so it is also important to face difficulties and believe in your own strength.



Mr. Matsushima Kotaro  
(Photo: Suntory Sungoliath)

**Mr. Koo Ji-won (plays for Honda HEAT, PR)**

**Q:** Please tell us your message that you wish to deliver to Japan and the world through rugby?

**Koo:** Although the Japan team is said to have a physical disadvantage in a scrum because of our physical size, we were able to take on the world with our unity. I hope you can recognize our unity by watching our games. I believe that unity is Japan's advantage and strength.

**Q:** You left your mother country, the Republic of Korea, and came to Japan when you were in junior high school. How did you overcome the difficulties during the hard times? Please also tell us memorable events in your life in Japan.

**Koo:** I sometimes got nervous about my rugby as well as my private life. At such times, more than ever, I focused single-mindedly on what I had to do. I vividly remember that people were so kind and treated me warmly when I first came to Japan, although I could not speak Japanese.

**Q:** Please share your message for Japanese youths who aim to advance their career abroad?

**Koo:** The most important thing is to believe in yourself and work hard to realize your dreams. This was also the message to myself when I was a young, unknown player.



Mr. Koo Ji-won  
(Photo: Honda HEAT)

**Mr. Lafaale Timothy (plays for Kobelco Steelers, CTB)**

**Q:** You came to Japan at 18 years old from your mother country Samoa and New Zealand, and have lived in Japan since then. What motivated you to come to Japan?

**Lafaale:** I visited Japan the year before I moved there with my high school team to play in the Sanix World Youth Tournament in 2009, and I got to experience a little bit of Japan. I enjoyed my time there, so I thought moving to Japan was something I could do. I wanted to travel, get an education, and continue to play rugby. I knew Japan could give me all of that, and it has. I eventually grew close with my friends from Yamanashi Gakuin University and made a home away from home. Coming to Japan was one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life!

**Q:** Through your own experiences, what do you think are the keys to succeed overseas?

**Lafaale:** For me, it was important to completely immerse myself into the Japanese culture and to learn the Japanese ways and make them become my own. But, at the same time, it was also important to never forget where I came from and to always remember my roots. I consider myself very lucky to be connected to more than one culture and this helps me in my career because it motivates me to become a better rugby player. An experience I will treasure forever, where I got to experience both of my cultures coming together, was when we played against my country of birth, Samoa, during the World Cup. I got emotional singing "Kimigayo," sang it with pride and was so proud to wear the Japanese jersey. Then, the Manu Samoa team performed the "Siva Tau" (the Samoan war cry) before kickoff and I felt a sense of pride come over me and excitement! It motivated me to try and play my absolute best.

**Q:** Please tell us your message that you wish to deliver to Japan and the world through rugby?

**Lafaale:** One moment that stood out for me was seeing video footage, after our quarter final match versus South Africa, of a Japanese fan swapping his jersey with a South African fan. It is very common for players to do that after games, but seeing fans participate in that too was very heart warming. I truly believe that sport brings people of the world together.

**Q:** The Japanese teams in the Rugby World Cup was a good example of how players of different backgrounds such as nationality can achieve success by working as one toward the same goal. What do you think is important to share and achieve the same goal as "One Team"?



Mr. Lafaale Timothy  
(Photo: Kobelco Steelers)

**Lafaele:** BELIEF. For me, it's important to BELIEVE in yourself, BELIEVE in each and every one of your teammates and managerial staff, and to BELIEVE in our abilities to achieve our shared goals, whatever it may be.

**Q:** Through your experiences in Samoa, New Zealand, and Japan, what do you think is necessary to live with people of different languages and nationalities?

**Lafaele:** Being able to call three very different countries “home,” I have learned how important it is to have an open heart and an open mind; understanding that everyone is different. This has allowed me to connect with people even if we have different beliefs and views on life. It has allowed me to form life-long friendships through rugby. Living in three different countries has taught me how to appreciate the beauty in our differences.

A number of international sports competitions organized by the International Sports Federation were held in Japan in 2019. They include the Rugby World Cup from September to November in 12 cities of Japan, the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in April in Tokyo, the World Judo Championships from August to September in Tokyo, the FIVB Volleyball World Cup from September to October in eight cities of Japan, and the Women's Handball World Championship from November to December in Kumamoto.

### Column

## “Sport for Tomorrow” International Contribution Program Through Sports: Reached Goal of 10 Million People

At the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session held in September 2013 (Buenos Aires, Argentina) when the decision was made to hold the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the Sport for Tomorrow (SFT) program in Japan as a program for contributing internationally through sports.

Under the SFT program, the Government of Japan has promoted various projects through an “All Japan” effort in public-private partnerships. Targeting more than ten million people in more than 100 countries including developing countries for over seven years from 2014 to 2020, this program aims to share the value of sports and the Olympic and Paralympic movement to people of all generations, including the promising youths, in order to create a better future for the world. MOFA has also been implementing a wide range of programs, including the development of sporting facilities, dispatching and inviting sports instructors and athletes, and introducing Japanese culture in the field of sports. At the end of September 2019, the SFT program recorded approximately 10.02 million participants across 202 countries and regions, reaching the set goal earlier than planned.

To date, MOFA has consistently undertaken various initiatives through international exchanges in the field of sports, such as Japanese martial arts (“budo”), to raise awareness and enhance understanding of Japan as well as to create a sense of affinity with Japan among many people in the world. Sports play an important role in promoting mutual understanding and facilitating international exchange that transcends borders, languages, and race. Together with the public, efforts are being made to bring about international exchange through sports so as to deliver the value of sports to the world from Japan even after the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

### Voices from SFT participants

#### ● From Tanzania

Support for the development of baseball grounds, provided through the Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP), not only benefits baseball players in Tanzania but also all the citizens of Tanzania. Japan has introduced baseball to Tanzania as a new sporting activity. We are considering the introduction of baseball into the education curriculum of all elementary and junior high schools in Tanzania. (Prime Minister Majaliwa)

#### ● From Madagascar

Rugby is a popular sport in Madagascar, but many teams practice with old rugby balls. I believe the rugby balls donated to our teams through JICA will be very useful in helping to get our teams into the Olympics. We will continue to work hard for the development of rugby in Madagascar. (Chairman of the Madagascar Rugby Union, Rakotomalala)



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji observing Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers providing guidance to the Madagascar women's rugby team. (March, Madagascar)

#### ● From South Sudan

While we receive various forms of assistance from Japan, I am grateful for the support that we receive for sports. In particular, it is noteworthy that, through Japan's cooperation in karate, the karate athletes are contributing to enhancing relationships and people-to-people exchanges between Japan and South Sudan. (Minister of Higher Education Tut)



Athletes practicing in karate gear provided by Japan (South Sudan)

#### ● From Canada

The judo demonstration was very dynamic and powerful, and provided a valuable opportunity for learning about the profound meaning and appeal of judo. I am very much looking forward to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. For the judo event, I will cheer on both Japan and Canada with far greater interest than I ever used to. (Canadian participant in a judo demonstration held at the auditorium of Canada's foreign ministry)



Judo demonstration (Canada)

#### ● From Peru

This program aims to connect Japan with other countries through sports, and to promote international cooperation through sports, and I found the program excellent. In addition to sports, I was also exposed to Japan and its culture, making it an invaluable experience. (Peruvian para-badminton player: Mr. De Vinatea)



the previous year. The JF also provides support to academic societies with the goal of promoting network building among researchers and research institutions in places around the world.



Collaborative Research Workshop for Aspiring Scholars in Japanese Studies  
(November, Japan; Photo: Japan Foundation)

### B Intellectual Exchanges

MOFA also conducts intellectual exchange programs through the JF. Specifically, support is provided for seminars and symposiums on common international issues and programs such as lectures at major universities overseas that aim to deepen understanding of modern Japan. Additionally, support is provided for a grassroots invitational program for U.S. regional leaders that helps to strengthen Japan-U.S. relations, and, through cooperation with NPOs and other exchange organizations, MOFA organizes and supports exchange projects that strengthen relationships and deepen mutual understanding between people through dialogue in various fields and at various levels.



U.S. regional leader delegation for strengthening Japan-U.S. relations at the grassroots level (GEN-J program)  
(November, Japan; Photo: Japan Foundation)

### C U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)

CULCON is a public-private binational advisory panel comprising experts from Japan and the U.S. that discusses issues on educational and cultural exchange between the two countries. In June, a CULCON symposium entitled “Beyond 2020: Paving the Way for the Next Generation and U.S.-Japan Collaboration” was held in Austin, Texas. With the aim of promoting a better understanding of the U.S.’s efforts to achieve “multicultural symbiosis”, CULCON members from Japan and the U.S. visited San Antonio, where they toured Japanese factories and local universities in addition to exchanging views with concerned parties. Additionally, CULCON, Anniversaries, Inc., and the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce jointly convened an event about AI and possible cooperation between Japan and the U.S. in Dallas, Texas. The event saw participants conduct a lively exchange of views on the development and social impact of AI and related technologies.

### D Cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU)

The UNU contributes to the international community through study and research on global issues and human resource development. Recognizing the organization’s importance, the Government of Japan persuaded the organization to establish its

headquarters in Tokyo and has provided support for its activities for close to 50 years. Through collaboration with Japanese universities and research institutions, the UNU engages in studies on international issues of importance to Japan, including peace, development, and the environment, and consequently helps introduce the policies of the Government of Japan. The UNU established Master's and Doctoral programs in 2010 and 2012 respectively, and has made efforts to improve the quality of its global human resource development programs.

### (5) Promotion of the Japanese Language

As the globalization of Japan's economy prompts more Japanese companies to do business overseas and Japanese pop culture finds increasing global popularity, interest in learning Japanese is growing around the world, especially among young people. A better understanding of the Japanese language overseas naturally leads to a more favorable international environment for Japanese people and companies. A survey conducted by the JF in FY2018 found that approximately 3.85 million people in 142 countries and regions overseas learn Japanese. In 2019, the Japanese Language Proficiency Test offered by the JF was conducted in 307 cities of 87 countries and regions worldwide, with applicants numbering about 1.37 million, the highest number to date (including those taking the test in Japan). However, it is clear that a shortage of Japanese language instructors is a major challenge in the pursuit of satisfying the increasingly diverse interests in and needs concerning Japanese language



Reception for the participants of the Japanese Language programs for Foreign Service Officers (39th) and Public Officials (23rd) (November, Tokyo)

learning in these many countries and regions.

Through the JF, MOFA works to address the diverse needs related to Japanese language education overseas. For example, MOFA dispatches Japanese language specialists abroad, carries out training programs allowing 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 Japanese language education and supports Japanese language educational activities, develops teaching materials, runs e-learning programs, and promotes the “JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education,” which corresponds with international standards for foreign language education.

To address labor force shortages in Japan brought about by aging and depopulation, Japan began accepting foreign workers under the new “Specified Skilled Worker” residence status in April. In line with this effort, MOFA conducts the Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese, which assesses the Japanese language ability of foreign nationals who come to Japan based on the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (decided upon at December 25, 2018 Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals). MOFA is also taking new measures that include developing and disseminating learning materials and curriculum with the goal of fostering people's Japanese language ability effectively, as well as nurturing local Japanese language instructors who teach Japanese to those who wish to work in Japan.

### (6) Cultural Grant Assistance

To promote culture and higher education in developing countries, and thereby enhance mutual understanding and friendly relations between



Ceremony to present Japanese language learning materials donated through Grant Assistance for Cultural/Grassroots Projects to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro's College of Japanese Studies (August, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)



2nd Karate Ambassador's Cup, held using judo equipment provided through Grant Assistance for Cultural/Grassroots Projects (November, Angola, Rwanda)



Petra Museum, built using General Cultural Grant Assistance (April, Jordan)

Japan and these countries, the Government of Japan provides Cultural Grant Assistance as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The assistance implemented in 2019 consisted of two General Cultural Grant Assistance projects (totaling around 243 million Japanese yen) and 14 Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (totaling around 122 million Japanese yen). In 2019, General Cultural Grant Assistance

was implemented with an emphasis on music, sound, and broadcasting, while Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects centered on cooperation in promoting sports and the Japanese language.

### (7) Cooperation through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Japan is actively involved in a variety of UNESCO projects in the fields of education, science, and culture. Since 1951, when UNESCO became the first international organization to which post-war Japan became a member state, UNESCO has been cooperating with Japan on education, science, culture, and other fields in developing countries.

In the field of culture, Japan cooperates actively toward the preservation and promotion of the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage, while providing support in the field of human resource development. Japan also actively participates in the international framework for safeguarding cultural heritage. As part of such activities, Japan supports many projects involving the preservation and restoration of sites such as Angkor in Cambodia and the Kasubi Tombs in Uganda, as well as post-earthquake recovery efforts for Cultural Heritage sites in Nepal. With Japanese experts playing a leading role, Japan also aids human resource development to enable local people to protect such sites by themselves in the future. In particular, since 1994 Japan has provided continuous support for preserving and restoring Angkor in Cambodia. In Afghanistan, since 2003 Japan has also been implementing a project to preserve and restore the Bamiyan ruins, which hold a special place in the heart of the Afghan people. Also being implemented are projects to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, namely projects to pass on traditional performing arts such as music, dance, and traditional arts and crafts to the next generation in developing countries, as well as projects involving developing

domestic institutions and capacity building for relevant parties to enhance countries' ability to protect intangible cultural heritage by themselves.

In the field of humanities, Japan is actively contributing to discussions aimed at formulating normative documents at UNESCO concerning AI ethics. During TICAD7 in August, Japan and UNESCO co-hosted the Panel Discussion on the application of AI, which was attended by experts from both parties. After presenting an overview of current AI utilization and emergency readiness technologies in Africa, participants discussed a plan for enhancing AI utilization in Africa that is modeled after examples of AI utilization, such as those in Japan's disaster readiness field, and that was inspired by UNESCO's efforts to utilize, and the organization's outlook on, AI.

Japan is also providing support for UNESCO's emergency preparedness initiatives. As one example, Japan is providing support in Africa, a region of focus for the organization, for serious flooding damage in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo. Furthermore, Japan has deployed and provided training in the usage of an early warning system at the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, a UNESCO category 2 center located in the city of Tsukuba)<sup>2</sup> for flood prone areas, and has been engaging in capacity building to raise awareness concerning floods.

Japan also supports UNESCO's efforts at strategic transformation toward de-politicization under Director-General Azoulay, who took office in 2017. At a talk between Prime Minister Abe and Director-General Azouley during TICAD7 in August, the Director-General stated that she wished to continue to cooperate with Japan on strategic transformation and other initiatives including AI ethics being made by UNESCO. Prime Minister Abe expressed his proactive support for UNESCO's initiatives and transformation

toward de-politicization.

### A World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention aims to protect cultural heritage and natural heritage internationally as heritage belonging to all mankind. Japan became a party to the Convention in 1992 (193 parties are in the Convention as of December 2019). The sites listed on the "World Heritage List" are known as "World Heritage Sites." They are classified into "Cultural Heritage Sites" (monuments and remains), "Natural Heritage Sites" (natural areas), and "Mixed Heritage Sites" (sites with both cultural and natural elements). As of December 2019, a total of 1,121 World Heritage Sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List. At the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2019, it was decided to inscribe on the World Heritage List the "Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan" (Osaka Prefecture), upon nomination by Japan. The number of listed sites in Japan now stands at 23: 19 Cultural Heritage Sites and four Natural Heritage Sites.



Mozu Tombs (one of the assets composing the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group; Photo: City of Sakai)

### B 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

<sup>2</sup> An organization that carries out programs in collaboration with UNESCO. ICHARM split off from UNESCO and has been recognized by the General Conference as a UNESCO supporter.

cultural heritage such as traditional performing arts and traditional craftsmanship techniques (as of December 2019, 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 2019, 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.

