

From  
the People of Japan

# White Paper on Development Cooperation 2024

Japan's International Cooperation



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Japan's International Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Foreword

In recent years, the international landscape has undergone significant changes. The international community faces complex crises, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the current situation in the Middle East, and global challenges such as climate change and infectious diseases.

Against this background, Japan must firmly demonstrate its commitment to upholding and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law. In cooperation with the Global South, which is gaining increasing importance in the international community, we must work to lead the international community from “division and confrontation” toward “dialogue and cooperation,” transcending differences in values and interests.

Japan's international cooperation marked its 70th anniversary in 2024. The developing countries that Japan once assisted are now confronting similar social challenges to those in Japan, including the rise of lifestyle-related diseases, urban issues such as traffic congestion and air pollution resulting from rapid urbanization, and the pursuit of green transformation (GX) and digital transformation (DX). In today's international landscape, there is a growing need for international cooperation of the new era—one that fosters solutions to these challenges through the sharing of wisdom and “co-creation” through dialogue and collaboration.

Building on this approach, Japan has strengthened collaboration with a wide range of actors under the Development Cooperation Charter revised in 2023 by promoting the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” to jointly develop solutions to the challenges faced by partner countries. Japan has already agreed with several countries to cooperate through this initiative. In addition, Japan will review its ODA mechanisms and promote measures to mobilize private finance, with ODA as a catalyst.

Another promising avenue for international cooperation in this new era is the expansion of “triangular cooperation.” Cambodia, a recipient of Japan's support in mine action over many years, is now sharing its expertise with other countries. Building “connectivity for peace”—broadening the geographic reach of peacebuilding efforts—lays the foundation for resilient and sustainable development in societies and regions through cross-border collaboration.

Amid Russia's ongoing aggression, recovery and reconstruction are of critical importance for the future of Ukraine. At the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in February last year, Japan was able to outline a pathway to reconstruction through advanced technologies and investments of Japanese private companies. We will continue to show the people of Ukraine hope for tomorrow.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, including Gaza, Japan, as a responsible member of the international community, has provided assistance for peace and stability in the region through ODA and other channels. Japan will continue advancing cooperation to help stabilize the Middle East, which remains vital for our energy security. With regard to the situation surrounding Gaza in particular, Japan will tirelessly continue humanitarian assistance. For the sake of Gaza's future, Japan is also determined to play a constructive role in the forthcoming phases of recovery and reconstruction.

Co-creation and solidarity under equal partnerships with developing countries are essential in addressing global challenges. Japan has placed great importance on the concept of “human security” and has actively contributed to the achievement of the SDGs. Moving forward, we will continue to promote international cooperation for the comprehensive realization of the SDGs. This will involve fully mobilizing private-sector expertise and capital—particularly in the field of disaster risk reduction, where Japan has played a leading role. In addition, looking beyond 2030, the target year for the SDGs, Japan will take the lead in shaping international rule-making.

The foundation for advancing this new international cooperation and shifting the global community from confrontation to cooperation is the vision of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).” FOIP aims to increase connectivity and make the Indo-Pacific a prosperous region, free from force and coercion, where freedom and the rule of law are respected. Japan has supported ASEAN’s efforts to strengthen connectivity, both through structural and non-structural cooperation, and has promoted infrastructure projects such as roads and ports in Southwest Asia. Beyond Southwest Asia, across the Indian Ocean, lies Africa—a continent where over half the population is young, presenting tremendous potential.

In August 2025, Japan will host the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) in Yokohama. Mobilizing the dynamism of the private sector and investing in youth and women will be essential to addressing the challenges faced by Africa. Through co-creation between Japan and Africa, we will work to create innovative solutions to the shared challenges that the international community is confronting.

Moreover, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program), which celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2025, has dispatched approximately 57,000 volunteers to nearly 100 countries. By working hand in hand with local communities, they have built relationships founded on trust. These efforts have not only contributed to the economic and social development of developing countries and enhanced Japan’s credibility in the international community, but also empowered returning volunteers to apply their experiences within Japan—tackling challenges such as regional revitalization and multicultural coexistence—thus becoming a driving force for co-creation.

Even amid a changing international landscape, the importance of mutual understanding and trust remains constant. Japan is committed to advancing international cooperation of the new era—one that steers the global community away from division and confrontation, and toward dialogue and cooperation.

The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2024 reports to the people of Japan on the implementation status of Japan’s development cooperation over the past year. Public understanding and support are indispensable to the success of these efforts. Looking ahead, we will continue to listen closely to public feedback and strive to make Japan’s development cooperation more strategic and effective. We hope this White Paper reaches a broad audience and contributes to a deeper understanding of Japan’s development cooperation efforts and their significance.

March 2025

**Minister for Foreign Affairs  
IWAYA Takeshi**



# Development Cooperation Charter and Japan's Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation is founded on the Development Cooperation Charter<sup>1</sup> (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2023). The Charter defines the objectives of Japan's development cooperation as follows: (1) to work together with developing countries to address their development challenges and global issues common to all humankind based on equal partnerships, and to contribute even more actively to the formation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law; (2) at the same time, to contribute to the realization of Japan's national interests, such as securing peace and security for the country and its people and achieving further prosperity through economic growth, while creating a favorable international environment for Japan and the world, as well as maintaining and strengthening foreign relations based on trust. As the international community stands at a historic turning point and faces complex crises, Japan is committed to utilizing even more effectively and strategically development cooperation, one of the most important tools of Japanese diplomacy.

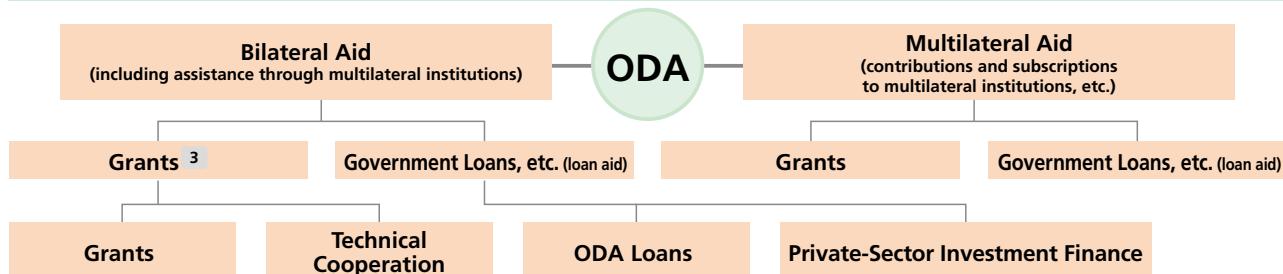
## 1 Basic policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

The Development Cooperation Charter sets out the following four basic policies in development cooperation: "contributing to peace and prosperity," "human security in the new era," "co-creation of social values through dialogue and cooperation with developing countries," and "leading the dissemination and implementation of international rules and guidelines based on inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness."

## 2 Priority policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

In line with these basic policies, Japan pursues the following three priority policies: "'quality growth' in the new era and poverty eradication through such growth," "realization of peaceful, secure, and stable societies, and maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law," and "leading international efforts to addressing increasingly complex and serious global issues."

### Japan's ODA<sup>2</sup>



#### ● What is ODA?

Development cooperation refers to "international cooperation activities that are conducted by the government and its affiliated agencies for the main purpose of development in developing regions" (Development Cooperation Charter), and ODA is the public funding for those activities. The government or its implementing agencies provide financial and technical assistance to developing regions, international organizations, or the private sector through ODA for "development," including peacebuilding, governance, promotion of basic human rights, and humanitarian assistance.

The ODA recipients are presented in the list (see Chart II-10 on page 26) compiled by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

#### ● What types of ODA exist?

ODA can be categorized into **grants**<sup>3</sup> and **government loans, etc. (loan aid)**. ODA can also be grouped into **bilateral aid**, which directly assists developing regions, and **multilateral aid**, which concerns contributions and subscriptions to international organizations, etc.

Grants<sup>3</sup> in **bilateral aid** are assistance provided to developing regions without repayment obligations. The grant scheme implemented by Japan is comprised of **grants**, which provides financial resources needed for the socio-economic development of developing regions without repayment obligations, and **technical cooperation**, which develops human resources responsible for the socio-economic development of developing regions through the transfer of Japanese expertise, technologies, and experience. Among contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions, etc., those earmarked for specific countries and projects are counted as bilateral aid in the statistics (see Chart II-1 on page 17).

Additionally, Japan's **government loans, etc. (loan aid)** in bilateral aid include **ODA loans** that lend funds needed by developing regions on concessional terms, through low interest rates or long repayment periods, and **private-sector investment finance**, which offers loans and investment to corporations and other private entities responsible for implementing projects in developing regions.

**Multilateral aid** includes contributions and subscriptions to UN organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), other international organizations, as well as multilateral development banks including the World Bank. Most of the contributions are provided as grants, but in recent years, **government loans, etc. (loan)** have also been used for multilateral institutions.

Various information about ODA is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.<sup>4</sup>

1 Development Cooperation Charter <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100514705.pdf>. It can also be accessed via the 2D code on page v.

2 Unless otherwise stated, "grants" in this White Paper refers to Japan's aid scheme. The exception is Part II and Reference Statistics 2, where it indicates "grants" based on the OECD-DAC definition.

3 As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient".

4 Various information on ODA <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>. It can also be accessed via the 2D code on page v.

**The Development Cooperation Charter is available here:**

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100514705.pdf>



**The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2024 and past White Papers are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.**

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page\\_000017.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000017.html)



**Information on ODA is available here:**

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>



**ODA-related statistics and an overview of economic cooperation in other countries (development cooperation reference materials) are available here (in Japanese only):**

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryo/hakusyo.html#section4>



**Information by ODA recipient country (Japan's ODA Data by Country) is available here:**

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/data/index.html>



**Details on the ODA email newsletter are available here (in Japanese only):**

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/mail/index.html>



[Cover Photograph]



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) providing guidance on rice cultivation in Zambia, working together and celebrating the rice harvest with local farmers after overcoming the challenges of a dry rainy season together  
(Photo: JICA)

[Back Cover Photograph]



A Palestinian mother and child holding the updated mother and child health handbook, revised for the first time in 14 years through follow-up cooperation based on the project "Improving Maternal and Child Health" (country-focused technical training in 2009) (Photo: JICA)



Information on ODA-MAN is available on MOFA's website  
([https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22\\_001008.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22_001008.html)) (in Japanese only).



In principle, this White Paper covers Japan's development cooperation implemented from January 1 through December 31, 2024. However, some matters that occurred through early 2025 are also included. Please note that all titles of individuals in the text are current as of the time of writing.



### Palestine

"Food for children in Gaza!"

Photo: Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan)

## Special Photograph Collection (1) – Stories from the Field –

This collection of photographs is from the "Global Festa JAPAN 2024" photo contest.  
(See page 153 for details.)



### Fiji

"Mangrove planting activity"

Photo: JENESYS 2022 Phase II Fiji Delegation,  
TAKEMOTO Mizuki



### India

"Happy fist bump"

Photo: MORI Eimi



## Laos

"Don't worry, the shot won't hurt!"

Photo: Médecins du Monde Japan (Doctors of the World)



## Kenya

"Karate class under the open air"

Photo: Koinonia Education Centre



## Uganda

"Building a Peace Village, fulfilling these children's dreams"

Photo: Education for Orphans, Linwood Guy Bishop



## Ethiopia

"Reunion: overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic"

Photo: Africa Rikai Project



## Vietnam

"Everyone is serious"

Photo: Asia Rainbow, BABA Yumiko



## Democratic Republic of the Congo

"Beyond the smile"

Photo: Terra Renaissance



### El Salvador

#### "San Miguel Bypass Construction Project" (Loan Aid)

Supporting the construction of the trunk road which facilitates the development of San Miguel City as a major hub in the eastern region. By alleviating traffic congestion and enhancing transportation capacity, the project strengthens the logistics network, contributing to boosting the local economy. (Photo: JICA)

## Special Photograph Collection (2)

### – Stories from the Field –

Japan works to develop quality infrastructure that supports the lives and economic activities of people living in developing countries and serves as the foundation for their national development.



### India

#### "Guwahati Water Supply Project" (Loan Aid)

Supporting the development of water supply facilities and strengthening the water utility organization's institutional capacity in Guwahati City, the largest city in Northeast India where water supply is strained. The project helps to provide safe and reliable water supply to local residents. (Photo: Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority)



### Tajikistan

#### "The Project for Improvement of Substations in Dushanbe" (Grant)

Through the modernization and new construction of aging distribution substations, the project improves maintenance capabilities and contributes to the stable and expanded power supply to Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan. (Photo: JICA)



## Kiribati

### "The Project for Reconstruction of the Nippon Causeway" (Grant)

This project supported the reinforcement of the embankment, pavement rehabilitation, and widening of the bridge section along the only road connecting Betio Island, home to an international port, and Bairiki Island, where many administrative agencies and residents are located. It ensures a safe lifeline and continues to facilitate the movement of people and smooth logistics. (Photo: JICA)



## Egypt

### "The Project for Construction of Outpatient Facility at Cairo University Specialized Pediatric Hospital" (Grant)

This project supported the construction of outpatient facilities and the provision of medical equipment such as X-ray imaging equipment for the hospital that has played a central role in pediatric medical services. Through years of diverse support from Japan, the hospital has become known as the "Japanese Hospital" by Cairo locals. (Photo: NIHON SEKKEI, INC.)



## Bangladesh

### "The Project for Improvement of Meteorological Radar System in Dhaka and Rangpur" (Grant)

By supporting the renewal of meteorological radar systems and the construction of new radar towers, the project contributes to enhancing the stability and accuracy of the country's weather radar observation network, thereby mitigating the damage that can be caused by meteorological disasters. (Photo: International Meteorological Consultant Inc.)



## Guinea

### "The Project for Reconstruction of the Soumba bridge on the National Road No.3" (Grant)

The reconstruction and widening of the Soumba bridge, located on an international corridor in West Africa, helps eliminate traffic congestion and facilitates smooth traffic and logistics. The support included transferring Japan's expertise in bridge construction techniques, maintenance methods, and 5S-KAIZEN activities.\* (Photo: JICA)



## Kyrgyz Republic

### "The Project for the Reconstruction of Urmalar River Bridge on Talas-Taraz Road" (Grant)

A bridge on the international trunk road connecting Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan was constructed, contributing to the stable economic growth of Kyrgyz Republic, a country heavily reliant on road transport. The bridge was named "Sakura Bridge" as a symbol of friendship between the two countries. (Photo: JICA)



## Moldova

### "The Project for Effective Use of Biomass Fuel" (Grant)

Utilizing equipment from Japanese companies with advanced technology, the project developed biomass fuel manufacturing facilities and boilers. It achieved reduced energy costs and stable heating supply, contributing to the improvement of the living environment for residents.

\* See 6 on page 31

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# Part I

## 70 Years of ODA

– Past Achievements, Cultivated Trust, and the Future of ODA –



Top: A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) instructing a local resident on home composting as part of environmental education initiatives in Tiquipaya City, Cochabamba Province, Bolivia (Photo: JICA)

Middle: A Japanese legal expert discussing legal matters with officials from the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor of Laos as part of the technical cooperation project, "The Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Lao PDR (Phase 2)" (Photo: JICA)

Bottom: A Japanese engineer guiding local student interns on rebar assembly as part of the grant "Project for Reconstruction of the Soumba Bridge on the National Road No.3" in Guinea (Photo: Dai Nippon Construction Co., Ltd.)

1 Japan's ODA: Its Track Record and Significance

4

2 Future Directions of Japan's ODA

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# Trajectory of Japan's ODA

– 70 Years of Dedicated Efforts from the Post-war Period to Today –

...History of Japan's International Cooperation

...History of Japan Receiving Foreign Aid

...Japan's Participation and Contribution to the International Community

**1954**

Joined the Colombo Plan and began Technical Cooperation.

**1958**

Launched ODA Loans. (India is the first recipient.)

**1946–**

Received assistance from the United States through the Government Appropriations for Relief in Occupied Area Fund (GARIOA) and the Economic Rehabilitation in Occupied Area Fund (EROA).

**1953–1966**

Borrowed from the World Bank.

**1956**

Joined the United Nations.

**1954**  
Beginning of Japan's ODA



The Tokaido Shinkansen (bullet train) constructed with financial assistance from the World Bank. (Photo: The World Bank)

<Key Events in Japan>

**1951**

Signature of the San Francisco Peace Treaty

**1945**

End of the World War II

**1950**

Start of the Korean War

<Key Events in the World>

**1965**

Founded Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program).

**1968**

Introduced Grants (food aid).

**1974**

Established Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

**1978**

Announced the First Medium-Term Target of ODA (doubling of ODA over three years). (Shift from Asia-centric to global expansion)

**1987**

Enacted the Act on Dispatchment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team.

**1989**

Launched Small-Scale Grant Assistance (currently Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects).



Improving access to safe water in Ethiopia through the installation of water supply facilities  
(Photo: HOPE International Development Agency Japan (HOPE Japan))

**1960**

Expansion and Diversification of Japan's ODA

**1960**

Joined the International Development Association (IDA) (World Bank's fund for the poorest countries) as a donor country.

**1964**

Accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**1979**

Hosted the G7 Tokyo Summit (Japan as the Presidency for the first time).

**1989**

Became the top donor, surpassing the United States.

**1967**

Graduated from borrower status.

**1990**

Repaid World Bank loan.

**1964**

Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 1964

**1961**

Establishment of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**1973**

First oil crisis

**1975**

First G7 Summit

## Achievements of Japan's Development Cooperation in Figures\*1



\*1 Gross disbursements represent the cumulative total from 1960 to 2023 (Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024). The figures for JOCVs dispatched, people trained, and experts dispatched covers the period from 1954 to the end of March 2024.

\*2 The figure does not exclude repaid amount of government loans, etc.

**1992**

Formulated Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter.

**1993**

Held the First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD1).

**1997**

Held the 1st Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM1).

**1990**  
Japan as a Top Donor

**2000**

Addressing New Development Challenges in the 21st Century

**2000**

Hosted the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit.

**2008**

Hosted the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

**2016**

Hosted the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.

**2019**

Hosted the G20 Osaka Summit.

**2023**

Hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit.  
(Japan as the Presidency for the seventh time)

**2008**

Merged JICA and the overseas economic cooperation operations of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

**2015**

Formulated the Development Cooperation Charter.

\*The name changed from ODA Charter

**2017**

Announced the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

**2023**

Revised the Development Cooperation Charter.

**2024**

70th anniversary of Japan's ODA; Held the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10).

**2025**

60th anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs); The Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9)



Supporting Thailand's first subway and mass transit network, contributing to ease traffic congestion in central Bangkok and improving environmental issues, such as air pollution. (Photo: JICA)



Private-Sector Investment Finance supporting large-scale wind power plants in Viet Nam, promoting renewable energy and contributing to the local economy. (Photo: RENOVA, Inc.)

**1989**

From the Showa era to the Heisei era

**1992**

Enactment of the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations

**1995**

Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

**1990**

Start of the Gulf War

**1997**

Asian financial crisis

**1989**

End of the Cold War

**2000**

Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**2008**

Global Financial Crisis  
First G20 Summit (Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy)

**2015**

Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**2016**

Entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change

**2019**

From the Heisei era to the Reiwa era

**2021**

Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

**2022**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine

**2024**

Summit of the Future

# Japan's ODA: Its Track Record and Significance

2024 marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's first provision of technical cooperation to Asian countries after joining the Colombo Plan in 1954. Over the course of those 70 years, Japan went through the post-war period and high growth period, and its Official Development Assistance (ODA) has played a significant role. It helped Japan contribute to addressing a wide range of regional and global challenges as a responsible member of the international community, and by doing so, build peace and prosperity for itself.

ODA has contributed to actively fostering a favorable international environment for Japan—including strengthening bilateral relations, enhancing Japan's credibility, and gaining support in international fora—in addition to supporting the stability and growth of the Japanese economy, by securing reliable supplies of energy and mineral resources and food, as well as promoting the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

Over the past 70 years, the trust Japan has cultivated through its ODA to a total of 190 countries and regions has been reflected in various ways. For instance, Japan's cooperation has been featured in the design of banknotes and postage stamps in developing countries. This trust was also evident in the many messages of sympathy and support Japan received from countries around the world—including developing countries—following the Great East Japan Earthquake and other recent disasters. In addition, Japan has earned strong international support in elections to international organizations, including from developing countries, as demonstrated by its record 12 elections as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council—the most among the UN Member States. These are the fruits of the trust Japan has built through diplomatic efforts, including ODA, and reflect the high expectations the international community places on Japan.

## (1) Track Record

In 1954, Japan joined the Colombo Plan <sup>1</sup> and began providing technical cooperation to countries in Asia, including hosting trainees and dispatching experts. In 1958, it extended its first yen loan to India, followed by the establishment of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer program) in 1965 and the launch of grants, starting with food aid, in 1968. At the same time, Japan itself was still a recipient of assistance from developed countries and international organizations, borrowing funds in sectors such as steel, automobiles, shipbuilding, electric power development, and road infrastructure. The international support laid the foundation for Japan's post-war period of rapid economic growth.

From the late 1960s through the 1970s, as Japan's growing economic power and international status led to rising global expectations for its ODA. In 1974, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

was established as the implementing agency for ODA, marking the full-scale launch of Japan's development cooperation. By the late 1970s, Japan's areas of support had expanded from primarily Asia to include the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. <sup>2</sup> Entering the 1980s, Japan deepened its collaboration with a broad range of partners—including international organizations as well as both national and international NGOs—and diversified the sectors in which it provided support. In 1989, Japan overtook the United States to become the world's top donor in terms of total ODA.

With the end of the Cold War and the expansion of globalization, with a view to addressing the new development challenges of the 21st century, Japan formulated its first ODA Charter in 1992 as a guideline for ODA policy and implementation. Following subsequent revisions, the ODA Charter evolved into the Development Cooperation Charter in 2015.

Since 2015, international cooperation to address global challenges has advanced through milestones, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change. At the same time, the international

<sup>1</sup> A cooperative organization established in 1950 to support economic and social development in Asia-Pacific countries.

<sup>2</sup> See Chart II-2 on page 18.

community has become increasingly fragmented and confrontational. In this context, it has become ever more important for countries to overcome differences in values and work together. Accordingly, the role of development cooperation has grown significantly. With a rising need to collaborate with a diverse range of actors and mobilize new sources of funding, Japan revised the Development Cooperation Charter in 2023 for the first time in eight years to chart a path towards more effective and strategic use of development cooperation.

Public opinion surveys <sup>3</sup> conducted since 1997 include a question on the "Development Cooperation in the Future." Positive responses to this question have

consistently exceeded 60%, with this figure rising to nearly 80% since 2014 (79.4% in 2023). At the same time, a certain proportion of respondents continue to express more critical views such as "It should be reduced as much as possible" or "It should be discontinued" (16.2% in 2023). Recognizing that contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community and building trust-based relationships with a wide range of countries also serves Japan's own national interests, Japan will continue to pursue strategic and effective development cooperation, while making ongoing efforts to secure public understanding and support for ODA.

## [Case 1] Japan's Post-war Reconstruction Experience with International Support

Following World War II, Japan received extensive support from the international community to recover from devastation and to pursue reconstruction and development. In the 1950s, Japan borrowed approximately USD 863 million from the World Bank across 31 projects, covering areas such as steel, automobile manufacturing, shipbuilding, and electric power development, including dam construction. During the 1960s, support extended to road and transportation infrastructure, including major projects such as the Tokaido Shinkansen (bullet train) and the Tomei and Meishin Expressways that link Tokyo and Nagoya and Nagoya and Kobe respectively. These investments laid the foundation for the country's subsequent period of rapid economic growth. The final World Bank loan was repaid in 1990, and Japan is now the Bank's second largest shareholder.



(Left) Toyota Motor Corporation received a loan of USD 2.35 million from the World Bank to purchase machine tools for trucks and buses at the Koromo Plant (now the Toyota Headquarters Plant), which was Japan's first fully integrated automobile production facility. (Photo: World Bank)

(Right) To address the severe power shortages during Japan's post-war economic recovery, Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc. constructed the Kurobe River No. 4 Hydropower Plant with a loan of USD 21.5 million. The plant provided stable electricity supply to major cities in the Kansai region, supporting key industries of the time such as steel, shipbuilding, and textiles. (Photo: World Bank)

## (2) Characteristics of Japan's ODA

### ■ Quality Economic Growth

Based on its post-war reconstruction experience, Japan has consistently prioritized poverty reduction through inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic growth. To

this end, it has supported the development of industrial foundations and investment environments in developing countries through infrastructure development, industrial human resource development, and legal and institutional reforms. Unlike other major donors who place emphasis on social infrastructure—such as education, health, and water and sewage—Japan's development cooperation is distinguished by its greater focus on economic infrastructure, including transportation, communication, and power. <sup>4</sup> While such project-based large-scale

<sup>3</sup> Cabinet Office "Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy" <https://survey.gov-online.go.jp/r05/r05-gaiko/>

<sup>4</sup> Analysis based on comparison with major DAC countries (United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Canada) using the OECD database. For 2023 results, see Chart II-7 on page 23.

financing for large-scale infrastructure development has sometimes diverged from the approach of European countries, which focuses on fiscal and programmatic support, it has ultimately contributed to the rapid economic growth of developing countries, including Asia, and to poverty reduction, thereby earning high praise from the international community.

Japan advocates that achieving high-quality economic growth in developing countries requires the development of “quality infrastructure”<sup>5</sup> that takes into account factors such as openness, transparency, economic

efficiency from a life-cycle cost perspective, and debt sustainability. It has played a leading role in promoting this agenda in the international fora such as the G20. In recent years, developing countries have achieved remarkable economic growth, and the challenges they face have become increasingly complex. To address common challenges—such as Green Transformation (GX), Digital Transformation (DX),<sup>6</sup> and food and energy security through the strengthening and diversification of supply chains—Japan is working in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to implement diverse initiatives.

## [Case 2] Eastern Seaboard Development in Thailand

Drawing on its experience in developing coastal industrial zones to foster export-oriented industries, Japan has supported the development of Thailand’s Eastern Seaboard region through a combination of technical cooperation and yen loans. Established as an industrial zone, this region has grown into Thailand’s second-largest economic hub after the capital, Bangkok. It now hosts a wide range of industries—including Japanese companies in the automotive, electrical, and electronics sectors—that are driving the Thai economy. Today, Japan also supports the development of highly skilled industrial human resources to promote growth in emerging industries such as next-generation vehicles and smart electronics, in line with the Thai government’s goals.



(Left) Laem Chabang Port, developed with yen loan assistance, opened in 1991 as an alternative to Bangkok Port, which is too shallow for large vessels. Today, it is Thailand’s largest container port. (Photo: OKUNO Yasuhiko/JICA)



(Right) Vessels loading and unloading cargo at Laem Chabang Port (Photo: OKUNO Yasuhiko/JICA)

### ■ Supporting Self-Help Efforts

Japan, once a recipient of development aid, borrowed substantial funds from the World Bank and other sources across a wide range of sectors necessary for post-war reconstruction, laying the foundation for its rapid economic growth. Based on this experience of achieving development through the responsible repayment of loans, Japan places emphasis on encouraging ownership by developing countries in carrying out their own projects. As a result, a consistently high proportion of Japan’s ODA takes the form of loan-based assistance with repayment obligations, based on the belief that such an approach contributes to more effective development cooperation.<sup>7</sup>

In line with this approach, Japan values the will and autonomy of partner countries, encouraging

ownership and engaging in constructive dialogue and collaboration. Japan’s cooperation extends beyond physical infrastructure to capacity building and legal and institutional development. By combining these “structural” and “non-structural” components, Japan has helped lay the groundwork for self-reliant efforts and sustainable development in partner countries.

### ■ Human Security

The keyword “leaving no one behind” in the SDGs is well-known. While promoting development in developing countries, special attention must be paid to the socially vulnerable. Human security is a concept that focuses on each individual in socially vulnerable positions—such as those suffering from poverty and hunger, victims of

<sup>5</sup> See Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 43.

<sup>6</sup> See 15 on page 38.

<sup>7</sup> See Chart II-9 on page 24 for ODA of DAC Countries by Type of Assistance in 2023.

### [Case 3] Capabilities Enhancement of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

Since 2002, Japan has continuously supported the capacity building and human resource development of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which is responsible for maritime safety and law enforcement of the country. This support has ranged from training in law enforcement, safe navigation, and maritime rescue to the development of education systems. The PCG's personnel has grown from around 4,000 at the time to over 30,000 today. Japan has also provided yen loans to support the construction of two large patrol vessels. Cooperation with the Philippines—located along key sea lanes vital to the Pacific region—contributes to securing maritime safety across the broader Indo-Pacific, thereby promoting regional peace and stability.



