Pillar 3: Multi-layered Connectivity

Case (27): Enhancement in hard and soft connectivity

1. Basic concept

- Since 2016, we have supported quality infrastructure building toward realization of connectivity across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016 and at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, the G7 Principles and the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment were developed to ensure the elements of 1) openness, 2) transparency, 3) economic efficiency and 4) debt sustainability.
- At the Asia Security Conference in May 2022, Prime Minister Kishida announced support for maritime connectivity, saying “We will provide at least about two billion dollars of assistance for maritime security equipment including patrol vessels and maritime transport infrastructure, to Indo-Pacific countries in the next three years.”
- In “the Grand Design, Action Plan and Follow-Up for a New Form of Capitalism,” which was decided by the Cabinet in June 2022, contribution to connectivity improvement through developing, operating and maintaining quality infrastructure overseas is declared by “working on development and operation of ports, airports, railways, vessels, etc. that can contribute to improving regional connectivity overseas, and improvement of access roads to ports” in order to realize the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).
- In addition to infrastructure development, we build platforms for self-sustaining regional economic growth through continuous involvement in operation and maintenance as well as improvement connectivity among people and institutions to promote economic prosperity.

⇒ We will enhance human exchange and economic prosperity in Indo-Pacific by further promoting enhancement in regional connectivity.

2. Items of cooperation

- Infrastructure development, operation and maintenance through financial cooperation from a strategic viewpoint
  (Examples) Development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure that can contribute to improvement in regional connectivity (ports, airports, railways, roads, bridges, etc.), and improvement of facilities and equipment for facilitation and safety improvement for distribution of goods and the flow of people
  → Promotion of the Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative
  (Examples) Promoting Sihanoukville Port New Container Terminal Development Project and Indonesia MRT North-South Line and East-West Line Projects, sending exports and provision of equipment based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement
  → Promotion of the initiative of the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)
  (Examples) Matarbari Port Development Project, Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, and the Joydebpur-Ishurdi rail double-tracking project
  → Japan’s Contributions for Africa at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development 8 (TICAD 8); Support for economic growth in Africa through investment in people (health, education and capacity building), and enhancement of physical, institutional and personal connectivity
  (Examples) Improvement of logistics in the three economic corridors. The Project for Enhancing Trade Facilitation and Border Control Capacity in East Africa, and development of human resources and its networks through African Business Education (ABE) Initiative
- Personnel development and strengthening of personnel networks for operation and maintenance that can contribute to strengthening the relations with our country
  (Examples) Dispatching experts to cross-countries, knowledge co-creation programs (KCCP), Port Alumni activities, and long span bridge networking by using remote technology
- Introduction of digital transformation (DX) to ports, railways, roads, etc.
  (Examples) Promoting digitization of clearance inwards and outwards at ports, construction of a cargo trace system by introducing QR codes or electronic tags, promotion of the use of public transport by using apps, and traffic control by using cell phone location information
- Support that can contribute to connectivity enhancement in countries concerned with the “Caspian Sea route”
  (Examples) JICA training programs for customs capacity building

Cambodia: Sihanoukville Port

Indonesia: MRT North-South Line

Society in which all people can move freely and safely and all needs are shared around the world