#### **C 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

2019, 427 items have been inscribed.

The fact that the submission and inscription of nominations was done without engagement of member states, despite the possibility of there being clear discrepancies between the views of the concerned member states, is in violation of the founding principle of UNESCO: promoting friendly ties and mutual understanding among member states. Improvements to the review process, while nomination cycle for new nominations had been stopped, are therefore being advanced. A revised action plan concerning the comprehensive review process was adopted at a meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO held in October 2018. Extension of discussions for one year was decided at the session of the Executive Board of UNESCO held in October 2019. Discussions have since been held toward improving the process based on the plan.

# Chapter 4

## Japan's Diplomacy Open to the Public

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## Section 1

# Japanese Society and People Deepening Their Ties with the World

### 1 Linking the Vibrancy of Foreign Nationals to the Growth of Japan

#### (1) Growth Strategy and Relaxation of Visa Requirements

In 2019, the number of foreign visitors to Japan reached the highest on record at 31.88 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 Viet Nam) out of 20 countries and regions that have high market potential to attract tourists. Based on it, in 2019, MOFA implemented a 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 relaxation of visas for Chinese nationals, the introduction of multiple entry visas for individuals who have a Hong Kong DI<sup>1</sup> (equivalent to a passport) or a Macao Travel Permit, and relaxation of multiple entry visas for Saint Christopher

and Nevis nationals on January 1; the introduction of multiple entry visas for Colombian nationals on February 1; the relaxation of multiple entry visas for Qatari nationals on April 1; the relaxation of multiple entry visas for Lao nationals on August 1; and the relaxation of visas for Russian nationals on September 1. In addition, Japan started a working holiday program with Lithuania.

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 will keep working on the relaxation of visa requirements in order to increase the number of foreign 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. In addition, MOFA intends to conduct such relaxation of visa requirements, taking into account bilateral relations, their diplomatic significance, and other factors in a comprehensive

<sup>1</sup> Document of Identity for Visa Purposes

manner, while considering their balance with border control measures.

## (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 a low birth rate resulting in the decrease of the population, it is important for Japan to secure capable human resources, in Japan or from abroad, in order to further vitalize Japan's economy and improve its competitiveness. In December 2018, the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was revised, and Japan started taking in foreign human resources<sup>2</sup> 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.

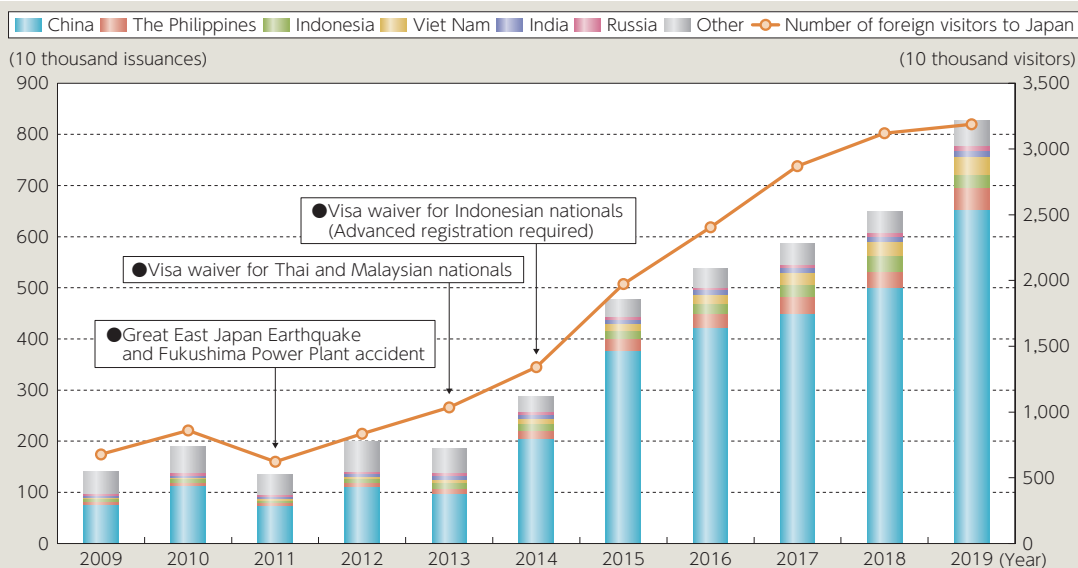
MOFA cooperates with the relevant ministries

and agencies on such policies taking into account foreign nationals' human rights. As part of that, it hosts the “International Forum 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 October, MOFA co-hosted a forum with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under the theme of “Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals in Local Communities,” and panelists discussed



International Forum on Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Their Integration into Japan (October 31, Tokyo)

### Changes in the Number of Visa Issuances and Foreign Visitors to Japan

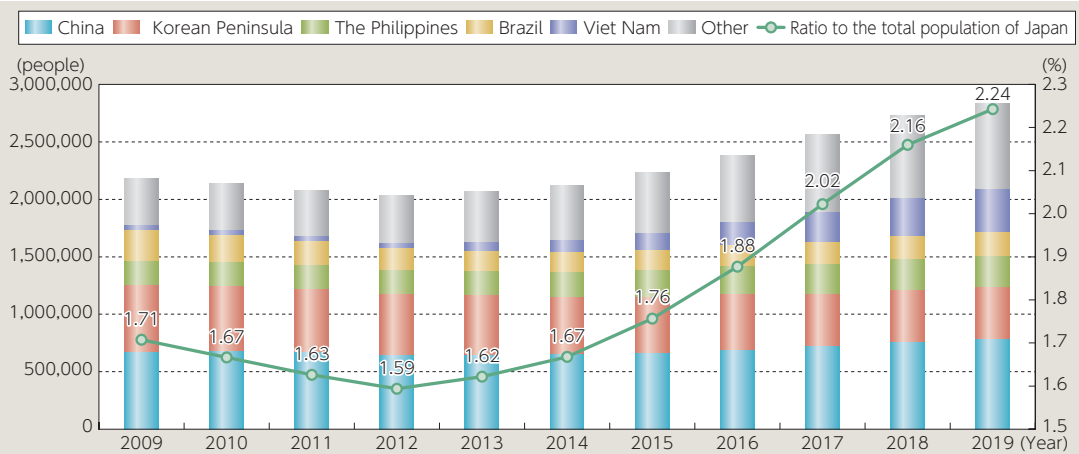


Note 1: The number of foreign visitors to Japan is based on Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) statistics  
 Note 2: The number of visa issuances in 2019 are provisional figures (as of the end of November)

2 In 2019, Memoranda of Cooperation (MOC) were signed with the following countries regarding the basic framework for proper implementation of a system for foreign national human resources having the “Specified Skilled Worker” residence status: the Philippines, Nepal, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Pakistan.



## Changes in the Number of Foreign Residents and their Ratio to the Total Population of Japan



Note 1: "Number of foreign residents" is based on the statistics as of the end of December of each year (the end of June only for 2019) (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.

good ways to smoothly accept foreign nationals.

In July, 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 systems in times of disaster as well as collaboration with diplomatic missions and foreign delegations in Tokyo.

## 2 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

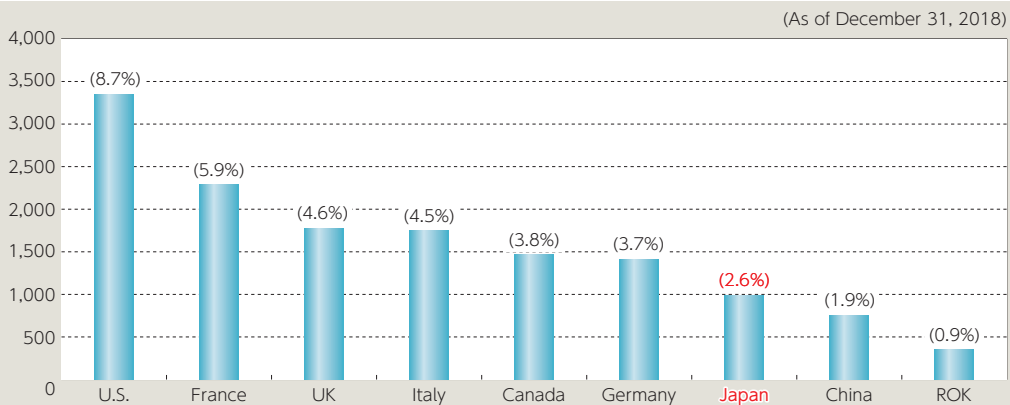
rights/humanitarian issues, and gender equality, among others.

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. As a member country of these international organizations, Japan, in addition to policy contributions, makes financial contributions through its assessed and voluntary contributions. In addition, it can be said that the activities and service of Japanese staff are, in a broad sense, also Japan's contributions.

Currently, about 880 Japanese nationals are working as professional-level staff in UN-related agencies around the world. There is an increasing trend to the number of Japanese staff members, but taking into account the number of professional-level staff of other G7 member countries, which exceeds 1,000, the number of Japanese staff 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 2025. To this end, MOFA is actively recruiting,

## Number of Staff Members at UN-related Agencies by Nationality (professional or higher)



Note 1: This graph includes the number of professional staff members or higher with a term of one year or longer.

Note 2: The percentage represents the ratio against the total number of employees (38,713).

Source: Created by MOFA from UN document (CEB/2019/HLCM/HR/17)

## Japanese Taking Active Roles in the International Community

### Kato Mariko

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Education Officer, UNICEF in the Kyrgyz Republic

My job is to manage projects aimed at strengthening the education system of the Kyrgyz Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the country and stakeholders in the field of education. I am currently responsible for areas such as multilingual education, civic education, disaster prevention education, and gender mainstreaming.



With teachers from the pilot school implementing multilingual education in Russian, Kyrgyz, and Tajiki (Author: Front row, center)

### Tajima Daiki

World Food Programme (WFP)  
Budget and Programming Officer, Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa (RBN)

The Budget and Programming Unit of the WFP Regional Bureau in Kenya oversees the resource management for WFP's operations in eight countries in the East African region, including South Sudan and Rwanda. By utilizing my professional expertise in finance and accounting, I am doing my very best every day to move even one step closer to the SDG 2: Zero Hunger with passionate colleagues from all over the world.



During the World Food Safety Day on 7th June, with WFP colleagues wearing the same polo t-shirts, we raised awareness of the food safety in the supply-chain (Author: Far right)

training, and supporting, in collaboration with universities, related ministries and agencies, and organizations, Japanese nationals who can play active roles and make a contribution on the global stage. As part of this effort, MOFA runs the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme that sends young Japanese nationals to positions in international organizations for a term of two years in principle with the aim of gaining regular staff positions in such organizations after the term.

MOFA also runs a program to send mid-career and higher Japanese nationals who can be future managerial candidates. In addition to increasing the number of Japanese staff through these efforts, MOFA is also working to coordinate with international organizations and gather information for the employment and promotion of Japanese staff.

MOFA provides useful and timely information such as vacancy announcements to Japanese candidates seeking positions at international

## Column

## Voices of People Who Have Been Supporting the United Nations' Activities Toward a peaceful world with zero hunger

Ushiyama Coco

Director of UN System and Multilateral Engagement Division,  
World Food Programme (WFP) New York

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). Growing up, and from as long as I can remember, I have aspired toward the ideals of the UN focusing on international cooperation including global and generational challenges. I still remember a conversation with a former colleague more than 25 years ago as I was resigning from the investment bank where we both worked in Tokyo. When I told him I was leaving to work for the UN, he bluntly suggested I reconsider, saying there were other ways I could contribute from Japan.

To date, I have worked at the UN Headquarters in New York, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, and at the World Food Programme (WFP) offices in various countries. Although I have served the longest in the WFP, the WFP's strong field focus meant that I have worked in new countries in different continents every three to four years providing me with a richer perspective of our work and life in general.

As the world's largest humanitarian organization, WFP's emergency work is in food insecure countries often affected by conflict, natural disasters and economic downturns. As we often serve in challenging conditions, we generally become physically and mentally tough over time. Personally, I have also come to appreciate things we take for granted in Japan. For example, electricity and water at all times. In the 1990s, when I was working in the dry, arid parts of Kenya, I was grateful just to have a small tub of lukewarm water after a long, dusty day at the various project sites, even if it had quite a few insects in it. In Malawi, where I had been working until three years ago, power outages occurred frequently. On bad days, we only had four to five hours of electricity.

In our line of work with increasing emergency operations, we have to resolve the problems that are right in front of us at that moment, and address longer term challenges whenever possible at the same time. In Malawi, as a consequence of various factors, such as climate shocks (drought and flood), poor harvests, rising food prices, and inflation, we responded to a major emergency operation working long hours over several months including often on the weekends as well to prevent widespread hunger. At the same time, we also ensured our developmental work such as our school meals program not only continued but scaled up in some areas so children would eat at least one healthy meal a day, continue to study, and did not drop out. We also worked closely with the communities, civil society, and the local and central governments in resilience-building work. Joint analysis, multisector planning and coordination, context specific capacity, and implementation support were important investments toward a shock resilient, zero hunger future.

I was very surprised when I first heard the expression "heiwaboke" (referring to an attitude of complacency about peace, or taking peace for granted) in Japan. Prolonged wars and conflicts are still being fought in various parts of the world today. For too many in the world, peace is a luxury they do not have. In addition, climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and loss of biodiversity are increasing challenges affecting many, beyond borders. My colleagues at WFP are working hard in conflict zones such as Yemen and Syria. In reality, we are, for the first time, facing more than five simultaneous large-scale and urgent humanitarian responses



The author talking to elementary school students at a school benefiting from the school meals program in Malawi (front, right)



Tree-planting as a part of the Community Resilience Programme in Malawi (Author: Center)

around the world. This scenario was unthinkable 25 years ago, or even 10 years ago. While we are responding to the rising humanitarian needs, the UN has to play an even more active role than before to ensure that all humankind and our planet can enjoy sustainable peace, development, and prosperity.

The UN belongs to everyone. If you are curious about the world, wish to contribute to the international community, and have the passion and skillsets to resolve global issues, why not join the UN? If you're not easily daunted by global and generational challenges working toward a future with sustainable development, we hope you get more involved.

## Column

### Voices of People Who Have Been Supporting the United Nations' Activities Procurement authority and responsibility

Mitsui Kiyohiro

Chief, Transportation & Life Support Service, Procurement Division, UN Secretariat

After college graduation, I worked in a general trading company before I was given the opportunity to work in an international organization by the Junior Professional Officer program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From September 1998 to September 2000, I worked as a Junior Professional Officer in the United Nations Development Program office in Trinidad and Tobago. There, I managed and coordinated projects implemented by various UN agencies in collaboration with the government of Trinidad and Tobago. Subsequently, I became an Associate Administrative Officer of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the office of the Director of General Services Division in Vienna. In September 1991, I was appointed to the Procurement Division of the UN Secretariat in New York. Since then, my work has shifted to procurement activities, which include the purchase of communication equipment, transportation vehicles, sea and air transportation services, food rations and fuel needed for UN peacekeeping operations and programs at the UN Headquarters.

In contrast to my work in the private sector where the focus was on corporate profits, at the UN Procurement Division the purpose of my work is to contribute to the common goals and causes of the international community. In our division, we secure external contractors who supply necessary goods and services for the operation of UN activities. Our contractors are chosen through competitive bidding to ensure fairness and transparency. As each procurement officer has the authority to form a contract through the competitive bidding process, they go through rigorous training in UN procurement regulations and rules and in professional ethics. In order to maintain transparency about conflicts of interest, all staff working in procurement are required to disclose their assets annually.