(Left) A patrol vessel developed with a yen loan. With a cruising range of more than 4,000 nautical miles, vessels are equipped with devices and equipment necessary for maritime situational awareness and maritime law enforcement activities, including telecommunications equipment capable of monitoring the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), facility for helicopters, remotely-operated unmanned underwater vehicles, and high-speed work boats. These vessels play a crucial role in rescue operations in stormy weather and patrols in offshore and coastal areas. (Photo: JICA)



(Right) Providing technical training to members of the PCG.



Late Dr. OGATA Sadako, a leading advocate of human security, visiting a school in a Palestinian refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria, in 2008 (Photo: JICA)

natural disasters, war and conflict, as well as women, children, persons with disabilities, and refugees or displaced persons. It promotes nation- and society-building through “investment in people,” including the protection and empowerment of individuals, to enable all individuals to live in dignity, free from fear and want. Japan, in collaboration with international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has worked to promote understanding of the concept of human security. It has also delivered support to socially vulnerable populations across a wide range of areas, including responses to intensifying threats such as infectious diseases and climate change; emergency

humanitarian assistance related to food, refugees, and natural disasters; and the provision of essential services such as healthcare and education.

The concept of human security serves as a guiding principle that underpins all of Japan's development cooperation. In addition to “investment in people” through the protection and empowerment of individuals, Japan is committed to development cooperation that places human agency at its core, with solidarity among diverse actors as a central pillar of human security of the new era.

### (3) Significance of ODA

Japan sustains its economy by importing a significant portion of its energy and mineral resources and food, while exporting various products, such as automobiles. If the security of critical maritime routes and regional hubs for Japan's logistics is not ensured, the supply of oil, gas, food, and other essentials could be disrupted, significantly affecting the daily lives of Japanese people. As evidenced by the frequent spikes in domestic prices caused by conflicts or disasters overseas, Japan and the rest of the world—including developing countries—are bound by a relationship of mutual support and this can only function when peace and economic growth are

## [Case 4] Humanitarian Assistance and Mutual Cooperation Following the Earthquake of Southeastern Türkiye

Immediately after the major earthquake that struck southeastern Türkiye in February 2023, Japan launched emergency relief efforts. It swiftly provided emergency goods such as tents and blankets, and dispatched Japan Disaster Relief Teams. Drawing on Japan's extensive disaster response expertise, these teams carried out search and rescue operations for missing persons, provided emergency medical care, transported relief goods, and supported recovery and reconstruction through the provision of yen loans. Japan also provided emergency grant in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs. The relationship between the two countries dates back to the 1890 "Ertuğrul Frigate Incident," when Japan rescued and repatriated members of a Turkish delegation who had been shipwrecked by a typhoon off the coast of Kishu in Wakayama Prefecture. Sharing the common characteristics of being earthquake-prone countries, Japan and Türkiye have maintained a long-standing relationship of mutual support. Notably, during the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, Türkiye's aid/rescue team conducted rescue operations in Miyagi Prefecture.



(Left) Japanese rescue team and rescue dogs operating in the disaster area following the earthquake with its epicenter in southeastern Türkiye (Photo: JICA)



(Right) Türkiye's aid/rescue team carrying out rescue operations in Miyagi Prefecture following the Great East Japan Earthquake

ensured on both sides.

Engaging in efforts to build relationships with other countries, promote regional stability and development, and address global challenges, as well as creating multi-layered win-win relationships with partner countries through these efforts, constitutes an essential contribution to ensuring the peace and safety of Japan and its people, in addition to generating further prosperity through economic growth.

### ■ Trust and Mutual Support Fostered Through 70 Years of ODA

Japan has contributed to addressing the challenges faced by developing countries through ODA, one of its key diplomatic tools, thus fostering strong bilateral relationships.

Japan's ODA, which has continued for 70 years, has steadily cultivated the trust of the international community, including developing countries. In an opinion poll conducted annually since 2019 in Southeast Asia by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, a prominent think tank in Singapore, Japan has been selected as the most trusted partner for ASEAN among major powers for six consecutive years. Additionally, the Japanese passport allows visa-free travel to more than 190 countries, demonstrating the friendly and trusting relationships Japan has built with other countries through various forms of cooperation, including ODA.

Japan's cooperation through ODA has not only contributed to building friendly bilateral relations, but also supported Japan's own economic and social development.

First, ODA has supported the economic growth of partner countries while also contributing to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies. For example, at Patimban Port, which serves as a logistics hub in Indonesia, Japan—drawing on its advanced technologies in landfill ground improvement and quay wall construction as a fellow island nation—supports the construction of container and automobile terminals, as well as access roads connecting to existing highways. These efforts help improve logistics efficiency in the Jakarta metropolitan area, enhancing Indonesia's investment environment and contributing to its economic growth. In 2021, a Japanese-led business consortium began operating the automobile terminal, and Japanese companies that had entered the Indonesian market started full-scale automobile exports from the port. Given its proximity to industrial parks where many Japanese companies, particularly in the automotive sector, are located, the port is expected to boost exports from Indonesia and bring benefits to Japanese businesses as well (see [Case 2] on page 6 for the Eastern Seaboard Development in Thailand).

In addition, ODA has contributed to ensuring and maintaining maritime safety and freedom of navigation. Safe navigation of vessels on international routes is of great importance for world trade. For Japan, which



An automobile and container terminal at Patimban Port, Indonesia (Photo: Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.)

depends on maritime transport for approximately 99% of its imports and exports, it is also essential for the stable supply of materials to the country and the export of manufactured products, such as automobiles. For example, in the Strait of Malacca, the Singapore Strait, and the waters off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden—critical points along the sea routes for importing energy resources such as crude oil and other goods to Japan, and where many Japan-related vessels operate—Japan has contributed to the safe navigation of vessels, and by extension, the stable supply of materials to Japan, by strengthening the capacity of maritime safety agencies in coastal countries and developing patrol vessels through ODA (see [Case 3] on page 7 for support to the Philippine Coast Guard, and Part III, Section 2 (2) on page 54 for maritime safety).

Furthermore, ODA contributes to Japan's food security while also supporting the industrial development of partner countries. For example, on Japanese dining tables, one can find food products that have resulted from industrial development in developing countries supported by Japan's ODA, which later led to exports to Japan. One such case is Chile—a country that was not even a natural habitat for salmon—to which Japan provided cooperation for about 20 years beginning in 1969, including the transfer of aquaculture technology. Since then, Chile has developed into one of the world's leading salmon exporters. Today, about 30% of the salmon consumed in Japan is imported from Chile. It was also Japan's ODA that introduced octopus pot fishing to Mauritania shortly after its independence. At that time, there was no culture of seafood consumption in the country and the fishing industry did not exist, but now octopus fishing has grown into a major industry, accounting for about 86% of the country's seafood exports. Japan has long supported Mauritania's fisheries sector beyond octopus fishing, and about 40% of the octopus imported by Japan comes from Mauritania. Japanese tuna longline fishing vessels also operate in Mauritanian waters.



A JICA expert working on salmon farming in Chile, where wild salmon did not exist (Photo: JICA)

These mutually beneficial relationships, built over many years, contribute to securing a stable supply of food for Japan.

### ■ Development Cooperation Knowledge that Also Benefits Domestic Challenges in Japan

The knowledge and experience gained from development cooperation overseas has proven to be equally valuable in addressing domestic challenges in Japan. For example, in the aftermath of major earthquakes—including the 2004 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the experiences gained through overseas initiatives such as the JICA Volunteer Program and peacebuilding assistance have been utilized in disaster response efforts in Japan. In the case of the recent Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA)—an organization primarily composed of ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)—partnered with a local social welfare corporation to launch relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. These efforts were centered around community exchange facilities that had been established jointly with local governments during normal times. Together, they support early-stage relief as well as longer-term recovery and reconstruction. JICA also worked in partnership with JOCA and the local social welfare corporation to support the operation of evacuation centers. In parallel, JICA dispatched staff to disaster-affected local governments, assessed the impact on foreign technical intern trainees, and provides medium- to long-term assistance, from the immediate emergency response through to recovery and reconstruction (see page 76, "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" for an example of how cooperation on volcanic disaster prevention projects in Indonesia has informed disaster prevention efforts in Japan).



A preparation meeting for evacuation center support by the Japan Overseas Cooperative Association, Social Welfare Corporation Bussi-en, and JICA (Photo: JICA)



**Achim Steiner,**  
Administrator of the United Nations  
Development Programme (UNDP)

As Japan marks 70 years of development cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to continue our enduring partnership in driving global progress within a profoundly evolving development landscape. Yet our efforts to co-create life-changing development solutions – anchored in principles such as human security and dignity and putting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus into action – have remained consistent. At this milestone, I extend my deepest gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their unwavering support of multilateralism and UNDP. Together, as we advance the Sustainable Development Goals, we are demonstrating that the most valuable investments we make today are the opportunities we leave for the generations to come.



**KASHITANI Ichiro,**  
President & CEO of  
Toyota Tsusho Corporation

Toyota Tsusho Cooperation has long contributed to building environmentally friendly and healthy living through the development of industrial and social infrastructure, utilizing Japan's ODA. In Africa, for example, we build geothermal power plants and provide refrigerated vehicles for vaccines. Japan's distinctive approach to ODA lies in fostering trust through technical assistance and human resources development tailored to local needs, contributing to enhancing Japan's standing in the international community. We firmly believe that Japan's ODA, through co-creation with diverse partners, will continue to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society for future generations. Toyota Tsusho will continue to play a key role in this endeavour.



**ADACHI Michiyo,**  
Representative of NGO members  
of the Partnership Promotion  
Committee within the Regular  
Consultative Meeting between MOFA  
and NGOs, and Secretary General,  
Japanese NGO IVY

Japanese NGOs have grown rapidly since the 1990s, implementing projects funded by ODA. Currently, approximately 700 organizations with legal status are actively operating across the globe. Recognizing this trend, the revised Development Cooperation Charter in 2023 designates NGOs as "strategic partners in Japan's development cooperation." NGOs possess key strengths, such as high expertise in humanitarian and development assistance, in-depth understanding of local contexts, efficient use of funds, and the use of new approaches and innovative methods. In order to leverage these strengths and deepen cooperation with the Government of Japan, we anticipate new schemes that encourage NGO participation and increased funding levels comparable to those of other OECD countries.

## Voices from Partners on Japan's ODA Policies and Cooperation



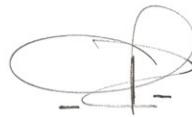
**Rentsendoo Jigjid,**  
President of the Mongolia-Japan  
"Partnership Association," former  
Minister of Mining of Mongolia  
and former Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of Mongolia to Japan

I extend my warmest congratulations on the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA. Japan's ODA has played a vital role in strengthening democracy and laying the foundation for a free market economy in Mongolia. Japan's assistance was successfully implemented in Mongolia in all sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture and livestock farming, industry, culture, education, humanitarian assistance, social welfare, health, and environment. It has significantly contributed to Mongolia's success in overcoming the various challenges it faced during its transition to a new socio-economic system and in laying the foundation for future development. The relationship between Mongolia and Japan is developing steadily under the "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity." May the friendly relations between Mongolia and Japan continue to flourish in the years to come.

## Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,



African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems, Former Prime Minister of Niger, Former Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUD-NEPAD)



Japan's ODA has a 70-year history of contributing to addressing regional and global issues, marked by a growing circle of partnerships and solidarity.

This column presents messages from a wide variety of partners, celebrating the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA.

Japan's cooperation with Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) highlights a long-term partnership centered on sustainable growth, resilience, and mutual respect. Through its ODA, Japan has bolstered Africa's infrastructure, healthcare, education, and governance, empowering African nations toward self-reliance. Looking ahead, Japan's commitment to technology transfer, climate adaptation, and human resources development presents transformative opportunities in green energy, digital innovation, and food security. As Africa continues its growth, Japan's focus on deepening trade relations and fostering private sector engagement promises an evolving partnership that addresses shared challenges and drives sustainable impact for both regions. This is a story of mutual trust and ownership.

## Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay,

Prime Minister of Bhutan



On behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Bhutan, I extend heartfelt congratulations on the remarkable milestone of the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA. Our cherished relations with Japan, which began with the visionary contributions of Dashi Keiji Nishioka\* in the 1960s, stand as a testament to the enduring bonds of friendship between our two countries. Japanese ODA has touched almost every facet of Bhutanese development such as agriculture and rural development; economic recovery and economic infrastructure development; human resource development and improvement of education and healthcare services; and good governance. Your assistance has transformed our nation, ushering in an era of peace, prosperity, and happiness aligned with our Gross National Happiness philosophy. Above all, it has fostered and nurtured strong ties of friendship between our two peoples.

\* Dispatched to Bhutan in 1964 as an expert in agriculture, he dedicated 28 years to contributing to the modernization of Bhutan's agriculture. In recognition of his achievements, he became the only foreigner to be awarded the title of Dashi by the King of Bhutan.

## KONDO Erina,

Member of the Advisory Panel on Sustainability of the International Community, G7/G20 Youth Japan, Steering Committee Member of the Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs



*Erina Kondo*

For 70 years, Japan's ODA has contributed to solving global issues such as education, environmental protection, and women's empowerment, supporting the lives of countless individuals. These achievements represent significant investments in future generations. As a member of the young generation, I am proud of Japan's commitment to fostering global solidarity and leading transformative change. For future economic growth and sustainable development, supporting the commercialization of innovative ideas alongside financial assistance is crucial. I sincerely hope that Japan's ODA, through diverse partnerships, will continue to support innovation around the world and further contribute to addressing domestic and international challenges.

## SUZUKI Makoto,

ODA Consultant, Representative, Buena Fe GK



Since 1980, I have dedicated most of my life to working on ODA projects related to healthcare infrastructure development in 23 countries across Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific. "JICA," which was initially not well known in developing countries, is now widely recognized in a number of countries. "High-quality" healthcare facilities built through Japan's ODA have enabled many habitants in developing countries to access safe, reliable health services. In addition, local Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratories supported by Japan that handle high-risk pathogens have attracted the attention of experts around the world. The importance of international cooperation is increasingly vital in preparing for future public health crises.

## (1) Evolving Global Context and International Trends in Development Cooperation

The international community now stands at a turning point in history and is confronted with complex crises. Threats and global issues that demand collective action by the international community, such as poverty, conflicts, human rights suppression, infectious diseases, and environmental issues, are on the rise.

At the same time, the international order is under severe strain. As the global balance of power shifts and geopolitical competition intensifies—evident in Russia's aggression against Ukraine and mounting tensions in the Middle East—the risk of division in the international community is becoming more serious. This is an era in which confrontation and cooperation are intricately interwoven in international relations. In this context, emerging and developing countries, collectively referred to as the Global South, are becoming increasingly prominent. By 2050, it is projected that countries in the Global South will account for two-thirds of the world's population.

To navigate today's complex crises, the international community must move beyond division and confrontation and be guided toward cooperation. Japan, which has contributed to global peace and stability for the past 70 years as a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II, is well-positioned to play a leading role in this endeavor. Fulfilling this responsibility will require deeper engagement with emerging and developing countries, collectively referred to as the Global South. In this context, ODA serves as an important tool of its diplomacy. Given its significance to Japan's own long-term interests, it must continue to evolve in response to the changing global landscape.

In light of these significant changes, Japan revised its Development Cooperation Charter—a policy document that constitutes the foundation of its development cooperation policy—in 2023, setting forth a commitment to implement development cooperation more effectively and strategically than ever before. Since then, in 2024, which marks the 70th anniversary of ODA, it has been working to implement the revised Charter.

## (2) Implementation Status of Policies Promoting Solidarity and Co-creation, and the Future Direction of ODA

### ■ Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative

The new Development Cooperation Charter identifies “solidarity to realize co-creation” as one of the evolved approaches to implementing development cooperation more effectively and strategically. It aims to engage a wide range of partners—such as private companies, other countries and international organizations, Japanese NGOs and local governments, universities and research institutions, individuals with deep interest in and understanding of Japan, and people of Japanese descent living abroad. By bringing together their respective strengths through dialogue and collaboration, the Charter seeks to create new solutions jointly (For details on solidarity with diverse partners, see Part V, Section 1 on page 128).

As the needs of developing countries shift from focusing solely on economic growth to addressing broader social challenges, the problem-solving capabilities of Japanese companies have become increasingly important. For example, when Japanese companies are uncertain about making overseas investments, investment environment improvements through ODA mechanisms, such as grants and technical cooperation, can serve as a catalyst for companies to expand overseas. By leveraging ODA to mobilize private capital and thereby maximize development impact in ways that encourage private sector investment, Japan can help address social challenges in partner countries while advancing its own economic growth.

A key strength of Japan's ODA lies in its ability to promote autonomous development through dialogue, based on equal partnerships with developing countries. Japan's approach combines not only structural aspects such as infrastructure and equipment but also on non-structural aspects such as human resource development tailored to local contexts. It carefully integrates loan aid, grants, and technical cooperation in a coordinated manner. Today, as many developing countries have achieved significant economic growth, some countries are now facing challenges common to Japan, such as green transformation (GX) and digital transformation (DX). In this context, the concept of “co-creation”—

working together as equal partners to address social challenges, rather than maintaining a giver-receiver relationship—is becoming increasingly important.

The revised Development Cooperation Charter builds on these strengths to promote the “Co-creation for common agenda” initiative. A key feature of this initiative is to propose the cooperation menus that leverage Japan’s strengths, and jointly formulating projects in partnership with the partner countries.

Specifically, Japan publishes the strategy document that identifies priority areas and publicly sets out approaches to achieve goals in each area. This enhances predictability of project implementation, encourages the active participation of various actors such as private companies and international organizations, and combines various forms of cooperation to maximize development impacts.

Starting with the launch of this initiative with Cambodia in December 2023, Japan has agreed to pursue this initiative with Fiji, while also considering the possibility of promoting cooperation under this initiative with Laos (For details on the implementation status of the initiative, see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145).

## ■ Mobilization of Private Financial Resources

From the perspective of developing countries, the composition of external financial flows has been changing over time. In the 1990s, ODA was the dominant source. However, since the 2000s, foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances from migrant workers have grown substantially, surpassing ODA. In 2022, FDI was approximately 2.5 times the volume of ODA, and remittances about 2.8 times, indicating that private financial flows now exceed ODA by far.<sup>8</sup> As private capital accounts for an increasing share of financial inflows to developing countries, the positioning of ODA has become relativized. Many countries are now showing greater interest in attracting businesses rather than aid. This shift underscores the growing need for diverse actors to collaborate in addressing development challenges. In other words, relying on ODA alone is no

longer sufficient to tackle the development challenges facing developing countries.

The role of private capital in developing countries is becoming increasingly important. In particular, sustainable finance—investment not only seeking profit but also addressing social challenges, including those related to the environment, society, and governance—is gaining unprecedented significance. In response to this trend, the Advisory Panel on New Financing for Development was established under then Foreign Minister Kamikawa in March 2024, and discussions took place from March to May. In July, then Minister Kamikawa received recommendations<sup>9</sup> outlining the potential catalytic role of ODA in this evolving financial landscape from the panel (see also “Development Cooperation Topics” on page 14).

The recommendations state that both ODA and sustainable finance are future-oriented forms of “problem-solving finance.” They share a common purpose: helping address challenges embedded in today’s economic and social systems, with the goal of shaping a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economy and society. The panel also points out that by taking risks that cannot be taken in the private sector through ODA and strengthening collaboration between public and private sectors, there is significant potential to foster cooperation toward a better future for the global economy and society. When positioned as a catalytic tool, ODA can help create and expand an “ecosystem” in which diverse stakeholders—including private companies and investors—engage in economically rational investments that ultimately support the growth of developing countries. As concrete proposals, the panel recommends expanding JICA’s risk-taking functions, for example, by providing guarantees for projects in developing countries and purchasing green and social bonds issued by local entities. In response to these proposals, the Government of Japan will continue its review of the ODA mechanism with a view to enhancing its alignment with new development finance approaches.

<sup>8</sup> “World Development Report (WDR) 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies” <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2023>

<sup>9</sup> Recommendation paper “Toward Contributing to a Sustainable Future and Creating a Virtuous Cycle of Growth” <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100697332.pdf> (in Japanese only)



## New Approaches to Development Finance Mobilization in the Changing Era

From March to May 2024, under the leadership of then Foreign Minister Kamikawa, the Advisory Panel on New Financing for Development was convened three times and in July, the panel submitted its recommendations to the Minister, entitled "Contributing to a Sustainable Future and Creating a Virtuous Cycle of Growth."<sup>\*1</sup>

In this column, Professor Emeritus OHNO Izumi of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and Chair of the panel, and committee member KANEKO Tadahiro, Executive Officer of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, shared their perspectives on the future of ODA, drawing on the panel's discussions and recommendations.

### ■ OHNO Izumi, Professor Emeritus, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)



For more than 70 years, Japan has significantly contributed to economic and human resources development in developing countries through ODA. It is particularly worth noting that Japan, having reemerged as a peaceful nation after World War II, has built broad trust in the international community through non-military development cooperation.

Japan, once a non-Western latecomer to development, has the dual experience of being both a "learner" and a "provider" of development knowledge. Based on this experience, Japan's development cooperation respects the uniqueness and ownership of each partner country, takes a human-centered approach, and emphasizes support that is closely aligned with local needs. This approach has been widely appreciated by many governments, organizations, and people in developing countries.

At the same time, the international development landscape is undergoing significant transformation, necessitating a paradigm shift in development cooperation "from aid to co-creation." This shift is driven by several factors: (1) development challenges are becoming more complex, requiring mutual learning and joint problem-solving between developed and developing countries; (2) private investment in developing countries has surpassed ODA in scale, expanding opportunities for public-private partnership to build sustainable societies; (3) collaboration with countries that have graduated from ODA recipients and with emerging countries is becoming increasingly important; and (4) Japan's domestic context—marked by a declining birthrate and aging population—is broadening the scope of international cooperation to include areas such as coexistence with foreign workers within Japan.

Especially in the private sector, sustainable finance with an emphasis on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors is growing. The key will be to build an ecosystem in

which ODA acts as a catalyst, enabling diverse actors to collaborate and promote private investment that leads to solving global issues and advancing development in partner countries. We hope that Japan's development cooperation will maintain and strengthen its existing positive aspects, while evolving into a model better suited to the era of "co-creation."

### ■ KANEKO Tadahiro, Executive Officer, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

In recent years, as the impact of climate change is becoming serious, contributing to a sustainable society has become a corporate responsibility, and sustainable finance has increased significantly, particularly in developed countries. However, in developing countries, providing private capital is challenging due to political instability, creditworthiness issues, and the lack of entities to implement projects. To address global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity issues, funding and support for developing countries are essential, and ODA plays an important role in this effort.



The Advisory Panel on New Financing for Development discussed the potential for working together in creating a sustainable future by strengthening linkages between ODA and sustainable finance. The Panel made concrete recommendations, such as strengthening risk-taking through ODA, aiming to build an ecosystem in which ODA acts as a catalyst for diverse actors to collaborate and in which investment activities by the private sector and investors lead to development in developing countries.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), in collaboration with JICA, established the "SMBC-JICA Sustainable Finance Framework" to strengthen risk-taking through risk diversification. Through this framework, we support projects aimed at improving financial access in the agricultural sector in Cambodia and facilitating the implementation of infrastructure projects such as those of renewable energy in South Africa.

Going forward, it is important to continuously accumulate achievements of tangible projects through collaboration between ODA and sustainable finance. By leveraging frameworks such as the "Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)"<sup>\*2</sup> promoted by the Government of Japan, we hope that concrete actions will be promoted through an all-Japan approach in order to contribute towards a sustainable future, create a virtuous cycle of growth in Japan, and realize a sustainable society.

\*1 Recommendation: Contributing to a Sustainable Future and Creating a Virtuous Cycle of Growth <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100697332.pdf> (in Japanese only)

\*2 See Part III 3 (1) on page 64.

# Part II

## Japan's Official Development Assistance and Trends in Aid of Other Donors in Terms of Disbursement

1	Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement	16
2	Overview of Official Development Assistance from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement	22
3	Increasing Development Cooperation to Developing Countries by Emerging Donors and the Private Sector	25

Yemeni workers and UNDP staff engaged in the renovation of a cargo shed at the port to facilitate faster cargo handling under "the Project for the Improvement of Efficiency in the Port of Aden (Partnership with UNDP)," a grant project in Yemen (Photo: UNDP)



# Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement

Japan's total ODA in 2023<sup>1</sup>,<sup>2</sup> was approximately \$19,600.37 million (approximately ¥2,754 billion) according to the Grant Equivalent System (GE system)<sup>3</sup> introduced from 2018. Among the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan has ranked third<sup>4</sup> following the United States and Germany since 2021. Japan's ODA as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2023 was 0.44% (compared to the international target of 0.7%, and ranked 12th out of 31 DAC countries excluding the EU) (Chart II-5).

The breakdown of Japan's ODA is as follows: Bilateral ODA accounted for approximately 81.5% of overall disbursements, while ODA to multilateral institutions accounted for approximately 18.5%. Bilateral ODA is expected to contribute to strengthening Japan's relations with recipient countries. Meanwhile, ODA to multilateral institutions that have expertise and political neutrality enables Japan to provide necessary support more promptly and flexibly, including to countries and regions where direct bilateral assistance from the Japanese government is difficult to reach. Japan will actively provide more effective aid while making flexible use of the above types of assistance and coordinating between them.

As regards bilateral ODA by aid scheme, the funding provided without repayment obligation totaled approximately \$4,261.37 million (¥598.7 billion), or

approximately 21.7% of total ODA, on a grant equivalent basis. Among this funding, grants through multilateral institutions, etc., accounted for approximately \$2,625.81 million (¥368.9 billion), or approximately 13.4% of total ODA. Technical cooperation accounted for approximately \$2,238.74 million (¥314.6 billion), or approximately 11.4% of total ODA. With regard to government loans, etc., loan disbursements accounted for approximately \$13,882.80 million (¥1,950.6 billion), while the grant equivalent of government loans, etc., totaled approximately \$9,481.72 million (¥1,332.2 billion), or approximately 48.4% of total ODA.

Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements (excluding support for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas"),<sup>5</sup> in descending order by percentage of total disbursements (gross disbursements), are as follows<sup>6</sup> (See Chart II-2 on page 18 for details).

- ◆ Asia: 52.4% (approximately \$10,672.10 million)
- ◆ Middle East and North Africa: 12.7% (approximately \$2,591.93 million)
- ◆ Sub-Saharan Africa: 9.1% (approximately \$1,858.56 million)
- ◆ Europe: 4.9% (approximately \$992.44 million)
- ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean: 4.4% (approximately \$892.75 million)
- ◆ Oceania: 1.2% (approximately \$240.88 million)
- ◆ Assistance covering multiple regions: 15.4% (approximately \$3,134.28 million)

<sup>1</sup> DAC members' final figures for ODA disbursements in 2024 are to be published at or after the end of 2025.

<sup>2</sup> In Part II, "grants" signifies transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient, as defined by the OECD-DAC.

<sup>3</sup> The GE system records the amount of government loans, etc., equivalent to a grant as an actual ODA disbursement. The grant equivalent is calculated by applying the terms of the loan, such as the amount of loan provided, interest rate, and repayment period, to a formula. The more concessional the terms of the loan are, the larger the grant equivalent is. This system measures Japan's actual government loans, etc., more accurately compared to the net flow system, which was the standard used by the DAC until 2017. (The full amount of the loan is recorded; on the other hand, repaid amounts are counted as negative.)

<sup>4</sup> OECD database (OECD Data Explore) (December 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Graduated countries designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and continues to provide ODA to, based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2023, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Kuwait, Oman, Poland, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay were under this category.

<sup>6</sup> Gross disbursement basis.

