

Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter

1 Changes in the Situation since 2015

Since the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter in 2015, many efforts have been made in order to address global issues through international cooperation, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change. On the other hand, the international order based on universal values has been severely challenged, led by Russia's outrageous and illegal aggression against Ukraine, which makes it all the more urgent to realize the concept of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Amid the COVID-19 pandemic seriously affecting the global economy and the international community, disruption of the global supply chain due to abrupt changes in the international situation, as well as cybersecurity issues arising from greater digitalization accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown that the economy and security are directly linked, impacting each country.

With the world exposed to such uncertainty, developing countries face difficulties charting a path to stable development. Responses in accordance with the concept of human security are urgently needed as poverty reduction efforts have become less likely to be addressed and the food and energy crises have exacerbated humanitarian situations. At the same time, the division of roles played between the public and private sectors in development cooperation have changed, as is shown in the increase in the number of private sector and civil society initiatives to address challenges such as the SDGs and climate change.

2 Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter



Second Meeting of the Advisory Panel on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter

Amid such great shifts in international situations, further enhancement of Japan's "diplomatic capacity" is indispensable in order for Japan to continuously meet the expectations and trust placed on it by the international community, as well as to ensure Japan's national interests such as peace and prosperity, while upholding universal values including freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. To that end, further utilization of ODA is required as one of the most essential diplomatic tools. In response to this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced that the government would revise the Development Cooperation Charter in September 2022, and decided to establish



Foreign Minister Hayashi

the Advisory Panel on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter, chaired by Mr. NAKANISHI Hiroshi, Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, under Foreign Minister Hayashi.*1

3 Advisory Panel Meetings



Submission of the report of the Advisory Panel on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter to Minister Hayashi

From September to November 2022, Advisory Panel meetings were held four times under Minister Hayashi, in which the members actively discussed such issues as the direction of development cooperation for the next 10 years, enhancement of the strategic use of ODA, principles for implementation, and financial and human resources for ODA implementation, among other matters. The report*2 summarizing the Advisory Panel discussions was submitted to Minister Hayashi in December 2022.

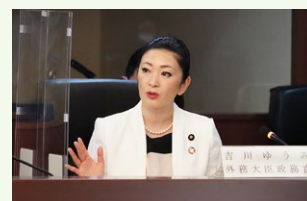
This report set out recommendations from the perspective of the further strategic utilization of ODA that meets the demands of today, in view of the changes in the international situation after the formulation of the current Charter. The report proposed to uphold three policies as the direction of development cooperation going forward, based on human security as the guiding principle: contributing to maintaining the international order based on universal values as the foundation for peace and prosperity; creating an environment of mutual help and co-creation, where Japan and the world develop and prosper together; and leading international efforts to addressing increasingly complex and serious global issues.

In addition, the report also proposed (1) strengthening cooperation with partners within and outside Japan, including like-minded countries, the private sector, and civil society; (2) increasing the flexibility of the assistance methods through ODA; and (3) increasing the attractiveness of Japan's development cooperation by leveraging its strength through "offer-type" cooperation. It further recommended that these efforts be backed by the setting of concrete paths to reach international goals over the next 10 years, such as achieving a 0.7% ODA to GNI ratio, which is an international goal.

Japan plans to formulate a new Development Cooperation Charter around the first half of 2023, taking into consideration the content of the report and broad public opinion.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshikawa

*1 https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000323.html

*2 <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100432142.pdf> (in Japanese only)

Promoting Efforts toward the Realization of “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”



Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

The Indo-Pacific region, which extends from the Asia-Pacific Ocean through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of vitality for the world and home to half of the world's population. To establish a free and open order based on the rule of law with the countries and regions of the Indo-Pacific with various partners in the international community that share these ideals, Japan promotes efforts to realize the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” that Japan advocated in 2016. Japan has already confirmed cooperation on these efforts with not only the United States but also Australia, India, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and major European countries. In May 2022, Prime Minister Kishida hosted the Quad Leaders' Meeting, where the leaders affirmed their continued and strong commitment toward the realization of FOIP, and concurred on further deepening collaboration and cooperation with the respective countries and regions. During the Shangri-La Dialogue held in June, Prime Minister Kishida announced to lay out a new plan to strengthen FOIP cooperation by the following spring. Amid Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, which has

shaken the very foundations of the international order, FOIP is becoming even more important.

Japan's ODA is one of the important tools for the realization of FOIP. For example, Japan aims to promote economic prosperity by enhancing connectivity across the region. It intends to achieve the growth of the entire region by developing ports, airports, roads, railways, and other infrastructure within the area and connecting cities and hubs with one another in line with international standards.

One example is assistance for Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia. Sihanoukville Port, which handles approximately 70% of Cambodia's container cargo imports and exports, supports the overall economic development of Cambodia. However, its container cargo handling capacity is becoming strained as a consequence of the country's strong economic growth. Japan provides assistance to construct a new container terminal. Japan also signed a Japanese yen loan agreement in August 2022 for a project to expand the same container terminal, thereby contributing to improving the port's container cargo handling capacity as well as enabling large vessels to dock directly at the port. Japan also provides support to improve the efficiency of the port operations through the dispatch of JICA experts and the implementation of technical cooperation projects so that the port can operate as a hub of principal ports in the region. The development of the port, which is geopolitically important as it is located at the node between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, is expected to boost the realization of FOIP.

In September 2022, Japan decided to provide assistance to Yemen in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the grant aid project “the Project for the Improvement of Efficiency in the Port of Aden.” This project also supports the enhancement of the region's connectivity through strengthening the functions of the Port



Teamwork between Japanese and Indonesian engineers in the Patimban Port Development Project, Indonesia, which is undergoing construction through Japanese loan aid

of Aden located near the Bab al-Mandab Strait that serves as the doorway to the Red Sea. As the conflict in Yemen has made it difficult to access some ports in the country, the number of cargo ships entering the Port of Aden is rising every year, making it a vital marine facility for commercial activities and humanitarian aid activities in the country. This project is expected to speed up cargo handling and reduce cargo transportation costs by providing equipment for the renovation of cargo sheds and digitalization of container management at the Port of Aden.

Facilitating smooth logistics processes by securing connectivity also contributes to supporting Japanese companies' exports to the region and overseas expansions. Japan supports the development of quality infrastructure toward the realization of connectivity across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Japanese technology transfers and human resources development are effective in supporting developing countries to build quality infrastructure and will enhance the

competitiveness of Japanese companies in ODA tendering, as well as strengthen trust in Japan.

Japan also contributes to securing maritime peace and safety. For example, in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, a logistics hub navigated by approximately 16,800 Japan-related vessels every year, Japan utilizes ODA to support capacity building for anti-piracy measures in coastal countries, thereby reducing the number of piracy incidents. Similarly, in the Indian Ocean, Japan contributes to ensuring marine traffic safety by providing capacity building support to coast guard agencies for maritime rescue, technical cooperation for nautical chart preparation, and support toward Vessel Traffic Service (VTS).

Furthermore, Japan strengthens the promotion and consolidation of the rule of law in developing countries by providing assistance for the development of legal systems and judicial reforms. Through such efforts, Japan contributes to establishing good governance in developing countries, creating a foundation that is crucial to the realization of sustainable growth, and fostering an effective trade and investment environment for Japanese companies' overseas expansions.

Japan is an island country and a leading importer ranked fourth in the world. Its industries and the lives of its people are heavily reliant on maritime transportation and cargo. From this perspective, securing connectivity and ensuring the safety of sea lanes are important for Japan's economy, energy, and food security. The stability and prosperity of Japan and this region cannot be realized without a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” where various people, goods, and wisdom are actively exchanged, supported by highly transparent rules. Japan will make efforts to realize FOIP by utilizing various forms of assistance, including ODA.



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP), “Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management” course



Supporting the development of One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) at the border between Zambia and Botswana through the rebuilding of border facilities and the integration of customs, immigration control, quarantine, and other related operations between the two countries, with a view to enhancing connectivity in the southeastern part of Africa. The photograph shows the entry gate to the OSBP facility on the Botswana side. (Photo: JICA)

Promoting Efforts toward the Realization of Human Security

In his address delivered at the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022, Prime Minister Kishida spoke about the promotion of efforts based on the concept of human security in the new era, as one of the three pillars for realizing the vision of the UN.

Human security is a concept that focuses on each and every human being, and advances nation and community building through the empowerment and protection of individuals to live happily, in dignity, and free from fear and want. Japan has long promoted the concept of human security in the international community. Japan's Development Cooperation Charter also positions it as the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan's development cooperation. Human security, which puts the spotlight on individuals, is also aligned with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to realize a society that "leaves no one behind."

The Government of Japan has made various efforts to promote human security so far, both in terms of the dissemination of the concept and its practical application on the ground. Under Japan's leadership, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on a shared understanding on human security in 2012. Since 2000, Japan has proactively promoted the concept of human security in the international community on numerous occasions, such as by holding symposiums on human security. The COVID-19 pandemic put the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of people around the world at risk. In response to the situation, then Prime Minister Suga proposed, in his address at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in September 2020, deepening discussions on a new approach to human security, and the High-level Advisory Panel was later established under the auspices of the UN. Based on the discussions held in this Panel, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published the Special Report on Human Security in February 2022, and Foreign Minister Hayashi delivered a video message at its global launch held online. This Special



Foreign Minister Hayashi delivering a video message at the global launch held online



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a Special Report on Human Security in February 2022 (Photo: UNDP)

Report advocates the need for "human security in the new era" that incorporates the concept of "solidarity," in addition to the two conventional pillars of human security that are "protection" and "empowerment." Global issues such as climate change and infectious diseases cannot be resolved by any one country alone, so it is vital for each country and every individual to address them in a coordinated manner and with the spirit of solidarity. The Government of Japan supports the approach of "human security in the new era," and strives to promote and practice this concept.

Furthermore, through Japan's leadership, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security was established in 1999 to promote the implementation of human security in the field. By FY2021, Japan had contributed a total of approximately ¥49 billion to this fund. The trust fund has supported 282 projects implemented by UN agencies to ensure human security in over 100 countries and regions by the end of 2021.

Japan will continue to play a leading role in the international community toward the realization of human security.

The 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit

Water is a blessed resource that underpins our society. In the form of natural disasters, however, it can pose a threat to human life and prosperity. For example, in recent years, the frequency of water-related disasters has been increasing across the world. In Japan, the frequency of torrential rains has increased by approximately 40% compared with 30 years ago, and in the Asia-Pacific region, the number of water-related disasters impacting large populations*¹ has nearly tripled over the past 30 years. Besides water-related disasters, water is deeply related to a range of challenges in society such as poverty, public health, food, the environment, energy, and peace and security.

The Asia-Pacific Water Summit is a high-level international conference for top government leaders from the Asia-Pacific region, with the aim of deepening awareness of water issues and encouraging concrete resource mobilization and initiatives. The 4th*² Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Kumamoto City, Japan, on April 23 and 24, 2022. It was the first time in 15 years that the Summit was held in Japan. Approximately 5,500 participants attended the Summit both in-person and online, with participation by leaders and ministers from 31 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan. Prime Minister Kishida participated in the Summit from Japan, and held luncheons and bilateral meetings with the leaders of the countries in attendance. The theme of the Summit was “Water for Sustainable Development: Best Practices and the Next Generation,” and discussions were held to reaffirm the importance of water in the process of recovery from COVID-19 and to continue sustainable development for future generations.

The opening ceremony featured online remarks and a commemorative speech by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Prime Minister Kishida delivered the keynote speech at the Heads of State and Government (HSG) Meeting held in the afternoon, stating that Japan would make proactive efforts, including the development of “quality infrastructure,” toward



Water treatment facility constructed under the “Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project” in the Nagaur district of Rajasthan in northwest India. This ensured safe and stable drinking water supply services. (Photo: Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Rajasthan)



Beginning of the HSG Meeting (Photo: Japan Water Forum)

resolving social issues related to water, while coordinating and cooperating with various countries and international organizations. He also announced the “Kumamoto Initiative for Water,” Japan’s measures to contribute toward resolving water issues. Moreover, during the HSG Meeting, the leaders of the participating countries announced the “Kumamoto Declaration.”*³ The Chair’s Summary was announced on the second day, April 24, compiled based on the active discussions among the participants from various countries and organizations over the two days.

At the closing ceremony, a representative of youth from the Asia-Pacific region (India) together with a high school student from Fukuoka Prefecture delivered the “Message from Youth” in which they conveyed the importance of cooperation between youth and adults and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening youth participation in regional sustainable development.

As an old saying goes, “the one who governs water governs the country.” Nowadays, governing water greatly contributes to the resolution of social issues on a global scale. The outcomes of the Summit, which was attended by the leaders of many countries, are not limited to the Asia-Pacific region. They are expected to provide significant strength and wisdom for future discussions on global water issues as well as disaster risk reduction and climate change. The outcomes are also expected to be an important input to the UN Water Conference, which is scheduled to take place in March 2023 for the first time in 46 years.

*1 Refers to a flood that affects 1,000 or more people.

*2 The first Summit was held in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture, Japan in 2007, the second was held in Thailand in 2013, and the third was held in Myanmar in 2017.

*3 In order to accelerate efforts in water-related fields, the Declaration calls for substantial actions for change and improvement in three fields: governance, finance, and science and technology.

Japan as “a Partner Growing Together with Africa” —TICAD 8—

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an international conference on the theme of African development. Since 1993, TICAD has been organized under the leadership of the Government of Japan in cooperation with the UN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). The Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) was held in Tunisia from August 27 to 28, 2022, with the participation of representatives from 48 African countries, including 20 heads of state and government.

At TICAD 8, Prime Minister Kishida emphasized the importance of “investment in people” and “the quality of growth,” recognizing the potential of Africa as a driving force of global growth. He announced that Japan would invest \$30 billion as the sum of public and private financial contribution over the next three years and carry out initiatives in the fields of (i) Green investment, (ii) Promotion of investment, (iii) Development finance, (iv) Public health, (v) Human resource development, (vi) Regional stabilization, and (vii) Food security. In addition to the three plenary sessions on “Economy,” “Society,” and “Peace and Stability,” a Business Forum was held. The Forum was attended by approximately 100 participants each from Japanese and African companies, and the strengthening of business ties between Japan and Africa was discussed. On the final day of the Conference, the TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration was adopted as a guidepost for future Japan-Africa relations and sustainable growth in post-COVID-19 Africa.

In order to support the sustainable growth of Africa, over the next three years, Japan will provide a variety of assistance in line with the needs of African countries, centered on initiatives in the seven above-mentioned fields. For example, with regard to (iii) “Development finance,” Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan would provide co-financing of up to \$5 billion under the Enhanced Private Sector



Support for the development of education with community participation and school management models to improve access to basic education, quality of education, and gender equality (Madagascar) (Photo: JICA)

Assistance (EPSA 5),*1 a collaborative framework with the African Development Bank (AfDB), including establishing a special window of up to \$1 billion to support countries that have made steady and significant progress in restoring their sound debt management. In addition, toward realizing fair and transparent development finance, Japan cooperates with African governments and international organizations to support public-debt management capacity building.

With regard to (vii) “Food security,” Japan has provided a total of \$130 million in food assistance to Africa in response to the food crisis caused by the impacts of the situation in Ukraine. Japan also announced that it would provide co-financing to the AfDB’s African Emergency Food Production Facility for approximately \$300 million to strengthen mid-to long-term food production capacity. In addition, as initiatives to expand long-term food production, Japan has strengthened Africa’s own grain production capacity through the “Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)”*2 with the goal of doubling rice production, and also helped increase the incomes of smallholder farmers in Africa by spreading the production of horticultural crops through the “Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP)”*3 approach. At TICAD 8, Japan announced its intention to assist with capacity building for a total of 200,000 people in the agriculture sector through these efforts. As “a partner growing together with Africa,” Japan will continue to strongly support the realization of a resilient and sustainable Africa that Africa itself aims to achieve.



An ABE Initiative*4 participant in an internship at a Japanese company that manufactures metal products (Photo: JICA/Suntech Co., Ltd.)

*1 See the glossary on page 37.

*2 See “Stories from the Field” on page 84.

*3 See the glossary on page 87.

*4 See the glossary on page 41.

● Information dissemination about development cooperation

According to a public opinion survey*1 conducted by Japan's Cabinet Office in 2021, 87.4% of respondents answered that in development cooperation in the future "Japan should more actively promote development cooperation" or "The current level of development cooperation is appropriate," indicating a positive evaluation for development cooperation. Aside from the growing public awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this positive public opinion about development cooperation in Japan shows the acknowledgment of Japanese people about how "No one is safe until everyone is safe" through the worldwide spread of COVID-19, as well as their broad understanding of the fact that the growth of developing countries will eventually have a favorable impact on the Japanese economy and the stability of their daily lives.

This column introduces MOFA's various initiatives for information dissemination and public policy communication on the significance of Japan's development cooperation.

● TV dramas/Documentaries

MOFA works on a new initiative to produce public relations contents that make use of high-profile performers in order to deliver its message to a broader range of the public.

One of the initiatives is the production of a TV drama, "The First Step: Sekai wo Tsunagu Ainoshirushi,"*2 with the cooperation of Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. The drama takes place at MOFA's International Cooperation Bureau, as well as at actual international cooperation sites, and features TV personality and author Mr. MATAYOSHI Naoki. This drama transmits stories of love, hope, and courage through parent-child affections and the growth of characters, revolving around the Maternal and Child Health Handbook, which was introduced to the world through ODA.

MOFA also produced the documentary video, "Efforts for a free and open ocean,"*3 which closely covered scenes of ODA related to the ocean, with actor Mr. YOSHIHARA Mitsuo acting as a reporter. Bearing in mind the diplomatically important concept of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," this video vividly shows various forms of Japanese cooperation in the safety and security of marine traffic, including the preparation of nautical charts by the Japan Coast Guard, support for capacity development related to Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), and to law enforcement/rescue operations at sea, as well as Japan's support for quality infrastructure in coastal development to achieve connectivity.



The documentary video, "Efforts for a free and open ocean," which closely covers scenes of ODA related to the ocean

● Go! ODA-Man

ODA-Man, who has marked its fifth year as MOFA's ODA PR character (see also "Strengthening Public Relations and Information Dissemination" on page 148), has also released a variety of videos*4 to inform people about the contribution of Japan's ODA to the world. These videos are well-received. In 2022, seizing the opportunity of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), ODA-Man released three videos about Japanese development cooperation for Africa: "ODA for Africa's Rice Cultivation," "ODA for ICT Development in Africa," and "ODA for the Grand Egyptian Museum."



Go! ODA-Man

● Global Festa JAPAN 2022

In October 2022, the international cooperation event Global Festa JAPAN 2022*5 was organized. At this 31st Global Festa JAPAN, under the theme of "Connecting the world. Creating the future together. Everyone participating in international cooperation," the number of participating organizations was more than doubled from the previous year so that a greater number of people would learn about countries and regions, with extensive exhibition booths, including through securing space, particularly for foreign missions in Japan, as well as allowing the booths to sell products.

At the Global Festa, MOFA sponsored stage programs on the theme of utilizing ODA for the overseas expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises, which usually do not come into much contact with ODA, and held panel discussions on the theme of the participation of the younger generation in future international cooperation. MOFA also held an award presentation ceremony for its photo contest, which has become customary. There was a record number of 256 entries for the 2022 photo contest, in which professional photographer Mr. AOKI Hiroshi together with Mr. YONEYAMA Kazuhisa of Leica Camera Japan Co., Ltd. served as judges and selected the winning works. The results are available in the event report*6 on the ODA website.

*1 The FY2021 Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy took place from September to November 2021. The Cabinet Office entrusted it to a survey organization, which implemented a mail survey of 3,000 Japanese nationals aged 18 and over across Japan (<https://survey.gov-online.go.jp/r03/r03-gaiko/index.html> (in Japanese only)).

*2 https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001443.html (in Japanese only)

*3 https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001603.html (in Japanese only)

*4 https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22_001008.html (in Japanese only)

*5 https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page24_000157.html (in Japanese only)

*6 https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page23_001348.html (in Japanese only)