Each member of the UN Procurement Division upholds "fiduciary responsibility." "Fiduciary responsibility" refers to the responsibility of establishing contracts that ensure appropriate allocation and expenditure of funds. We are directly funded by the member states of the UN that specify the use of these funds during the budgetary process. These funds include contributions from some of the poorest countries in the world. As such, it is the procurement officer's responsibility to make sure these funds are allocated as specified. I constantly keep in mind the responsibility that accompanies the use of the funds that have been entrusted in our procurement officers. I am dedicated to upholding this responsibility as a senior staff member of the UN Procurement Division.

(The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the UN.)





The author (right) in a meeting with UN participants at a business seminar for potential vendors held in Chengdu (China)

organizations through its website, mailing lists, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and provides support related to application procedures for such positions. Public relations efforts include holding guidance seminars in and outside Japan to appeal the attractiveness of working at international organizations and to deliver methods to apply for a job, and holding recruitment seminars when senior officials or human resource experts of international organizations visit Japan (see the website for MOFA's Recruitment Center for International Organizations).<sup>3</sup>

A larger number of talented Japanese people taking on active roles in international organizations will 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 the Column on page 322).

In addition, Japanese staff at international organizations may play the role of a "bridge" between the international organization and their home country. For example, Japan's successful co-hosting of the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in August with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and African Union Commission (AUC) was underpinned

by the important role played 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 globally-minded human resources who have professional experience at international organizations and who can play an active role on the international stage will in turn lead to enrichment of the human resources of Japan, contributing to the development of Japan as a whole.

MOFA will continue to be even more active in undertaking measures that 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

Most of the Japanese NGOs involved in development cooperation activities are familiar with local needs at the grassroots level and provide flexible and detailed support in developing

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Recruitment Center for International Organizations website (only in the Japanese language): <https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/>



## Column

## Bringing Clean Water to More People by Utilizing the “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects”

Kinoshita Kanako, N’Diaye Saori

HOPE International Development Agency Japan

In recent years, NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) have been creating many opportunities for mutual consultations in order to develop better partnerships that harness their mutual strengths. HOPE International Development Agency Japan (“HOPE”) provides support to those living in extreme poverty around the world to become self-reliant, and through its cooperation with MOFA, has successfully expanded the scope of this support.

Since 2005, HOPE has been implementing projects in remote, rural areas in southern Ethiopia, which focus on providing health and hygiene education alongside providing access to clean water that is vital toward helping local residents break out of poverty. The number of beneficiaries in past years when MOFA’s “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects” was disbursed increased sometimes ten times more than that in years when projects were implemented through our own funds acquired through fund-raising. It is extremely difficult to raise the same amount of funds as MOFA’s Grant Assistance through business revenues and donations from supporters. However, by utilizing the knowhow that HOPE has accumulated locally together with MOFA’s scheme, it has become possible to supply safe water to even more people.

A project that is currently being implemented under the “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects” scheme aims at enabling access to clean water for approximately 12,000 residents over three years in three villages of Bonke District in southern Ethiopia. To ensure that clean water is supplied over the long-term, water is delivered from mountain springs to the water stations through gravitational force alone in a water supply system adapted to the local terrain. Moreover, protecting the health of residents is an important element. To that end, steady progress is being made to provide basic hygiene education to the people, such as promoting toilet use and hand washing, under the leadership of a community health committee selected from local residents.

This project is being implemented in a remote, rural area at an altitude of about 3,000m, and due to the bad roads (muddy mountain roads), it takes about four hours to travel from the neighboring city using a four-wheel drive vehicle. Because no assistance is provided by other organizations, the residents have long been looking forward to having access to clean water supplies. However, a project that serves to fulfill their needs will not create a desire for them to solve problems on their own, but instead leads only to growing demands. Supporting people who are not receiving assistance by putting them on the path toward self-reliance is the principle that lies at the root of HOPE’s projects. The aim is to help these people solve problems on their own so that they can live in a dignified manner as well as break out from the cycle of poverty permanently. To that end, we place the emphasis on residents taking ownership over projects. Specifically, by entrusting the physical work to the local residents such as road development and transportation of materials to the project site prior to the start of the project, we seek to foster a sense of ownership. Furthermore, the sustainability of the project is assured through initiatives such as setting up protective fences and keys for water stations by having users of the water stations contribute materials and labor, and deciding on the terms of use for water stations at resident gatherings.



Award-winning photograph at the Global Festa: children delighted with the supply of clean water



Villagers from Bonke in formal dress holding banners with “Thank you people of Japan”

In October 2019, water supply systems (simple gravity-fed water supply facilities) were completed in two of the three villages in the Bonke District. This project not only enabled access to clean water for 6,636 villagers, but also enhanced health and hygiene knowledge and brought about changes in lifestyle habits such as water handling, toilet use, and hand washing. Consequently, the rate of diseases such as diarrhea is beginning to decline. Additionally, with the reduced need for people to fetch and draw water manually, an environment is gradually being developed that enables children to attend school and women to engage in activities that improve income.

The hand-over ceremony of this water supply system, held in the Bonke District, was attended by Ambassador Matsunaga from the Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia. Villagers in formal dress and holding spears were waiting as they held up paper banners with the message "Thank you people of Japan." While their sentiments of appreciation and gratitude cannot be quantified, they moved our hearts immensely. It is also our role to convey these changes to even more Japanese people. Going forward, we hope to continue communicating the importance of assisting people who cannot even obtain clean water, despite advancements in technological innovations and the increasing number of support projects that include business elements.

countries and regions facing various challenges such as poverty, natural disasters, and conflicts. In the interest of leveraging the capabilities of organizations outside of the Government of Japan to conduct all-Japan diplomacy, the role that NGOs play in development cooperation is expanding significantly as organizations that provide support to various nations, including developing countries.

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 and regions (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects). The projects cover a wide range of assistance, including health, medical and hygienic care (maternal and child health, countermeasures for tuberculosis/HIV/AIDS, water/hygiene, etc.), rural development (environmental development/technological improvement for agriculture), support for people with disabilities (vocational training/job seeking assistance, provision of wheelchairs for children, etc.), education (building schools, etc.), disaster risk reduction, and the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). In 2019, 55 Japanese NGOs implemented 95 projects in 34 countries and regions including Asia, Africa, and the Middle East under the Grant Assistance



JPF Project "Emergency Response for People Fleeing Myanmar": Project for improving the water, sanitation, and hygiene environment at the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh) by Association for Aid and Relief (AAR), Japan (© Association for Aid and Relief (AAR), Japan)

for Japanese NGO Projects (see the Column on page 325). Moreover, subsidies are provided with the objective of supporting activities that will 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 2019, 43 NGOs are members of JPF. In 2019, JPF launched emergency response to Cyclone Idai in

Southern Africa, emergency response to floods in Nepal, and assistance for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, while implementing response programs for humanitarian crises in Myanmar, South Sudan, Uganda, Syria, Iraq, and their neighboring countries.

As seen thus far, NGOs assume important roles in the area of development cooperation. Identifying such NGOs as partners in development cooperation, MOFA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (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 2019, MOFA implemented four programs, namely the “NGO Consultant Scheme,” “NGO Study Program,” “NGO Intern Program” and “NGO Study Group.”

Moreover, the general meeting of the NGO-MOFA Regular Consultation Meeting was held in 2019 to promote dialogue and coordination with NGOs. The ODA Policy Council meetings to discuss ODA policy and the Partnership Promotion Committee meetings 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 exchanging views with various stakeholders, including NGOs, through the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and other fora.

#### **B Partnership in Other Major Diplomatic Areas**

MOFA also cooperates with NGOs in areas other than development cooperation. For instance, at the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in March 2019, Dr. Tanaka Yumiko (visiting professor at Josai International University) represented Japan, and NGO representatives actively participated in discussions as members of the Japanese delegation. At the 74th UN General Assembly, Dr. Miyazaki Akane (professor at Japan Women’s University) attended the



Prime Minister Abe receiving a courtesy call by the C20 representatives (April 18, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

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. MOFA has been actively promoting cooperation with them; for example, in the area of conventional weapons, MOFA works in cooperation with NGOs in implementing clearance of mines and unexploded ordnances, and risk reduction education projects.

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 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 2019, a total of 299 Special Communicators on 101 occasions and a total of 405 Youth Communicators on 35



occasions have been dispatched to the world through these commission programs.

As for the measures against transnational organized crime, especially in the area of human 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 human trafficking in persons and to consult on appropriate measures to tackle them.

Particularly for the G20, the C20 (Civil 20) was launched separate from the governments, as one of the Engagement Groups of the G20 (organizations independent of governments and formed by parties involved in activities in the international community). In April, the C20 Summit was held in Tokyo, generating a wide range of discussions on the main issues of the G20 Osaka Summit from the civil society perspective, and C20 representatives paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe, who chaired the G20, and handed the “C20 Policy Pack 2019.”

### (3) Japan JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Experts, and Others

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is JICA's program aimed at cooperation and assistance for the socio-economic development of the communities of the developing countries where Japanese nationals from 20 to 69 years of age, who possess skills, knowledge, and experience, live and work together with local people in these countries, fostering mutual understanding under the program. As of the end of December 2019, 54,106 JOCVs had been dispatched to 98 countries in total since the program's launch in 1965. Dispatched volunteers have been engaged in about 200 types of work in ten sectors: planning administration, commercial/tourism, public utility works, human resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, health/medical care, mining, social welfare, energy, and others.

JOCV participants who have returned to Japan contribute to the Japanese society by sharing their



A JOCV dietician providing nutritional guidance in Fiji (Photo: JICA)

experiences in educational, local, and business activities. These unique participatory activities of Japan have been highly appreciated by not just recipient countries but both domestically and internationally.

JOCV participants use their experience for their self-development as human resources who play an active role on the global level. For this reason, the Government of Japan has been working with companies, municipal governments, and universities, which appreciate such opportunities to develop human resource through dispatching their employees, teachers, and students to developing countries. For example, JOCV (private sector partnership) was launched in FY2012 as a program responding to the needs of private companies, such as small and medium-sized enterprises which aim for international expansion of their businesses. Furthermore, the Government is committed to developing an environment under which former JOCV participants can feed back their experiences into society by some measures such as employment support. There are many former JOCV participants who are active in a wide range of domestic and international fields. Some work actively in disaster-affected municipalities, or collaborate with other former JOCV participants to continue to support the countries they were sent to, and others work actively in international organizations.

This program reformed its rule in the fall of 2018. The categorization by age (Youth/Seniors) was changed to a categorization based on whether or

not volunteers meet a certain standard of experience, skills, and other requirements.



Expert in conducting market research with counterpart from the Madagascar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Photo: JICA)

JICA dispatches experts with specialized knowledge, insights, skills, and experience to governmental agencies and other institutions in developing countries. The experts provide policy advice and transfer necessary skills and knowledge to government officials and engineers. Furthermore, they collaborate with their counterparts to develop and disseminate technologies and systems that are suitable to each country's context. The experts envisage that developing countries will cultivate comprehensive capacity so that the people can handle their development challenges by themselves. The experts engage in their activities, considering regional characteristics, historical background, and language.

In FY2018, 9,874 experts were newly dispatched to 119 countries and regions. The experts actively engage in a wide range of fields, including those addressing basic human needs such as health/medical care and water/sanitation, and those of socio-economic development, such as legal system development and urban planning. The experts contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries and fostering mutual trust with Japan through their activities.

### 3 Cooperation with Local Governments

Regional revitalization is one of the priority issues of the Cabinet. MOFA actively works on the issue and strives to deploy measures that strengthen comprehensive diplomatic capabilities through collaboration with regions.

In Japan, as part of efforts to support regional revitalization, the Foreign Minister and respective prefectural governors invite members of diplomatic corps and foreign chambers of commerce and industry in Japan, and tourism-related parties to the Iikura Guest House, co-hosting receptions and setting up booths as means of broadly disseminating the various attractive qualities of regions to audiences both in Japan and abroad. In 2019, the Foreign Minister co-hosted receptions with Kagoshima (January), Ehime (February), Nagasaki (March), Miyazaki (November), and Nara (December). Every reception was successful with between 200 and 250 attendees. Along with PR for tourism, food, and traditional arts and crafts from each prefecture, Kagoshima Prefecture held an Amami dance and shamisen (Japanese



Kimono fitting experience at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Kagoshima Prefecture (January 30, Tokyo, Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Reception co-hosted with the Governor of Ehime Prefecture (February 19, Tokyo, Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



"Kagami biraki (opening a cask of Sake)" at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Miyazaki Prefecture (November 8, Tokyo, Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Stage performance at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture (March 25, Tokyo, Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Yamato-ushi beef (specialty product from Nara Prefecture) booth at a reception co-hosted with the Governor of Nara Prefecture (December 11, Tokyo, Iikura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

stringed music instrument) performance, Ehime Prefecture held a Kumayama Gojin Daiko drum performance, Nagasaki Prefecture held a Ja-Odori Dragon Dance performance, Miyazaki Prefecture held a Takachiho-no-Yokagura dance performance, and Nara Prefecture held a Gagaku (ancient court dance and music) performance. These events provided opportunities to broadly disseminate the various attractive qualities of each region and promote further exchange and collaboration between the attendees and co-hosting 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, tourism-related companies, and other organizations, these seminars highlight the characteristics, advantages, and attraction of regions in Japan for industry, tourism, investment,



Regional Promotion Seminar: Production experience using washi paper and sumi ink from Tateyama Town, Toyama Prefecture at a networking session (June 4, Tokyo)

and business promotion. Chichibu City (Saitama Prefecture), Sakai City (Osaka Prefecture), Kyotango City (Kyoto Prefecture), and Tateyama Town (Toyama Prefecture) participated in seminars in June. Through presentations, representatives talked about the attractiveness of their regions, promoted local specialties and tourism at receptions with attendees, and showcased



Diplomats' Study Tour: Tasting fresh cherry tomatoes at Wonder Farm (January 15-16, Fukushima Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Visit to Weather News (July 10, Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Visit to Kodokan (February 22, Ibaraki Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Presentation by Hagi City Mayor (September 26-27, Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Visit to Kaho Theater (April 22-23, Iizuka City, Fukuoka Prefecture)



Diplomats' Study Tour: Inspection visit to an amberjack farm (November 14-15, Kagoshima Prefecture)

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 Fukushima Prefecture in January, Ibaraki Prefecture in February, Iizuka City (Fukuoka Prefecture) in April, Chiba City (Chiba Prefecture) in July, Hagi City (Yamaguchi Prefecture) in September, and Kagoshima Prefecture in November, with visits made by a total of about 130 members of more than 110 diplomatic corps. The diplomatic corps, including



Project to Support Overseas Presentations to Promote the Attractiveness of Regions: Japanese Rice Fair at Japanese Restaurants (January, Beijing and Shanghai, China)

ambassadors, visited places of 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 Fukushima, it was an opportunity to deepen understanding of reconstruction efforts over the approximately eight years since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. After the tours, some local governments started exchanges and collaboration with participating countries while others aimed 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 titled "Towards the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7): New Frontiers in Business and International Exchanges)" by MOFA and an "Explanation of Efforts to Promote Host Towns." In Part two of the forum, which featured sectional meetings, participants exchanged views on themes entitled "Outbound Communications Using Foreign Press and Social Media: From Rural Areas to the World," "Invigorating Regions via Foreign Tourists: Gastronomy Tourism," "SDG Initiatives Towards



Project to Support Overseas Presentations to Promote the Attractiveness of Regions: Special ceremony (March, Moscow, Russia)

Globalization," and "Communicating the Charms of Regional Traditional Performing Arts and Crafts: Various Communication Methods." 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 in January, in Moscow in March, and in Beijing and other parts of China from November to December.