Chart II-1

Japan's ODA by Type (2023)

2023 (Calendar year)		Dollar basis (US\$ million)			Yen basis (¥100 million)		
Type		Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)	Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)
Grant aid	1,635.56	961.71	70.1	2,298.06	1,263.96	81.8	
Debt relief	—	3.10	-100.0	—	4.08	-100.0	
Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	2,625.81	2,293.02	14.5	3,689.42	3,013.68	22.4	
Technical cooperation	2,238.74	2,362.31	-5.2	3,145.57	3,104.74	1.3	
<b>Total grants (A)</b>	<b>6,500.11</b>	<b>5,620.15</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>9,133.05</b>	<b>7,386.46</b>	<b>23.6</b>	
Government loans, etc. (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement) (B)	13,882.80	14,020.44	-1.0	19,506.17	18,426.82	5.9	
(Amount recovered) (C)	5,339.53	5,515.65	-3.2	7,502.37	7,249.12	3.5	
(Net disbursement) (D)=(B)-(C)	8,543.26	8,504.79	0.5	12,003.80	11,177.70	7.4	
(Grant equivalent) (E)	9,481.72	9,257.38	2.4	13,322.40	12,166.82	9.5	
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis) (A)+(B)</b>	<b>20,382.91</b>	<b>19,640.58</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>28,639.23</b>	<b>25,813.28</b>	<b>10.9</b>	
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis) (A)+(D)</b>	<b>15,043.37</b>	<b>14,124.94</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>21,136.86</b>	<b>18,564.16</b>	<b>13.9</b>	
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Grant equivalent basis) (A)+(E)</b>	<b>15,981.83</b>	<b>14,877.52</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>22,455.45</b>	<b>19,553.28</b>	<b>14.8</b>	
Grants to multilateral institutions (F)	3,618.54	2,622.39	38.0	5,084.27	3,446.56	47.5	
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed) (G)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent) (H)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross and net disbursement basis) (I)=(F)+(G)	3,618.54	2,622.39	38.0	5,084.27	3,446.56	47.5	
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent basis) (J)=(F)+(H)	3,618.54	2,622.39	38.0	5,084.27	3,446.56	47.5	
<b>Total ODA (Gross disbursement) (A)+(B)+(I)</b>	<b>24,001.45</b>	<b>22,262.97</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>33,723.50</b>	<b>29,259.84</b>	<b>15.3</b>	
<b>Total ODA (Net disbursement) (A)+(D)+(I)</b>	<b>18,661.91</b>	<b>16,747.32</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>26,221.13</b>	<b>22,010.72</b>	<b>19.1</b>	
<b>Total ODA (Grant equivalent) (A)+(E)+(J)</b>	<b>19,600.37</b>	<b>17,499.91</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>27,539.72</b>	<b>22,999.84</b>	<b>19.7</b>	
Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)	4,451.23	4,517.51	-1.5	625,425.50	593,728.60	5.3	
% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)	0.42	0.37		0.42	0.37		
% of GNI (Grant equivalent basis)	0.44	0.39		0.44	0.39		

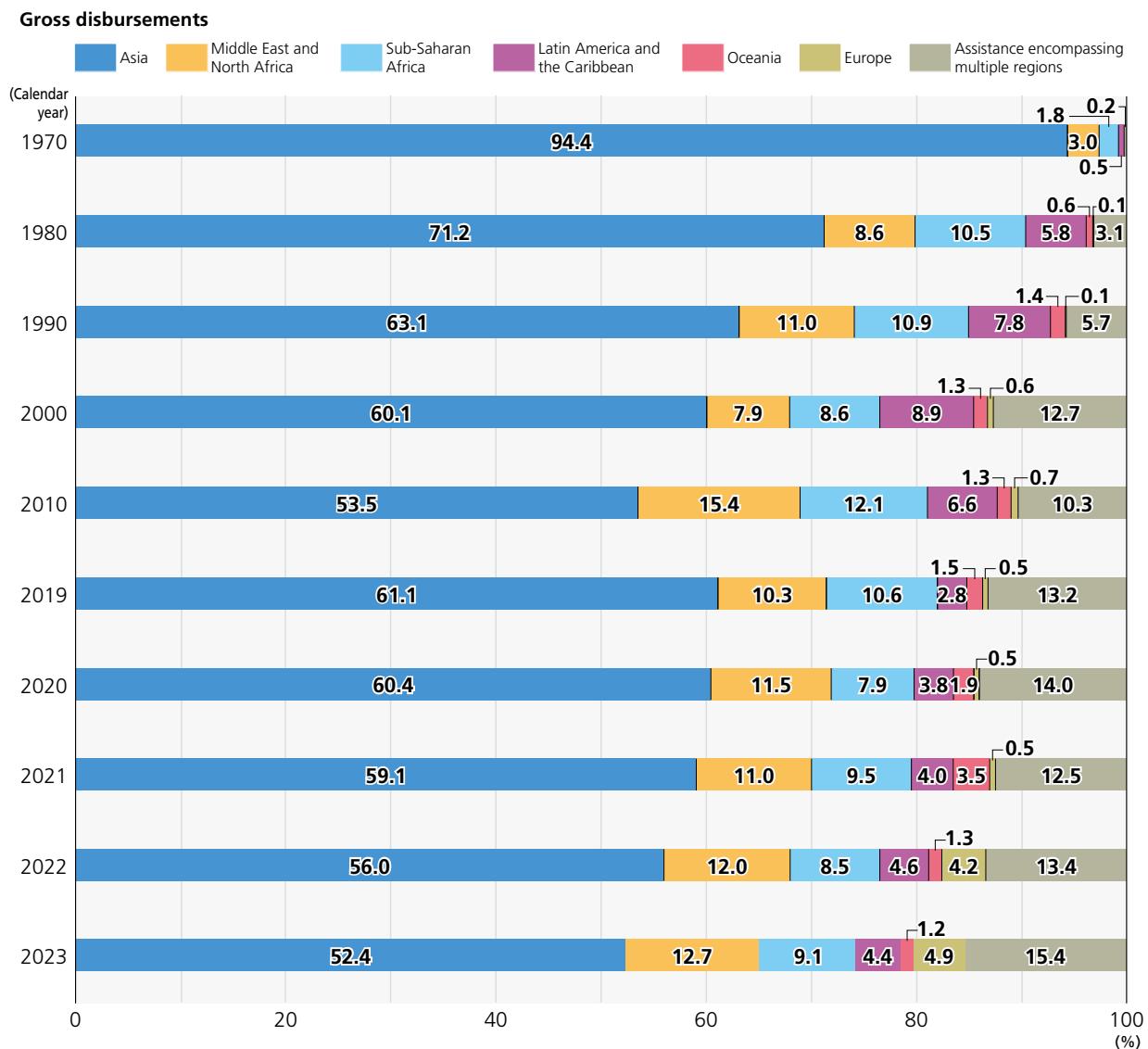
## Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- [-] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Conversion rate: 2022 US\$1=¥131.4283, 2023 US\$1=¥140.5061 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Grant aid" above does not signify the grant aid scheme of Japan.

- The above table excludes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas." For more information regarding disbursements that include assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," see Reference Statistics: 2 (1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (page 160).
- Graduated countries designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and to which Japan continues to provide ODA based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2023, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Kuwait, Oman, Poland, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay were under this category.
- "Debt relief" is debt cancellation on a commercial basis, and does not include debt rescheduling.

Chart II-2

Trends in Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region



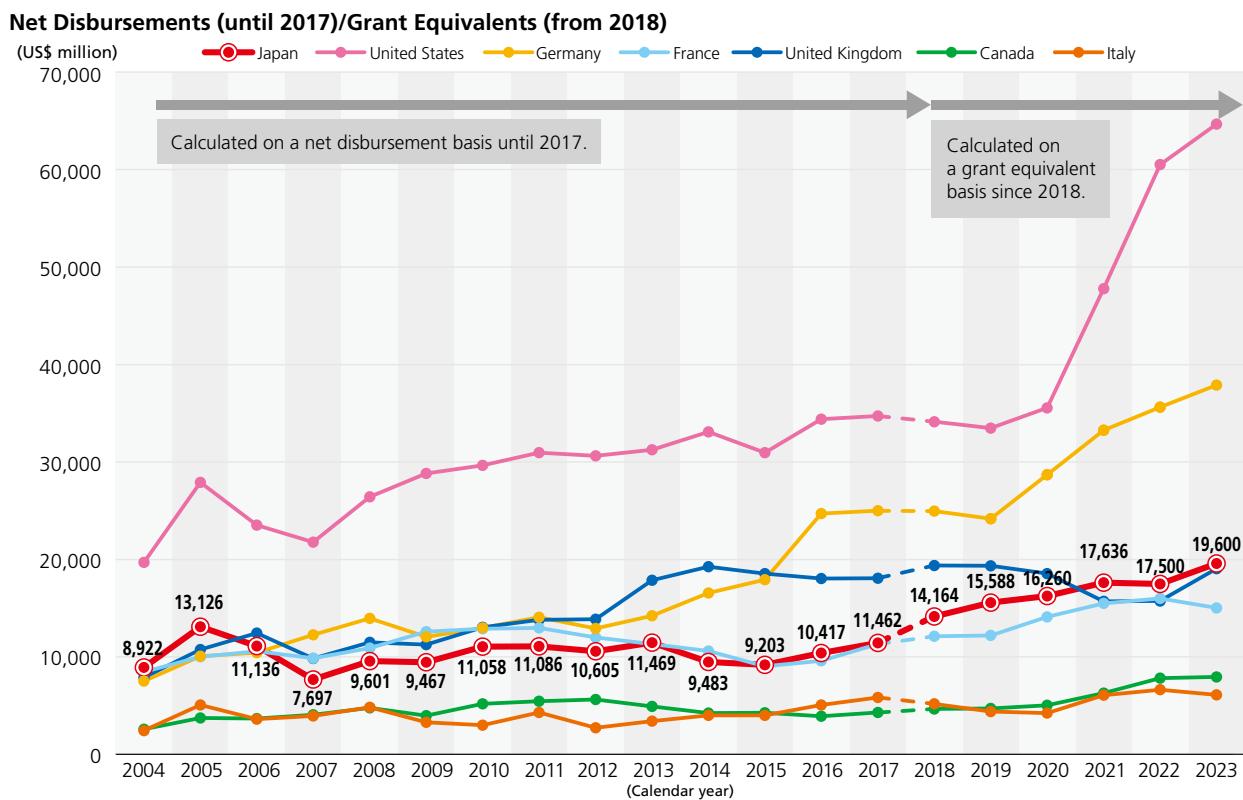
Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

Notes:

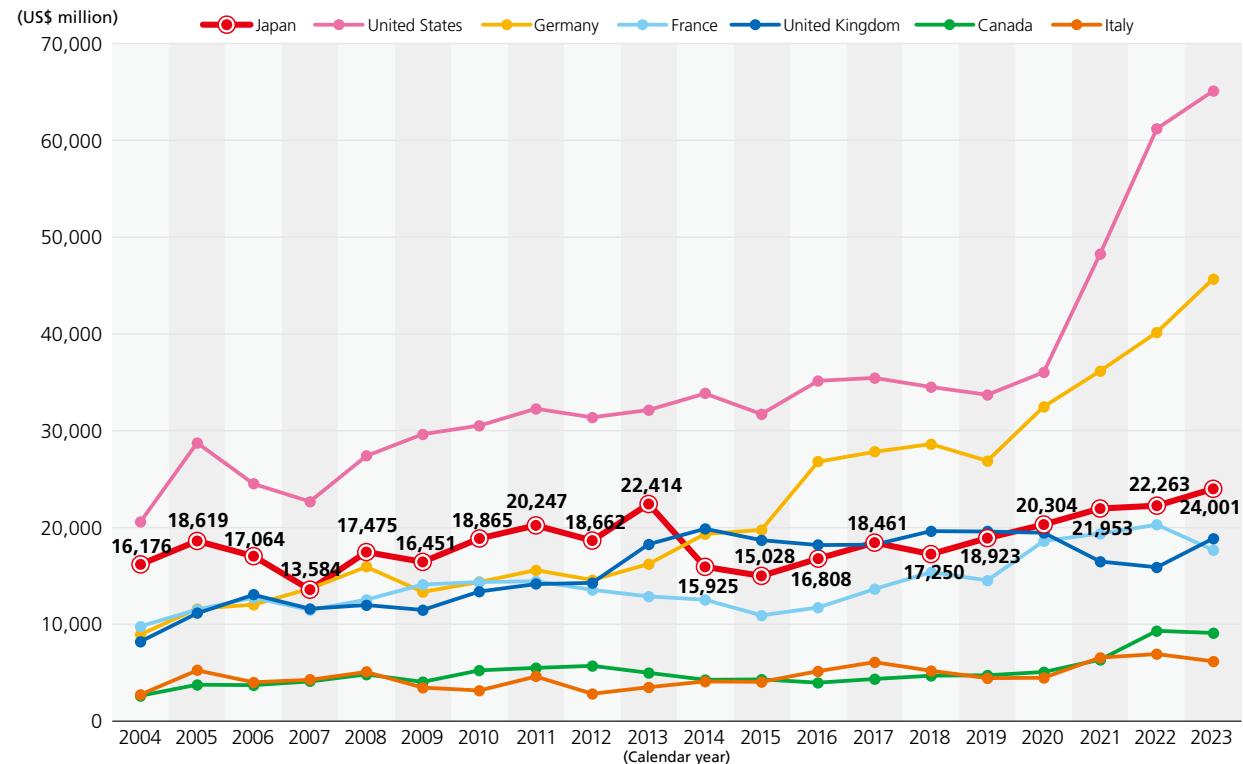
- "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" refers to assistance that cannot be regionally classified such as grants through multilateral institutions etc. and technical cooperation including survey and research that do not target specific regions or countries.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

Chart II-3

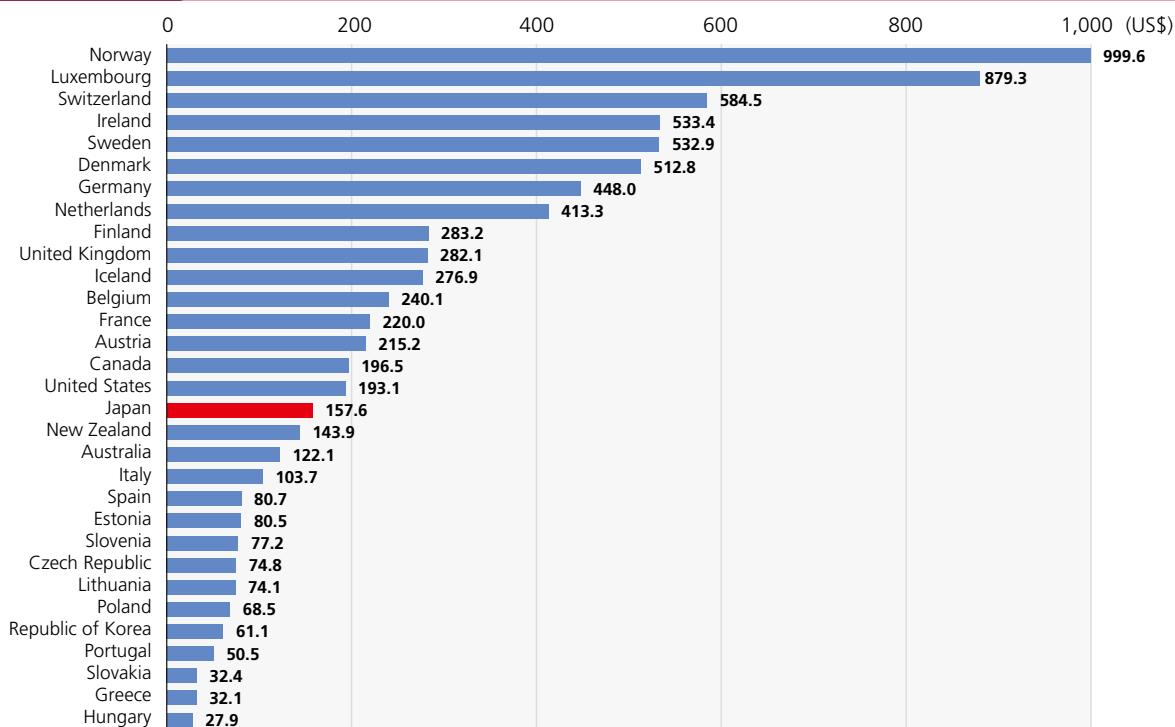
Trends in the ODA of Major DAC Countries



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

**Gross Disbursements**

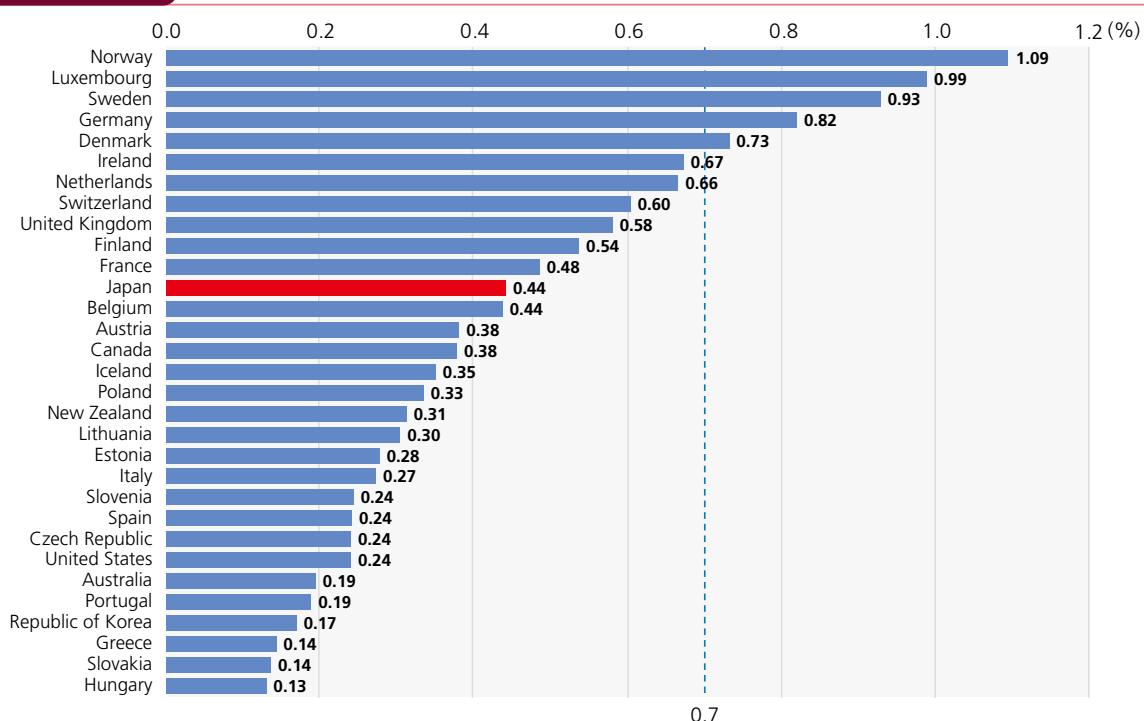
Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

**Chart II-4****Per Capita ODA in DAC Countries (2023)**

Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.

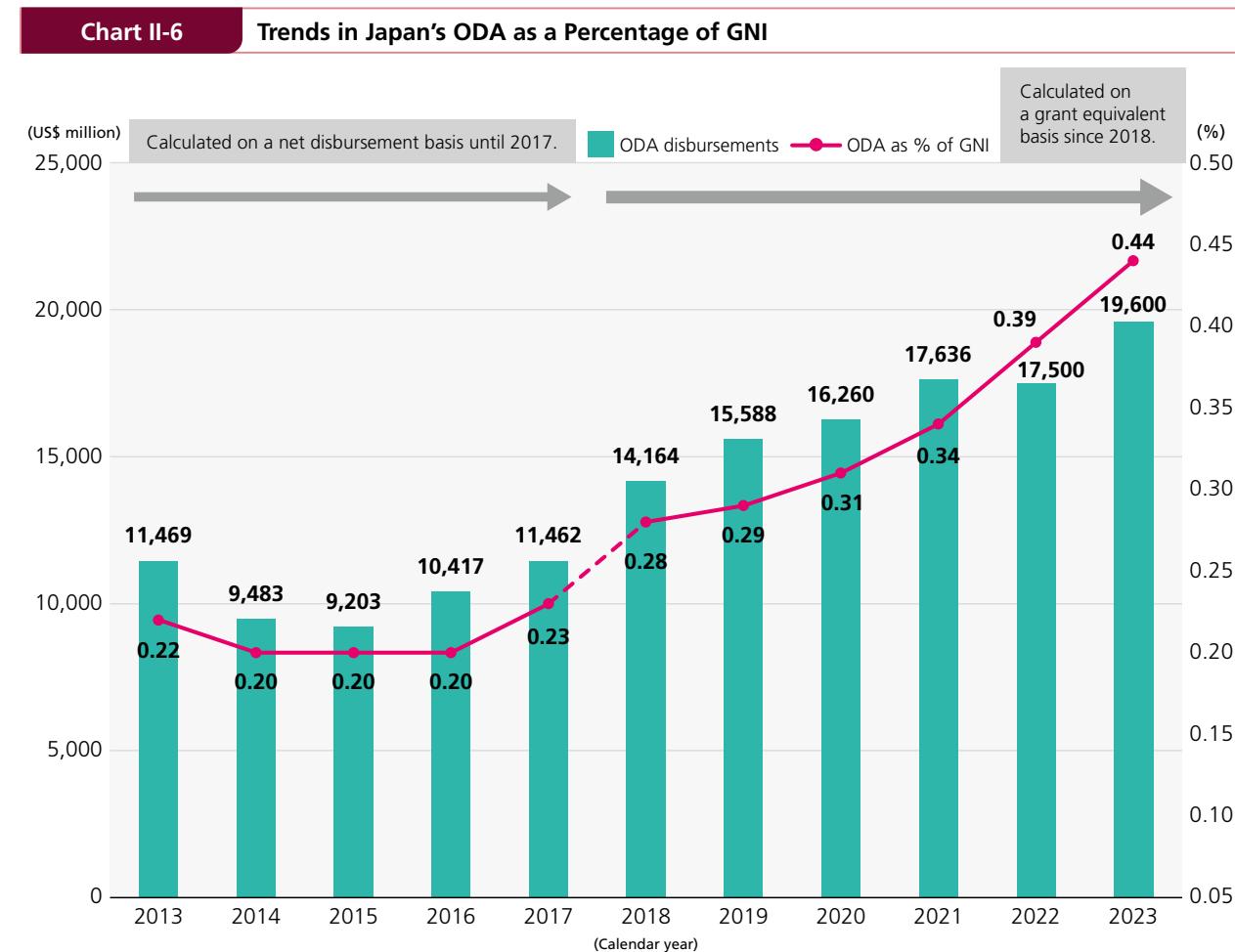
**Chart II-5****Ratio of ODA to GNI in DAC Countries (2023)**

Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.

- In 1970, the UN General Assembly set a target of 0.7% of GNP (currently of GNI) for ODA.



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

Note:

- Disbursements were calculated on a net disbursement basis until 2017, and on a grant equivalent basis since 2018.

# Overview of Official Development Assistance from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement

The OECD-DAC establishes international rules on what cooperation constitutes ODA and how it should be reported. Under the rules set by the DAC, ODA must meet the following three requirements: (i) it is provided by official agencies or their executive agencies; (ii) its main objective is to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries; and (iii) it is concessional in character (in the case of government loans, the terms of the loan [e.g. interest rate and repayment period] are set in favor of recipient countries).

DAC countries provide development cooperation under the rules set by the DAC. However, the content of ODA implemented by major donors varies by country. This section outlines the aid provided by DAC donors, focusing on the G7 countries, based on their disbursements in 2023.

## Aid Disbursements by Major Donors

ODA provided by DAC countries in 2023 (calculated by the GE system) amounted to approximately \$223,314 million. By country (GE system, percentage out of total ODA of DAC countries), the United States ranked first (approximately \$64,686 million, 29.0%), Germany second (approximately \$37,905 million, 17.0%), Japan third (approximately \$19,600 million, 8.8%), the United Kingdom fourth (approximately \$19,073 million, 8.5%), France fifth (approximately \$15,050 million, 6.7%), Canada sixth (approximately \$7,965 million, 3.6%), the Netherlands seventh (approximately \$7,361 million, 3.3%), Italy eighth (approximately \$6,121 million, 2.7%), and Sweden ninth (approximately \$5,622 million, 2.5%), with the G7 countries occupying the top positions.<sup>7</sup>

## Sectors Aided by Major Donors

Disbursements in 2023 from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada were concentrated in the social infrastructure sectors, including education, health, and water supply and sewerage. The United States allocated more than 20% of total ODA to emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid. On the other hand, in the economic infrastructure sectors, such as roads, bridges, railroads, communications, and electric power, Japan has the highest allocation with 56.0% of its total ODA, followed by Germany with 17.9%. Economic infrastructure assistance makes up a large share of Japan's cooperation because Japan, with its postwar recovery experience, considers that, in order to achieve poverty reduction and other goals through sustainable economic growth in developing countries, it is essential first and foremost to establish economic infrastructure and support the self-help efforts of developing countries (Chart II-7).

## Regions Aided by Major Donors

Whereas Japan's ODA is primarily directed at the Asian region (approximately 52.4% of gross disbursements in 2023 [hereinafter the same]) (Chart II-2), Sub-Saharan Africa was the top recipient of aid from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy (25.5%, 11.8%, 30.6%, 16.0%, and 12.9% respectively), and Europe was the top recipient of aid from Canada (28.6%).<sup>8</sup> In terms of the percentage of total aid disbursements from major DAC countries by region, the United States was the largest donor to the Middle East and North Africa (31.2%), Sub-Saharan Africa (43.6%), Latin America and the Caribbean (37.4%), and Europe (59.2%). Australia provided 49.7% of total ODA to Oceania. As these figures indicate, the regional priority of aid for each donor is influenced by factors such as geographic proximity and historical background (Chart II-8).

<sup>7</sup> OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024).

<sup>8</sup> OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (January 2025).

Chart II-7

Bilateral ODA Distribution of Major DAC Countries by Sector (2023)

(Unit: %)

Sector	Country	Japan	United States	United Kingdom	France	Germany	Italy	Canada	DAC Average
Social infrastructure (education, health, water and sewerage, etc.)		11.0	43.8	24.7	41.9	29.9	23.0	21.6	31.5
Economic infrastructure (transport, communications, electric power, etc.)		56.0	4.1	8.4	16.3	17.9	1.9	1.6	16.8
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries		2.5	2.4	8.5	3.3	2.9	2.6	3.4	3.3
Manufacturing and other production sectors (mining, environmental protection, etc.)		21.5	2.6	10.4	14.4	14.1	6.2	7.4	10.9
Emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid		3.8	23.0	0.3	4.5	7.0	7.8	7.8	12.7
Program and other assistance (debt relief, administrative costs, etc.)		5.2	24.1	47.7	19.6	28.3	58.5	58.2	24.8
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

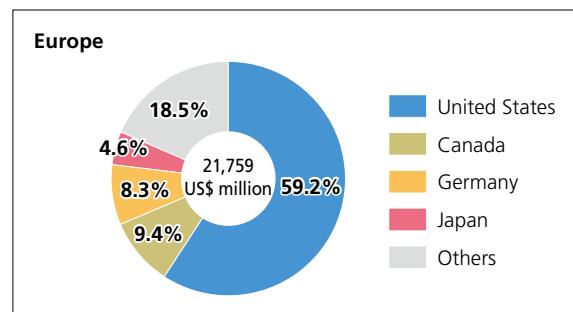
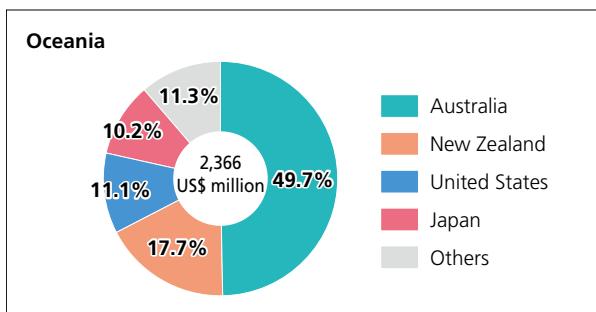
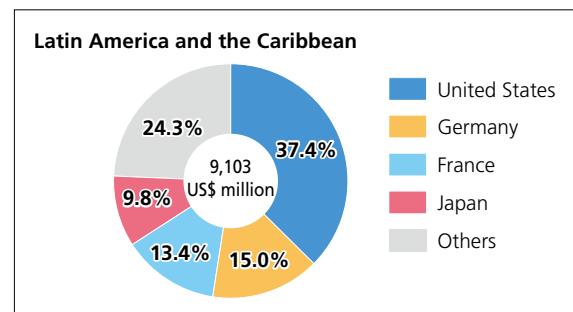
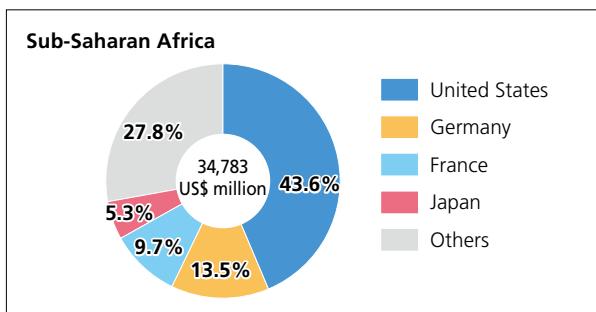
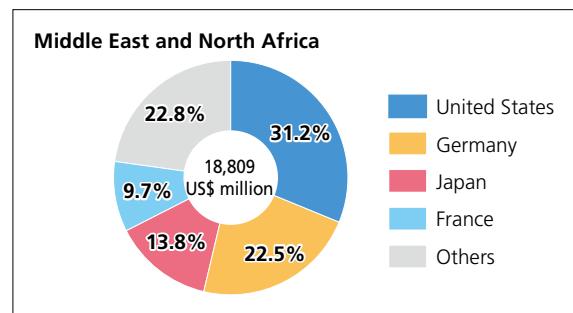
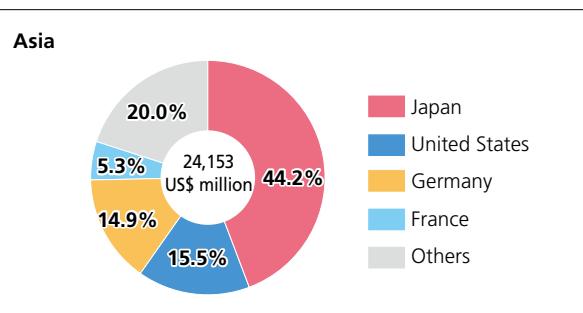
Notes:

- Commitment basis.

- Due to rounding, the totals for each sector may not add up to 100%.

Chart II-8

Major DAC Countries in ODA by Region (2023)



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (January 2025)

Notes:

- Gross disbursement basis.

- Regional classifications are the same as the Chart IV (page 122).

- The figures in the graphs are the total ODA of DAC countries.

## ■ Disbursements by Type of Assistance

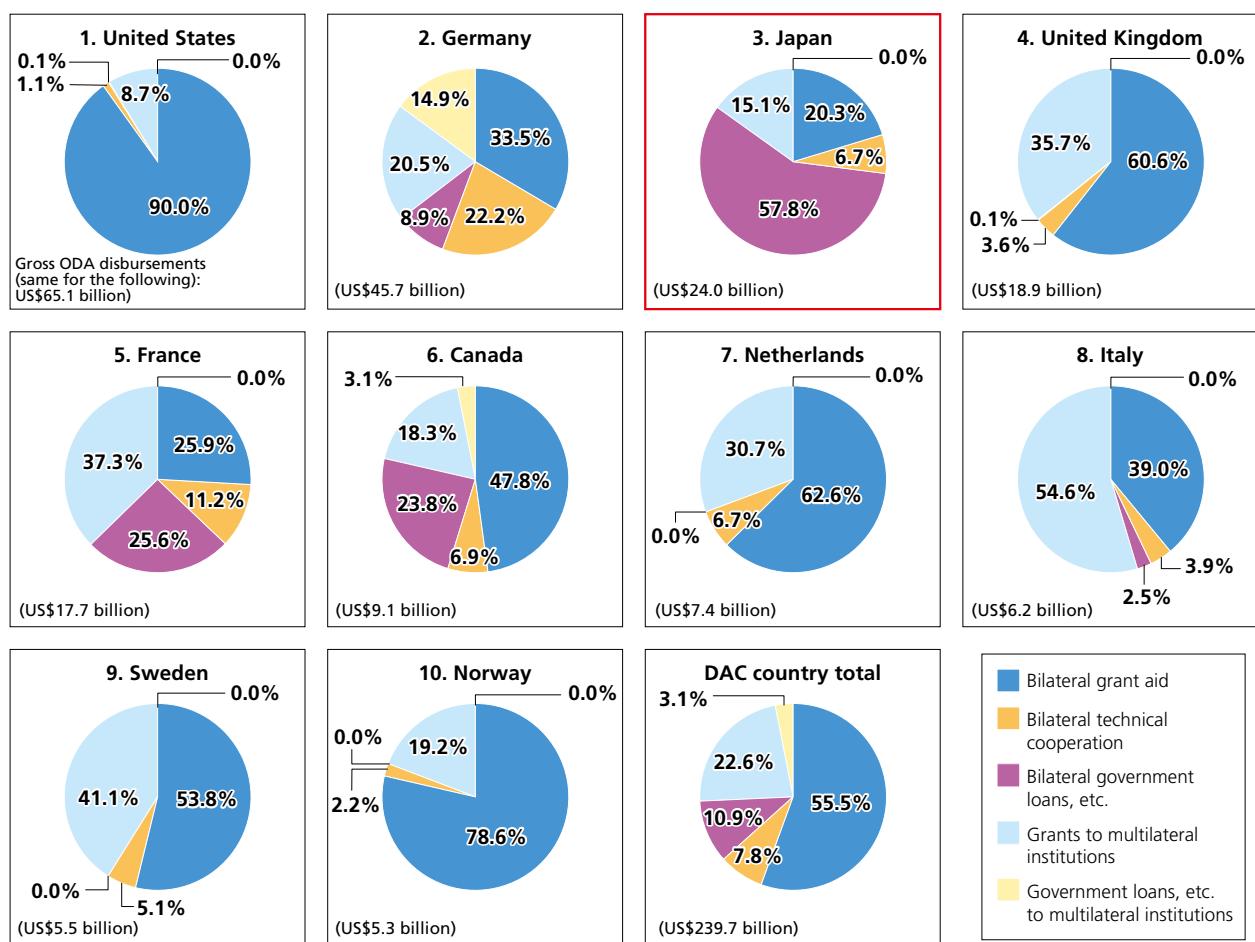
By type of assistance, approximately 86.0% of ODA provided by all DAC countries in 2023 were grants (bilateral grant aid<sup>9</sup>: approximately 55.5%; bilateral technical cooperation: approximately 7.8%; grants to multilateral institutions: approximately 22.6%), and approximately 14.0% were government loans, etc. (bilateral loans: approximately 10.9%; loans to multilateral institutions: approximately 3.1%). With the exception of Japan, Canada, France, and Germany, the top 10 major DAC countries implemented most of their

ODA as grants (bilateral grant aid, bilateral technical cooperation, and grants to multilateral institutions) (Chart II-9).

Government loans, etc. (loan aid) account for a large share of Japan's ODA because Japanese assistance aims to support developing countries' self-reliant efforts to achieve economic growth. This is based on the idea that effective development cooperation requires awareness raising that development is not something that is granted; rather, it is something that developing countries take ownership of. (For more on the characteristics of Japan's ODA, see Part I, Section 1 (2) on page 5.)

Chart II-9

ODA of DAC Countries by Type of Assistance (2023)



Source: OECD database (OECD Data Explorer) (December 2024)

Notes:

- Top 10 DAC countries by ODA for 2023 on a gross disbursements basis.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

<sup>9</sup> Bilateral grant aid refers to grant aid, debt relief, and grants through multilateral institutions etc., on Chart II-1 on page 17.

Recent years have seen an increase in aid for developing countries provided by non-DAC emerging donors, such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa, and private foundations, in addition to the DAC members. Although only a few non-DAC countries report to DAC, according to DAC statistics alone, the total amount of aid provided in 2023 was more than \$17.4 billion by non-DAC countries, and approximately \$0.4 billion from private funds by those countries. Aid provided by non-profit organizations, including NGOs, from DAC and non-DAC countries, has reached approximately \$60 billion.<sup>10</sup>

As stated in the “Pact for the Future” adopted by the UN General Assembly during the Summit of the Future in September 2024, to bridge the financing gap for achieving the SDGs in developing countries, it is essential to “provide and mobilize sustainable, affordable, accessible, transparent and predictable development finance from all sources and the required means of implementation to developing countries.” Thus, funding by various actors must be directed to developing countries in order to achieve the SDGs.

While the flow of funds to developing countries is diversifying, it is essential to accurately grasp the flow of funds and to effectively utilize limited development finance in order for the international community to promote development cooperation in a coordinated manner. However, the statistics prepared and published by the DAC do not reveal the full details of aid for developing countries provided by non-DAC countries. It has also been pointed out that there are opaque and unfair lending practices that do not conform to international rules and standards.



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Tajani of Italy (Photo: Agenzia ANSA/Italian MFA)

Under these circumstances, the transparency of development finance and other related matters were discussed in concrete terms at various international forums in 2024.

In the G7, the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Communiqué in April 2024 reaffirmed the promotion of transparency in development finance. Subsequently, at the G7 Apulia Summit in June, then Prime Minister Kishida pointed out the need to appropriately address debt issues and stated that it is important for all creditor countries and debtor countries to have a shared recognition of the importance of transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules. It was further confirmed that all actors involved in development cooperation must work together to adhere to existing principles. In addition, there was a shared commitment to support the development of bankable projects in partner countries, including developing countries. Based on these discussions, at the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Development in October, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge emphasized the importance of promoting transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules and standards, including the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.” The Communiqué of this meeting reaffirmed the G7’s determination to continue advancing high standards for quality, inclusive, and sustainable infrastructure, and to promote collaboration with various partners, including private sector entities.

In the G20, at the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting in July, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka called for the G20 to continue working to ensure that all development cooperation



Discussion at the G7 Development Ministerial Meeting

providers conduct transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules and standards, including the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment." The Ministerial Declaration issued at this meeting stated that the G20 reaffirms the importance of promoting development finance, respecting the applicable finance-related principles while noting the importance of transparency and mutual accountability. The Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit held in November called for mobilizing new and additional domestic and international resources from all sources, while at the same time increasing their effectiveness, and noted the importance of transparency and mutual accountability.

Furthermore, the Ministerial Council Statement of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May, chaired by Japan, reiterated the call for all providers of development

cooperation to adhere more closely to international standards and practices that improve the effectiveness, transparency and accountability in development cooperation. The statement also underscored that development finance should be provided in a transparent and fair manner in line with existing international rules and standards. Additionally, it included a call for the international community to further enhance debt transparency through actions by all creditors and debtor countries, including through debt data sharing exercises.

Japan will continue to work with the international community to ensure that aid for developing countries, provided by emerging donors, is transparent and consistent with international standards and initiatives (see also Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 45, and Part V, Section 1 (2) on page 133).

**Chart II-10**

**DAC List of ODA Recipients (Countries and Regions)**

(Applied to 2022-2023 disbursements)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipient Countries						
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)		Other Low Income Countries (LICs) (per capita GNI ≤ US\$1,045)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (LMICs) (per capita GNI US\$1,046 - 4,095)		Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (UMICs) (per capita GNI US\$4,096-12,695)	
Afghanistan	Sao Tome and Principe	[North Korea] Syria	Algeria Belize Bolivia Cabo Verde Cameroon Republic of the Congo Côte d'Ivoire Egypt El Salvador Eswatini Ghana Honduras India Indonesia Iran Kenya Kyrgyz Republic Federated States of Micronesia Mongolia Morocco Nicaragua Nigeria Pakistan [Palestine] Papua New Guinea Philippines Samoa Sri Lanka Tajikistan [Tokelau] Tunisia Ukraine	Uzbekistan Vanuatu Viet Nam Zimbabwe	Albania Argentina Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil China Columbia Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador Equatorial Guinea Fiji Gabon Georgia Grenada Guatemala Guyana Iraq Jamaica Jordan Kazakhstan Kosovo Lebanon Libya Malaysia Maldives Marshall Islands	Mauritius Mexico Moldova Montenegro [Montserrat] Namibia Nauru Niue North Macedonia Palau Panama Paraguay Peru [Saint Helena] Saint Lucia Saint Vincent Serbia South Africa Suriname Thailand Tonga Türkiye Turkmenistan Venezuela [Wallis and Futuna]
Angola	Senegal					
Bangladesh	Sierra Leone					
Benin	Solomon Islands					
Bhutan	Somalia					
Burkina Faso	South Sudan					
Burundi	Sudan					
Cambodia	Tanzania					
Central Africa	Timor-Leste					
Chad	Togo					
Comoros	Tuvalu					
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Uganda					
Djibouti	Yemen					
Eritrea	Zambia					
Ethiopia						
Gambia						
Guinea						
Guinea-Bissau						
Haiti						
Kiribati						
Laos						
Lesotho						
Liberia						
Madagascar						
Malawi						
Mali						
Mauritania						
Mozambique						
Myanmar						
Nepal						
Niger						
Rwanda						

Source: OECD website

Notes:

- GNI of each country is from 2020.
- Countries that graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients in 2022: Antigua and Barbuda.
- Square brackets [ ] denote regional names.

# Part III

## Responses to Priority Challenges

1	"Quality Growth" in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth	28
2	Realization of Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law	49
3	Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues	63

A Japanese technical expert providing guidance on ladder truck maintenance as part of the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, "The Project for providing a Ladder Truck for Firefighters of Talagante" in Chile (Photo: The Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy)



# “Quality Growth” in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth

## (1) Strengthening Socio-economic Autonomy and Resilience

Japan has long sought to eradicate poverty, the most fundamental development challenge, by achieving economic growth and ensuring that such growth is “quality growth.”\* Essential to “quality growth” is improving the socio-economic infrastructure that underpins development. Moreover, it is crucial for the private sector to play a central role, vigorously promoting its activities in industrial development as well as in the expansion of trade and investment. However, national economies are recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic at various paces. Concurrently, the global economy faces challenges, including surging energy and food prices and supply chain disruptions,<sup>1</sup> exacerbated by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and instability in the Middle East. In particular, developing countries often face difficulties in building institutional capacity and an enabling environment needed to promote trade and attract private investment. To support developing countries in building socio-economic autonomy and resilience, engagement from the international community remains vital.

### Japan’s Efforts

#### ■ Enhancing Resilience and Diversifying Supply Chains as well as Promoting Economic Diversification

Japan supports the development of trade and investment environments, as well as the broader economic foundations of developing countries, through both structural (infrastructure) and non-structural (institutional and capacity building) assistance, with the aim of enhancing their export capabilities and competitiveness. Structural assistance includes the development of transportation networks—such as ports, roads, and bridges—that are essential for trade, along with industrial infrastructure like power plants and transmission grids. On the non-structural side, support is provided through technical cooperation in trade-related fields, such as capacity building for customs officials and experts in intellectual property rights, to facilitate trade management as well as import and export procedures.

Strengthening the economic resilience and economic security of developing countries through such cooperation is an urgent priority. Doing so helps ensure quality growth in developing countries while also contributing to a virtuous cycle of mutual growth that benefits the Japanese economy.

With this perspective in mind, at the Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in May 2024, under the leadership of Japan as chair, the member countries expressed serious concerns over risks of excessive dependence on certain countries for supply of critical goods and attempts to weaponize economic dependencies, amid the recent pandemic and rising geopolitical tensions. In the Ministerial Council Statement, member countries affirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation on economic resilience and economic security through *inter alia* reducing vulnerabilities and countering practices that undermine international rules and norms.

At the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting in July of the same year, Japan, in light of addressing economic coercion, stressed the importance of enhancing the G7 members’ own capacity to counter such coercion, including the strengthening of supply chain resilience for critical minerals, and the importance of collaboration beyond the G7. Japan further pointed out the importance of unity among like-minded countries, including the G7 members, in not allowing arbitrary export controls, and the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors to mitigate the impact of such controls.

As an example of cooperation for infrastructure development aimed at strengthening supply chain resilience, Japan has provided a comprehensive cooperation package since 1999 to develop Cambodia’s sole deep-water port, Sihanoukville Port, located at the junction of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Through cooperation projects utilizing yen loans, technical cooperation, and grants, Japan has provided a wide range of support—the development and expansion of container terminals, the establishment of a special economic zone adjacent to the port, the enhancement of the port authority’s management and operational capacity, and the digitalization of port procedures—all with the goal of positioning the port as a regional hub. In September 2024, an inauguration ceremony was held for the newly completed container terminal. Japanese companies have also begun operating in the

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the entire process, from procuring raw materials to production, processing, distribution, and sales to providing the product to consumers.



Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia, developed and expanded with support from Japan through yen loans and other assistance (Photo: JICA)

special economic zone, and public-private collaborations continue to advance in areas such as the enhancement of logistical functions.

Japan offers training programs worldwide on strengthening supply chain resilience, building sustainable and reliable logistics systems, and enhancing food value chains.<sup>2</sup> In FY2023, a total of 64 government officials and others participated in these programs. In Indonesia, since 2018, Japan has been providing technical cooperation on six remote islands near the national border. In addition to supporting the development of fisheries facilities, this cooperation has focused on revitalizing local economies through the promotion of high-value-added marine products and the establishment of distribution systems to markets outside the islands.

To promote trade with developing countries, Japan has introduced the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which applies lower tariff rates than those under the Most-Favored Nation regime to encourage imports from developing countries into the Japanese market. In particular, Japan offers a Special Preferential Tariff Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs),<sup>\*</sup> providing duty-free, quota-free access\* for a wide range of products.

Japan actively promotes Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)\* and investment agreements with developing countries. These agreements are designed to liberalize trade and investment, such as through the reduction or elimination of tariffs and barriers to trade in services, as well as the simplification of customs procedures. They also aim to protect Japanese companies investing abroad and their assets, thereby improving the overall business environment. Such efforts are expected to support Japanese companies in expanding their activities in developing country markets, ultimately contributing to the economic growth of those countries. For example, in 2024, Japan launched EPA negotiations with Bangladesh and the United Arab

Emirates. To ensure the smooth implementation of EPAs, Japan also provides technical assistance to customs authorities in developing countries to support the proper application of customs procedures.

Discussions regarding "Aid for Trade (AfT)"\* have intensified in various international fora such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the OECD, as a means of further promoting support from developed countries, including Japan. Japan has contributed to organizations such as the International Trade Centre (ITC), which implements AfT, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, and raising their ability to implement the WTO agreements. In 2024, support was extended through the ITC for a range of initiatives: promoting the use of e-commerce among women entrepreneurs in Africa; providing technical assistance to expand vaccine production and distribution in Nigeria; enhancing the capacity of governments, business support organizations (such as trade promotion agencies and chambers of commerce), and micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria and other West African countries; and facilitating employment and entrepreneurship for displaced persons in Ukraine.

With regard to customs-related cooperation, Japan actively supports developing countries, particularly among ASEAN member states, through organizing training programs for customs officials and dispatching Japanese customs personnel as experts, in order to share technical expertise and experience. These efforts are aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of customs authorities in developing countries. In particular, Japan has dispatched its customs officials as long-term JICA experts to six ASEAN member states,<sup>3</sup> where they provide on-site support tailored to the specific needs of each country. Since July 2024, a regional initiative involving Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos has also been launched to enhance connectivity in the Mekong region. At the multilateral level, Japan contributes to the World Customs Organization (WCO), helping to promote the adoption of international standards and to share best practices, thereby facilitating global trade while ensuring border security. In addition, the Master Trainer Programme—launched in 2016 as a joint initiative by JICA and the WCO—was initially developed for Africa and has since expanded to Pacific Island countries as well as Central Asia and the Caucasus region. As of 2024, the program supports the training of instructors and development of training materials in 37 countries, contributing to the enhancement of sustainable customs training capabilities.

<sup>2</sup> Systems that link added value across all stages of the food production process—from farming to processing, distribution, and consumption—through the coordinated involvement of multiple stakeholders, including farmers; suppliers of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery; agri-food processors; transport and logistics providers; and retailers.

<sup>3</sup> The six countries are: Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand.

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## ■ Providing Technical Assistance for the Development of Financial and Capital Market Systems and Related Areas

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A sound and stable financial system, along with a well-functioning financial and capital market, is essential to the sustainable economic development of developing countries. As financial globalization progresses, it is increasingly important to support the development of robust financial markets by fostering financial systems in emerging markets in an appropriate manner. With this in mind, Japan has provided training through the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program, covering topics such as financial regulations and supervision, as well as the development of the stock market. Additionally, the Financial Services Agency of Japan hosted the Asia High-Level Financial Regulator's Forum, bringing together financial regulatory authorities from across the region to exchange views and strengthen cooperation on shared financial challenges in Asia. The first meeting, held in March 2024, focused on natural disaster protection gaps and transition finance in Asia, with 37 participants from six countries. The second meeting, held in October 2024, explored the role of regulatory authorities in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of the financial sector and continued discussions on transition finance, with participation of 51 representatives across nine countries.



A JOCV in Zambia conducting an accounting workshop for members of regional chambers of commerce and businesspersons of small and medium enterprises on proper financial record-keeping for securing bank loans (Photo: JICA)

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## ■ Supporting Domestic Resource Mobilization

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In order for developing countries to achieve quality growth by addressing various development challenges under their own ownership, it is important that they secure necessary development funds through their own efforts, such as from tax revenue. This approach is known as "domestic resource mobilization," and its importance has been increasingly emphasized in light of the shortfall in development financing required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).\* Japan, in collaboration with international organizations and other partners, contributes to discussions on domestic

resource mobilization and provides related support to developing countries. For example, Japan actively engages in technical cooperation aiming at improving tax administration of developing countries. In 2024, officials from the National Tax Agency (NTA) served as JICA's long-term experts in Laos, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, providing expertise in areas such as taxpayer management, international taxation, and tax collection. Additionally, the NTA organizes the International Seminar on Taxation (ISTAX) and training on international taxation for tax officials from developing countries. Moreover, the "Project for Enhancement of Property Valuation Capacity" has been underway in Thailand since November 2022. Japan also supports the technical assistance programs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) related to taxation, including domestic resource mobilization, by providing human resources, expertise, and financial assistance.

To support the sustainable development of developing countries, the implementation of the OECD/G20 BEPS Project,\* which aims to prevent tax avoidance by multinational enterprises, is also important. Coordinated implementation of this project by participating countries enables developing countries to effectively tackle tax avoidance and to impose and collect taxes appropriately within their jurisdictions. It also helps align their tax systems and administration with international standards, contributing to the establishment of a stable, predictable, and attractive investment environment for companies and investors. Currently, approximately 145 jurisdictions, including many developing countries, participate in the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS—a framework established to implement the measures agreed under the BEPS Project. To address the tax challenges arising from globalization and digitalization of the economy, work is underway on implementing the Two-Pillar Solution,\* agreed upon in 2021. This includes negotiations on a multilateral convention for Pillar One and advancing legislative reforms in individual jurisdictions for Pillar Two. Japan supports developing countries in implementing the Two-Pillar Solution through contributions to relevant international organizations.

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## ■ Supporting the Labor Sector, including through Industrial Human Resources Development and Job Creation

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Developing a skilled industrial workforce is crucial for achieving quality growth. In developing countries, where opportunities for education and training are often limited, Japan supports core institutions such as technical colleges and vocational training centers in cultivating personnel with a wide range of technical skills and expertise. In doing so, Japan works in partnership with the private sector, leveraging its knowledge and experience to strengthen the capacity of teachers and instructors, improve the organizational management



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Fukazawa visiting the TICAD Human Resource Development Center for Business and Industry in Ethiopia, a core institution for developing human resources through Kaizen, built with Japan's grant, in February 2024

of training facilities, and assist in the development and revision of curricula and teaching materials, all of which are efforts that aim to better link education with employment.

From 2016 to 2024, Japan provided multifaceted support, including the development of facilities and provision of equipment, to 19 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and others through 21 projects in 15 countries, in collaboration with the industrial sector and other partners. In 2024, Japan also supported skills development aimed at improving women's livelihoods through 13 projects across 20 countries and regions.

For Asia, the Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative, announced in September 2023, set out Japan's plan to provide training opportunities for 5,000 individuals in the following three years. Through various programs—such as training courses of JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group & Region Focus) and the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)—Japan supports the development of human resources, which is key to nation-building of ASEAN member states.

The "Innovative Asia" initiative, launched in FY2017, offers opportunities for outstanding science and engineering students from developing countries in Asia to study and participate in internships in Japan, including at companies, with the view to promoting circulation of highly-skilled professionals between Japan and other Asian countries.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has been conducting training programs both in Japan and in four targeted countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Viet Nam—to help develop and secure a skilled workforce. These programs <sup>4</sup> aim to transfer the know-how of Japan's Skills Evaluation System, which has been

developed over time in both the public and the private sectors, including the National Skill Test System and Skills Competitions. In FY2023, a total of 100 individuals from four countries participated in the training. These efforts are expected to support the development and improvement of local skills evaluation systems, foster the growth of skilled workers, expand employment opportunities, and elevate the social standing of skilled labor in the target countries.

For Africa, Japan supports workforce development in the industrial sector to promote sustainable growth at the individual level. Key initiatives include the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) <sup>5</sup> and the Africa Kaizen <sup>6</sup> Initiative, both of which foster collaboration among industry, academia, and government. Japan also provides technical assistance in partnership with international organizations (For details on the ABE Initiative, see Part IV, Section 8 on page 118 and Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 140).

Japan is also active in supporting labor-related initiatives. Socio-economic downturns tend to disproportionately affect socially vulnerable people, including youth and women. In order to foster stable employment, it is essential for countries to build social safety nets that can mitigate such risks. At the same time, there is a strong international call for efforts to promote decent work for all, as set out in Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Japan contributes to the realization of decent work in various regions around the world such as Africa, the Middle East, and Asia through cooperation that includes job creation for youth and women, improvement of



Ethiopian researchers and JICA experts conducting a rice root distribution survey in a trial plot as part of technical cooperation, "Project for Capacity Development to Transfer the Technology for Increasing Rice Production" in Ethiopia (Photo: JICA)

<sup>4</sup> Training programs include "Training for personnel responsible for developing test standards and questions," and "Training for personnel involved in administering and grading tests." The number of participants mentioned above reflects the total across all such training programs.

<sup>5</sup> See the glossary on page 121.

<sup>6</sup> An approach that encourages each worker on the production floor to take initiative in identifying and implementing ways to reduce inefficiency and improve quality and productivity. This method was developed in Japan's manufacturing sector during the post-World War II period of rapid economic growth in order to improve the quality and productivity of manufacturing, rooted in the principles of 5S: Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain.



## Supporting the Livelihood Recovery of Female Returnees in Partnership with Local Businesses

In 2014, the invasion by the Islamic extremist group “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)” forced more than six million people—15% of Iraq’s population—to flee their homes, leaving them homeless and displaced, and their local communities devastated. Even today, nearly one million people continue to live as internally displaced persons (IDPs), and they face many challenges in returning to their home communities. The challenges include securing housing, restoring infrastructure, access to education and vocational training, as well as psychological support for trauma caused by ISIL’s brutal acts.

Japan has been actively providing humanitarian assistance through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in northwestern Iraq, which was affected by the ISIL invasion, with a focus on Cash-for-Work\*1 programs, vocational training, support for entrepreneurship, and housing rehabilitation.

As one form of support, Technostar Ltd., a local company representing Japan’s Brother Int. Ltd, offered to donate 100 Brother-brand sewing machines. Facilitated by the Embassy of



A woman, who was once internally displaced, returning to Anbar Province and receiving sewing training (Photo: UNDP Iraq Office)



A woman and children receiving a Japanese brand Brother sewing machine (Photo: UNDP Iraq Office)

Japan and UNDP, the company donated these sewing machines to women who participated in vocational training in Anbar Province, an area that Japan supports through UNDP.

One woman who received a sewing machine shared her thoughts, “When I returned to my home, there was nothing left. It is extremely difficult to make a living, especially for families who lost the head of their household and for women. I am also a woman who lost her husband and has no job, but with the sewing skills I have acquired and the sewing machine I was given, I want to start my own small business.”

Through the combined efforts of Japan’s humanitarian assistance and a local Iraqi company, vulnerable women in Iraq are receiving protection and livelihood support. Japan remains committed to supporting the protection of IDPs and helping returnees rebuild their lives through various ways.

\*1 A method of supporting self-reliance by temporarily employing disaster victims or refugees and paying them for their labor in the event of natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

occupational safety and health standards, and support for the development of social insurance systems, by funding the projects of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other organizations.

### Securing Access to Resources and Energy

As of 2022, 685 million people worldwide are estimated to lack access to electricity.<sup>7</sup> The absence of reliable energy sources, such as electricity and gas, hampers industrial development, reduces employment opportunities, and exacerbates poverty. Global energy demand is expected to grow further, particularly in emerging and developing countries, including those in Asia. At the same time, addressing climate change is an urgent challenge. In this context, it is essential to ensure energy security, while advancing decarbonization efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This requires diversifying both energy sources and suppliers. Japan remains committed to supporting energy transitions in ways that are tailored to the specific conditions and

development needs of each region. In October 2024, during the Japan-Laos Summit Meeting held alongside the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, Japan expressed its intention to cooperate with Laos to promote assistance for strengthening electricity connectivity with



A headrace tunnel constructed through loan aid “Asahan No. 3 Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project” for Indonesia (Photo: Otto Ferdinand)

<sup>7</sup> International Energy Agency (IEA) Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, 2024 <https://www.iea.org/reports/tracking-sdg7-the-energy-progress-report-2024>

neighboring countries and promoting decarbonization through clean energy in Laos, including consideration for the Co-creation for common agenda initiative. On the same day, at the 2nd Asia Zero-Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting, then Prime Minister Ishiba also stated Japan's interest in proactively developing projects under the Co-creation for common agenda initiative, to support Lao PDR's bid to become a regional clean energy hub in the future, with a view to contributing to the decarbonization in the region.

To promote sustainable development in developing countries, Japan offers support to enable the provision of modern energy and works to ensure a stable electricity supply for industrial growth. This includes assistance for the development of environmentally friendly infrastructure, such as energy-efficient equipment and power generation facilities that utilize renewable energy sources, including hydropower, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind, and geothermal energy (For more on Japan's climate change efforts, see Part III, Section 3 (1), on page 63).

In the Pacific Islands region, characterized by its extensive maritime territories and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, Japan supports the mainstreaming of grid-connected renewable energy, with a focus on energy security and the transition to a low- and zero-carbon society. In the Dominican Republic, where electricity supply depends heavily on imported fossil fuels, Japan is helping to improve energy efficiency through a yen loan project that supports the nationwide conversion of street lighting on public roads to LED. These efforts are expected to contribute to promoting energy conservation in the country's public sector and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the country's public sector.



Prime Minister Marrero of Cuba and Mr. Hirata, then Ambassador of Japan to Cuba, shaking hands in front of the commemorative plaque installed at the power plant during the completion ceremony for the grant-financed "Project for the Improvement of Power Supply in the Isle of Youth" for Cuba

At the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8),<sup>8</sup> held in August 2022, Japan launched the "Green Growth Initiative with Africa (GGA)" to maximize its contributions through three approaches, namely ownership and co-creation, flexible mobilization of finance, and collaboration with diverse partners. Under this initiative, Japan announced support for private investment in renewable energy projects, the expansion of geothermal power generation, and cooperation in the mineral resources sector, particularly in copper and rare metals that are essential for advancing a decarbonized society. To help African countries sustainably manage and utilize their natural resources and ecosystems while pursuing sustainable growth (green growth), Japan also supports the development of regional power infrastructure, such as the Africa Power Pool (a cross-border power transmission network), distribution systems, and grid stabilization measures.

### ■ Promoting Initiatives to Enhance Food Security and Nutrition

According to the report, "the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024,"<sup>9</sup> an estimated 713 to 753 million people were facing hunger in 2023. The report also projects that approximately 600 million people will still be affected by hunger in 2030. In addition, the prolongation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine has left an estimated 5 million people—about 15% of the population—in need of food assistance.<sup>10</sup> Following the terrorist attacks by Hamas and others in October 2023, the number of people suffering from acute food insecurity in the Gaza Strip has risen to 2.2 million.<sup>11</sup>

Amid the urgent need to accelerate international efforts to combat hunger and poverty, Japan has been actively demonstrating its commitment to addressing these challenges in coordination with the international community through various bilateral meetings and multilateral conferences. In July 2024, at the "Ministerial Meeting of the G20 Task Force to Establish a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty" held in Brazil, Japan expressed its support for the creation of the Alliance, as an initiative in line with Japan's development cooperation philosophy of supporting developing countries' self-help efforts, while "co-creating" solutions to social issues in collaboration with diverse stakeholders. At Session 1 of the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November, "Fight against Hunger and Poverty," Japan formally announced its participation in the Alliance. Then Prime Minister Ishiba shared Japan's experience of transforming a barren

<sup>8</sup> See the glossary "Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)" on page 121.

<sup>9</sup> A report jointly prepared and published by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/the-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-the-world-2024>

<sup>10</sup> WFP website: <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/ukraine-emergency#:~:text=A%20total%20of%205%20million%20people%20%2815%20percent,of%20the%20population%29%20need%20food%20and%20livelihood%20assistance>

<sup>11</sup> FAO website: <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/Fao-hunger-gaza/en#:~:text=Rome%20-%20The%20Food%20and%20Agriculture%20Organization%20of,Integrated%20Food%20Security%20Phase%20Classification%20%28IPC%29%20global%20initiative>

land into the world's largest soybean-producing region through long-standing support for the development of the Cerrado region in Brazil.<sup>12</sup> He emphasized that Japan would further cooperate in the realization of sustainable agriculture, which converts degraded pastures into farmland without deforestation. He also stated that Japan also focuses on building the capacity of small-scale farmers, and expands the same support to 69 countries around the world, mainly in Africa and Central and South America, with the aim of improving farming and cultivation skills focused on increasing sales. Furthermore, then Prime Minister Ishiba affirmed Japan's support to expand sustainable and highly productive agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, to new partners, making use of Japan's advanced technologies.

Japan provides food aid<sup>13</sup> in response to requests from developing countries facing food shortages. In FY2024, grants totaling ¥6.15 billion were extended to 21 countries and regions, mainly through the provision of Japan's Government-owned Rice.



JICA experts, JOCVs, and local farmers working together in the Dominican Republic under the JICA Partnership Program. Various specialists, such as breeding researchers, university professors, and orchard owners, from Matsudo City in Chiba Prefecture—a major pear-producing region—are collaborating to promote Japanese pears as a regional specialty product in the La Culata district. (Photo: JICA)

In addition to its bilateral cooperation through JICA, Japan works with international organizations to provide food assistance to developing countries. Through the World Food Programme (WFP), for instance, Japan supports school meal programs that promote access to education, as well as initiatives that encourage participation in agricultural and social infrastructure development through food distribution. In August 2024, Japan decided to provide ¥500 million in grants for South Sudan through WFP, where the food crisis had worsened due to flooding and other challenges. In 2023, WFP reached around 152 million people in over 120 countries and regions, providing food assistance

including through the distribution of approximately 3.7 million tons of food and cash-based interventions. Japan's total disbursement to WFP in 2023 amounted to approximately \$208.97 million.

Japan supports nutrition improvement in developing countries through contributions to multilateral development banks (MDBs)\* and other mechanisms. For example, it helps effective finance mobilization for maternal and child health as well as the nutrition sector, the World Bank's Global Financing Facility (GFF),\* and supports policy development to improve nutrition through the Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition.\* In order to mainstream nutrition in development policy, Japan hosted the final meeting of the 20th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group in December 2021, where it identified human capital development—including nutrition—as a key priority. That same month, Japan hosted the "Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021," where then Prime Minister Kishida announced over ¥300 billion in nutrition-related assistance over three years. In 2023, it committed approximately ¥156.2 billion in nutrition assistance.

Furthermore, Japan places strong emphasis on agriculture, which plays a key role in Africa's economic growth, and actively contributes to its development. Under Phase 2 of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)\* and through the RICE approach,\* Japan supports a range of efforts to improve both the quantity and quality of rice production. These efforts include developing irrigation facilities, breeding and disseminating high-yield rice varieties such as the New Rice for Africa (NERICA),\* a hybrid of Asian and African rice, and promoting improved cultivation techniques. The number of countries covered by CARD has so far expanded to 32. At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced its commitment to training 150,000 people through CARD and set a goal to double rice production across the continent to 56 million tons by 2030, an effort



A JICA expert providing research guidance at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya, where Japan has been providing continuous support for over 40 years since the university's establishment (Photo: JICA)

<sup>12</sup> A region spanning approximately 204 million hectares in central-western Brazil. The name means "closed" in Portuguese, and the area was originally regarded as unsuitable for agriculture due to its highly acidic soil.

<sup>13</sup> Grants that provide funding for the procurement of necessary goods and services to implement food aid in accordance with the Food Assistance Convention, targeting developing countries undertaking socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction.

already underway in countries including Uganda.

To support the transition from subsistence farming to agriculture as a source of income, Japan has been promoting the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach.\* SHEP encourages smallholder farmers engaged in the production of fruits and vegetables to adopt a market-oriented mindset—"grow to sell"—and seeks to improve their farm management and cultivation techniques in order to increase their income. Originating from technical cooperation with Kenya, the SHEP approach has spread to around 60 countries worldwide, supporting this transformation through training programs and the dispatch of experts. At TICAD 8, Japan made the commitment to support 66,000 farmers in making the transition to income-generating agriculture through SHEP. It also pledged to strengthen food production by co-financing the African Emergency Food Production Facility of the African Development Bank. In 2024, Japan provided a total of USD 320 million in assistance to Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, and Nigeria.

To contribute to improving food security by enhancing transparency in international agricultural markets, Japan has supported the "Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)"<sup>14</sup> through data provision and financial contributions. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening support for AMIS.

Japan contributes to strengthening food production systems in developing countries through agricultural support in collaboration with international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and the World Food Programme (WFP). For example, through its partnership with FAO, Japan engages in technical

cooperation for agricultural and rural development, helps establish international standards and norms in the food and agriculture sectors, and assists in developing statistical systems. Japan supports research and development aimed at achieving both productivity potential and sustainability, including the development of improved crop varieties and the introduction of digital agricultural technologies, in collaboration with CGIAR, which consists of 15 international agricultural research institutions. At the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki in April 2023, Japan launched the "Enhanced Linkages between Private sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)" initiative. This initiative connects Japanese companies with smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in developing countries to help build and strengthen stable and sustainable supply chains for imported agricultural products. Under this framework, the first ELPS project—the "Sustainable Coffee Production Project" in Tanzania—was launched in September 2024. By providing support to raise awareness on environmental sustainability and to enhance both productivity and quality of produce, the project aims to improve the livelihoods of small-scale coffee farmers, while also ensuring a reliable supply of coffee beans for private companies sourcing from Tanzania.

In addition to such agricultural assistance, Japan also contributes to improving animal health through collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and FAO. For instance, under the "Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs),"—a joint initiative by WOAH and FAO to address transboundary animal diseases such as Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), and African Swine Fever (ASF)—Japan supports efforts by international organizations in the field of animal health, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region.



## Glossary

### Quality growth

Growth that is "inclusive" in that the fruits of growth are shared within society as a whole, leaving no one behind, "sustainable" in that the economy, society, and environment are in harmony across generations, and "resilient" in that it can withstand and recover from various shocks, including natural disasters and economic crises (Development Cooperation Charter).

### Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

According to the United Nations classification based on income levels, LDCs are those that are significantly behind other developing countries in terms of development. To be classified as an LDC, a country has to meet specific criteria, including having a gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$1,088 or less on average over three years. As of 2024, 44 countries meet these criteria: 7 in Asia, 3 in Oceania, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1 in the Middle East, and 32 in Africa.

### Duty-free, quota-free access

A measure that allows products imported from LDCs to be brought into Japan duty-free and without quantitative restrictions. Japan has expanded the scope of this measure, and currently allows approximately 98% of all tariff lines to be imported under duty-free, quota-free conditions.

### Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

Agreements between specific countries or regions with the objective of strengthening broad economic relations, which incorporates elements of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), aiming to reduce or eliminate tariffs on goods, barriers to trade in services, etc., as well as rule-making in fields of investment, movement of natural persons, intellectual property protection and competition policy, and elements of cooperation in various fields. These agreements are expected to stimulate trade and investment, contributing to further economic growth.

<sup>14</sup> A system launched by the G20 in 2011 as a response to volatile food prices. AMIS facilitates the timely, accurate, and transparent sharing of agricultural and food market information, such as production volumes and prices, among countries, companies, and international organizations.

### **Aid for Trade (AfT)**

Assistance provided to developing countries in order to enhance their trade-related capabilities and develop infrastructure, with the aim of achieving economic growth and poverty reduction through trade under the multilateral trading system of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO places particular emphasis on promoting development in developing countries by facilitating their integration into the multilateral free trading system.

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

International goals aimed at realizing a sustainable and better world by 2030, as outlined in “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” adopted unanimously by UN member states at the UN Summit in September 2015, as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2001). The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets.

### **OECD/G20 BEPS Project**

Launched in June 2012 by the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs, the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project aims to revise the entire framework of international taxation rules to better reflect the realities of the global economy and corporate behavior, so as to prevent multinational enterprises from artificially shifting profits and eroding tax bases to avoid taxation, based on the notion of ensuring a level playing field. It also aims to enhance the transparency of both governments and multinational enterprises.

### **Two-Pillar Solution**

Under the conventional international tax system, a country may not impose taxes on services provided across borders, unless the service provider is physically present within its territory, such as possessing a local office or server in the country. However, as the economy becomes increasingly digitalized, a challenge has emerged: market countries are unable to impose tax on profits derived from services delivered online to their consumers, when the service provider has no physical presence in their jurisdiction. To address this gap, some market countries have unilaterally introduced Digital Services Taxes (DSTs), targeting companies engaged in specific digital activities such as online advertising to prevent tax avoidance. However, since these measures are taken at the discretion of each country, they risk undermining the stability of the international tax system. The Two-Pillar Solution is an international reform effort designed to respond to these challenges. Pillar One aims to eliminate unilateral measures such as DSTs and allow market countries to tax a portion of the profits of large, highly profitable multinational enterprises, regardless of whether they have physical presence in their jurisdiction, including through the revision of international tax rules. Pillar Two seeks to curb harmful tax competition, which consists of excessively lowering corporate tax rates to attract foreign investment, including through the introduction of a global minimum tax.

### **Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)**

A general term for international institutions that provide comprehensive support for poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development in developing countries through financial assistance, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing. The term “MDBs” typically refers to the World Bank Group, which operates globally, and four regional development finance institutions that focus on specific regions: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

### **Global Financing Facility (GFF)**

An initiative launched in 2015 by the World Bank, the UN, and others, seeking to expand financial resources for maternal and child health. It provides technical assistance for formulating relevant policies, including those aimed at improving the nutritional status of women and children, as well as for strengthening implementation capacity. To mobilize additional funding, GFF support is conditioned on the use of concessional financing, such as low-interest loans from the World Bank, for implementing the formulated plans.

### **Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition**

Established in 2009, this trust fund aims to expand investments in nutrition measures in countries facing a high burden of undernutrition and to strengthen local capacities for implementing effective nutrition programs. It provides technical assistance for the development of nutrition-related policies and enhancement of implementation capabilities, thereby encouraging increased investment in nutrition by both the government and institutions such as the World Bank.

### **Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)**

An initiative to support self-help efforts to boost rice production in Africa, simultaneously functioning as a donor consultation group that works in partnership with interested rice-producing countries. Japan, in partnership with the international NGO Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), launched CARD at TICAD IV in 2008. The second phase of CARD was initiated at TICAD 7 in 2019.

### **Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, Empowerment (RICE) Approach**

An approach adopted under CARD Phase 2 to help achieve the goal of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses on stabilizing production in response to climate change and population growth, fostering local industries in collaboration with the private sector, improving the quality of domestically produced rice to enhance competitiveness with imports, and strengthening agricultural management systems to enhance farmers' incomes and livelihoods.

### **New Rice for Africa (NERICA)**

A collective term for rice varieties developed by the Africa Rice Center, part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), through crossbreeding high-yield Asian rice with African rice varieties, known for their resistance to weeds, diseases, and pests. Compared to conventional rice, NERICA varieties offer (1) higher yields, (2) shorter growing period, allowing cultivation during short rainy seasons and reducing risk of drought, and (3) greater resilience against drought and disease, making them well-suited to Africa's hot, dry climate. Since 1996, Japan has supported the development and dissemination of NERICA by dispatching researchers and experts from the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and JICA.

### **Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach**

Launched by Japan in Kenya in 2006, the SHEP approach supports smallholder farmers who produce vegetables, fruits, and other horticultural crops. It aims to boost farmers' incomes by encouraging a shift in mindset from “grow and sell” to “grow to sell,” while enhancing their farm management and cultivation skills. The SHEP approach has since been adopted in countries around the world, particularly across Africa.

## Stories from the Field 1



# Supporting the Prosperous Living in Rural Laos through Coffee Cultivation Technology and Nutrition Guidance

– Initiative through Collaboration among the Government of Japan, International Organizations, and the Private Sector –



Laos has achieved steady economic development in recent years, but income levels remain low. Particularly in rural areas, there are villages where the cash economy is not fully penetrated, making low income a challenge. Against this backdrop of low income and delayed development, infants, their mothers, and pregnant women suffer from malnutrition.

To improve this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP), with support from the Government of Japan, launched the "Coffee Japan Project," targeting approximately 300 households in eight rural villages in northern Laos. This project is implemented in collaboration with Saka no Tochu Co., Ltd., a Japanese company that has been engaged in forest conservation and the improvement of farmers' incomes in coffee-producing regions in Laos since 2016.

WFP primarily focuses on nutrition improvement initiatives, while coordinating with governmental bodies and overseeing the overall project. Through lectures on balanced diets and cooking classes for local women, WFP contributes to deepening their understanding of nutrition. Additionally, since many residents cannot consume meat regularly and particularly lack protein, WFP provides cash for them to purchase livestock, which they can raise for food. Drawing from his previous experiences as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Africa, Mr. TASAI Ryoya of the WFP Laos Country Office, who is in charge of this project, explains about the trial-and-error process, which places emphasis on voices from the field and the actual situation. "In the target areas, there are traditional customs among ethnic minorities, such as prohibiting pregnant women from eating meat. We are making efforts to communicate the importance of nutrition while respecting their values. For example, we want to create a situation where 'model households' emerge as successful examples, motivating other residents to voluntarily improve their nutrition." Results are beginning to show. "Many farmers have started raising chickens and fish. When we see eggs and other foods appearing on their dining tables, we can really feel the change," he says, expressing his sense of achievement.

Coffee cultivation support is provided by Saka no Tochu



Ms. Miyazaki (third from left in the back row) with villagers from the target area planting coffee seedlings (Photo: Saka no Tochu Co., Ltd.)

Co., Ltd. and their local partner, Saffron Coffee. Their efforts include developing seedlings suited to the local land and providing training and technical guidance on cultivation and production. Ms. MIYAZAKI Saya, who is in charge of this project, says, "Many farmers are enthusiastic, so I have high expectations for the future. I've heard that some farmers previously received coffee trees from other donors but have given up before the harvest. It's important to maintain their motivation until they can monetize their harvest, which may take a few years." Ms. Miyazaki also has experience as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, working with coffee farmers in Rwanda to improve quality. Reflecting on this experience, she says, "Not only the technology and knowledge of coffee cultivation but also how to communicate with local people—all of those activities from that time are still relevant today."

Saka no Tochu Co., Ltd. places importance on environmentally sustainable coffee cultivation. In the project's target area, where deforestation is serious even within Laos, they are working with Saffron Coffee to grow coffee using agroforestry,<sup>\*1</sup> an agricultural method that protects forests while growing crops. By allowing coffee to slowly ripen under moderate shade in the forest, they aim to produce high-quality coffee while protecting the forest and stabilizing farmers' incomes. During the project period, a coffee processing facility is planned to be built in the village, and they expect to continue their relationship with the local community even after the project ends. Mr. Tasai says, "One benefit of cooperating with the private sector is that activities can continue beyond the project term. We are committed to further advancing the initiative."

As coffee cultivation gains momentum and livelihoods improve, it is expected that the nutritional habits that have been enhanced through the WFP program will become further established, leading to a more prosperous life for all villagers, including infants and pregnant women who are suffering from malnutrition.



Mr. Tasai (second from left in the front row) with women from the target areas of the nutrition improvement project (Photo: WFP Lao PDR)

\*1 See 19 on page 102.

## (2) Digital, Information and Communications Technology, and Science and Technology

The growth of developing countries and the development of the international community cannot proceed properly without responding to the digitalization of economic and social activities. Digital technology has become well integrated in people's lives and industrial activities, and the benefits of cyberspace, which is an important foundation for daily lives and socio-economic activities, are expanding. On the other hand, the threat of cyber-attacks is becoming more serious, including damage caused by leaks of personal and corporate information and risks to national security from attacks on critical infrastructure. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to help developing countries reap the benefits of digitalization while mitigating its risks. Furthermore, since the impact of events in cyberspace can easily cross borders and cyber incidents occurring in other countries can also affect Japan, it is important to implement multi-layered cooperation and collaboration at various levels, including among governments and the private sector.

### Japan's Efforts

#### ■ Promotion of Digital Transformation (DX)

The spread of COVID-19 has led to a period of disruption in the movement of people and goods, resulting in further promotion of the digitalization of socio-economic activities. Digital transformation (DX)<sup>15</sup> is directly linked to all development challenges and is the key to achieving "quality growth."

In order to realize an inclusive and prosperous society in which developing countries and their people can benefit from digitalization in a safe, equitable, and stable manner, Japan has identified the promotion of digitalization and DX as one of the areas in which Japan will strategically implement ODA through the "Co-creation for common agenda initiative" (see Part I, Section 2 (2) on page 12 and Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145 for details on the "Co-creation for common agenda initiative"). Through collaboration with various entities including international organizations and private companies, Japan supports the development of legal systems, human resources, and information and communication environments, as part of establishing foundations for promoting digitalization

based on the concept of "Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT),"<sup>16</sup> which Japan advocates. By doing so, Japan is promoting cooperation aimed at solving issues and enhancing development outcomes through the promotion of digitalization.



A doctor explaining the benefits of digitalizing medical imaging as part of the technical cooperation in Cuba, "Project to Promote Hospital Digitalization in Image Diagnosis" (Photo: JICA)

Areas where development benefits are expected to increase through DX include smart agriculture, remote medical care, smart cities, mobile banking, and the digitalization of government administration. As an example of Japan's new cooperation initiative, Japan has been working with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment and the Ministry of Health of Bhutan since 2023 to expand and improve the quality of healthcare services in the country, by formulating strategies and plans for utilizing the health and medical data of Bhutanese citizens, developing data linkage infrastructure, and promoting data utilization. Additionally, under a yen loan project implemented by the Forest Department of West Bengal in India, efforts were made to utilize digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) to address the pressing issue of avoiding collisions between elephants and humans.

In order to advance DX in ODA projects in more concrete terms, the JICA DXLab was launched in 2022 as an initiative to enable rapid and timely demonstration experiments with digital partners possessing excellent technology. JICA opens up its assets, such as the sites of its ODA projects in 150 countries and the networks it has cultivated, as a place for co-creation to support the resolution of challenges in developing countries through digital technology and data utilization together with its digital partners. By November 2024, a total of 15 projects had been implemented in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, and Indonesia (see "Stories from the Field" on page 40 for a case in Mongolia on building a drone-based blood

<sup>15</sup> Making people's lives more convenient and enriching them through the introduction of new information technologies, and generating new value by recreating existing business structures with the introduction of new digital technologies, etc.

<sup>16</sup> DFFT is an abbreviation of Data Free Flow with Trust. The concept of DFFT aims to promote the free international flow of data, where data that is useful for business and solving social issues can flow freely without regard for borders, while ensuring trust in terms of privacy, security, and intellectual property rights. DFFT was proposed by then Prime Minister Abe at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos Conference) held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2019 and was included in the Leaders' Declaration at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 with the support of the leaders of participating countries.

delivery network, and "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on pages 58 and 139 for cases on crime prediction and prevention using AI technology in Brazil as well as weather forecasting and disaster risk reduction using the power of science in Argentina).



A JICA expert discussing with counterparts during the "Project for Management of Space Programs applied to the Socioeconomic Development," a technical cooperation project in Paraguay (Photo: JICA)

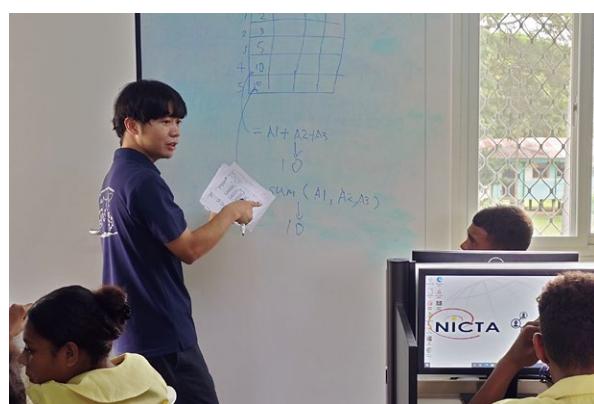
## ■ Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The dissemination of Information and Communications Technology (ICT)<sup>17</sup> contributes to the upgrading of industry and improvement of productivity as the establishment of a foundation for DX. It also contributes to solving social issues of medical care, education, energy, environment, disaster risk reduction and other areas, and helps promote democratization by encouraging information disclosure and establishing broadcasting media.

Japan promotes "quality infrastructure investment" in the ICT sector in developing countries.<sup>18</sup> It actively supports the establishment of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment and facilities, the introduction of the technology and systems they require, and relevant human resources development. Specifically, Japan actively works to support the overseas promotion and the introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T),<sup>19</sup> which has been adopted in a total of 20 countries<sup>20</sup> in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and other regions as of April 2024. Japan also conducts training programs through JICA every year for countries adopting or considering ISDB-T. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) also promotes assistance that

offers ICT solutions to resolve social issues through dialogues and joint projects with partner governments.

Japan works with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)<sup>21</sup> to provide a variety of development assistance in the fields of telecommunications and ICT for developing countries. The internet usage rate in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)<sup>22</sup> is estimated to be at 36%. Since October 2020, Japan has cooperated with the ITU to launch the Connect2Recover (C2R) Initiative, which supports developing countries, mainly in Africa, to draft national strategies for strengthening digital infrastructure and improving their usage environments. Among the pilot projects in the "Giga" initiative<sup>23</sup> jointly implemented by ITU and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan has provided support for introducing internet connectivity to schools in Rwanda. Starting in 2022, Japan has supported Zimbabwe and Mauritania in evaluating the resilience of their network infrastructure, developing maps that show the connection status of telecommunications networks before and after natural disasters, and formulating national strategies for the dissemination of ICT. Additionally, as a result of reaching out to various countries to expand the C2R projects, the Governments of Australia, the Czech Republic, and Lithuania have decided to provide funding, and the area of activities expanded to countries in Asia, the Caribbean, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Since 2023, Japan has also extended its support to a total of 11 countries in Africa, with a focus on initiatives related to early warning systems.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) in Papua New Guinea giving a lecture on basic computer software usage and practical spreadsheet functions (Photo: JICA)

17 ICT is a technology that integrates computers and other information technology with digital communication technology, as represented by the Internet and mobile phones.

18 In 2017, Japan formulated the Playbook for Investment in "Quality ICT Infrastructure" for ICT policymakers and procurement managers of the respective countries and regions.

19 A terrestrial digital broadcasting system that was developed in Japan. Its functions, such as an emergency alert broadcast system, TV broadcasting reception on mobile terminals, and data broadcasting, etc., give the system advantages in disaster response and the provision of diverse services.

20 The 20 countries are Japan, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Maldives, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

21 A UN specialized agency that covers the fields of telecommunications and broadcasting. To ensure that people around the world are able to make use of telecommunications technologies, ITU organizes the following: (i) international allocation of radio frequencies used in mobile phones, satellite broadcasting, and other technologies, (ii) international standardization of telecommunications technologies, and (iii) support for development in the field of telecommunications in developing countries.

22 See the glossary on page 35.

23 An initiative launched by UNICEF and ITU in 2019 with the aim of enabling internet access in schools around the world, focusing on developing countries.

# Saving Lives in Mongolia with Drone Technology

## – Building a Drone-Based Blood Delivery Network through Japan-Mongolia Cooperation –



In Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital and home to nearly half of the country's total population, social infrastructure has not kept pace with its rapid population expansion and the number of vehicles has also increased dramatically with economic growth. The chronic traffic congestion has seriously disrupted healthcare services, with emergency vehicles and blood deliveries frequently getting stuck in traffic jams. Additionally, in Mongolia, nurses are required to accompany blood deliveries in ambulances, which further limits the time they can dedicate to essential medical services.

Aeronext Inc., a Japanese company developing drone-based logistics services, is working to address these challenges. Focusing on aerial routes as a new form of logistics infrastructure network, the company provides drone delivery services in Japan's remote mountainous areas and during emergencies such as natural disasters. Since its founding, international expansion is one of their key strategies. As they explored global business opportunities, Aeronext identified Mongolia as a promising market. The company is now utilizing JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys\*1 to help build logistics infrastructure for the drone-based delivery of blood for transfusions, a service that demands both speed and quality.

Mr. KAWANOUE Kazufumi, General Manager in charge of overseas business development at Aeronext, explains, "One of the reasons we focused on Mongolia is that it's a country that is friendly to Japan. For many years, Japan supports Mongolia's infrastructure development through ODA, helping build hospitals, schools, and airports. Japan also collaborates in sectors such as agriculture and livestock farming, and environmental management, which has contributed to the strong sense of trust of Mongolia toward Japan."

In June 2023, the company launched a needs assessment survey and began iterative testing of drone operations and cold-weather adaptations, taking into account Mongolia's harsh winters and strong winds. In November, a successful demonstration flight was conducted, transporting blood over a 9.5 km round-trip between the National Center for Transfusion Medicine (hereinafter referred to as the "Transfusion Center") and the Mongolia-Japan Hospital, affiliated with the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and built with Japanese support (hereinafter referred to as the "Mongolia-Japan Hospital"). Unlike the company's previous experience in Japan, where drones were primarily deployed in remote areas with limited ground access, this achievement in a densely populated urban setting—where stringent safety standards are required—marked a significant breakthrough.

Mr. Kawanou highlights the benefits of leveraging



A drone flying over traffic-congested Ulaanbaatar (Photo: Aeronext Inc.)

JICA's support, stating, "The demonstration project required the understanding and cooperation of various government agencies, including the Civil Aviation Authority of Mongolia, the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, and the Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography. As our company had no prior experience in Mongolia, JICA's introductions were instrumental in helping us establish connections with relevant local authorities, which greatly contributed to the smooth progress of the project."

In May 2024, Aeronext initiated a pilot project to validate its business model, in partnership with Mongolian companies including NEWCOM Group and MSDD. Together, they worked on developing a business model and establishing a drone operation system, and in June, the company secured Mongolia's first commercial drone flight license. By August, operations were underway, with regular blood deliveries from the Transfusion Center to three hospitals across the city. The service also supports emergency situations: in September, following an urgent request, blood was delivered in approximately 13 minutes over a 4.75 km route to the Mongolia-Japan Hospital, where a patient with a rare blood type was admitted.

Dr. Adilsaikhan, Director of the Mongolia-Japan Hospital, remarked, "Japanese technology saved the lives of two patients who might not have survived due to traffic congestion. I am fully committed to continue supporting the development and expansion of this drone-based logistics system." Dr. Erdenebayar, Director of the Transfusion Center, expressed his deep appreciation for the project: "During the COVID-19 pandemic, I attempted to build a drone myself in the hope of realizing aerial transport, but I eventually had to abandon the effort. I am grateful for my encounter with Mr. Kawanou and for the fact that this project has already helped to save lives."

Mr. Kawanou outlined his vision: "Medical professionals' recognition of the need for drones and their efforts to actively communicate their effectiveness have been a major driving force behind the project's progress. Looking ahead, we plan to work with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology on joint research to develop next-generation drones tailored to Mongolia's extreme natural conditions, while also investing in local human resource development. Our goal is to establish a system that can be operated independently by local communities." As social infrastructure continues to develop in response to local needs, the project is expected to help address issues – not only in Mongolia but also in neighboring countries also struggling with traffic congestion.



Nurses at the Mongolia-Japan Hospital inspecting blood packages for transfusion delivered by drone (Photo: Aeronext Inc.)

\*1 See the glossary on page 130.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)<sup>24</sup> contributes to the balanced development of the telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the region. In order to promote human resources development related to telecommunications, Japan finances a number of training programs conducted by the APT every year. In FY2023, 10 training programs including on broadband networks and cybersecurity were implemented and attended by approximately 125 people from the APT member states. The trainees utilize Japanese technology for the development of their own countries' ICT, and Japanese companies' expansion into the Asia-Pacific region is also expected through introducing Japanese technology systems.

In the Asia-Pacific region, over two billion people do not have internet access due to factors including fragile infrastructure and the unaffordable usage costs. In the Southeast Asian region and Pacific Island countries, Japan is developing an environment to make low-cost, high-speed internet available even in remote islands and areas.



Displaced Ukrainian children gathered at an educational facility in Moldova. A Japanese NGO set up learning spaces allowing them to take online classes conducted from Ukraine. (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)

## Cybersecurity

In recent years, it has become a pressing task to take measures against threats to a free, fair, and secure cyberspace. It is thus necessary for diverse entities in each country to work together in order to respond to this issue. The lack of security-related awareness and response capacity in some countries, including developing countries, poses a significant risk to the entire world, including Japan. Therefore, strengthening cooperation for ensuring the security in cyberspace of countries around the world and providing capacity building support to developing countries not only contributes to the recipient countries, but also benefits

the entire world including Japan.

Japan has strengthened cooperation with ASEAN on cyber security through the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue and the Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting. At the Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting in 2024, Japan and ASEAN member states advanced initiatives on public-private partnerships, capacity building, awareness raising, and the protection of critical infrastructure, with the purpose of enhancing collaboration on cybersecurity. In addition, through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Japan supported the strengthening of the investigative capacity of officials at law enforcement related agencies to deal with crimes committed in cyberspace, which increased under the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan and ASEAN have concurred to further strengthen their cooperation on the issues related to cyber-attacks. As a specific initiative, since 2017, Japan has been conducting training for staff engaged in combatting cybercrimes at the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam, with the aim of helping them acquire the knowledge and skills for dealing with cybercrimes, as well as strengthening cooperative relations between the security agencies of Japan and Viet Nam. Japan also conducts cybersecurity exercises and other programs at the "ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)," which was established in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).<sup>25</sup> In March 2023, support for the operation of the AJCCBC began as technical cooperation through JICA under the "Project for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Capacity Building Program for Cybersecurity and Trusted Digital Services." As of November 2024, a total of 2,395 people had taken part in training and other programs.

At the AJCCBC, Japan provides the Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER), a practical exercise targeting cybersecurity personnel of government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries, and promotes cooperation in capacity building in the area of cybersecurity in ASEAN. Since March 2023, Japan has been working to further enhance the content by adding new training for exercise trainers and exercises based on needs surveys in ASEAN countries. In October 2024, the Cyber SEA Game 2024 was held and young engineers and students selected from ASEAN countries competed using their cybersecurity skills.

Japan also contributed to the World Bank's Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund and works on capacity building assistance in the field of cybersecurity for low and middle-income countries.

<sup>24</sup> An international telecommunication organization established in the Asia-Pacific region. Aiming for a balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, it implements human resources development through training courses and seminars, and coordinates regional policies on standardization, radio communications, and other telecommunication issues.

<sup>25</sup> See 5 on page 91.

## Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation, and Research and Development

In the world today, social changes are occurring, with information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics being utilized in diverse industries, including not only the manufacturing industry and the service industry but also in agriculture and construction.

Based on “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda<sup>26</sup>)” (Paragraph 70), the UN has established the UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (UN-IATT) and promotes Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs (STI for SDGs) on a global scale, in cooperation with other countries. The UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) was held again in 2024. Expectations for STI are internationally increasing as a key to achieve the SDGs while optimizing limited resources.

In the process of Japan’s economic development, Japan has overcome its own challenges in fields such as health and medical care, environment, and disaster risk reduction, fully utilizing STI. Based on these experiences, Japan is engaged in science and technology cooperation through the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program”\* and others in order to resolve challenges faced by developing countries. SATREPS, which links Japan’s science and technology with ODA, was launched in 2008 to support joint research between research institutions and researchers in science and technology fields in Japan and in developing countries. A total of 202 research projects in 58 countries around the world have been adopted as of FY2024. In 2024, 12 new projects were selected in fields such as environment and energy, bioresources, disaster prevention and mitigation, and infectious diseases control (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 139 for a SATREPS project in Argentina).

The UN-IATT conducts the “Global Pilot Programme” to promote the development of an STI roadmap for SDGs in countries worldwide, including six pilot countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Serbia, and Ukraine.<sup>27</sup> Under this Programme, Japan has supported Kenya in the agricultural sector from FY2020 to FY2024 through contributions to the World Bank. In addition, since FY2020, Japan has supported Japanese companies that are considering launching projects to resolve social challenges in developing countries through STI, through contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and made efforts to share expertise gained through this support among developing countries.



A Japanese researcher instructing local livestock farmers in Colombia on confirming calf (beef cattle) development using a digital platform as part of SATREPS (Photo: JICA)

In terms of support for research and development, Japan is building a next-generation network based on cooperation in human resources development, by strengthening assistance for overseas engineering universities.

In Asia, Japan supports the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT), which was founded with the aim of establishing Japanese-style engineering education. The support includes procuring educational and research equipment and supplies, and developing curriculum designs. In partnership with Japanese universities, Japan also helps MJIIT embed the characteristics of Japanese-style engineering education in its teaching and research activities. In 2023, Japan launched cooperation to establish and expand the Malaysia-Japan Linkage Office within MJIIT as a liaison office to further strengthen collaboration between MJIIT and Japanese universities and industries. As of 2024, a consortium of 29 universities and 2 research institutes, among others, has been organized to promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Malaysia through joint research, joint degrees, and student exchanges.

Since 2012, Japan has provided scholarships to students studying remote sensing (satellite image analysis) in courses taught by Japanese instructors at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) located in Thailand, contributing to the development of the human resources constituting the crux of the space industry development in the Asian region.

In Africa, Japan has been cooperating under the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) project since 2008. Established based on the principles of Japanese-style engineering education, E-JUST has received support from Japanese universities through curriculum development and the dispatch of faculty. E-JUST has been highly praised for its achievements,

<sup>26</sup> See the glossary on page 36.

<sup>27</sup> India, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Serbia since 2020; Ukraine since 2021.

including joint research and joint supervision with Japanese researchers, exchange student programs and internationalization undertaken by both Japanese and Egyptian governments, and collaboration with Japanese companies. E-JUST was ranked as the top university in Egypt and sixth on the African continent in the World University Rankings published by the UK's Times Higher Education (THE) in 2024. In September 2024, JICA

and the Government of Egypt signed an agreement to strengthen the academic network between Japanese and African universities in the field of science, technology, and innovation, with E-JUST serving as one of the hubs on the African continent. E-JUST is expected to play a key role in promoting international joint research and education by university researchers from Japan and within Africa.



## Glossary

### Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program

Through the collaboration of Japan's advanced science and technology with ODA, SATREPS aims to resolve global issues in the fields of environment and energy, bioresources, disaster prevention and mitigation, and infectious disease control. Under this program, research institutes both in developing countries and Japan work together to conduct international joint research with the following objectives: (1) enhancing international cooperation in science and technology, (2) acquiring new knowledge and technologies that lead to the resolution of global issues, and through this process, creating innovations, (3) promoting capacity development. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), provide support to research institutes and researchers in Japan and the developing countries.

## (3) Quality Infrastructure

For the autonomous development of developing countries, infrastructure that supports people's lives and economic activities serving as the foundation for their national development is essential. However, developing countries still have enormous demand for infrastructure and the investment gap between infrastructure demand and supply is estimated to be approximately \$15 trillion by 2040.<sup>28</sup> In order to achieve "quality growth"<sup>29</sup> in developing countries, it is necessary to meet this enormous demand for infrastructure. It is very important not only to develop a large amount of infrastructure but also to consider openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs, and debt sustainability, etc.

Japan has strengths related to maritime and aviation safety management, disaster risk reduction and resilience technologies, urban development that contributes to addressing climate change and environmental issues, safe transportation systems, electricity and energy infrastructure, and water supply. In order to leverage these strengths to solve social issues in partner countries, Japan promotes the development of "Quality Infrastructure"<sup>\*</sup> by combining structural and non-structural support. For structural support, it provides infrastructure development in line with the economic and development strategies of each developing country,

while for non-structural support, it provides cooperation for institutional development, management and maintenance, and human resources development.



The "Jamuna Railway Bridge Construction Project" in Bangladesh, supported by Japan's loan aid, expected to enhance transportation networks within the country and with neighboring countries.

(Photo: Obayashi-Toa-JFE (OTJ) Joint Venture)

### Japan's Efforts

Japan has been working with the international community to disseminate the notion of "Quality Infrastructure," and to standardize it internationally, aiming to ensure broader access for people around the world. The "G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment," endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit under the Japanese Presidency in May 2016, was the initial step for sharing the fundamental elements of "Quality Infrastructure Investment." In addition, at the G20 Osaka Summit under the Japanese Presidency in June 2019, the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,"<sup>30</sup> which indicate a strategic direction for

<sup>28</sup> Forecasts by the G20 Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH).

<sup>29</sup> See the glossary on page 35.

<sup>30</sup> See the glossary "Quality Infrastructure" on page 45.

promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment, were endorsed. Japan cooperates with various countries and international organizations to promote and implement these Principles, and the importance of "Quality Infrastructure Investment" has been confirmed at various bilateral and multilateral meetings.

At the G7 Elmau Summit in June 2022, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII),<sup>31</sup> an initiative for the G7 to work together to promote Quality Infrastructure Investment to narrow the global investment gap, was launched. Under the PGII, the G7 leaders announced their aim to collectively mobilize up to \$600 billion in public and private investment over five years, with a particular focus on Quality Infrastructure. At a side event on PGII held during the G7 Apulia Summit in June 2024, each country introduced their respective initiatives to strengthen connectivity in Africa and expressed their expectations for the promotion of infrastructure investment, including private capital, under the PGII. Then Prime Minister Kishida introduced Japan's initiatives for strengthening connectivity in Africa and Asia, and announced that Japan would continue to support Africa's growth through Quality Infrastructure so as to be able to link the outcomes of the PGII to the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9), which is scheduled to be held in 2025.

The Blue Dot Network (BDN),<sup>32</sup> a framework for internationally certifying Quality Infrastructure projects, is also an important initiative in promoting "Quality Infrastructure Investment." In April 2024, the BDN Secretariat was established in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Ministerial Council Statement adopted at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting chaired by Japan in May of the same year, committed to promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment in line with the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" and through



Opening ceremony of a refrigerated rail freight service in India using refrigerated containers developed by a Japanese company under a public-private partnership project aimed at building a cold chain (Photo: JICA)

initiatives such as the PGII, and welcomed efforts to operationalize the BDN and the establishment of its secretariat.

In ASEAN, Japan has promoted many projects to develop transport infrastructure such as the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia, the Patimban Port and Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit in Indonesia, and the Metro Manila Subway in the Philippines. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in October 2024, then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that under the "Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative" announced in 2023, various projects are underway in a wide range of areas including both structural and non-structural aspects, such as digital technology, transport infrastructure development, and electricity connectivity, as well as in promoting regional financial cooperation. He also expressed Japan's willingness to promote cooperation to address emerging issues such as Green Transformation (GX) and Digital Transformation (DX)<sup>33</sup> in order to jointly shape a vibrant future of the region.

As for efforts in Pacific Island countries, Japan, the United States, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia jointly announced Japan-U.S.-Australia joint support for the East Micronesia Cable (EMC) in December 2021, and an undersea cable contract was signed in June 2023. In May 2024, the fourth meeting of the six-country Project Executive Board was held to confirm the progress of the project. At the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) held in July 2024, then Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan would contribute to the enhancement of connectivity on land, sea, air, and in the digital space through the development of "Quality Infrastructure" including undersea cables. Japan will continue to cooperate in developing Quality Infrastructure to strengthen connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region, including in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) field, in cooperation with the United States, Australia, and other like-minded countries.

As for the African region, at the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) held in Tunisia in August 2022, Japan announced initiatives that would promote enhancement in regional connectivity, in addition to improving social infrastructure development in Africa through the development of Quality Infrastructure and one-stop border posts at national borders. As a concrete example of cooperation to promote "connectivity and Quality Infrastructure Investment" in Africa, Japan signed and exchanged notes with Tanzania in October 2024 concerning a grant project for the construction and expansion of the inner ring road in Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania. This project is expected to contribute to infrastructure development supporting smoother logistics as well as economic and

<sup>31</sup> PGII is the G7's commitment to promoting public and private investment in sustainable, inclusive, resilient and quality infrastructure.

<sup>32</sup> Proposed by Japan, the United States, and Australia in November 2019. Since 2023, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Switzerland have joined and are discussing the specific institutional design.

<sup>33</sup> See 15 on page 38.

social development in Tanzania. In addition, it is also expected to facilitate logistics along the Central Corridor, as Dodoma is located on this corridor connecting Tanzania to Uganda, an inland country, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government of Japan will continue to disseminate the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" throughout the international community for quality growth around the world, and will further promote efforts to implement "Quality Infrastructure Investment" together with countries around the world including Asian countries as well as international organizations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the OECD.



Human resources development support for bridge inspection, diagnosis, repair, and maintenance in Tajikistan (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### Quality Infrastructure

Infrastructure that genuinely contributes to "quality growth" that is "resilient" against natural disasters and other risks, "inclusive" so that no one is left behind, and "sustainable" taking into account its impact on society and the environment. The "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," which incorporate key elements for investing in "Quality Infrastructure" such as (i) openness, (ii) transparency, (iii) economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs, and (iv) debt sustainability, were endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019.

## (4) Efforts on Debt Issues

Official loan assistance is intended to be utilized to promote economic growth in developing countries. However, when developing countries face difficulties in repaying their debts due to failures in economic and fiscal policies, changes in the international economic environment, or other reasons, their debts may put a strain on essential fiscal spending in areas such as health, education, and the environment, thus hindering sustainable growth. While debtor countries must resolve this issue themselves through various efforts, including economic and fiscal reforms, the international community needs to respond when excessive debt stands in the way of the debtor countries' sustainability and development.

In regard to international efforts to address debt issues, debt relief measures have been implemented including through the Enhanced HIPC Initiative<sup>34</sup> for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)\* and the Paris Club's<sup>35</sup> Evian Approach.<sup>36</sup> However, in recent years, despite receiving such debt relief, some low-income countries have accumulated private debt in addition to public debt, thus raising renewed concerns about their

worsening debt sustainability. This situation can be attributed, on the debtors' side, to a lack of capacity to collect and disclose their own debt data and to manage debt appropriately. On the creditors' side, it has been pointed out that the funding providers have diversified the proportion of loans increasingly coming from emerging donor countries and private creditors, including the provision of unconventional and non-concessional loans such as collateralized loans, while the proportion of loans by Paris Club creditors has been decreasing. Furthermore, in the last few years, policy rate hikes in Western countries have led to higher financing costs for developing countries, raising concerns about liquidity constraints in these economies. The international community needs to work together to address the debt problems of developing countries, which could also affect the economies of lenders.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact on the debt issues of low-income countries. In response, the G20 and the Paris Club launched the "Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)\*" in April 2020 and implemented measures to temporarily suspend repayment of public debt for low-income countries. After the expiration of the DSSI at the end of December 2021, G20 and Paris Club creditor countries work together to provide debt treatments under the

<sup>34</sup> An initiative agreed at the Cologne Summit (Germany) in 1999.

<sup>35</sup> An informal group of creditor countries that convenes to discuss the treatment of public debts. The name of the Paris Club derives from the fact that France has chaired meetings and invited creditor countries to Paris upon requests from debtor countries.

<sup>36</sup> A new Paris Club approach to debt restructuring (the Evian Approach). Debt relief measures focus more on the debt sustainability of recipient countries, especially low-income and middle-income debtor countries other than HIPC, and take case-by-case measures corresponding with the circumstances of each debtor country.

## Expanding Transportation Infrastructure by Supporting the Construction of the Cairo Metro

– Building a Transportation Network Leveraging Japan’s Advanced Technology –



The Government of Egypt has been working to expand transportation means to alleviate traffic congestion that has resulted from population growth. In 1987, it opened the first subway on the African continent. However, despite the completion of three metro lines to date, the population has continued to grow rapidly, increasing by 20 million in just a decade since 2010. Approximately 20% of the total population is concentrated in the Greater Cairo Region, exacerbating traffic congestion. Within this context, the Cairo Metro Line No.4 is positioned as a particularly urgent project for expanding transportation options in the Greater Cairo Region under the national plan for transportation and urban development formulated by the Government of Egypt. Since 2012, Japan has been supporting the development of the approximately 19 km section of Line No.4 connecting central Cairo with the Giza Pyramid area through its financial assistance.

This project is the first yen loan project for Egypt to which Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP)\*1 has been applied, and Japanese advanced railway products and technologies are planned to be utilized for the railroad vehicles and signaling systems. Once this line opens, travelers will be able to reach major tourist destinations such as the Pyramids in Giza and the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), which Japan supported through construction, cultural property restoration, and operational assistance, and which began its trial opening in October 2024, from central Cairo in just about 20 minutes. This is expected to contribute significantly to the development of Egypt's tourism industry.

Mr. NISHIKORI Atsushi, Deputy Director of the Railway Division at Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd., which is involved in the construction supervision of this project, highlights technology transfer as one of the strengths of Japanese infrastructure development. "For Line No.4 construction, we need to build a tunnel under the Nile River and construct multiple tunnels not horizontally but with vertical alignment, which is technically challenging. While this construction method is new for Egyptian engineers, many experienced experts in railway projects from Japan, Europe, and other regions are participating in this project. We believe



Japanese company representatives and local engineers discussing at the construction site (Photo: Mitsubishi Corporation)



Japanese company representatives discussing with NAT (Photo: Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.)

it would be a good opportunity for them to acquire new technologies through collaboration."

At the same time, Mr. Nishikori faced difficulties in securing local talent due to the strict qualification requirements set by the National Authority for Tunnels (NAT), the implementing agency under Egypt's Ministry of Transport. He notes that they are overcoming problems by building a relationship of trust with NAT. "Given that experienced Egyptian engineers tend to move to neighboring countries for higher salaries, we explained to NAT that easing qualification requirements would help the development of domestic human resources. Through close communication and persistent negotiation with NAT, we are gradually gaining a certain level of their understanding," he states.

Mr. Nishikori also mentions, "I am staying at an accommodation near tourist sites, and nearby hotels are thriving, partly due to the trial opening of the GEM. If the launch of the Line No.4 alleviates traffic congestion and improves access, Egypt's tourism industry is likely to become even more vibrant." He also explains the economic effects that will be brought about by the opening of Line 4. "Foreign companies are increasingly entering the Egyptian market. Recently, the manufacturing and sales of Oronamin C Drink, a vitamin drink made in Japan, has begun in Egypt. I hope that the development of the transportation network will attract investments from Japan, ultimately contributing to job creation for Egyptians."

In addition to the construction of Line No.4, the Government of Egypt is proceeding with the development of the New Administrative Capital, located approximately 45 km east of Cairo. In 2022, some government officials started operations in the New Administrative Capital, advancing large-scale urban development. Japan will continue to respond to the Government of Egypt's expectations for its excellent technology and expertise, contributing to Egypt's economic development by expanding transportation infrastructure and other means.

\*1 See Part V, 2(2) on page 146.

"Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI,"\* which was agreed on in November 2020. Having requested the application of the Common Framework, Zambia reached a debt restructuring agreement with all creditor countries in April 2024.

One of the factors that can significantly affect debt sustainability of borrowing countries, including low-income countries, is infrastructure investment. Infrastructure projects such as ports and railroads require large investments, and debt repayments can become a significant burden for the borrowing countries. When financing infrastructure projects, it is necessary for both the debtors and creditors to fully take into account debt sustainability. Loans without consideration of debt sustainability are criticized by the international community as a "debt trap."

The "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" <sup>37</sup> incorporated the importance of considering country level debt sustainability as well as project-level financial sustainability. They also include the principles of openness, transparency, and economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost. Each G20 country is required to implement these principles as an international standard in their infrastructure investments and to work to ensure that these principles are implemented in the countries receiving loans. At the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting in July 2024, ministers agreed that the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" should be taken into account, particularly in the areas of drinking-water and sanitation services for households, workplaces, schools, and healthcare facilities to those in vulnerable situations, especially in rural and/or peri-urban areas.

## Japan's Efforts

In providing ODA loans, Japan makes its decisions based on the careful consideration of the cooperation structure, debt service repayment ability, operational capacity, credit protection measures, etc. of the recipient countries. Most of the recipient countries make repayments as scheduled. However, there are exceptional cases in which they face serious difficulties in their repayment due to events that could not be foreseen when Japan provided ODA loans. In such cases, based on international agreements such as the aforementioned Enhanced HIPC Initiative

and the Paris Club's agreements with debtor countries, Japan provides debt relief in a limited form through debt rescheduling, <sup>38</sup> cancellation, and reduction. As an example of debt relief efforts in 2024, in November, Japan concluded a bilateral agreement with Somalia concerning a debt relief measure (debt cancellation). As of the end of 2024, Japan has cancelled ODA debts worth a total of approximately 1.1437 trillion yen for 34 countries since FY2003. In addition, Japan, as a co-chair of the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) for Sri Lanka's debt restructuring, led the negotiation on debt restructuring, and in July, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on debt restructuring between the members of the OCC and Sri Lanka was completed. Following the confirmation of the Sri Lankan government's intention to swiftly conclude a bilateral agreement with Japan, the Government of Japan decided to resume the disbursement of yen loans and other operations related to the ongoing projects in Sri Lanka.

At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced and is currently working on financial cooperation of up to \$5 billion under the fifth phase of the "Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa"\*(EPSA5) covering the period from 2023 to 2025. This includes a new special window of up to \$1 billion to support countries that are engaging in reforms for enhancing debt transparency and sustainability and thereby making steady and significant progress in their debt situations.

From the perspective of ensuring debt sustainability, an important element of the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," Japan is working on the improvement of the capabilities related to public debt and risk management among management personnel at the finance ministries of developing countries through contributions to international organizations, as well as through training and the dispatch of experts by JICA. For example, in FY2023, Japan provided support for capacity building in debtor countries, including through training in collaboration with the World Bank for 30 administrative officers from 26 countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia, on contingent liabilities risk management, as well as through new financial contributions to the respective trust funds of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

<sup>37</sup> See the glossary "Quality Infrastructure" on page 45.

<sup>38</sup> Debt rescheduling is one form of debt relief, wherein payment is postponed for a certain period of time in order to reduce the burden of debt payment on the debtor country.



## Glossary

### **Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)**

39 developing countries, mainly from Africa, that are poor and have heavy debt burdens, and that are applicable for the "Enhanced HIPC Initiative," a framework to provide comprehensive debt relief.

### **Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)**

A framework for temporarily suspending debt repayments for low-income countries facing a liquidity crisis due to COVID-19's impact. The G20 and the Paris Club, a group of major traditional creditor countries, agreed in April 2020 to temporarily suspend debt repayments that would be due in the period from May 2020 to the end of December 2020, and subsequently extended the suspension period twice (agreed in October 2020 on an extension to June 2021, and in April 2021 on an extension to the end of December 2021).

### **Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI**

A framework agreed upon by the G20 and the Paris Club in November 2020 to provide debt relief to low-income countries on a case-by-case basis. This is the first agreement to jointly determine the terms of debt treatments in a manner that involves non-Paris Club countries such as China.

### **Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA) Initiative**

A cooperative framework established by Japan in 2005 together with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to promote private sector-led economic growth. At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan and AfDB announced financial cooperation of up to \$5 billion under the fifth phase of Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA5) covering the period from 2023 to 2025. This consists of \$4 billion under existing windows, and up to an additional \$1 billion under a new special window to support countries that are engaging in reforms for enhancing debt transparency and sustainability and thereby making steady and significant progress in their debt situations.

## (1) Support for Peacebuilding and Refugees/Displaced Persons

The international community continues to witness regional and internal conflicts due to various factors such as ethnic, religious, and historical differences, as well as poverty, disparities, and other issues. In recent years, intensifying geopolitical competition and heightened tensions between nations, as well as the emergence of countries that challenge the existing international order more assertively, have left considerable negative impacts on the development and stability of the global economy and society.

Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and displaced persons, resulting in humanitarian crises, undermining years of development efforts and causing significant economic losses. The impact of a conflict in one country or region affects the entire world in one way or another, and the prolongation of such conflicts has become a challenge. Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which started in 2022, and the deteriorating situation in the Middle East since the terror attacks by Hamas and other militant groups in October 2023 have caused increasingly serious humanitarian crises, becoming major issues for the entire international community. In addition, there are concerns about the impact of climate change on peace and stability. As the challenges faced by the international community become more complex and diverse, peacebuilding efforts aimed at establishing the foundations for development are increasingly important for the consolidation of sustainable peace.



Distribution of food and daily necessities to households with persons with disabilities and other vulnerable households in the Gaza Strip, Palestine (Photo: Campaign for Children of Palestinian, a nonprofit organization (CCP) Japan)

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Support for Peacebuilding

In response to humanitarian crises caused by conflicts and other issues, Japan promotes the "Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus)," <sup>39</sup> in which urgently needed humanitarian assistance is provided, taking into account the medium- to long-term perspective of development cooperation from an early stage. As humanitarian crises become more prolonged and diverse, Japan upholds an approach that provides support for sustaining peace through resilient nation-building and social stabilization from a medium- to long-term perspective, even in times of peace. In countries and regions where fragile situations continue due to the impacts of conflicts and others, Japan supports the self-reliance of refugees and also provides seamless assistance ranging from humanitarian assistance to poverty reduction, economic development, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention in order to address the root causes of further crises.

In order to provide seamless assistance, Japan combines grants, including those managed by international organizations, and technical cooperation, to provide humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons affected by conflicts, as well as assistance for holding elections as part of post-conflict political peace processes. To promote the consolidation of peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict, Japan also supports the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, and the enhancement of administrative, judicial, and police functions. Furthermore, Japan supports the rebuilding of basic infrastructure, institutional development, and social development in areas such as health and education. Japan also extends reconstruction support, such as initiatives to promote coexistence of refugees and displaced persons with host communities and efforts toward the repatriation and resettlement of such displaced persons. As part of these efforts, Japan actively promotes women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in line with a series of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, including the UNSC resolution 1325, which recognizes the importance of the role of women in peacebuilding (see 93 on page 81 regarding Women, Peace and Security (WPS)).

In Uganda, tensions have been rising since 2017

<sup>39</sup> In parallel with humanitarian assistance, the approach of the HDP Nexus is to provide development cooperation to enhance refugee self-reliance and reduce the burden on host countries, and also to address the root causes of refugee issues by promoting peace efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts.

between refugees who have fled to Uganda due to conflicts in neighboring countries, whose numbers have grown to more than 1.5 million, and the residents of host communities suffering from deteriorating economic conditions. In response, Japan is providing training to enhance conflict prevention and resolution capabilities and vocational training for women who are refugees and residents of host communities, as well as strengthening protection for survivors of sexual violence.

Discussions are taking place in the international community on conflict resolution and prevention, as well as post-conflict recovery and assistance for nation-building in forums such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).\* Japan has been a member of the PBC since its establishment, and has made active contributions by emphasizing the importance of efforts to build institutions and to develop human resources, and the need to strengthen cooperation among relevant organizations (related UN bodies such as the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and the PBC, donor countries, regional agencies, international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, and the private sector). As of December 2024, Japan contributed a total of \$67.2 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)\* and supported it as a major donor. Japan started its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in January 2023 and hosted a total of two open debates on peacebuilding and conflict prevention during the two presidency months. Japan will continue to actively contribute to peacebuilding as one of its priorities at the UN even after the end of its term as a Security Council member.

Japan has long made efforts to strengthen coordination between development cooperation and international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKOs). In the countries and regions where UN PKOs are deployed, many initiatives are underway that contribute to efforts for protecting refugees/displaced persons, women, and children affected by conflict and developing basic infrastructure. To maximize the benefits of these efforts, it remains important for Japan to promote such forms of coordination.

Japan proactively contributes to the “UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP),” in which trilateral parties, namely the UN, supporting member states, and troop-contributing countries, work together to conduct training and other activities for uniformed personnel to be dispatched to UN PKO missions. Under this framework, for example, Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) personnel are dispatched to Africa and Asia to train engineering personnel on the operation of heavy engineering equipment. In the field of medical care,

Japan dispatches JSDF personnel to conduct training on life-saving treatment and contributes to the development of telemedicine systems for UN PKO missions.

In addition, since the skill sets demanded of those in the field of peacebuilding are increasingly diversified and complex, Japan cultivates civilian specialists who can make a significant contribution on the ground both in Japan and abroad through the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development.”<sup>40</sup> So far, a total of over 1,000 people have participated in training programs in Japan. Many graduates of these programs are playing active roles in the fields of peacebuilding and development around the world including regions such as Asia and Africa.

## ■ Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Given the situations in Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Sudan, and other countries, the number of forcibly displaced people including refugees and displaced persons worldwide has been increasing year after year. In May 2024, the number reached 120 million people, the highest level since the end of World War II, and humanitarian situations are becoming increasingly severe. Japan co-hosted the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva in December 2023 and called for strengthening unity and cooperation of the international community to prevent the deterioration of humanitarian situations, to help refugees and displaced persons both at home and abroad become self-reliant, and to ease the pressures on host countries. Japan provides humanitarian assistance from the viewpoint of human security, including for refugees, displaced persons and others, in order to ensure the life, dignity, and security of the people in the most vulnerable positions and to enable each individual to get back on their own feet.

In particular, Japan continuously provides for basic human needs, such as shelter and food, to those in need around the world, working mainly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international organizations. Japan also collaborates with the above-mentioned UN agencies, as well as with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in order to deliver humanitarian assistance to refugees, displaced persons, and others, even in areas with security concerns, leveraging their respective expertise and coordination capabilities. For example, in 2024, Japan provided

<sup>40</sup> In FY2007 Japan began the “Program for Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding,” and in FY2015, the program was renewed with expanded content as the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development” ([https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace\\_b/j\\_ikusei\\_shokai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace_b/j_ikusei_shokai.html) (in Japanese only)). The renewed program includes the “Mid-Career Course,” which supports the career advancement of those with a certain degree of practical experience in fields related to peacebuilding and development, in addition to the existing “Primary Course,” which offers training in Japan to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary on the ground and on-the-job training at the field offices of international organizations.

humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian nationals displaced by Russia's aggression in Ukraine and neighboring countries through partnerships with UNHCR and other organizations. In Sudan, Japan worked with WFP, ICRC and other organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally-displaced persons affected by the armed conflict. Humanitarian assistance is also provided by Japanese NGOs to refugees and internally-displaced persons through the Japan Platform (JPF) <sup>41</sup> (see "Featured Project" on page 110).

Upon providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others through international organizations, Japan also promotes cooperation among NGOs and the Japanese private sector. For example, in the case of refugee assistance, JICA works in collaboration with UNHCR to implement a program combining emergency and reconstruction assistance from the perspective of the HDP Nexus.



Supporting the restoration of solar-powered water supply facilities in response to the crisis caused by conflict in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia (Photo: ADRA Japan)

### ■ Actions against Anti-Personnel Landmines, Unexploded Ordnance, and Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

In post-conflict countries and regions, anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain, and illicit small arms and light weapons are still in wide circulation. Such weaponry not only harms civilians indiscriminately and hinders reconstruction and development efforts, but also exacerbates animosities. Therefore, it is important to pursue sustained cooperation with a view to ensuring stability and safety in these countries and regions, through assistance for the disposal of anti-personnel landmines and UXO, proper management of small arms and light weapons, support for landmine survivors, and capacity building for

personnel involved in UXO/mine action.

Japan also steadily promotes international cooperation from the perspective of the HDP Nexus as a signatory to the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction" and the "Convention on Cluster Munitions," through preventive measures such as risk reduction education, in addition to mine clearance and assistance for survivors. For example, Japan supports the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) with an overall capacity enhancement program, such as strengthening its training capacity at home and abroad, capacity building of its administrative staff, and the development of its information systems, so that CMAC can make further international contributions. Japan also supports the upgrading of CMAC's training complex and outreach facility in order to improve its training and educational environment for mine-action personnel and to raise awareness of landmine issues among visitors. Through such comprehensive support, as of December 2024, CMAC, with assistance from Japan, has conducted training for more than 500 staff members engaged in mine and UXO countermeasures in Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ukraine since 2009, thereby contributing to the realization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation <sup>42</sup> (see "Stories from the Field" on page 53 regarding mine action support in Cambodia and its application to support for Ukraine).

In July 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited CMAC during her visit to Cambodia. On that occasion, she announced the "Comprehensive Package of Assistance to Humanitarian Mine Action" <sup>43</sup> as Japan's vision for its assistance to humanitarian mine action. This vision outlines comprehensive support aligned with the stages for various mine-related needs, in partnership with various actors, encompassing risk education, awareness-raising, mine clearance and victim assistance. At the same time, she announced the launch of the "Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative" <sup>44</sup> in cooperation with Cambodia as a new cooperation approach that embodies the above-mentioned comprehensive package.

In Laos, where the damage caused by UXO is particularly severe, in addition to training at CMAC, Japan dispatches experts to UXO Lao, a UXO countermeasure organization, to strengthen its operational capacity for formulating work plans and monitoring, while also developing facilities for its activities and providing necessary equipment such as mine detection sensors.

<sup>41</sup> See the glossary on page 137.

<sup>42</sup> See the glossary on page 104.

<sup>43</sup> A vision outlining comprehensive support for various mine-related needs and stages, implemented in partnership with diverse partners, including international organizations, NGOs, and Japanese companies, utilizing ODA as a catalyst. The approach to assistance is based on the following: (1) promoting triangular cooperation with Cambodia as a hub, (2) collaboration with like-minded countries and international organizations, and (3) utilizing Japanese science and technology.

<sup>44</sup> An initiative to strengthen cooperation in mine action, building on many years of successful cooperation, under the following four pillars: (1) raising awareness of the inhumanity of landmines and building international momentum for mine reduction, (2) creating an international cooperation team in the relevant Cambodian organization for a world free from landmines, (3) undertaking Japan-Cambodia cooperation to support humanitarian mine action in third countries, and (4) developing equipment using the latest technologies.

Utilizing its experience and knowledge gained through many years of cooperation in mine action in Cambodia and other parts of the world, Japan proactively assists in the clearance of mines and UXO in Ukraine, which is essential not only to ensure the safety and security of residents, but also to rebuild livelihoods, agriculture, and industries in its post-war reconstruction.

In Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and several countries in the Middle East and Africa where landmines and UXO remain, Japan conducted mine clearance activities through international NGOs and provided landmine clearance equipment such as demining machines and hydraulic excavators through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.<sup>45</sup>

Japan is also contributing to the improvement of connectivity in the Western Balkans, by supporting mine clearance activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted by a Slovenia-based international nonprofit organization ITF Enhancing Human Security in cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center.

In Afghanistan, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), implements education projects, including seminars, to raise awareness on the risks posed by landmines, UXO, and other remnants of conflict, and to teach appropriate ways of avoiding them, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. As a result, awareness among residents is steadily expanding. Japan is also proactively engaged in measures against mines and UXO through international organizations. In 2024, Japan supported mine clearance, risk education, and victim assistance against landmines and UXO through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Palestine, and Somalia. Other support

in 2024 includes mine risk education in Afghanistan, Central Africa, Palestine, and Myanmar via the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Support including risk education is also provided to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and other countries and regions through the ICRC. In addition, Japan is coordinating to host an international conference on Ukraine mine action in Japan in the fall of 2025.

Small arms and light weapons are called "the de-facto weapons of mass destruction" because they are still used in actual conflicts and claim many lives. Japan is a donor country to the "Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT)," a UN fund established to embody the commitment made by UN Secretary General Guterres in "An Agenda for Disarmament (2018)," and actively contributes to the discussions on countermeasures against small arms and light weapons.



Mr. Oum Phumro, Deputy Director General of CMAC explaining Cambodia's mine clearance operations using Japan-made mine clearance equipment to a delegation from four African countries (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

An advisory body to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly established in accordance with the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions in 2005. The PBC aims to advise and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. It provides advice to the Security Council and the General Assembly, among others through briefings and written submissions. Japan has consistently served as a member of the Organizational Committee, which is a central body of the PBC, since its establishment.

### UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

A fund established in 2006. The fund provides assistance in Africa and other regions to prevent the recurrence of regional conflicts and civil wars, as well as support for conflict prevention. Specifically, it supports peace processes and political dialogue, revitalization of economies, institution building of states, and participation of women and youth in nation-building, among other efforts.

## (2) Ensuring Safety and Stability in Society

Japan is an island country surrounded by the sea, and it depends on maritime transport for more than 99.5% of its imports such as energy resources and food.

Therefore, Japan has been addressing maritime threats and developing technologies to ensure the safety and security of marine traffic. Ensuring the safety of maritime transport, including addressing threats in critical maritime transport, and human resources development for the safe use of shipping routes are issues that directly affect national existence and prosperity, including in developing countries. Japan promotes the realization of a Free and

<sup>45</sup> See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145.

## Stories from the Field 4

# Mine Clearance Expertise from Cambodia Protecting the People of Ukraine

Cambodia is among the countries most affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) as a consequence of the Vietnam War and the subsequent civil war. While the Government of Cambodia places landmine and UXO clearance as a national priority, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) plays a central role as the leading government agency in these demining efforts.

Since 1998, Japan has provided consistent support for Cambodia's mine action efforts, supplying equipment, training personnel, funding research and development, and offering technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity. Having made steady progress in clearing mines within its own territory, Cambodia now holds the world's largest record of demined land area and is recognized as a global leader in mine action. Drawing on its experience and expertise, Cambodia has also contributed to mine action in countries such as Colombia, Laos, Angola, and Iraq through training and other initiatives.

Japan and CMAC are also working together to support mine action in Ukraine, where Russian aggression continues. Since 2023, they have conducted training for Ukrainian government officials on the use of demining equipment, offered capacity-building programs on mine risk education for local communities, and hosted site visits for senior government officials.

In July 2024, Japan provided two Anti-personnel Landmine Clearance Machines (so called demining machines) to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. The machines were developed by Nikken Corporation, which had previously collaborated with CMAC in Cambodia to develop demining machines. President AMEMIYA Makoto recalls, "The former president of Nikken had a vision of creating a playground where Cambodian children could run around freely. Despite having no prior knowledge of landmines or explosives, the company embarked on the development of a demining machine and after five years, succeeded in creating the world's first and only shovel-type demining machine." The hydraulic excavator-type machine offers greater versatility than traditional bulldozer-type models. By changing the front attachments, it can carry out a wide range of operations for various purposes, even in environments with high risk of



Mr. Rithisak from CMAC (front right) training personnel from Ukraine's State Emergency Service on landmine and UXO detection using a metal detector equipped with a Japanese radar system (Photo: JICA)



Mr. Amemiya (far left) participating in the handover ceremony of demining machines in Ukraine, together with then Ambassador to Ukraine Matsuda, Mr. Ihor Klymenko, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, and Mr. Matsunaga, Director of JICA Ukraine Office (Photo: Nikken Corporation)

explosives. Furthermore, by switching to attachments designed for debris transport or infrastructure construction, it also supports reconstruction efforts even after mine clearance. Highly acclaimed internationally, these machines are now used in 12 countries, with specifications tailored to the unique conditions of each. Mr. Amemiya explains, "In Ukraine, we faced the challenge of not being able to inspect the site directly. However, we studied the conditions through photos and videos, and received direct feedback from the Ukrainian side. As a result, we added protective covers to prevent debris from scattering from the sides of the demining machine." Reports from the field indicate that "the latest demining machines have already been tested under actual conditions, with deminers effectively utilizing their capabilities." Japan continues to supply demining machines, and as of December 2024, all 12 planned units have been shipped.

Mr. Srey Rithisak, a CMAC staff member with extensive experience in equipment development, operations, and management in collaboration with Japanese companies, is now contributing to mine action in Ukraine, a country where he previously studied. He emphasizes the importance of continuous efforts, stating, "Unlike standard metal detectors or construction machinery, mine clearance equipment requires delicate handling. In addition to initial training, repeated practice is essential." Mr. HAYASHI Akihito, a JICA expert in landmine and UXO currently dispatched to CMAC, looks ahead to future prospects of mine action: "Through Japan's ongoing technical cooperation in Cambodia, we help strengthen CMAC's organizational capacity, enabling it to draw on its own experience to contribute more actively to mine action efforts in other countries. We also share a common understanding of the need for continued cooperation for mine action in Ukraine." Reflecting on the initiative, Mr. Amemiya remarks: "Cambodia has been a trusted partner in mine action, with whom Japan has built a relationship over many years. It is a source of pride to work alongside them to support mine action in other countries. I hope Japan will continue to be a country that promotes peace through international cooperation."

Japan will continue to contribute to mine action around the world through its ongoing cooperation with Cambodia.

Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), and a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is vital for the realization of FOIP. To this end, Japan, in collaboration with like-minded countries and international organizations, is advancing its efforts in maritime security cooperation, including ensuring the safety of maritime transport.

Transnational organized crime and acts of terrorism also continue to pose a threat to the entire international community. Effective response to these threats cannot be achieved by the efforts of a single nation alone. Therefore, in addition to strengthening countermeasures by individual nations, the entire international community must work together through capacity building assistance in the fields of justice and law enforcement in developing countries.

As a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), a legal framework for preventing transnational organized crime, Japan is promoting international cooperation based on the Convention, including mutual legal assistance. Additionally, Japan is engaged in international efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including countermeasures against illicit drugs (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 41 for measures against threats to cyberspace).



A community policing project through the promotion of the Koban system (Japanese-style neighborhood police box system) in Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

## ■ Japan's Efforts

### ■ Enhancing the Capabilities of Security Authorities

Based on their achievements and experiences in international cooperation, Japanese police provide support for establishing institutions, improving administrative capacities, and developing human resources, through the transfer of knowledge and skills to police agencies in developing countries, who play a key role in maintaining security.

As one example, the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan has been dispatching experts and providing training and technical cooperation to Indonesia since 2001. In 2024, the NPA received executive candidates from Indonesia at the Hyogo Prefectural Police and

conducted training, as part of a program to support the reform of the country's National Police. The NPA also accepts trainees from countries in Asia, Africa, and Oceania to show them the ways of the Japanese police.

### ■ The Seas

In order to establish and promote the rule of law at sea, Japan seamlessly supports building the law enforcement capacities of maritime security agencies in the Indo-Pacific region through the provision of patrol vessels and technical assistance, while also promoting cooperation among developing countries for capacity building in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). Specifically, Japan provides vessels and maritime security-related equipment to the Philippines, Viet Nam, and other countries, while facilitating human resources development through training programs and expert dispatch to littoral countries along sea lanes important to Japan, including Indonesia and Malaysia.

Japan's support extends to areas such as the following: (1) Support for improving the capacity to create nautical charts that comply with international standards necessary for safe navigation of ships, (2) Training for maritime security agencies on maritime law enforcement and maritime rescue through international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and (3) Training of personnel involved in the operation of vessel traffic services (VTS) aimed at improving the safety of maritime traffic and alleviating congestion in shipping lanes (see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) website for Efforts for a free and open ocean <sup>46</sup>). Furthermore, Japan supports Pacific Island countries, such as Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia, through the provision of patrol vessels and other equipment related to maritime security and safety, as well as through grant projects such as the "Project for Strengthening Capacity of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies for Effective Maritime Crime Control in the Pacific Island Countries (UN Cooperation / UNODC Implementation)." In addition, following the endorsement at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting in 2022 of the "Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)" to promote information sharing related to MDA, Japan has been providing non-structural support through UNODC to countries in the region. This includes capacity building for detecting dark ships that do not show their position information via the Automatic Identification System (AIS), thereby assisting these countries to better monitor activities, including illegal activities, in their exclusive economic zones.

As part of its efforts to promote regional cooperation in countering piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, Japan led the formulation of the Regional

<sup>46</sup> Efforts for a free and open ocean [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22\\_001603.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001603.html) (in Japanese only)

Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and has been supporting comprehensive training aimed at building capacity for maritime law enforcement agencies of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties. In 2024, 13 ReCAAP Contracting Parties participated in the training program. Each country shared their best practices, which contributed to the participating countries deepening their knowledge related to anti-piracy and to promoting cooperation among coastal countries.

Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations since 2009 in order to counter the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden in Eastern Africa. Furthermore, Japan contributed to the trust fund established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement the Djibouti Code of Conduct,<sup>47</sup> and, through this fund, established the information-sharing centers for anti-piracy measures and the Djibouti Regional Training Centre. This Regional Training Centre is used for training programs that aim to improve the maritime security capabilities of the neighboring countries of Somalia, and is used by Japan and other like-minded countries including EU member countries.

In 2024, Japan also provided support through UNODC to strengthen the capacity of maritime law enforcement agencies to address maritime crime and piracy in Eastern Africa, the Gulf of Guinea as well as the Red Sea.



Arresting techniques training conducted under the "Project for Capacity Development of Djibouti Coast Guard Phase III" in Djibouti (Photo: Japan Coast Guard)

In cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard, Japan also conducts "maritime law enforcement training courses" to combat piracy in Asia and the waters off Somalia. In 2024, 21 maritime security officers from 17 countries participated in the course. Recognizing that the reconstruction and stability of Somalia are essential for a fundamental solution to the piracy issue in the area, Japan has disbursed a total of \$599 million since 2007 for the restoration of basic social services, improvement of law enforcement capabilities, and revitalization of domestic industries in Somalia.

Oil spills from ships that occur at sea not only have an impact on the safe navigation of ships passing through, but can also cause fatal damage to the fishery and tourism industries of coastal countries by polluting the coast. Hence, it is important to strengthen the capacity for dealing with such oil spill incidents.

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has conducted an annual training program in the United Kingdom since 2009, to train nautical chart experts in developing countries under the auspices of the Nippon Foundation and has produced 98 graduates from 51 countries by December 2023. The IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) are engaged in a joint project to create the General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans (GEBCO), a topographical map of the world's seafloor. The map is under revision through the cooperation of experts around the world, including the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard.

## ■ Outer Space

Japan contributes to addressing global issues, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, marine and fishery resource management, agriculture, forest conservation, as well as natural resources and energy, through the implementation of development cooperation and capacity building assistance utilizing space technology.

The international cooperation project "Sentinel Asia," which aims to contribute to disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region utilizing earth observation satellites, began its activities in 2006 under the leadership of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Currently, 123 organizations, including space agencies and disaster management organizations, are members of the project, and have responded to more than 490 emergency observation requests. In addition, through the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMP), which analyzes and integrates various satellite observation data, Japan provides global precipitation information, contributing to the estimation of precipitation in areas where ground observation networks are absent. Japan also provides capacity building assistance for national meteorological agencies in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. In FY2023, Japan conducted a training program for the use of GSMP with more than 50 participants. Moving forward, Japan will publish guidelines for the use of GSMP to further contribute to capacity building in relevant countries.

Japan also proactively provides assistance in the field of human resources development for emerging countries in their efforts toward space development and utilization. In particular, Japan's initiatives, such as providing opportunities to utilize the space environment and the deployment of CubeSats by making use of the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" on the International Space

47 A regional cooperation framework for Somalia and its neighboring countries.

Station (ISS), are highly acclaimed in the international community. From June to December 2023, a new round of application to the "KiboCUBE" program <sup>48</sup> (the 8th round) was opened, resulting in the adoption of a joint proposal from agencies of Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. As of 2024, in addition to the agencies selected in the 8th round, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Mexico, chosen in previous rounds, are developing CubeSats under the program.

Japan provides capacity building assistance to emerging space-faring nations in the development and implementation of domestic space-related laws in order to contribute to the realization of the rule of law in outer space. Since the start of its cooperation in FY2021 on the "Space Law for New Space Actors Project" led by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Japan has been providing assistance toward emerging space-faring nations in the Asia-Pacific region to develop and implement domestic space-related laws and regulations. Japan also contributes to building the legal capacity emerging space-faring nations need to properly manage and supervise their space activities, including private-sector activities. In FY2024, Japan conducted legal capacity building assistance to the Philippines and Thailand, with a focus on the supervision and licensing of space activities.



A candidate site for the installation of the GNSS CORSs Management System (equipment to manage GNSS CORSs data, consisting of Data Center Unit and Software) under "The Project for the Densification of Global Navigation Satellite System Continuously Operating Reference Station Network and the Modernization of Tidal Stations in Bangladesh" (Photo: JICA)

## ■ Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism continues to occur around the world, and counter-terrorism remains an important issue for all countries. With the easing of international

travel restrictions that were put in place in response to COVID-19, challenges that existed priorly, such as measures against terrorist movements and border control, have once again come to the fore.

In recent years, with the internet and social media being widely used, violent extremist ideologies have been increasingly disseminated online. Additionally, challenges are arising due to online fraud, money laundering <sup>49</sup> and terrorist financing through the exploitation of the cryptocurrencies system, as well as new forms of terrorism misusing emerging technologies such as drones. It is necessary for countries worldwide to cooperate more than ever, not only through the United Nations and the G7, but also through regional initiatives such as ASEAN.

In May 2024, Japan held the 6th Meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi, India. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the global terrorism situation and threat perception, as well as countermeasures against terrorism involving the misuse of emerging technologies, against radicalization and terrorist financing. Through such efforts, Japan continues to work toward reducing the global risk of terrorism in cooperation with other countries.

## ■ Countermeasures against Illicit Drugs

Japan proactively makes efforts to combat illegal drugs as an issue to be tackled globally. While actively participating in relevant international conferences such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) under the UN, Japan also provided financial contributions to the UNODC in 2024 to monitor the distribution of illicit drugs, including new compounds, <sup>50</sup> strengthen border control capabilities, and continuously survey the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, a raw material used in drug production, in cooperation with related organizations in Southeast Asia and other countries.

In addition, the NPA invites officials from countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region to share information on the regional drug situation, relevant investigation measures, and modes of international cooperation, and to strengthen cooperative structures.

## ■ Measures against Trafficking in Persons

Based on the "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children," a comprehensive international agreement concerning trafficking in persons, <sup>51</sup> as well as Japan's "2022 Action

<sup>48</sup> A cooperation program between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and JAXA that provides developing countries with the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from "Kibo."

<sup>49</sup> The act of disguising funds acquired through criminal activity as legally-obtained assets, or the act of concealing such funds. One example of such act is when narcotic drug dealers hide drug trafficking proceeds in bank accounts opened under a false name.

<sup>50</sup> New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Also known as "designer drugs." These are substances that are synthesized to produce effects similar to those of regulated drugs (narcotics, etc.). They are not recognized as legal medicines, and are compounds that exhibit psychotropic effects that are not yet regulated.

<sup>51</sup> A crime that involves placing vulnerable individuals, especially women and children, under control or transferring them by means of violence, threat, abduction, or fraud, for the purpose of exploitation, including forced prostitution, sexual services, or labor (see also Article 3 (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children).

Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” Japan is engaged in various efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons.

Japan provides support to foreign victims of trafficking who are sheltered in Japan through its contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The support includes assistance for their safe return to home countries and for their independence and social rehabilitation, including mental healthcare, medical assistance and vocational training. Japan supports measures against trafficking in persons and efforts to strengthen law enforcement capacity in Southeast Asia and other countries, through bilateral technical cooperation and financial contributions to projects delivered by UNODC and other UN agencies. In addition, Japan provides financial contributions and participates in the Bali Process, an Asia-Pacific regional framework against people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

### ■ International Measures against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

There is a high risk for the proceeds of transnational organized crime to be used to finance further organized crime or acts of terrorism. Thus, eliminating such illicit financial flows is an important task for the international community. From this viewpoint, Japan actively participates in discussions on international measures against money laundering and terrorist financing through intergovernmental frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).<sup>52</sup> In order to implement effective global measures against money laundering and terrorist financing, each country needs to properly implement the international standards in this field set by the FATF so as not to create loopholes in countermeasures. Therefore, assistance for countries and regions with insufficient capacity and resources to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing contributes to the improvement of international measures to counter money laundering and terrorist financing. Japan provides assistance for FATF-Style Regional Bodies, a network which promotes the effective implementation of FATF standards by non-FATF member countries, including through mutual evaluations among member countries, with a particular focus on supporting technical assistance activities conducted by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a FATF-Style Regional Body in the Asia-Pacific region.

### (3) Legal technical assistance and assistance for Democratization

Achieving “quality growth” in developing countries requires a solid social foundation that guarantees

individual rights, enables people to engage in economic and social activities in security and with confidence, and is governed in a fair and stable manner. To build such a foundation, it is essential to foster a shared commitment to universal values, such as freedom, democracy, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law, while also securing good governance and ensuring peace, stability, and safety.

In such context, corruption involving public officials, such as bribery and embezzlement, can hinder fair competition and undermine the sound economic growth of developing countries. To realize fair and stable societies, donor countries need to support good governance, including efforts to combat corruption.

Reinforcing the foundations of democracy through citizen participation in governance and development, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights is essential for achieving medium- to long-term stability and development in developing countries. In particular, it is important to support developing countries that are actively working toward democratization, including through assistance in holding fair and transparent elections, and in strengthening the media’s role in ensuring the public’s right to information and protecting freedom of expression.

## Japan’s Efforts

### ■ Legal technical assistance

Japan has been actively supporting the development of legal and judicial systems to help establish the rule of law, promote good governance, foster and entrench democratization, uphold fundamental human rights, and improve investment. This support includes assistance on legal and judicial reforms, legislative drafting, capacity development for national and local government officials responsible for implementing and enforcing law, strengthening audit functions, and developing legal frameworks in areas such as civil law, competition law, intellectual property rights, taxation, auditing, and public investment. These efforts have been carried out in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyz, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. For instance, in Cambodia, the prolonged civil war that lasted over two decades until the 1990s resulted in the abolition of many laws and the mass killing of intellectuals, including legal professionals. Therefore, significant challenges remain in establishing the proper interpretations and application of civil law. In response, Japan has been supporting the drafting and dissemination of civil laws for over 20 years, while also assisting in the training and development of legal professionals, including judges, who are responsible for applying these laws.

<sup>52</sup> Established based on the Economic Declaration of the Arch Summit (G7 Summit) in 1989.

Brazil is a country with one of the highest crime rates in the world, experiencing numerous violent crimes such as homicide and armed robbery. While improving and maintaining public safety is a critical issue, the country faces challenges in conducting sufficient patrol and surveillance activities for crime prevention due to police personnel shortages and other issues.

Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "SP") addresses these challenges using its unique crime prediction system powered by artificial intelligence (AI). SP is a Japanese company that develops and provides CRIME NABI, a system that predicts when and where crimes will occur with high precision and speed, using its unique methodology based on theoretical physics frameworks, analyzing information such as regional crime statistics, population, weather, building structures, and road types. The company was founded by an entrepreneur who was a victim of pickpocketing in Italy, which inspired her to develop CRIME NABI. They were facing difficulties in developing a market for their product in Japan, where public safety is relatively good, but as they explored business models for overseas expansion, they eventually found opportunities in Brazil.

"Unlike Japan, which emphasizes responding to crimes after they occur, Brazil has a high need for crime prevention," explains Mr. KURACHI Takamasa, Representative/Administrator of the Brazil office. "Police organizations in growing urban areas operate 24 hours a day to prevent crime, but they are understaffed, with one person monitoring footage from 20 surveillance cameras. There is high demand for CRIME NABI, which can produce more precise and real-time crime prediction information."

In June 2023, SP began providing patrol operation support services utilizing crime prediction to state and municipal police through the SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (JICA Biz).<sup>\*1</sup> "I think a private company alone would have had difficulties in even arranging a meeting with the Brazilian municipal police," says Mr. Kurachi, emphasizing the advantages of leveraging JICA's program. "Japan's long-standing support for public security improvement in Brazil—particularly through the introduction of the Japanese-style community policing model—helped us in gaining the trust and understanding from the country's police organization."

"The police organization was cautious about providing



Mr. Kurachi (on the left) participating in the signing ceremony with the Fortaleza Public Safety Department (Photo: Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd.)



Mr. Kashihara (on the right) explaining the crime prediction system "CRIME NABI" to the Amapá State Military Police (Photo: Singular Perturbations Co., Ltd.)

crime statistics to external parties for security reasons. We therefore decided to provide tools that allow them to analyze data within their own organization to identify high-crime areas and times, as well as a system to formulate crime prevention surveillance operation plans," explains Mr. Kurachi, describing how the business model was adapted to local circumstances. "With CRIME NABI, if they can predict, for example, that 'at this location, under these weather conditions, crimes are likely to occur at this time,' it would be possible to conduct more efficient patrols. In addition, by supporting the formulation of prioritized surveillance camera lists, targeted and effective monitoring would also be possible."

From August 2023, SP conducted a two-month demonstration experiment targeting copper cable theft in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais State, which is Brazil's second-largest state by population and third-largest by economic scale. They had turned their attention to the rapid increase of copper cable theft in the city, affecting traffic signals and power supply to factories and hospitals. As a result, the number of theft incidents decreased by 69%, from 543 cases in the two months before the experiment to 171 cases, demonstrating the system's effectiveness. From December 2023, Belo Horizonte's municipal guard<sup>\*2</sup> began its operational use of CRIME NABI. As of September 2024, when the JICA Biz ended, SP had signed trial contracts to begin demonstrative experiments with five agencies across five states, including the military police of São Paulo, where many Japanese companies are located. They are also in discussions with six agencies in six states toward signing trial contracts. Furthermore, in addition to government agencies, they are continuously discussing business development with private companies, focusing specifically on the mining and oil industries, which are prone to crime, since they handle critical resources across vast areas.

"In the future, we would like to form partnerships with police organizations in all states in Brazil. We also hope to expand our business to other Latin American countries facing public safety challenges, such as Honduras, Uruguay, and Mexico," says Mr. Henrique Kashihara, General Manager of the Brazil office, regarding future prospects.

\*1 See the glossary on page 130.

\*2 Brazil has multiple police organizations, including the Federal Police, State Military Police, Civil Police, and Municipal Guards. The Military Police are responsible for outdoor patrols, while the Municipal Guards oversee city surveillance camera monitoring for crime prevention.

Following the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, where support for Ukraine's legal system reform—particularly in the judicial sector and the promotion of the rule of law—was affirmed, the Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine was established at the G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting in July of the same year, based on Japan's proposal. The task force aims to formulate effective anti-corruption support programs and prevent duplication of these programs. In November 2024, the third meeting was held in Tokyo and had robust discussions, bringing together about 40 participants from the justice ministries of G7 countries, the EU, international organizations including the United Nations, and Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies.

Japan also takes a leading role in the implementation of the "Kyoto Declaration" <sup>53</sup> adopted at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress) <sup>54</sup> held in Kyoto in March 2021. In June 2024, Japan convened the 3rd "Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific" (Crim-AP), where criminal justice practitioners from 23 countries and organizations in the region actively exchanged views on asset recovery of transnational crime and treatment of women offenders in prisons. Furthermore, from June to July of the same year, the first meeting of the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum—established under Japan's proposal in the 2023 ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface—was held. Approximately 60 young officials from ministries of justice and other agencies of 18 countries and organizations in ASEAN and the G7 participated. Through discussions on national policy challenges and shared issues related to the rule of law, they deepened mutual understanding and built a network to serve as a foundation for future cooperation. In addition, in July 2024, Japan held a symposium titled "The Rule of Law and International Cooperation in the Pacific Island Countries and Regions" as a commemorative event ahead of the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10). Ministers and senior government officials from Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Samoa joined the panel discussion, along with senior officials from Australia and New Zealand, who are Japan's long-standing partners in the region. In the discussion, participants recognized the importance of the rule of law, while also raising numerous challenges related to capacity building. Notably, the representative from Fiji referred to the anti-corruption training organized by JICA and remarked, "We would like to see capacity building programs implemented in the areas of rehabilitation, corrections, and other legal and judicial sectors as well." Australia and New Zealand emphasized not only the importance of coordinating capacity building assistance to avoid duplication, but also the need to provide training that is aligned with the specific needs of the region.

Japan provides capacity building support for national and local public officials involved in the implementation and enforcement of legal and judicial systems. Specifically, it organizes international training programs, research studies, and local seminars aimed at strengthening the development of human resources, including legal practitioners. Participants include legal professionals and officials responsible for lawmaking, such as justice ministry staff, judges, and prosecutors. The programs cover topics such as legislative drafting, improvement of legal and judicial systems operation, and capacity development of relevant professionals, taking into account the needs of each country, recent political developments, and the activities of international organizations such as the United Nations.

To ensure that its cooperation aligns with the specific needs of developing countries, Japan conducts comprehensive and foundational research on their legal systems, including how laws are interpreted and applied. As one of the efforts, Japan has been convening the "Asia-Pacific Real Estate Legislation Study Group" since April 2022 to conduct comparative studies on property legislation in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines. In October 2023, Japan also hosted the 11th Symposium on International Civil and Commercial Law.

## ■ Governance Support, including Anti-Corruption Measures

As a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), Japan has been actively involved in supporting the development of legal frameworks for preventing and combating corruption, and in strengthening the capacities of justice and law enforcement agencies through cooperation with the Convention's secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As part of its legal technical cooperation and



The 26th UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme (Photo: UNAFEI)

<sup>53</sup> An outcome document of the Kyoto Congress that provides medium- to long-term guidelines for the UN and UN Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

<sup>54</sup> The largest UN international conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, held once every five years. UNODC serves as the secretariat of the conference.



## Advancing Inclusive and Just Development through Community-Administration Collaboration

Since the decentralization in 1996, local governments in Tanzania have undertaken a wide range of responsibilities, including primary and secondary education, healthcare, waste management, road maintenance, and community development. However, limited human and financial resources have made it difficult to deliver adequate public services.

To address these challenges, Japan has supported the development and nationwide dissemination of a unique participatory planning method known as the Improved O&OD, since 2002.\*1 This approach enables communities to identify their own issues and priorities and to deliver public services in collaboration with the local governments, thereby promoting regional development.

The featured project of this column aims to further consolidate and promote the adoption of the Improved O&OD method. With support from JICA experts, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) provided training for development officers from 184 districts across 26 regions nationwide, and conducted monitoring and evaluation of



Community members engaged in road construction, with ongoing support from facilitators (government extension officers). (Photo: JICA)



A clinic long desired by the community was built by the village residents themselves, with the local government supporting the installation of the ceiling. (Photo: JICA)

district development planning and project implementation. As a result, during the one-year period from July 2023, approximately 1,600 community-driven activities, such as road maintenance and construction of clinics and schools, were carried out nationwide based on this method.

Through the Improved O&OD approach, communities in Tanzania have been empowered to take the lead in development, while the role of local governments as partners has also been strengthened. Local governments are expected to play an even bigger role in Africa, with its increasing population. Japan remains committed to supporting development based on mutual cooperation between local governments and communities.

\*1 Abbreviation for Opportunities and Obstacles to Development.

governance support, including anti-corruption measures, Japan conducts annual training programs and seminars for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries in regions such as Asia and Africa through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI),<sup>55</sup> operated by the Ministry of Justice of Japan under an agreement with the United Nations.

As a concrete example of Japan's efforts, since 1998, it has held an annual training program to support criminal justice systems in their fight against corruption, with the exception of the year in which it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program selects its themes based on key issues under the UNCAC and contributes to the sound development of criminal justice for anti-corruption efforts, as well as the strengthening of cooperation among participating countries. From October to November 2024, the 26th session was held under the main theme: "Strengthening Prevention, Detection and Prosecution of Corruption, and Public-Private Partnerships." The program was attended by

25 criminal justice practitioners from 20 countries and regions, including four participants from Ukraine.

Furthermore, since 2007, in order to support governance efforts in Southeast Asian countries and contribute to human resources development in the fields of criminal justice and anti-corruption, Japan has held a seminar titled the "Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries (GG Seminar)" annually, except for the year in which it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, the GG Seminar was succeeded by a new initiative, the "ASEAN-Japan Criminal Justice Seminar." In December of the same year, the first seminar was held, featuring two parallel sessions: one under the theme, "Enhancing International Cooperation within the ASEAN Region: Utilizing New Tools for Effective Mutual Legal Assistance" and the other under the theme, "Countermeasures against Overpopulation of Prisons within the ASEAN Region, with a focus on Challenges and Developments regarding Non-custodial Measures and the Treatment of Offenders." Criminal justice practitioners from 10

<sup>55</sup> Established in 1962 under the "Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan for the Establishment of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders," UNAFEI is operated by the UN Training Cooperation Department of the Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Justice. Since its establishment, it has produced over 6,600 alumni from 144 countries and regions.

countries, including 9 ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and Timor-Leste, participated in the seminar.

UNAFEI's activities are not limited to anti-corruption efforts. They also address key issues in crime prevention and criminal justice within the international community. In response to the evolving global landscape, UNAFEI has organized training programs and seminars on these pressing topics for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries worldwide. In 2024, the 183rd International Senior Seminar was held from January to February under the theme "Management of Correctional Institutions in the 21st Century—with a focus on the Nelson Mandela Rules." In May, the 184th International Training Course was conducted under the theme "Countermeasures against Trafficking in Persons, with a focus on Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation." From September to October, the 185th International Training Course was held under the theme "Preventing Inmate Abuse and Corruption in Correctional Facilities: Creating a Rehabilitative Prison Environment."

### ■ Assistance for Democratization

As part of its support for democratization, Japan has implemented the "Project for Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK)" since January 2015. The project aims to improve the accuracy of reporting in multiethnic areas by supporting the establishment of branch offices in regions with ethnic minorities and mixed populations, and by enhancing the skills of reporting, program production, and technical staff through on-the-job training and workshops conducted by JICA experts. In South Sudan, Japan is also supporting the overall capacity development of the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC), the national public broadcaster, including its regional staff, to help ensure reliable and trusted broadcasting across the country.

## (4) Humanitarian Assistance in Response to Natural Disasters

In recent years, the frequency of extreme torrential rainfall, characterized by its short duration and localized occurrence, has been increasing globally, partly due to the effects of climate change. As a result, damage caused by floods and landslides is becoming more intense and frequent. Developing countries, often with fragile economic and social infrastructures, are particularly vulnerable to these disasters and increasingly require support from the international community.

Japan maintains a mechanism that enables prompt provision of emergency assistance in the event of large-scale disasters overseas, in response to requests from

the affected country's government or from international organizations. This assistance may include the dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams, the provision of emergency relief goods, and Emergency Grants. One or more of these tools are chosen according to the magnitude of the disaster and requests from the affected country.

### ■ Japan's Efforts

Japan's humanitarian assistance includes the dispatch of JDR teams, which consist of five types: (i) Urban Search and Rescue Team, (ii) Medical Team, (iii) Infectious Diseases Response Team, (iv) Expert Team (providing technical advice and guidance on emergency response and recovery), and (v) Self-Defense Force Unit (engaged in medical activities or the transport of aid supplies and personnel when deemed particularly necessary). These teams may be deployed individually or in combination.

As in-kind assistance, Japan provides emergency relief goods. Tents, blankets, and other essential items for affected populations are stockpiled in three overseas warehouses, ensuring their prompt delivery to disaster-affected countries when needed.

In 2024, Japan swiftly responded to a series of natural disasters by providing emergency relief goods through JICA. Supplies such as tents, blankets, plastic sheets, water purifiers, and firefighting equipment were provided in response to the damage caused by the heavy snow in Mongolia, the landslide in Papua New Guinea, the flood in Afghanistan, the heavy rain in Brazil, the hurricane in the Central American and Caribbean region, the typhoon in Viet Nam, the forest fire in Bolivia, the hurricane in Cuba, the tropical storm in Honduras, the flood and landslide in Sri Lanka, and the earthquake in Vanuatu.

As financial assistance, Japan provides Emergency Grants to the governments of countries affected by natural disasters or conflict, as well as to the international organizations implementing emergency relief operations in affected areas, aiming to assist victims, refugees and displaced persons.



Mr. Nakahara, then Ambassador of Japan to Honduras (third from the right), handing over emergency relief supplies to Mrs. Cindy Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras (second from the right), in response to the tropical storm disaster in the country (Photo: JICA)

## Protecting Lives and Livelihoods of Habitants in the "Horn of Africa" Region Suffering from Conflict and Floods

Many people in the "Horn of Africa" region\*1 have been displaced from their homes due to the compound effects of prolonged conflicts, climate change, and the surge in global food and energy prices stemming from recent international situations. Since October 2023, repeated floods caused by heavy rainfall have further worsened living conditions, forcing more than two million people to evacuate.

In response, the Government of Japan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided support to protect the lives of those affected by floods and to sustain the livelihoods of displaced persons and their host communities in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, three countries located in the "Horn of Africa" region.

The Somali Region in the east of Ethiopia, which hosts more than 350,000 refugees from neighboring Somalia over the past 40 years, is one of the target areas of this project due to the severe impact of floods. With support from the Government of Japan, UNHCR strengthened its efforts towards building shelters, providing clean drinking water and medical services, raising awareness about hygiene practices, and taking measures to prevent gender-based



A refugee family collecting water from a tank installed in a refugee settlement in Ethiopia with Japan's support (Photo: UNHCR)



Donor Relations Officer Kosaka (center) visiting an elementary school in Ethiopia where refugee students and host community students learn together (Photo: UNHCR)

violence, thereby contributing to the improvement of the lives of approximately 220,000 people.

Mr. KOSAKA Junichiro, Donor Relations Officer at the UNHCR Ethiopia, states, "Addressing prolonged conflicts and climate change requires support from a medium- to long-term perspective. In Ethiopia, we are leveraging Japan's strength in the 'Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus' approach to incorporate sustainable development perspectives from the early stages of humanitarian crises. This involves enhancing the use of existing public services and strengthening local communities' crisis response capabilities."

\*1 A term referring to the region that projects like a "horn" extending toward the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea in northeastern Africa, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya.

In 2024, Japan provided support through international organizations to the countries affected by natural disasters, including assistance in water and sanitation, as well as the provision of shelter and food. Such relief efforts were extended to Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and Bangladesh following severe floods; to Papua New Guinea after a landslide; and to Viet Nam and Myanmar in the aftermath of typhoons.

Japanese NGOs provide assistance to disaster-affected populations by utilizing ODA and also serve as implementing partners to international organizations and others in carrying out emergency relief activities. Japan Platform (JPF)<sup>56</sup> offers humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. JPF-affiliated NGOs deliver a wide range of support tailored to local needs in areas where government assistance has difficulty reaching, including Kenya (drought and floods caused by climate change), Afghanistan (earthquake),

Bangladesh (flood), and Ukraine (conflict), among other regions (For details, see Part V, Section 1 (3), p. 134).

Disaster response is a shared challenge for Japan and Southeast Asian countries, both of which are highly prone to natural disasters. Japan has provided support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), established in 2011, and has contributed to strengthening the Centre's disaster response capacity, and others. In 2024, Japan continued to support the development of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and utilize this system to ensure the swift delivery of emergency relief items to affected countries. Japan also supported human resources development for the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), which conducts rapid damage assessments of disaster-stricken areas, as well as for future leaders of the National Disaster Management Organisations of ASEAN countries.

<sup>56</sup> See glossary on page 137.

## (1) Climate Change and the Environment

Global environmental challenges, including climate change, are pressing issues that the international community is working on together, as is addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the wake of extreme weather events and devastating natural disasters in recent years. Following the G7 Hiroshima Summit held under Japan's Presidency in 2023, the Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué in 2024 reaffirmed the need to take steps to address the triple crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, faced by the planet.

Japan has vigorously worked on addressing these issues and provided assistance to developing countries, as one of the top donors, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF),\* a financing mechanism for major multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Japan's Efforts

### Climate Change

The issue of climate change is a threat to the sustainable development of all countries in the world as well as a security issue that concerns the very existence of humankind. All countries must work together to address this issue, which requires increased concerted efforts by the international community, including not only developed countries but also developing countries. The Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) held in 2015, as a framework under which all countries would work toward greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. The Paris Agreement entered into force in 2016.

In October 2020, Japan declared that it would achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. In April 2021, Japan also declared its aim to reduce its GHG emissions by 46% in FY2030 from its FY2013 levels, and to continue

strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50%. In October 2021, Japan submitted its "Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)"<sup>57</sup> reflecting these goals, together with "The Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement" to the UN.

At the G7 Cornwall Summit in June 2021, Japan announced a total of ¥6.5 trillion in assistance from both public and private sources over five years from 2021 to 2025. Furthermore, at COP26 held in the same year, Japan announced its intention to provide up to an additional \$10 billion from both public and private sources over the following five years, including by doubling finance for adaptation to approximately ¥1.6 trillion over the same period.

### (COP29)

From November 11 to 24, 2024, COP29 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Attending the ministerial-level session, then Minister of the Environment Asao emphasized the importance of steady implementation of NDCs toward achieving the 1.5°C goal.<sup>58</sup> At the conference, a decision on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance was adopted, setting the support goal of "at least \$300 billion per year by 2035 for developing country Parties." It was also decided to call on all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing country Parties for climate action from all public and private sources to at least \$1.3 trillion per year



Then Minister of the Environment Asao delivering a speech at the ministerial-level session of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Photo: Ministry of the Environment)

<sup>57</sup> Parties set their GHG emission reduction targets and formulate measures to achieve them as National Determined Contribution (NDC). It will then be submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat.

<sup>58</sup> A goal set to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level.

by 2035. In addition, decisions on the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) were adopted, and detailed operational rules for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which enables the international transfer of GHG emission reductions and removals, were finalized and became fully operational.

### **(“Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)”)**

In his Policy Speech in 2022, then Prime Minister Kishida announced the “Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)” concept as a platform to aim for decarbonization in Asia. In March 2023, the first AZEC Ministerial Meeting was held with the participation of nine Southeast Asian countries and Australia, marking the official launch of AZEC. The first AZEC Leaders Meeting was held in December 2023, followed by the 2nd AZEC Ministerial Meeting in August 2024. The principles of AZEC consist of simultaneously achieving decarbonization, economic growth, and energy security, as well as pursuing net-zero emissions through various pathways. At the 2nd AZEC Leaders Meeting held in October 2024, an agreement was reached on an “Action Plan for the Next Decade” with three pillars: (i) promoting “AZEC solutions” such as developing rules to promote activities that contribute to decarbonization in Asia; (ii) launching initiatives for decarbonization in the sectors with high GHG emissions, such as electricity, transportation, and industry; and (iii) promoting tangible projects, while reaffirming the AZEC principles.

### **(Green Climate Fund (GCF))**

Japan supports developing countries through its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF),\* the world’s largest multilateral climate fund. Japan has contributed a total of approximately ¥319 billion to the fund to date. In addition, for the second replenishment period from 2024 to 2027, Japan has announced its intention to contribute up to ¥165 billion, the same amount as the first replenishment. At the GCF, a total of 285 projects have been approved and implemented by October 2024, which are expected to reduce GHG emissions by three billion tons and increase the resilience of one billion people through support for adaptation. Additionally, from Japan, JICA, MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are approved as “Accredited Entities” that are entitled to propose GCF projects. To date, three projects by MUFG Bank, Ltd. have been approved, namely a private sustainable forestry project in seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (March 2020), assistance on a green bond issuance project in eight countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa (October 2022), and a blended finance project to support mitigation and adaptation in 19 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean (October 2023), along with two projects by JICA, “Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate

Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds in Timor-Leste” (March 2021) and “Building Climate Resilient and Safer Islands in the Maldives” (July 2021).

### **(Bilateral Assistance)**

As a specific example of bilateral assistance, Japan dispatches experts on climate actions to the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, which Japan supported the construction of through grants. Through this Centre, Japan strives to develop human resources in the Pacific Island countries vulnerable to climate change. This support is expected to improve the capacity to implement climate change solutions, which will widely benefit more than 10 million people in 14 Pacific Island countries. In addition, in cooperation with UNDP, Japan supports the shift to renewable energy in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

In relation to the African region, at TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan launched the “Green Growth Initiative with Africa (GGA)” with the goal of addressing climate change and transforming the energy structure toward decarbonization. Under this initiative, Japan aims to maximize its cooperation through three approaches, (i) ownership and co-creation, (ii) flexible finance mobilization, and (iii) collaboration with diverse partners, and is promoting various efforts by both the public and private sectors to contribute to sustainable growth in Africa (see Part IV, Section 8 on page 118 for efforts related to green growth).

As part of its assistance for climate change actions in developing countries, Japan promotes the “Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM),”\* which facilitates the diffusion of advanced decarbonizing technologies to partner countries around the world, including developing countries. This contributes to GHG emission reductions in partner countries, and helps Japan to achieve its reduction targets, as part of the achieved emission reductions in developing countries can be credited as those of Japan. In 2013, Japan signed the



A Forest Authority staff member and a JICA expert discussing seedling cultivation in a technical cooperation project aimed at sustainable forest management in Papua New Guinea (Photo: JICA)

first Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the implementation of the JCM with Mongolia, followed by the signing of an MoC with Ukraine in February 2024. As of 2024, Japan has established the JCMs with 29 countries. Since the start of the JCM in 2013, JCM credits have been issued from 46 energy-saving and renewable energy projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Palau, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These JCM projects contribute to GHG emission reductions worldwide.

Japan will continue to lead the international community toward the realization of a decarbonized society as envisaged in the Paris Agreement.

## Biodiversity Loss

In recent years, the expansion of human activities in scope, scale, and types has given rise to serious concerns about biodiversity loss, such as the degradation of habitats and the destruction of ecosystems. Japan places importance on biodiversity efforts, as seen in its initiative to hold the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)\* (COP10) in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, in 2010. In addition, Japan makes contributions to the Japan Biodiversity Fund <sup>59</sup> launched at COP10 as well as the GBF Fund to implement the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)," which was adopted as new global goals and targets at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) in December 2022, to support the capacity building of developing countries.

In October 2024, the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Cali, Colombia, where parties agreed to establish a framework for a multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism for the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) <sup>60</sup> on genetic resources and to set up a subsidiary body on the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. Japan will continue to contribute toward the 2030 mission "to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery" and the 2050 Vision of "living in harmony with nature," as described in the GBF, based on the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Japan 2023-2030."

Illegal trade of wildlife has also become an increasingly serious issue and is causing concerns among the international community, as it has become one of the funding sources for international terrorist organizations. Japan has been actively contributing to the discussions

at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has been working on resolving the issue in cooperation with the international community through contributions to projects implemented by the CITES Secretariat. As a specific initiative, Japan supports the construction of facilities and other measures to combat elephant poaching, mainly in Africa.

## Conservation of the Marine Environment

The importance of addressing the problem of marine plastic litter has grown in recent years as an urgent challenge, with concerns of adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem, tourism, fisheries, and human health. As of December 2024, 87 countries and regions have shared the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision," an initiative led by Japan at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 that aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. In order to realize the Vision, Japan launched the "MARINE Initiative" that focuses on (i) Management of wastes, (ii) Recovery of marine litter, (iii) Innovation, and (iv) Empowerment. Under this Initiative, Japan supports capacity building and infrastructure development for waste management in developing countries in order to promote effective measures against marine plastic litter worldwide.

At the Sixth Meeting of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy held in September 2024, Japan highlighted its concrete actions to end plastic pollution as the proponent of the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision." Japan also emphasized that one of the expected outcomes of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) to be held in June 2025 is to increase momentum for negotiation and implementation of various international agreements on the marine environment. Furthermore, Japan reiterated its continued active engagement in the negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution currently under negotiation, in order to realize an effective and progressive treaty in which many countries would participate. Noting that blue carbon <sup>61</sup> is one of the areas where the Panel could contribute beyond 2025, Japan shared how it calculates the amount of carbon absorbed by blue carbon ecosystems <sup>62</sup> and reflects it in its greenhouse gas inventory <sup>63</sup> submissions. In April 2024, Japan became the first country in the world to make a report that includes the amount absorbed by seaweed beds.

Japan supports efforts against marine plastic litter

<sup>59</sup> Established in the Secretariat of the CBD by Japan during its COP10 Presidency with the aim of building capacities in developing countries.

<sup>60</sup> Although there is currently no internationally agreed, clear definition, the term generally refers to data related to the DNA of plants, animals, microorganisms, and other organisms. In recent years, such data has increasingly been used in research and development across various fields, prompting discussions on mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

<sup>61</sup> Carbon that is captured by living organisms in coastal and ocean ecosystems, accumulates in the soil, and sinks to the seafloor.

<sup>62</sup> Major carbon sinks of blue carbon consisting of seaweed beds (seagrass and algae), salt marshes and tidal flats, and mangrove forests.

<sup>63</sup> Data that compiles the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and absorbed domestically in a year. Under the UNFCCC, each country is required to prepare and submit this data annually to the Convention secretariat.

in the field of marine environmental protection, and in 2024, implemented the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Group and Region Focus) "Waste Management towards Control of Marine Litter."

As part of expanded assistance for ASEAN to address marine plastic litter issues, which was announced at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2018, Japan has conducted human resource development, awareness-raising, and public relations activities for environmental conservation, primarily on reducing marine plastic litter in ASEAN countries since 2019. In 2024, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF),<sup>64</sup> Japan provided assistance to strengthen the capacity of local governments in ASEAN member states to address microplastics and water pollution, and to promote a plastic circular society in the ASEAN region. In addition, Japan provides capacity building support for monitoring and reducing marine debris from fisheries. Furthermore, based on the commitments made at the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan has been working on harmonizing monitoring methods for ocean surface microplastics to ensure data comparability and data aggregation in cooperation with experts from various countries. In 2024, Japan launched a database called the "Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI)" that collects monitoring data from around the world and provides it along with visualizations on maps.

Japan supports marine plastic litter countermeasures through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) especially in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Pacific Island countries. In response to the worsening marine pollution caused by plastic waste, UNEP



Measuring plastic waste using drones through technical cooperation in Thailand "Project for Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas" (Photo: JICA)

developed a method for monitoring the leakage of plastic waste into the ocean, starting from 2018. In addition, to enable science-based policymaking, UNEP conducts sampling surveys of plastic litter and scientific analysis on its pathways. UNEP formulates policy recommendations and guidelines based on the results, and in collaboration with a Japanese IT company, a plastic leakage hotspot map was created, identifying over 3,000 leakage points (hotspots), and released it on a dedicated website<sup>65</sup> available to the general public.

## ■ Protection of Forests and Marine Living Resources

Among forest resources, tropical forests account for approximately half of the world's forests and play an important role in tackling climate change and conserving biodiversity. