

Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean

May 2024

Latin American Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Japan will further promote collaboration with LAC, bearing in mind its increasing importance in the international community, in the following fields.
 - i. Cooperation in areas of greater importance for the international community (e.g., maritime affairs, gender, disarmament and non-proliferation, etc.).
 - ii. Promotion of “diplomacy through diverse networking” to complement and consolidate historically strong relationship with LAC.

<1 Background>

- Many LAC countries advocate an open international order based on the rule of law, and share values and principles such as freedom and democracy.
- Japan is the Asian country which enjoys the longest diplomatic relations with LAC.
- The largest Nikkei community in the world plays an important role as a bond that connects Japan-LAC, and provides the foundation for cultivating mutual trust and respect.
- LAC is an indispensable actor for world's economic security.



basic data

- 33 countries and 660 million of population
- Area: 20.42 million square meters
- GDP: approx. 6.25 trillion dollars (GDP per capita: 8,340 dollars)
- Nikkei: About 2.4 million (about 60% of the 3.9 million Nikkei worldwide)
- Japanese residents: approx. 89,000

<2 Significance>

- To address social challenges, such as poverty and inequality, Japan will work with LAC.

- 1) To achieve solution of these challenges and to realize the “Human Dignity”
- 2) To deepen its collaboration with LAC to deal with global challenges.

This partnership will contribute to global peace, stability and prosperity, as well as to achieving the SDGs.

- Countries committed to free trade are the frontier of Japan’s economic diplomacy. Japan and LAC can further collaborate in consolidating economic ties, by strengthening supply chains and supporting start-ups, and thereby contribute to prosperity of both sides.

- Japan expects further collaboration with LAC in areas such as,
 - 1) gender equality, including WPS
 - 2) the rule of law in the Ocean
 - 3) a “world without nuclear weapons”
 - 4) common challenges such as disaster prevention.



WEF Gender Gap Index
Ranking (2023)



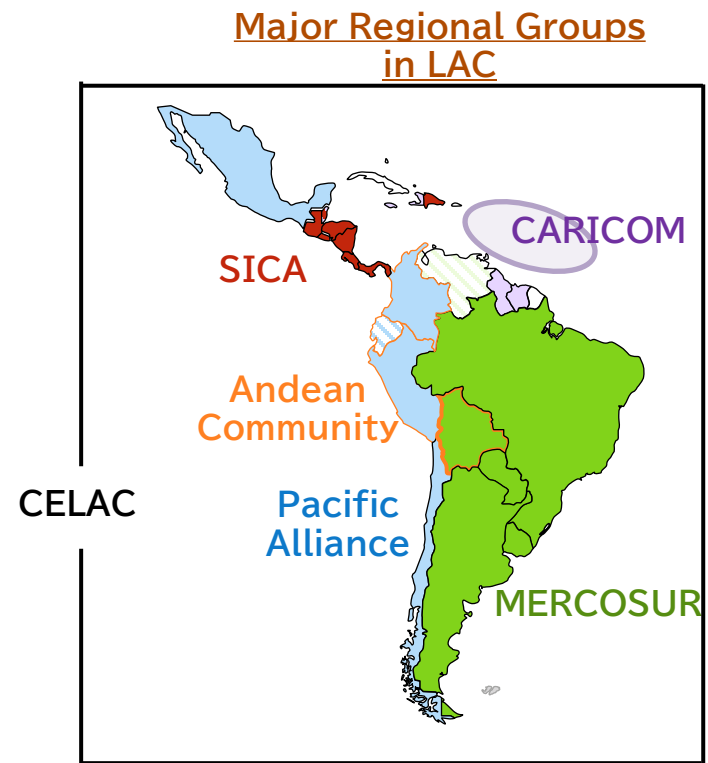
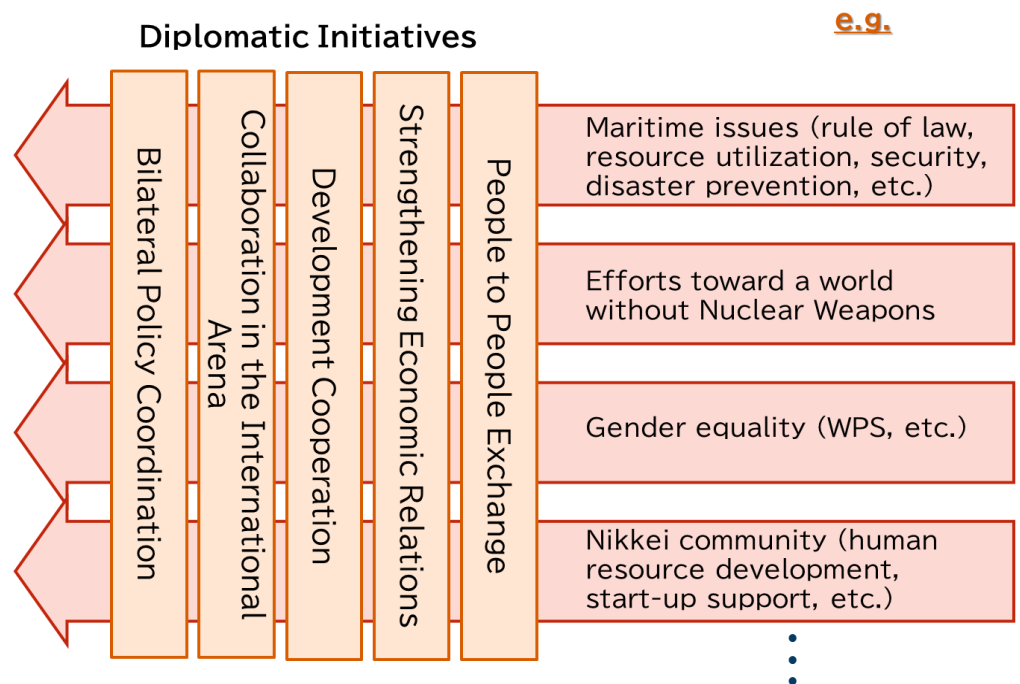
14 th	Costa Rica
24 th	Jamaica
27 th	Chile
31 st	Barbados
33 rd	Mexico
34 th	Peru
36 th	Argentina
58 th	Panama
125 th	Japan



Support Project for Establishment of Human Resource Development Center for Disaster Prevention in Latin America (KIZUNA Project)

<3 Overview>

- Japan will pursue new partnerships with LAC, based on traditional diplomatic approaches (e.g., bilateral policy coordination, collaboration in the international arena, development cooperation, economic relations and people to people exchanges) in such issues as
 - 1) increasingly important issues such as maritime issues and gender equality,
 - 2) Nikkei community, Japan’s unique bond with LAC.
- In doing so, Japan will strategically promote cooperation with those countries which are identified as its collaborating partners in specific issues. Such approach is a complementary one to bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Japan will develop “diplomacy with diverse networking” by promoting triangular or regional cooperation.



<4 Examples>

Maritime issues x Strengthen the economic relationship / Bilateral policy coordination

Securing environment for the safe and stable use of the Panama Canal



Japan to also address the growing needs related to the expansion of the Panama Canal through co-financing by Japanese banks and JBIC. Amid fears of reduced traffic due to droughts, coordinate policies with the Government of Panama to secure an environment for safe and stable use.

Maritime issues / Climate change x Development Cooperation

Grant Aid to Jamaica “the Economic and Social Development Programme”



Provide a fisheries and marine research vessel to monitor the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems. Aimed at sustainable resource management and fisheries and marine development in Jamaica. (Signed on February 7, 2024)

WPS x Development Cooperation / Minilaterals

Protect migrant women from Central America through UN Women



Provide gender-responsive protection services for 20,000 migrant women in Panama, Costa Rica, and Honduras, toward the implementation of WPS on the migration issue, an important issue in Central America.

Nikkei community x People-to-people exchanges / Strengthen the economic relationship

Local business matching for Japanese regional SMEs through Nikkei communities



Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from Okinawa Prefecture visited Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil. Through local Nikkei communities (Japanese descendants and immigrants, including from Okinawa Prefecture), engaged in several business negotiations and local surveys, and expanded their networks.

<4 Examples>

World without nuclear weapons x Cooperation in the international arena

Strengthening cooperation toward a “world without nuclear weapons”



Confirm common goal of a world without nuclear weapons and promote understanding for a realistic and practical approach. Continue to promote understanding on ALPS-treated water.

Security improvement x Development Cooperation / Triangular Cooperation

Strengthening implementation of a new policing model based on community policing activities



Introduce to other Central American countries, including through triangular cooperation, experience of improving public security in Brazil through JICA cooperation to introduce Koban (neighborhood police box) system. Support São Paulo State Military Police’s initiatives with JICA as a partner.

Disaster Risk Reduction x Development Cooperation / Triangular Cooperation

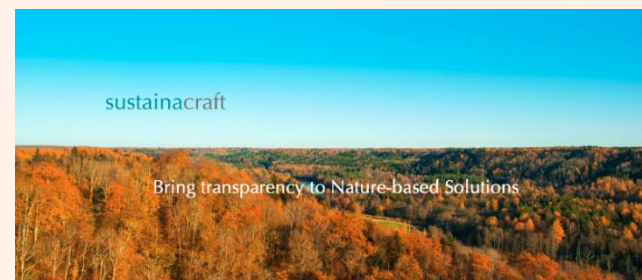
KIZUNA Project (DRR Training Program)



Based on the continuous Japan-Chile disaster risk reduction (DRR) cooperation since 1960, established Chile as a hub for DRR training in Latin America and the Caribbean. Specialists also dispatched from Japan for training. In 5 years, over 5,000 participants from 27 countries.

Start-ups x Strengthen the economic relationship

International expansion by start-ups under the TSUBASA Program



Expansion by several start-ups into Latin America and the Caribbean under the TSUBASA Program. sustainacraft contributes to local climate change countermeasures by visualizing effectiveness of forest conservation projects.