A total of 15 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, such as food sampling sessions and Japanese rice tasting, which were held at Japanese restaurants, etc. In addition, the March event in Moscow held a "Sakura×Matsuri" PR event with the purpose of promoting understanding and increasing consumption of attractive regional products and tourism resources, and approximately 20,000 people visited over two days. 15 local governments from Japan exhibited



Regional Promotion Project: Seminar on introducing shochu and awamori at the residence of the Consulate General of Japan in New York (February 11, New York, U.S.)

at the event, introduced specialty products, and demonstrated representative performances from each region. The November to December events in various parts of China included PR and sales promotion events for made-in-Japan products sponsored by retail stores, e-commerce, and Japanese restaurants, as well as Japanese food fairs as “cooperative projects,” and 11 local governments from Japan participated jointly with partner companies.

In addition, “Regional Promotion Projects” were conducted 10 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 supports exchanges between local Japanese governments and abroad through various initiatives such as sister-city exchanges between Japanese local bodies and their counterparts abroad and host-town exchanges for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. 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

and economic exchanges. Heads of the diplomatic missions overseas also visit local municipalities in Japan to have dialogues on sister city and host town 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-designated cities with relevant information and posting it on the “Glocal’ (global and local) Diplomatic Network” on MOFA’s website<sup>4</sup> (see the Column on page 334).

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, through carrying out proactive PR activities to showcase Japanese alcoholic beverages, by offering them at lunch and 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 (see the Special Feature on page 284).

MOFA is also working to respond to the 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

<sup>4</sup> As of December 2019, the countries with the largest number of sister affiliations (including prefectures and municipalities) with Japan in descending order are the U.S. (455), China (370), the Republic of Korea (163), Australia (108) and Canada (71) (Aggregated by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. See CLAIR’s website: <http://www.clair.or.jp/e/exchange/shimai/countries/>)



the global outreach of local companies, the development of globally competent human resources, and the Japanese style of infrastructure exports,

but also to vitalizing the entire Japanese economy and the economies of some local areas.

## Column

### Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020: Host Towns that Connect Japan's Regions with the World

**OMOTENASHI**  
–Japanese Way of Hospitality–



In 2013, the word “Omotenashi” raised the expectations of people around the world during Japan’s bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The memory probably remains fresh in the minds of many people. In September 2019, baseball players from Nicaragua, who had been stuck at Narita International Airport due to a typhoon on their way back from a match held in Korea, were welcomed warmly by the Host Town, Kanra Town in Gunma Prefecture. This was an event that truly embodied the “Omotenashi” (Japanese way of hospitality) spirit of the Host Towns.

Many people may perceive the Host Towns as official camp sites, but the Host Town Initiative for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 is a unique one. Japanese local towns that wish to register as Host Towns are required to facilitate exchanges with athletes participating in the Games, exchanges with the citizens of countries and regions participating in the Games, and exchanges with Japanese Olympians and Paralympians. Even the Japanese local towns that do not serve as the pre-Games training camp sites for athletes can become Host Towns and deepen exchanges from their position as supporters who cheer on participating countries and regions. This initiative of exchanges facilitated by the Host Towns in the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 was clearly set out as the Host Town Initiative in the Olympic Truce Resolution,\* adopted unanimously at the UN General Assembly in December 2019.

492 Japanese local towns engage in activities as Host Towns (169 partner countries and regions as of March 31, 2020). There are many varied factors that have brought about the Host Towns relations. Some of them know each other well through sister city exchanges carried out to date, and others became acquainted for the first time through this initiative. There are also some Japanese local towns that wish to show their recovery to the countries and regions that supported reconstruction in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Among these, there is even a case where a connection was made through the sound of the place names “Haiti” (pronounced as “Aichi” in French, which is the official language of Haiti) and “Aichi Prefecture” (Kota Town).

Various exchange activities are carried out by athletes and citizens of the partner countries and regions by visiting Japan, including the introduction of traditional performing arts and food culture that the region is proud of, and the deepening of exchanges among elementary, junior high school, and high school students.

Some Host Towns take advantage of the exchanges with Paralympians from the world to develop initiatives aimed at realizing an inclusive society in the region. Others actively promote exchanges with a view to a future with more foreign nationals in the regional society, so that the children, who will play vital roles in the future, can adapt to a multicultural society with a mindset open to the world.

“Participating in the Host Town Initiative has enhanced my communication skills. I want to learn the language of the partner country so that I can convey the charms of my hometown and Japanese culture.”

“It is possible to interact with others through feelings, even if we do not understand the other’s language. Respect and understanding for each other can overcome barriers.”

This is some of the reassuring feedback received from the students and children who are proactively involved in the Host Town exchanges.

Such exchanges can be expected to revitalize the regions and strengthen relationships with the partner countries and regions, thereby becoming legacies for the future.

Many of the Host Towns in Japan are already warmly welcoming foreign athletes and citizens with a spirit of “Omotenashi,” and implementing a wide range of activities.

One Ambassador to Japan said that he was moved to see so many supporters cheering on athletes from his country to make them do their best at the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

It is our earnest hope that the spirit of the Host Town Initiative continues for many years to come, even beyond the Tokyo 2020 Games.



At a side event of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Japanese children from the Host Towns of African countries sent warm messages to their partner countries (August 30, Yokohama; Photo: Cabinet Secretariat)



Cambodian swimmer participating in the Awa Odori Festival (August 12; Photo: Tokushima Prefecture)

\*The Olympic Truce Resolution: This UN General Assembly Resolution has been continuously adopted since the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, calling for a worldwide truce during the period from seven days before the start of the Olympic Games to seven days after the Paralympic Games. The Truce Resolution submitted by Japan to the UN General Assembly in December 2019 includes sections unique to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, such as the concept of the Games, contribution to peace, and the Host Town Initiative.



## Section 2

# Supporting Japanese Nationals Overseas

### 1 Risks and Safety of Japanese Nationals Overseas

#### (1) Incidents and Accidents in 2019 and Countermeasures

19 million Japanese nationals traveled abroad in 2018<sup>1</sup>, and 1.39 million Japanese nationals live abroad as of October 2018. Hence, protecting the lives and health of Japanese nationals traveling and residing abroad, as well as promoting their interests, is one of the most important missions of MOFA.

In 2019, one Japanese national was killed in the simultaneous terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka (April) and the shooting incident in Afghanistan (December) respectively. Other incidents also occurred throughout the year, including the hotel attack in Nairobi, Kenya (January), the terrorist shooting at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand (March), the suicide bombing in Tunis, Tunisia (June), consecutive bombings in Bangkok, Thailand (August), explosions in central Cairo, Egypt (October), the attack at the Jerash Ruins, Jordan (November), and the knife attack on London Bridge, the UK (November).

The recent trend 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

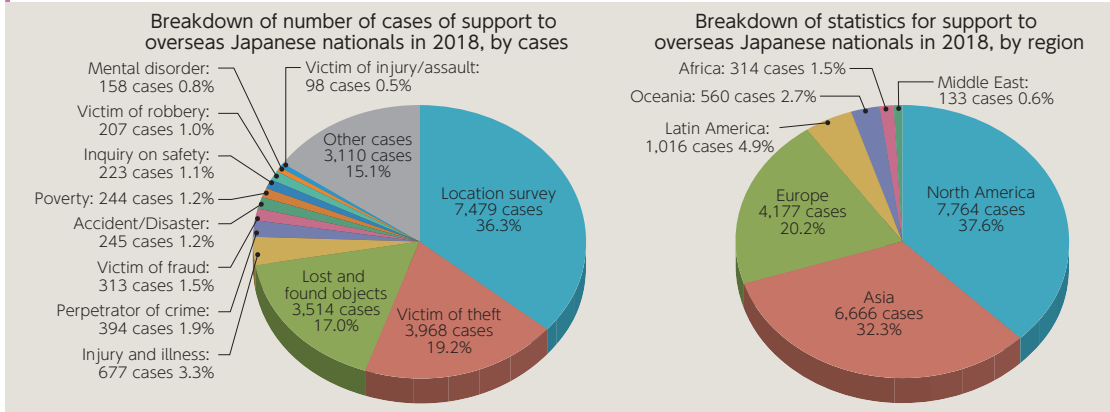
homegrown terrorism perpetrated by people born in Western countries and indoctrinated through websites or other means by foreign Islamic extremists, and lone-wolf terrorism perpetrated by people acting solely with little organizational background are found in tremendous numbers. Additionally, terrorist attacks aimed at soft targets where large numbers of the general public gather every day are on the rise.

This trend has not changed despite the fact that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has been urging terror attacks outside its region, is losing its territory in Syria and Iraq. In addition, foreign fighters of ISIL are now returning to their home countries or moving to third countries. These factors make it more difficult to predict and prevent terror attacks.

Other major incidents and accidents involving the death of Japanese nationals overseas included gun killings in North America and Latin America, and killings with lethal weapons in Southeast Asia. There was also an incident of death by drowning in the Pacific region, as well as accidents in North America, South America, and Southwest Asia, such as falling and slipping when sightseeing or trekking. Deaths caused by accidents such as traffic accidents also occurred in various parts of the world.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Ministry of Justice, "Statistics on Legal Migrants"

## Breakdown of number of cases of support to Japanese nationals, by cases and regions (2018)



## Top 20 foreign diplomatic missions with a large number of support cases

Rank	Diplomatic mission	Number of cases	Rank	Diplomatic mission	Number of cases
1	Embassy of Japan in Thailand	1,457	11	Consulate-General of Japan in Barcelona	447
2	Embassy of Japan in the Philippines	906	12	Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai	443
3	Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles	809	13	Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle	378
4	Embassy of Japan in the UK	797	14	Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta	377
5	Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu	669	15	Consulate-General of Japan in Hagatna	362
6	Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong	667	16	Consulate-General of Japan in Houston	350
7	Embassy of Japan in France	646	17	Consular Office of Japan in Portland	344
8	Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco	607	18	Embassy of Japan in Italy	341
9	Consulate-General of Japan in New York	587	19	Consulate-General of Japan in Boston	335
10	Embassy of Japan in Korea	503	20	Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville	326

(Figures for support cases in 2018 are shown for the 20 diplomatic missions with the largest number of support cases, including embassies, consulate-generals, and consular offices.)

Many natural disasters also occurred around the world and caused great damage. These include cyclones “Idai” (March) and “Fani” (May), hurricane “Dorian” (August), and the volcanic eruption on White Island, New Zealand (December).

In 2019, large-scale protests were held successively in Hong Kong and other parts of the world, resulting in MOFA’s call on Japanese nationals through its Overseas Safety Website and other channels to avoid going near demonstrations and protests. Corresponding to the regional situation, MOFA also published overseas travel safety information especially when special caution was required in traveling and residing overseas. In 2019, the risk level of Venezuela, Sudan, Hong Kong, and Bolivia, was raised, among others.

As was the case in the previous year, there were continued reports of people falling ill during a trip

abroad and dying at the hotels 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.

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, and highlight the matters they need to pay attention to when travelling and staying in the affected regions.

Since 2019, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak that began in China has been raging across the world (see the boxed article on page 338). As for other infectious diseases,

## Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

Ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals residing and travelling overseas is one of the most important responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since the end of 2019, MOFA has been responding to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak that began in China by disseminating information such as Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases and Spot Safety Information to Japanese nationals abroad and raising their awareness in a timely and appropriate manner through MOFA's website and e-mails.

In Hubei Province, particularly Wuhan City where tight restrictions on movement were imposed due to the large number of infections, MOFA coordinated with the respective parties to assist the early departure of all Japanese nationals who wished to return to Japan but could not due to the movement restrictions. To that end, 10 embassy staff, including a medical officer and Chinese-speaking staff, travelled by road for 17 hours across 1,200 km to Wuhan City, while 19 MOFA officials from Japan also flew to the city to implement the evacuation operation. Their work, along with the support of the Government of China, led to five chartered flights operating from Wuhan Airport to Haneda Airport from the end of January to mid-February, bringing back all Japanese nationals and their families residing in Hubei Province, as well as those residing outside Wuhan City, who wished to return to Japan.

With regard to overseas travel from Japan, MOFA called for caution by issuing Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases\*<sup>1</sup> as things developed. On January 21, MOFA issued a Level 1 Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases ("Exercise caution") for the whole of China. This was raised to Level 2 ("Avoid non-essential travel") for Wuhan City on January 23, and Level 3 ("Avoid all travel") for Hubei Province including Wuhan City on January 24. Taking into consideration the changes in the situation thereafter, MOFA raised the level where necessary and expanded the countries/regions covered. By April 1, it had issued a Level 3 Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases for 73 countries and regions including China and Europe, and Level 2 for all other countries and regions.

Apart from this, MOFA also issued Level 2 general Travel Advice and Warning\*<sup>2</sup> worldwide on March 25, with the aim of preventing Japanese nationals from encountering difficulties in leaving other countries due to flight suspensions and measures such as the closing of national borders and curfews imposed by other countries in response to the increase of infections.

At the same time, the Government of Japan is flexibly implementing measures toward strengthening border control measures in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies. Corresponding to the Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases levels issued for each country and region, the suspension of the validity of single-entry and multiple-entry visas and suspension of visa exemptions were implemented for Level 2 countries and regions, and Japanese as well as foreign nationals entering Japan from such countries and regions were requested to undergo a voluntary 14-day self-isolation. For Level 3 countries and regions, PCR tests were conducted for Japanese nationals returning to Japan from these countries and regions as well as members of their families of other nationalities. In addition, based on the provisions of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, measures were also taken to deny entry of foreign nationals who had stayed in these regions in the past 14 days.

In light of the importance of international collaboration and cooperation in responding to the outbreak of infectious diseases, Japan announced on March 10 that it will contribute approximately 15 billion yen to international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and provide emergency assistance to Iran and surrounding developing countries.

\*1, 2 The Overseas Travel Safety Information issued by MOFA to inform people of the risk level in countries and regions, is categorized as "Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases" or "Travel Advice and Warning."

"Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases" is issued for countries and regions that are deemed to require particular caution for travelers and residents, in respect to highly dangerous infectious diseases including the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), while "Travel Advice and Warning" is issued as a guideline for safety measures, based on a comprehensive assessment of the country's political and social situation, such as internal disturbances and terrorism.

Both categories of information are presented based on the following four categories.

Level 1: Exercise caution

Level 2: Avoid non-essential travel

Level 3: Avoid all travel

Level 4: Evacuate and avoid all travel

cases of Ebola were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, and measles was prevalent in various parts of the world. In addition, cases of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) continue to be reported in the Middle East. Mosquito-borne diseases, including the Zika virus, yellow fever, Dengue fever and malaria, also continued to spread throughout the world.

### <Tips for Traveling and Living Abroad>

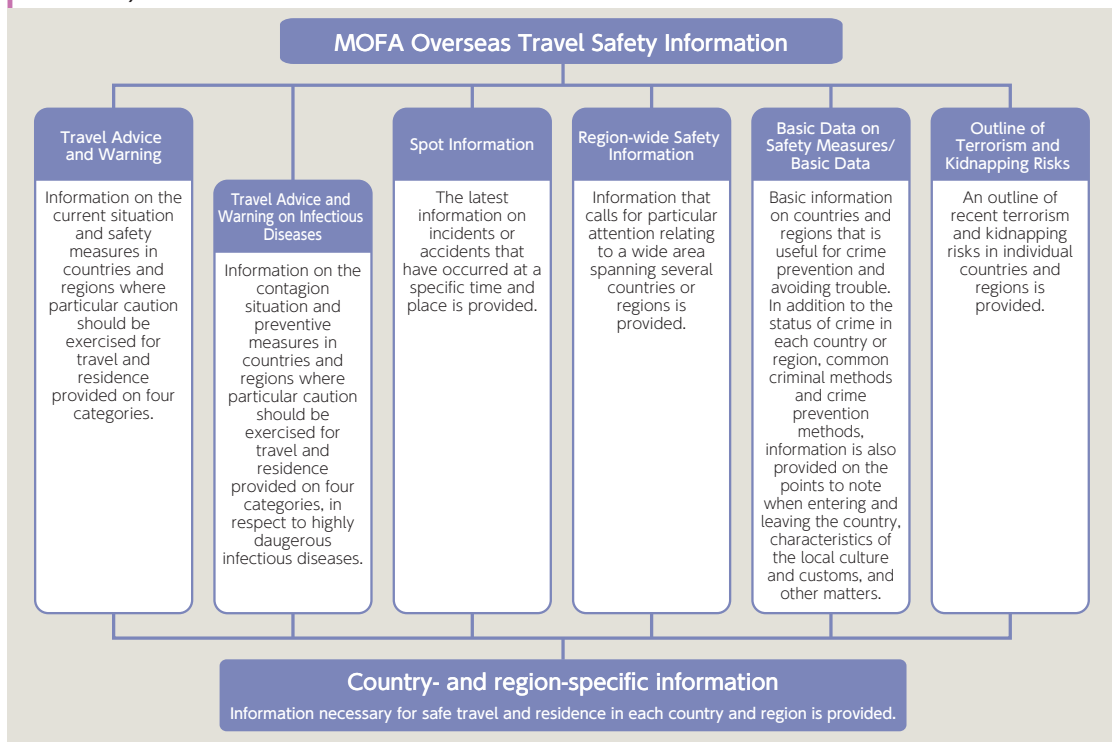
As described above, incidents which threaten the safety of Japanese nationals have constantly occurred all around the world. In addition to registering with the Overseas Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi) or submission of Overseas Residential Registration, important measures for Japanese nationals traveling and living abroad include: (1) thoroughly checking security and other

information through the Overseas Safety Website, media reports and other sources beforehand; (2) taking adequate safety measures during their stay to avoid risks; and (3) contacting the nearest Japanese diplomatic missions overseas and family in Japan in case of emergency. MOFA also conveys the importance of taking out travel insurance with a sufficient coverage when traveling abroad since the lack of travel insurance will make it difficult to pay medical expenses or to receive proper medical care in case of diseases and accident injuries.

### (2) Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Overseas

The number incidents of Japanese nationals receiving support or protection from Japanese diplomatic missions overseas and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association has stayed at a high level.

### Main Overseas Safety Information posted on MOFA's Overseas Safety Website (structure and overview)



In 2018, there were 22,349 by number of persons and 20,630 by number of cases.<sup>2</sup>

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 widely to the general public.

MOFA issues the latest safety information for each country and region 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 short-term travelers who have registered with the Tabi-Regi. Tabi-Regi is also available to those without travel plans through simple registration. The distributed safety information is widely utilized by Japanese business persons 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 the number of registrants. Currently, the cumulative total registration is more than 6.5 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 participatory safety measure seminars in and out of Japan, and dispatched lecturers from the Consular Affairs Bureau to deliver lectures on safety measures at seminars nationwide, organized by other organizations and associations (around 80 times in 2019). MOFA also hosted the Public-Private Joint Practical Training for Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Kidnapping Measures with 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.

In addition, overseas, the public and private sectors are also cooperating to advance safety measures. The diplomatic missions in each country 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 safety measure seminars and strengthen awareness particularly among international cooperation personnel, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), 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 the overseas expansion of Japanese businesses in September 2016, in order to support SMEs, which account for the vast majority of Japanese companies, in their overseas corporate activities in the area of safety measures. At the meeting of the Network in August 2019, a new organization was added, expanding the number of member organizations in the Network to 30. The collaboration among members in this Network has strengthened the safety measures of those companies, such as raising awareness on safety measures overseas through seminars and newsletters in and outside Japan, establishing horizontal relationships among participating companies, and seeking to provide better support services for business. Furthermore, in March 2017, MOFA released Golgo 13's Security Guidelines for Japanese SMEs Abroad, which explains the minimal and basic safety measures for companies in an easy-to-understand manner through manga

<sup>2</sup> 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.



MOFA Overseas Travel Registration (Tabi-Regi)  
(only in the Japanese language)  
<https://www.ezairyu.mofa.go.jp/tabiregi/index.html>



MOFA Overseas Safety App/Overseas safety website "About the Overseas Safety App Services" can be downloaded from ([https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/c\\_info/oshirase\\_kaian\\_app.html](https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/c_info/oshirase_kaian_app.html)) (only in the Japanese language)

(comics). After its release, about 120,000 copies per volume have been distributed and the dedicated webpage on MOFA's website has received about 1.7 million views, indicating 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 by sending 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 the Tabi-Regi with some overseas study institutions.

As for safety measures for short-term travelers, MOFA is engaged in PR activities mainly focused on promoting registration to the Tabi-Regi by gaining the cooperation of Japanese airlines to make in-flight announcements.

MOFA also took various opportunities to convey the importance of working on safety measures and to call for traveler's cooperation, such as taking out advertisements in various media outlets, and hosting a booth at Tourism EXPO Japan in 2019, held for the first time in Osaka.

## 2 Consular Service and Assistance for Japanese Living Overseas

### (1) Improving Consular Service

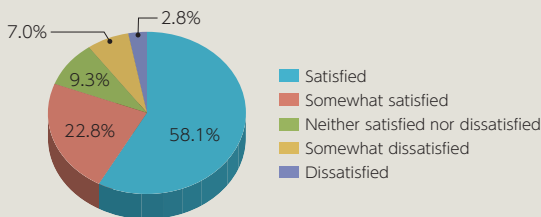
With the aim of providing quality consular services to Japanese nationals overseas, MOFA conducts a questionnaire survey every year on services such as consular staffs' attitudes in over-the-counter and telephone responses as well as work implementation status at diplomatic missions overseas. While the survey conducted in February 2020, on 140 diplomatic missions overseas and which received 39,579 effective responses, concluded that the overall level of consular services provided by the diplomatic missions overseas was almost satisfactory, opinions calling for improvement on the manners and service attitude of consular staff were also raised. MOFA takes users' feedback seriously, and will continue its efforts to enhance services and make improvements so as to provide high quality consular services in line with users' perspective.

### (2) Issuance of Passports and Prevention of Illicit Acquisition of Passports

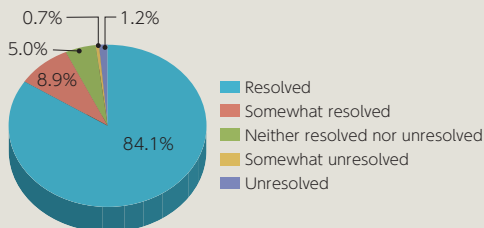
Approximately 4.49 million ordinary passports were issued in 2019. As of the end of December 2019, approximately 30.23 million ordinary

Results of questionnaire survey on users of consular services (2019: 140 diplomatic missions)

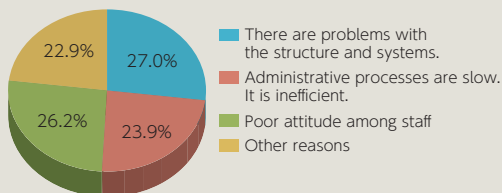
How satisfied are you with the consular services that you have used?



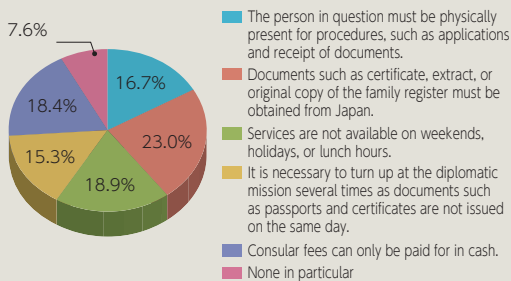
After using the services provided by this diplomatic mission, was your problem (application, notification, consultation, etc.) resolved?



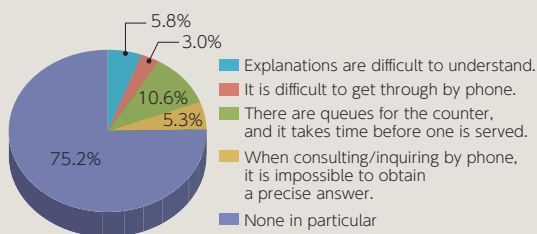
Reasons why you are somewhat dissatisfied



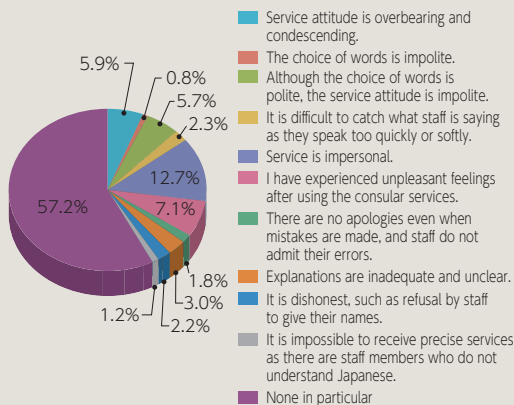
Please select from the following any inconveniences you experienced when using the existing consular services. (Multiple answers)



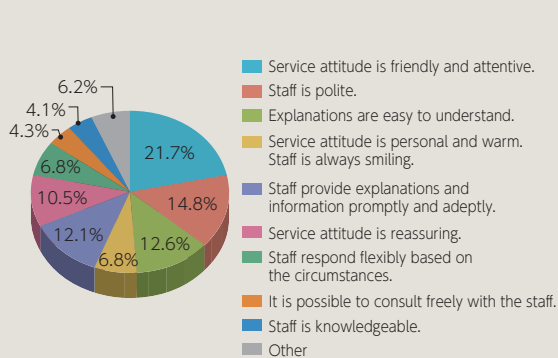
Please select from the following all the applicable items pertaining to the current status of services at this diplomatic mission. (Multiple answers)



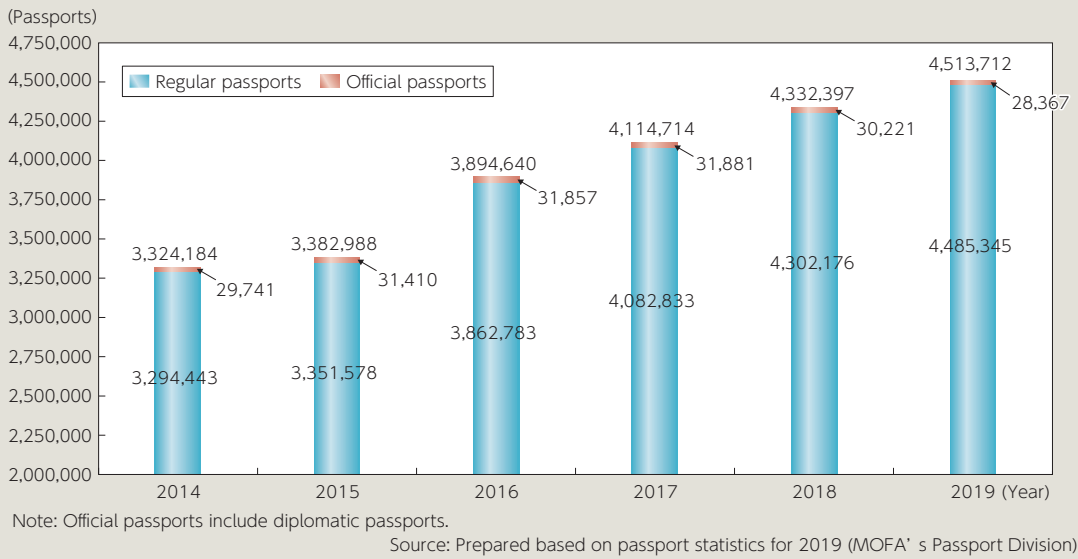
Please select from the following all the applicable items pertaining to the current status of services at this diplomatic mission. (Multiple answers)



Please select from the following the positive aspects of in-person or phone service provided by staff of this diplomatic mission. (Multiple answers)



## Changes in the number of passports issued



passports were valid, and all of these were ePassports.<sup>3</sup>

The issuance of ePassports is effective for deterring the illicit use of passports such as forged or altered passports. However, there continue to be cases of illicit acquisition of passports by means of impersonation.<sup>4</sup> There are still some cases where Japanese nationals or illegal foreign residents leave and enter Japan using passports acquired illegally under the name of another person. There are also reports of passports being 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 out of the passport holder's control. In order to prevent illicit acquisition of passports that may nurture these secondary or tertiary crimes, MOFA has been requesting prefectural governments to enhance strict identity examination when issuing passports at their passport centers, for example, by such means as designating a period of tightened inspections against the 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, and persons who have violated the Passport Act, etc. Upon a report from the 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 through the use of biometric information such as fingerprints have become widespread in other countries, and possibilities for more effective use of IC functions are also under consideration at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In addition, starting October 1, 2018, the 'downloadable applications' launched on January 4, 2016 at diplomatic missions overseas have now been adopted in Japan as well, improving convenience for applicants.

<sup>3</sup> An ePassport is a passport embedded with an integrated circuit (IC) chip which contains a digitized facial image (biometric information) of the passport holder to prevent forgery of passport and its illicit use by a third party. It was first issued in 2006.

<sup>4</sup> The number of illegal acquisitions of passports discovered: 31 in 2015, 22 in 2016, 21 in 2017, 35 in 2018, and 42 in 2019.



Reconsignment of passport-related works such as accepting and delivering passport, from the prefectural governments to municipal governments, has been permitted since 2006. As of December 2019, 897 cities and towns had launched passport services, which make up more than 50% of all the cities and towns in Japan.

### (3) Overseas Voting

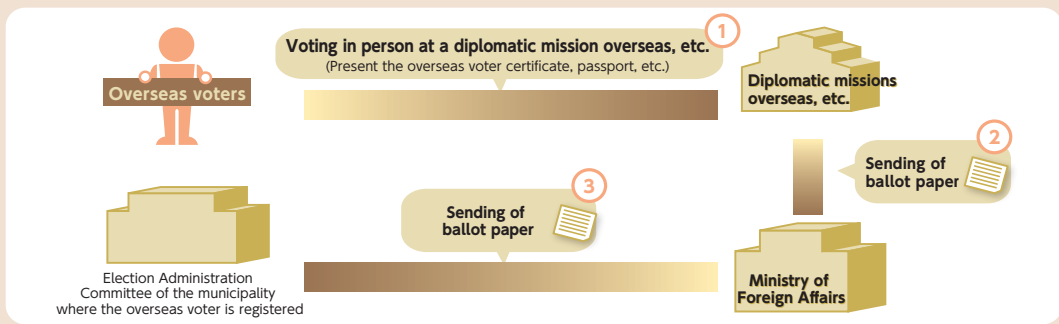
The overseas voting system allows Japanese voters living overseas to vote in national

elections. In order to vote through the overseas voting system, it is necessary to be registered in advance on the overseas voter directory managed by the election board of the city or 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 there, 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

#### Voting in elections for overseas voters

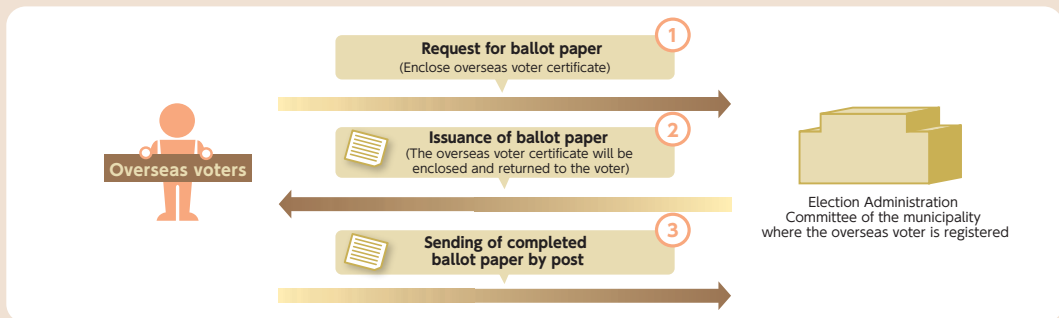
##### a. Voting at a foreign diplomatic mission

Voters who are registered on the overseas electoral roll may vote by presenting their overseas voter certificates, passports and other necessary documents to a diplomatic mission overseas set up as a polling station. (The period and time of voting differs depending on the diplomatic mission.)



##### b. Postal voting

Send the overseas voter certificate and request form for ballot paper to the chairperson of the Election Administration Committee of the municipality that you are registered with to request for a ballot paper. Complete and return the ballot paper to the chairperson of the Election Administration Committee of the municipality, ensuring that the ballot paper reaches the polling station by the time the voting ends on the date of the election in Japan (8:00 p.m. Japan time). (Voting is carried out from the day after the date of public notice.)



##### c. Voting in Japan

In the case where the overseas voter returns temporarily to Japan at the time of the elections, or where the overseas voter is not yet registered on the electoral roll in Japan after returning to Japan, he or she may vote through the same voting methods as voters in Japan (early voting, absentee voting, voting on election day).

a need to appear in person at a diplomatic mission overseas after moving outside Japan, which simplifies procedures. Voters 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 spread the overseas voting system and to increase the number of registered voters by publicizing the overseas voting system to the territories under their jurisdiction 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 provides assistance to the Japanese Schools (partial assistance for school building rental fees, remuneration for locally hired teachers, and safety measures expenses) so that the overseas school children at the age of compulsory education in Japan can receive a level of education equivalent to that in Japan. MOFA also provides the same assistance for Japanese Schools to Supplementary Education Schools (educational institutions established to maintain children's academic ability, such as Japanese language proficiency) mainly in areas where Japanese Schools are not located. In particular, 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, emails, and other means. 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 cooperation of domestic medical institutions (to one country, seven cities in FY2019). MOFA also dispatches medical specialists to regions where infectious diseases or air pollution are becoming serious issues, and organizes health and safety lectures (seven countries, eight cities in FY2019).

##### **C Responses to Other Needs**

In order to eliminate the complexity of various procedures for Japanese nationals living overseas (such as converting Japanese driving licenses, obtaining residence/work permits) and to make living abroad more comfortable, MOFA continues to engage with the authorities in such countries where Japanese nationals reside.

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 sections of the Japanese driving test (theory/practical), when it has been confirmed that they have no problems with operating vehicles. On the other hand, as it is mandatory for Japanese nationals to take driving tests when converting Japanese licenses to local licenses in some countries and states, MOFA is calling for those countries to simplify the procedures for license conversion to the same degree 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.

### 3 Cooperation with Emigrants and Japanese Descendants (Nikkei)

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of 151 years, as of 2019. There are an estimated 3.8 million overseas Japanese and Japanese descendants (Nikkei) around the world, with especially large numbers residing in North, Central and South America. They make significant contribution 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 an estimated 2.24 million Nikkei live. Various forms of assistance are offered, including welfare support for aging emigrants, training in Japan for Nikkei people, 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 further strengthen relationships with Nikkei communities.

To date, invitation programs to Japan for Nikkei leaders in various fields, and from various countries and regions, have been carried out in North, Central and South America. Also, efforts are underway to strengthen relations with Nikkei



The welcome reception hosted by the Foreign Minister at the 60th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad

people in these regions through close cooperation between the diplomatic missions in each country with Nikkei communities, including actively creating opportunities for senior officials from Japan to meet with Nikkei persons during their visits to these countries.

The 60th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad was held in October 2019. Foreign Minister Motegi hosted the welcome reception, and held informal talks with Nikkei people of various backgrounds and generations. In addition to providing support to Japanese abroad and Nikkei people, MOFA will promote cooperation with the younger generation and strengthen their bonds with Japan.

### 4 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. As of December 31, 2019, 101 countries including Japan are parties to the Convention.

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 the whereabouts of the child and arranging mediation services aimed at amicable resolutions.

In the five years and nine months between the

entry into force of the Convention and the end of December 2019, MOFA received a total number of 378 applications: 235 applications seeking the return of the child and 143 applications seeking access to the child. Of the cases seeking the return of the child from Japan to another country, children were returned in 40 cases and conclusions were reached not to return the child in 35 cases. Of the cases requesting the return of the child from another country to Japan, children were returned in 39 cases and conclusions were reached not to return the child in 24 cases.

In February 2019, 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. The Symposium Commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of Japan's entry into the 1980 Hague Convention was held at the University of Tokyo in June, during which participants engaged in in-depth discussions about the implementation

status of the Hague Convention in Japan and future issues (see the Special Feature on page 348).

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 for local governments, relevant institutions such as bar associations, and diplomatic corps in Tokyo.

In February, a PR video on the Hague Convention was released as a part of efforts to raise public awareness of the Convention among a wider range of people.

**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 2019)**

	Applications for support for return of children	Application for assistance on face-to-face meeting
Applications related to children located in Japan	128	111
Applications related to children located overseas	107	32

Special  
Feature

## Fifth Anniversary of Japan's Entry into the 1980 Hague Convention

With the rise in the movement of people and international marriages around the world, the international community has increasingly been facing issues since the 1970s, such as child removal by one parent. In response, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Hague Convention) was concluded in 1980. With a surge in the number of international marriages between Japanese nationals and foreign nationals in the latter half of the 1980s, from about 5,000 per year in 1970 to about 21,000 in 2017, the Hague Convention entered into force on April 1, 2014 after various discussions held in Japan.

As 2019 marks five years since the Hague Convention came into effect in Japan, MOFA held a symposium commemorating the fifth anniversary of Japan's entry into the 1980 Hague Convention "The 1980 HAGUE CONVENTION AND JAPAN - Toward a Child-Centered International Family Dispute Settlement" at the University of Tokyo on June 10, 2019. Here, family dispute settlement refers to procedures to resolve disputes within families.

This symposium was convened for three purposes: (1) To equip more people with correct knowledge on the Hague Convention and the issue of child abduction; (2) To facilitate better understanding of the implementation status of the Convention in Japan over the past five years; (3) To provide an opportunity for deepening national debates on the approach to family dispute settlement relating to children.

This symposium drew more than 190 audience members, including those who are involved in the implementation of the Hague Convention such as lawyers and court officers, diplomatic corps in Tokyo, researchers, and students. During two sessions, the participants engaged in lively discussions on the approach to family dispute settlement relating to children.

### (1) First Session: Japan's Five-year Experience in Implementing the 1980 Hague Convention and its New Challenges

In the keynote lectures, representatives from MOFA, the Supreme Court of Japan, and the U.S. Department of State presented information about Japan's five-year experience in implementing the Hague Convention, court proceedings for Hague cases in Japan, and U.S.-Japan Hague cases from the U.S. perspective, respectively. Following that, experts and attorneys with a wealth of experience in cases on the order for the return of a child based on the Hague Convention joined in the panel discussion. The panelists discussed the difficulties that Japan has faced to date in implementing the Convention countermeasures, and deepened discussions on the future challenges that Japan needs to address, such as efforts to speed up the procedures based on the Convention and mechanisms for enhancing the effectiveness of compulsory execution procedures for the return of a child.

### (2) Second Session: The Way Forward

In the keynote lectures, a professor from the UK who specializes in international family laws spoke about the long-term effects of abduction on children and the importance of care for children after reunification with their parents. Following that, an American attorney and mediator with experience in conducting training for Japanese domestic relations conciliation commissioners, spoke about the merits of using international family mediation in international family dispute cases involving parties of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds. In the panel discussion after that, attorneys and experts joined in-depth discussions on the importance of prioritizing the interests of children and listening to the children in family dispute settlement.

This symposium helped to deepen understanding among a diverse group of participants on matters such as the framework of the Hague Convention and court proceedings in Japan. It also offered participants the opportunity to provide feedback and various views on the implementation status of the Hague Convention in Japan to date, as well as other related topics. Japan will continue to put effort into the steady implementation of the Hague Convention.



Participants engaging in discussion in the panel discussion (June 10, Tokyo)



Video introducing the Hague Convention "Let's study the Hague Child Abduction Convention Whiteboard animation" ([https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/ha/page25e\\_000146.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/ha/page25e_000146.html))



## Section 3

# Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

### 1 Proactive Communications to the Public

#### (1) Overview

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

#### (2) Providing Information through Domestic Media

MOFA has committed itself to promptly and 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 MOFA's website. During overseas or local visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, MOFA provides the



A Regular press conference (MOFA, Tokyo)

#### Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	111 times
Press Secretary	30 times
Total	141 times

\*From January 1 to December 31, 2019 Text posted MOFA website

#### Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	22 times
Statements by the Press Secretary	64 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,344 times
Total	1,430 times

\*From January 1 to December 31, 2019 Counted by MOFA

information related to the visits from the countries/places so that people can quickly follow and understand the gist and the outcomes of the visits. MOFA also regularly releases statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Press Secretary on specific international issues, announcing the stance of the Government of Japan. Similarly,

MOFA frequently provides press releases on its daily diplomatic activities. Additionally, through various media appearances and interviews, the Minister and State Ministers for Foreign Affairs often explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public. During large-scale international conferences such as the G20 Osaka Summit and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Japan in 2019, the International Media Center (IMC) was established to support activities of domestic and overseas media personnel at the location.

### (3) Information Provision through the Internet

MOFA's website (in 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, and security along with the latest international relations and other basic relevant information. In 2019, MOFA provided information about a variety of diplomatic events such as the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7.

MOFA's website in the Japanese language provides a variety of content for Japanese nationals across a wide range of levels, including the "Anything Report' from Around the World" and "MOFA for Kids."

In addition to this, MOFA provides a variety of information through various social media platforms.



MOFA's Official Website:  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>



MOFA's Official Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Mofa.Japan.en>



MOFA for Kids (only in the Japanese language):  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/kids/index.html>

MOFA's Official Website



MOFA's Official Facebook



MOFA for Kids



#### (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, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and MOFA officials.

As part of these efforts, MOFA also participates in “Home Town Talks” in which the three highest ranking officials of various ministries and governmental agencies talk with the residents of local Japanese areas. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji visited Susaki City of Kochi Prefecture in April, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Norikazu visited Hamada City of Shimane Prefecture in May, giving explanations on MOFA’s policies and exchanging opinions with the participants.

MOFA reaches out to various age groups by holding “Lectures on the International Situations,”

“Diplomatic Talks,” and “Talks for High School Programs,” and by sending its officials to venues such as international exchange organizations, universities, and high schools throughout Japan. MOFA attaches importance on promoting better understandings in foreign policy and international affairs among youth who are going to bear the future of Japan on their shoulders. With the notion in mind, MOFA holds the “International Issue Presentation Contest” for university students, and debate sessions between university students and

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

Lecture on the International Situations	9 times
Diplomatic Talk Program	39 times
Talk for High School Programs	95 times
Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA	115 times

(\*From January 1 to December 31, 2019)



Visits by elementary, junior and senior- high school students to MOFA: Students from Fujii Senior High School (October 23, Tokyo, MOFA)



International Issue Presentation Contest (October 5, Nihonbashi Social Education Center, Tokyo)



Lectures on International Situations (November 6, Kyoto Shimbun Culture Hall, Kyoto City)



Periodical Journal “Diplomacy”



young officials of the ministry through “Dialogue with Students,” providing opportunities for young students to visit MOFA under the program “Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA,” and offering parents and children an opportunity to participate in the “Children’s Kasumigaseki Tour Day” during which they can tour various governmental ministries and learn about their work. In particular, at MOFA during the “Children’s Kasumigaseki Tour Day,” State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko held a “Children’s Press Conference” to answer a variety of diplomacy-related questions from elementary and junior high school students.

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 (33 lectures in 2019).

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 2019, the journal featured numerous papers written by renowned domestic and overseas experts on a variety of foreign diplomacy issues, including the U.S.-China relations and the situation in Northeast Asia, in addition to the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7.

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 websites of MOFA and 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 State Minister for Foreign Affairs or 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 reached approximately 33,000 by the end of 2019.

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 2019, MOFA received 890 requests for disclosure, and documents totaling 224,505 pages were disclosed.

## Column

## The Special Exhibition for the 150th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Japanese Diplomacy as Reflected in Historical Documents

Once or twice a year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) holds special exhibitions at its Diplomatic Archives Exhibition Hall. Those exhibitions display items related to anniversary events of the Ministry, or those related to incidents and people in diplomatic history.

The year 2019 marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation of MOFA. In commemorating the anniversary, a special exhibition “150 Years of Japanese Diplomacy” was held from July 2 to October 4. This exhibition displayed documents of treaties and records of negotiations between Japan and foreign countries during the last 150 years.

The exhibition was held in two sections. The first section introduced the history of Japan’s diplomatic activities from the late 19th century to the 1970s. The documents displayed in this section included: the “Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (1894)” that brought significant progress to the revision of the Unequal Treaties which had been a diplomatic issue since the foundation of MOFA; the “Hull note (1941)” presented by U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull at the final stage of the negotiations with Japan before the outbreak of the Pacific War; the “Resolution concerning Japan’s admission to the UN (1956)” which signified the return of Japan to the postwar international community; the “Agreement between Japan and the United States of America Concerning the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands (1972),” among others.

The second section introduced various international issues Japan tackled as a member of the international community and a postwar major economic power under the frameworks for international cooperation. This section displayed telegrams of the G7 Summit proceedings (1978), currency and postage stamps issued by other countries in commemorating Japan’s ODA support, the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Singapore for a New-Age Economic Partnership (2002) which highlighted a new economic diplomacy of Japan in the 21st century, the Paris Agreement (2015) which showed Japan’s initiatives toward climate change, and other issues.



The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (Ratified)



Exhibition poster

Visitors to the exhibitions gave feedback such as “It was great to learn about 150 years of diplomatic history through historical documents,” “Seeing directly the things that I have learned at school gave me a deeper understanding of the contents,” “It was great to see with my own eyes the original and valuable historical documents,” and “It made me think how Japanese diplomacy should be in the new Reiwa era.”

Since its establishment, MOFA has engaged in various diplomatic activities to protect the interests of Japan and the Japanese people in the international community. The current diplomacy is based upon those past experiences. We hope that this exhibition provided an opportunity to consider the future of Japanese diplomacy and the international community.

MOFA will continue to make efforts in promoting public understanding of Japanese diplomacy by preserving, managing, and encouraging the use of important historical documents.

### Diplomatic Archives

1-5-3 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041

Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Excluding Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and year-end and New Year holidays. Temporary opening hours available. For details, please see the website: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/hq/record/index.html>)



## 2 Strengthening the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

The security environment surrounding Japan has become even more severe, and diplomatic issues are becoming more complex and diverse as changes in the power balance of the international community accelerate and become more complex. Under these circumstances, MOFA must enhance its foreign policy implementation structure in order to achieve steady outcomes by pursuing “diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness” to further advance “diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map,” 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 2020, Japan established a new embassy in Vanuatu. As a result, the number of diplomatic missions overseas as of FY2019 is 227 (152 embassies, 65 consulates general, and 10 permanent missions).

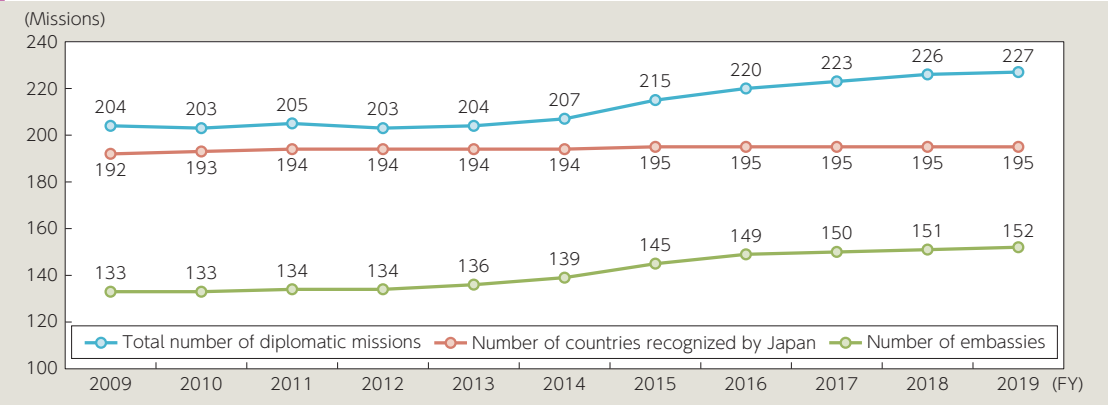
Vanuatu is a country with great affinity toward Japan, and it is one of the geopolitically important countries in the Melanesian region for gathering and disseminating information. Through opening an embassy in the country, Japan seeks to elevate bilateral relations with Vanuatu to a higher level and strengthen cooperation in the international arena.

A new Japanese embassy in Haiti and a Japanese consulate general in Cebu, Philippines will be established in FY2020. While Haiti has the

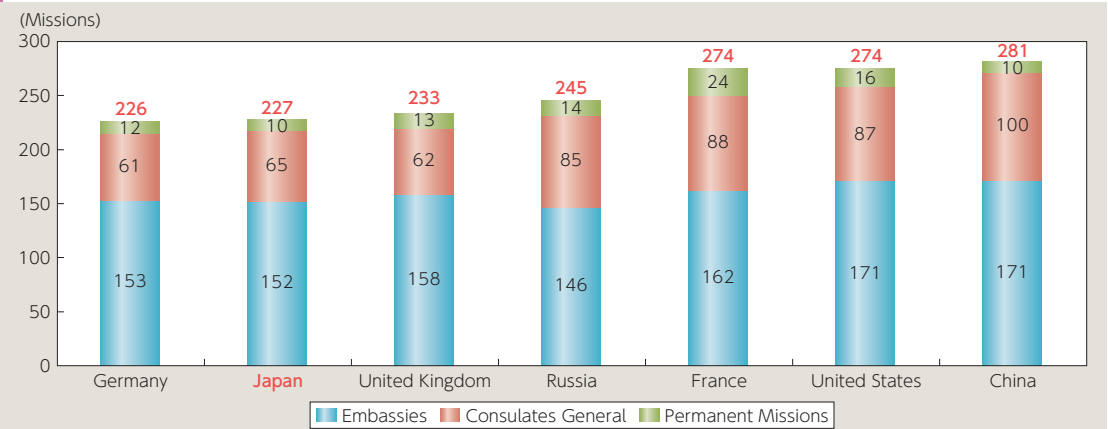
largest population in the Caribbean Community, it is also the poorest country in Latin America, and interest from the international community over the country remains high amidst its frequently occurring natural disasters. Haiti is also traditionally one of the friendliest countries to Japan that has supported many of Japan's positions in the international arena. Cebu is the second largest metropolitan area in the Philippines after Manilla. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Japanese companies and travelers, such as tourists and language students in Cebu and the Visayas region at large. It is essential for Japan to strengthen its capacity to protect Japanese nationals and to support Japanese companies by establishing a basis for information gathering on political and economic affairs to deepen its bilateral relations with the Philippines in a multi-layered manner

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. In the context of the Government's policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses due to the current severe budget situation, the number of staff members at MOFA was increased to 6,288 (6,173 in 2018) in order to strengthen information gathering and analysis capabilities, vitalize the Japanese economy including promotion of infrastructure exports, further advance strategic communications, bolster security, and address bilateral relations and regional situations. This number, however, remains insufficient in comparison with other major countries. MOFA continues its efforts to build a structure that is commensurate with Japan's national power and diplomatic policy. In the meantime, as enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure remains necessary in FY2020, MOFA will increase its staff members by 70 in order to address important issues, such as protection and safety measures for Japanese nationals abroad as well as information gathering and analysis capabilities, Japan's

### Changes in the Number of Diplomatic Missions

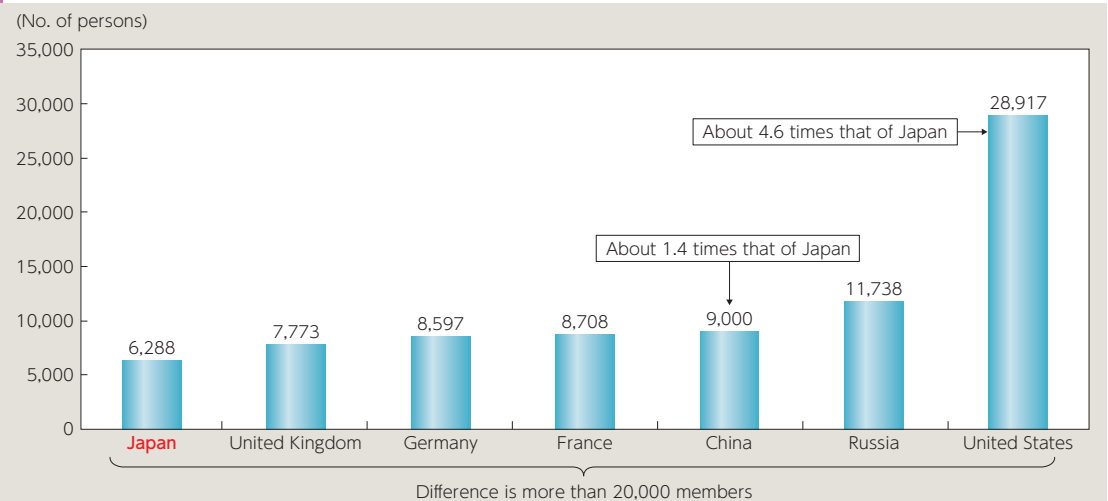


### Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries



Note: As of January 2020

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



based on the FY2019 survey result

## Column

## Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consuls-General of Japan: At the Forefront of Diplomacy

Miyamura Kosei

I have been working for Ambassador Sugiyama at the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka since October 2018, after serving as the Executive Chef for the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar. Before I became an executive chef for the Ambassador, I had never even travelled abroad, and I had heard a little about this job at the culinary institute. It had never occurred to me that I would be engaged in this line of work. When I first took up the post in Myanmar, I felt uneasy about whether I would be competent enough for the job. However, thanks to the assistance from the Ambassador and Madame, and as well as the warm support of the local staff, I quickly became accustomed to the job and the local environment.

My main job is to offer a hospitable experience to VIPs who have been invited as guests of the Ambassador. The table could be just for two; the Ambassador and a guest. It sometimes can take the form of sit-down dining for more than 20 people or stand-up buffets for 30 to 40 people. Many of the guests are those inconceivable for me to meet in everyday life, including VIPs from the country that I am stationed in, as well as ambassadors of various countries and ministers from Japan, such as the Prime Minister or the Minister for Foreign Affairs. One of the greatest satisfactions I get from this job is having the opportunity to serve the food that I have prepared for them. Most of the guests look forward to having Japanese cuisine, so I put my heart and soul into creating each dish, using locally-sourced ingredients as much as possible while incorporating new preparation methods.

Sri Lanka, like Japan, is an island country, with a wide variety of fish in the markets. When I visit the market to shop for ingredients, I enjoy mulling over ingredients to choose as I imagine what the finished dish will look like.

As this role allows me to take on the responsibilities of buying and preparing ingredients, creating the menu, deciding on the tableware, and choosing the liquors and wines to pair with the food consistently from beginning to end, I find this job very fulfilling and rewarding.

Myanmar and Sri Lanka are a mix of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and so on, and there are different things that the people of each religion cannot consume. This is the most difficult aspect when it comes to thinking about the menu. For example, we cannot serve any animal products to guests who are strict vegans, so I have to serve a soup stock made only from kelp instead of a soup stock made from kelp and bonito.

In addition to serving dishes while taking such precautions into consideration, I also have to pay close attention to the purpose of each and every meal. The objectives that the Ambassador and staff of the embassy wish to achieve through a meal vary depending on each guest and situation. There is no greater joy than to know that I have been able to contribute, even a little, to achieving the objectives through a meal that I was involved in. When I receive praise after a meal, I feel so happy that all the difficulties I had during the preparation of the meal simply melt away. Of course, it would not be possible alone without the cooperation of local staff who prepare and serve the food alongside me.

In my everyday work, I prioritize teamwork and pay attention to communication in order to build mutual trust with the local staff who are my working partners.

"Washoku," Japan's traditional food, has been designated as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage and is increasingly attracting attention across the world. Bearing that in mind, while doing research on dishes that will delight all the five senses, I will continue to prepare cuisines for the enjoyment of all.



With local staff in the kitchen (Author: Center)

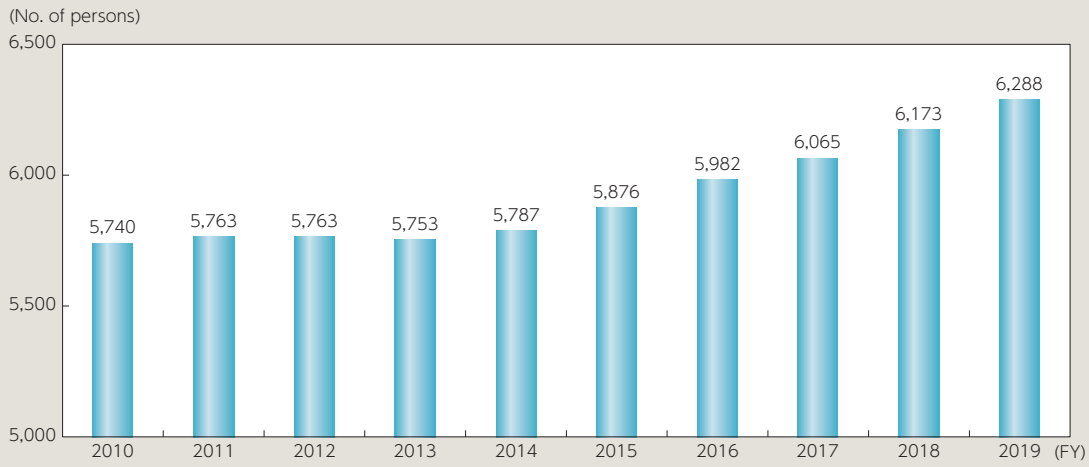


Scene in the kitchen

To find out more about the activities of executive chefs for ambassadors/consuls-general of Japan as well as recruitment information, please visit the following website (only in the Japanese language):  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/annai/zaigai/ryourinin.html>



### Number of Staff Members at MOFA



further economic vitalization including increased infrastructure exports, stronger strategic communications, advancing its diplomacy under the policy of “Proactive Contributor to Peace,” and addressing bilateral relations and regional affairs.

MOFA appropriated a budget of 730.6 billion yen in the budget for FY2019 (an increase of 33.9 billion yen from FY2018) to take on an even more proactive role in diplomacy to lead international initiatives and discussions. The total amount of MOFA’s FY2019 supplementary budget was 130.4 billion yen for support for humanitarian, counter-terrorism or social stabilization assistance including refugee issues and, as economic measures, support for global issues such as epidemic diseases and support for promoting inbound tourism.

MOFA’s FY2020 initial government budget proposal appropriated 712.0 billion yen based on the following priorities: (1) continuing to protect the international order, based on basic values, from various challenges; (2) promoting active economic diplomacy; (3) strengthening strategic communications and expanding the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan; (4) actively contributing to solving global issues; (5) supporting the age of large-scale people-to-people exchange on the front lines; (6) fundamentally strengthening the foreign policy implementation

structure. In addition to increasing the ODA budget to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) including Pacific Island countries, the budget for strengthening systems to bolster the international order based on the rule of law was also expanded.

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 enhance the foreign policy implementation structure while making efforts to streamline operations.

### 3 Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy

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

Some of the examples include the World Economic Forum (Davos), which has a large influence on the international economic policies of each country, the Shangri-La Dialogue, which provides prominent experts and ministers of the world with an opportunity to discuss Asian



Foreign Minister Motegi gives a speech at an international policy discussion (GZERO Summit) by experts (November 18, Tokyo)

security issues, and the Manama Dialogue, which deals with the security in the Middle East. In major countries, 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.

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



Submitting Communique to Foreign Minister Kono at the T20 Summit for the G20 (May 27, Tokyo)

information and to make policy recommendations. In addition, since FY2017, MOFA has also launched a subsidized support project for territory, sovereignty, and history studies.

In May 2019, the T20 (Think20), which is one of the G20 engagement groups (groups of stakeholders from the international community that are independent of governments) held its summit in Tokyo, and more than 600 people attended, including experts from G20 countries. A communique (policy recommendations) relating to the main issues at the G20 Osaka Summit was submitted to Foreign Minister Kono (see the Column on page 359).

Yoshino Naoyuki

Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Chair of T20 Japan

The Think20 (T20) was started at the G20 Summit held in Mexico in 2012. It is a policy research group comprising think tanks around the world, and its aim is to make policy recommendations to the G20 through fact-based evidence and empirical studies.

The T20 Japan 2019, the policy research group for the G20 Osaka Summit, process was led by three research institutes: the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), and the Institute for International Monetary Affairs (IIMA). It culminated in the T20 Summit in Tokyo on May 26 and 27, 2019, which brought together the best policy experts (more than 600 attendees from 50 countries) from around the world.

In his message to the T20 Summit, Prime Minister Abe, who chaired the G20 Osaka Summit, touched on the importance of the T20 to the G20 process and emphasized the value of T20's policy guidance for a wide range of policy fields, from trade and investment to infrastructural development, climate change and environment, and international finance.

The communique (policy recommendations) issued by T20 Japan stated that "G20 countries have been taking steps closer to this new global goal (to promote a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient society) with recent milestone agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement." On the other hand, it points out that many global problems still remain to be solved, such as widening inequality, poverty reduction, gender equity, climate change, and how to strengthen resilience to natural disasters. It also adds that we are facing a number of emerging challenges such as the new wave of digital innovation, aging populations, rapid changes in the dynamics of global governance, and the erosion of trust and social cohesion.

The T20's policy recommendations urge G20 countries to address these issues by taking a holistic and systematic approach to cross-cutting issues, and further, through effective and robust global governance architecture, while focusing on investment in human and physical capital.

The policy recommendations presented by 10 taskforces (TF) as the outcome of their policy debates are based on empirical studies and analysis by experts in the respective fields. For example, the taskforce on quality infrastructure investments (TF4) points out that invigorating economic activity in the surrounding areas simultaneously with infrastructural development can contribute to further enhancing the quality of the said infrastructure ("spillover effects"). It raised proposals such as further enhancing the "spillover effects" of infrastructural development in roads and railroads by combining measures to increase employment and enhance education standards in the surrounding areas, with the provision of financing through a "Furusato Investment Fund" to people who wish to establish new businesses, such as restaurants, in the surrounding areas. In addition, it was also proposed to utilize land trusts to facilitate the transfer of rights for the use of land that is required for infrastructural development. The advancement of quality infrastructural development through the application of these ideas is expected to contribute to reducing income disparity and stimulating economic development in each country.

T20 Japan also addressed the problems of aging populations and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) policy, which Japan and other countries in Asia are especially knowledgeable about.



Presentation of T20 policy recommendations to Prime Minister Abe  
(Author: Center right)



It was demonstrated that the effectiveness of monetary and fiscal policies would weaken in economies with aging populations, compared to those with a large youth population. In order to maintain sustainable economic growth, there is a need to change to a wage structure based on productivity, rather than seniority, and to extend the retirement age as far as possible to realize a society where people can continue working for a long time. The aging population is a problem confronting countries such as China, the Republic of Korea, and even Thailand, and structural changes in the employment system are necessary beyond traditional monetary and fiscal policies.

With regard to SMEs, as many developing countries have a high percentage of the population employed in SMEs, the T20 recommends SME evaluation using big data, the reduction of non-performing loans by analyzing data on loans to SMEs by financial institutions, and new data analysis methods for SMEs.

Furthermore, at the T20 Summit, Professor Robert Engle, Nobel Laureate and professor at New York University, delivered a keynote speech presenting policy ideas such as inducing environmentally-friendly resource allocation through the stock market. T20 Japan, led by research institutes in Japan, successfully compiled a wide range of recommendations toward eradicating poverty, enhancing education standards, and addressing environmental issues, among others, and communicated these recommendations to the G20 countries. More than 100 individual policy recommendations have been compiled as T20 Japan policy briefs and published fully on the T20 Japan website. I hope you will take time to read through them.

(<https://t20japan.org/publications/policy-briefs/>)



T20 Summit (The author with Professor Robert Engle, Nobel Laureate in economics)

# References

<b>The Issue of Comfort Women</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>The Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs)</b>	<b>367</b>

# The Issue of Comfort Women



(Scan here for publications on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website)

## Announcement by Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Joint Press Occasion December 28, 2015

### 1. Foreign Minister Kishida

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) have intensively discussed the issue of comfort women between Japan and the ROK at bilateral meetings including the Director-General consultations. Based on the result of such discussions, I, on behalf of the Government of Japan, state the following:

(1) The issue of comfort women, with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time, was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women, and the Government of Japan is painfully aware of responsibilities from this perspective. As Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Abe expresses anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.

(2) The Government of Japan has been sincerely dealing with this issue. Building on such experience, the Government of Japan will now take measures to heal psychological wounds of all former comfort women through its budget. To be more specific, it has been decided that the Government of the ROK establish a foundation for the purpose of providing support for the former comfort women, that its funds be contributed by the Government of Japan as a one-time contribution through its budget, and that projects for recovering the honor and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of all former comfort women be carried out under the cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the ROK.

(3) While stating the above, the Government of

Japan confirms that this issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with this announcement, on the premise that the Government will steadily implement the measures specified in (2) above. In addition, together with the Government of the ROK, the Government of Japan will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations.

### 2. Foreign Minister Yun

The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Government of Japan have intensively discussed the issue of comfort women between the ROK and Japan at bilateral meetings including the Director-General consultations. Based on the result of such discussions, I, on behalf of the Government of the ROK, state the following:

(1) The Government of the ROK values the GOJ's announcement and efforts made by the Government of Japan in the lead-up to the issuance of the announcement and confirms, together with the GOJ, that the issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with this announcement, on the premise that the Government of Japan will steadily implement the measures specified in 1. (2) above. The Government of the ROK will cooperate in the implementation of the Government of Japan's measures.

(2) The Government of the ROK acknowledges the fact that the Government of Japan is concerned about the statue built in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul from the viewpoint of preventing any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity, and will strive to solve this issue in an appropriate manner

through taking measures such as consulting with related organizations about possible ways of addressing this issue.

(3) The Government of the ROK, together with the Government of Japan, will refrain from

accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations, on the premise that the Government of Japan will steadily implement the measures it announced.

## Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Consideration of the seventh and eighth periodic reports (February 16, 2016, Geneva)

(Summary of remarks by Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Question and Answer session)



(Scan here for publications on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website)

The combined seventh and eighth periodic reports were considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on February 16, 2016 at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The summary of remarks by Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Question and Answer session is as follows.

### 1. Domestic application of the Convention

(In answer to the questions from Mr. Bruun,)

Japan shall faithfully observe the treaties concluded by Japan and established rule of international law, based on Article 98-2 of the Constitution of Japan and considers that such treaties prevail over domestic laws.

### 2. Issue of comfort women

(In answer to the questions from Ms. Hofmeister,)

As stated in the written answer to the questions posed by the Committee, the Government of Japan conducted a full-scale fact-finding study on the comfort women issue in the early 1990s. That was when the issue started to be taken up as a political and diplomatic issue between Japan and the Republic of Korea. However, “forceful taking away” of comfort women by the military and government authorities could not be confirmed in any of the documents that the Government of Japan was able to identify in this study.

The reason behind the widespread belief that comfort women were “forcefully taken away” is a fabricated story by the late Seiji Yoshida in his book entitled “My War Crime” published in 1983. In this book, Yoshida illustrates himself hunting many women by order of the Japanese military in Jeju Island of the Republic of Korea. At the time, the content of his book was widely reported as if it were a true story by the Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese newspaper. It eventually made a tremendous impact not only on public opinion in Japan and the Republic of Korea, but also in the entire international community. The reality is, Yoshida’s story has later been proven to be entirely a product of imagination by scholars.

In fact, the Asahi Shimbun later published articles several times including on August 5 and 6, and later in September, 2014, admitted having published erroneous articles, and officially apologized for it to their readers.

The truth is that the figure “200,000 persons” as the number of comfort women also lacks concrete evidence. The Asahi Shimbun clarified in its article dated on August 5, 2014 that “‘Women volunteer corps’ refer to the ‘women volunteer labor corps’ that were organized to mobilize women as a work force during the war in Japan proper as well as in the former colonies on the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan” and that “With

the objective of using the women as a work force, the corps were different from comfort women who were made to serve as sexual partners for military personnel.” The Asahi Shimbun admitted that the figure “200,000” which it had reported was originated from its confusion with comfort women of the Women Volunteer Corps who were mobilized as a war-time labor force.

I would also like to point out that the expression “sex slaves” contradicts the facts.

After intensive consultations between the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea on the issue of comfort women toward an early conclusion, as I explained earlier, the Foreign Ministers of both nations had a meeting on December 28 last year and reached an agreement on the issue. With this agreement, the two Governments confirmed that the issue of comfort women is resolved finally and irreversibly. Later on the same day, a phone call between the leaders of both nations was held and the leaders confirmed that both sides had reached an agreement and honored such development.

As I said at the outset, documents on this agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea are attached with our written answer, thus, I will not repeat the detailed content of the agreement here.

What should be recognized is that the Government of Japan has been sincerely dealing with this issue through measures such as the Asian Women’s Fund even before the most recent agreement. Building on such experience and under the most recent agreement, the following has been decided: first, the Government of the Republic of Korea establish a foundation for the purpose of providing support for the former comfort women; second, its funds of approximately 1 billion yen be contributed by the Government of Japan as a one-time contribution through its budget; and third, projects for recovering the honor and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of all former comfort women be carried out under the cooperation between the two Governments.

Each government is currently making efforts to faithfully implement the content of the agreement, and there is no change at all on this point. The understanding of the international community regarding such efforts by the two Governments would be very much appreciated. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the international community is now welcoming the agreement, as expressed by, for instance, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I would like to add one more point. Ms. Hofmeister pointed out examples of other countries’ situations. Regarding issues of reparations, property, and claims pertaining to the Second World War, including the point that Ms. Hofmeister pointed out, the Government of Japan dealt with such issues through the San Francisco Peace Treaty concluded with 45 countries, including the US, the UK, and France, and through bilateral treaties, agreements and instruments, which include the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea and settlement between Japan and China. Based on these agreements, I will not go into the legal details, but, the Government of Japan’s consistent position has been that we have dealt with these issues sincerely and that these issues had already been legally settled with the relevant parties to those agreements including issues of claims by individuals.

Although this issue had been legally settled, the Government of Japan established the Asian Women’s Fund and carried out its projects using the budget of the Government of Japan and contributions from the people of Japan. I will not go into the details of the activities of the Asian Women’s Fund, but, I believe that most of you here today are familiar with the story.

(In answer to the questions from Ms. Zou.)

I believe that if you read the documents attached with our written answer, it should be clear to you

that the issue (of comfort women) is resolved finally and irreversibly between Foreign Minister Kishida and Foreign Minister Yun on December 28 last year.

Therefore, I have to say that criticism such as comments that the Government of Japan denies historical fact or has not taken any measures related to this issue contradicts the facts.

I have explained that “forceful taking away” of comfort women could not be confirmed in our study, but in the agreement concluded by Foreign Minister Kishida, it says that, “The issue of comfort women, with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time, was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women, and the Government of Japan is painfully aware of responsibilities.” This agreement also states that the Japanese Government expresses its most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women, and a foundation will be established, and its funds will be contributed by the Government of Japan, the amount of which is 1 billion Yen. Since we only have limited time, I will not go into the further details. As for the phrase “With an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time,” the Government of Japan has admitted that comfort stations were established in response to the request of the military authorities at that time, that the then Japanese military had been involved in the establishment

and management of the comfort stations and the transfer of comfort women, and that the recruitment of the comfort women had been conducted by private recruiters who acted in response to the request of the military. Based on the above-mentioned facts, I gave an explanation earlier in order to clarify that the newspaper that published the article admitted that the number of 200,000 was completely mistaken, for example.

I also would like to reiterate that the expression “sex slave” contradicts the facts. It is also the case that the expression “sex slave” does not appear even once in the joint announcement by the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea, which is attached with our written answer.

Therefore, highly regrettably, I must make it clear that the Government of Japan can not only accept any of the points made by Ms. Zou, but I also have to say that her statement contradicts the facts.

(Regarding the question by Ms. Zou on the agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea,) The agreement that we provided to you is the agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea and both governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea are currently making efforts to faithfully implement the content of the agreement. This has not changed at all. I would like to ask for your understanding on this point.

## The Government of Japan Files Amicus Curiae Brief supporting petitioners at the Case Against Comfort Woman Statue in Glendale, U.S. (February 2017)



(Scan here for publications on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website)

1. The comfort woman statue installed in the City of Glendale, California, is subject to a lawsuit filed against the City of Glendale by Japanese residents of California and organizations as plaintiffs. Two cases are simultaneously pending before a U.S. federal court and a California

court. The former case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in January 2017. In this connection, the Government of Japan filed an amicus curiae brief with the Supreme Court on February 22.

2. To date, the Government of Japan has provided

appropriate explanations regarding its basic position and efforts concerning the comfort women issue to various parties concerned and sought their accurate understanding. This amicus curiae brief was submitted as part of these efforts.

3. The amicus curiae brief that was submitted

explains the reasons that the appeal should be accepted, citing the positions expressed in the past by the U.S. Government judicial and precedents in the U.S. It also states the basic position and efforts of the Government of Japan regarding the comfort women issue.

### Amicus Curiae Brief for the Government of Japan (Excerpt)

Japan strongly disagrees that the inscription on the Glendale monument accurately describes the historical record, which Japan has studied at length. Last year at the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in Geneva, Japan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs testified about the results of Japan's full-scale fact-finding study in the 1990s. See Summary of Remarks by Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Question and Answer Session, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Feb. 16, 2016) (discussing the results of Japan's investigation, including a lack of evidence to support a claim that 200,000 women were coerced into sexual slavery).

The claims of individuals, including comfort women, are addressed by a 1965 Agreement Between Japan and the Republic of Korea

Concerning the Settlement of Problems in Regard to Property and Claims and Economic Cooperation. This 1965 Agreement underscores that the comfort women issue should be handled as a matter of government-to-government diplomacy. Indeed, Japan and Korea's ongoing diplomacy on the issue, supported by the United States, led to an aforementioned agreement in 2015 as well. The Government of Japan honors the 2015 Agreement and continues to implement it in a very faithful manner.

It is of the utmost importance to Japan that States or localities like Glendale may not insert themselves into foreign relations, especially on sensitive subjects like this one, so that they can not undermine the unified message that the United States of America must send in its foreign policy making.

Please see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website for other related documents.  
[https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/postwar/page22e\\_000883.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/postwar/page22e_000883.html)



## The Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (CWKs)



(Scan here for publications on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website)

### 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

1. Japan and the Republic of Korea have built a close, friendly and cooperative relationship based on the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea and other relevant agreements that the two countries concluded when they normalized their relationship in 1965. The Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”), which is the core of these agreements, stipulates that Japan shall supply to the Republic of Korea 300 million USD in grants and extend loans up to 200 million USD (Article I), and 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 are “settled completely and finally,” and no contention shall be made thereof (Article II). As such, the Agreement has provided the basis for the bilateral relationship up until now.

2. In spite of the above, today on October 30, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea decided to confirm the previously existing Korean judgments as final, which ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, inter alia, to pay compensation to the plaintiffs. This decision is extremely regrettable and totally unacceptable. This decision clearly violates Article II of the Agreement and inflicts unjustifiable damages and costs on the said Japanese company. Above all, the decision completely overthrows the legal foundation of the friendly and cooperative relationship that Japan and the Republic

of Korea have developed since the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1965.

3. Japan once again conveys to the Republic of Korea its position as elaborated above, and strongly demands that the Republic of Korea take appropriate measures, including immediate actions to remedy such breach of international law.
4. Furthermore, if appropriate measures are not taken immediately, Japan will examine all possible options, including international adjudication, and take resolute actions accordingly from the standpoint of, inter alia, protecting the legitimate business activities by Japanese companies. As part of such effort, in order for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to fully address this matter, today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established the Division for Issues Related to Claims between Japan and the Republic of Korea in the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau.

(Reference) Agreement on the Settlement of Problem concerning Property and Claim and on the Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea (excerpt)

#### Article II

1. The Contracting Parties confirm that problem concerning property, rights, and interests of the two Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) and concerning claims between the Contracting Parties and their nationals, including those provided for in Article IV, paragraph (a) of the Treaty of Peace with Japan signed at the city of San Francisco on September 8, 1951, is settled completely and finally.



...

3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 above, no contention shall be made with respect to the measures on property, rights and interests of either Contracting Party and its nationals which are within the jurisdiction of the other

Contracting Party on the date of the signing of the present Agreement, or with respect to any claims of either Contracting Party and its nationals against the other Contracting Party and its nationals arising from the causes which occurred on or before the said date.

**Request for Consultations Under the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, Relating to the Issue of Former Civilian Workers from the Korean Peninsula (January 9, 2019)**



(Scan here for publications on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website)

1. The judgments of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea against Japanese companies on October 30 and November 29, 2018 clearly violate Article II of the Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Co-operation between Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”). Therefore, thus far, the Government of Japan has urged the Government of the ROK take appropriate measures, including actions to remedy such breach of international law, and has been following the actions of the Government of the ROK. However, the ROK has not taken any concrete actions to date. Meanwhile, on the afternoon of January 9, it was confirmed

that the notice of approval for the application by the Korean plaintiffs to attach assets of the respondent Japanese companies was delivered.

2. With regard to the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula, it is clear that there is a dispute between Japan and the ROK concerning the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement. Also in view of the circumstances stated in 1. above, on the afternoon of January 9, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeo Akiba summoned Mr. Lee Su Hoon, Ambassador of the ROK to Japan, and requested a diplomatic consultation under Article III.1 of the Agreement, as was confirmed at a meeting among the relevant ministers of Japan.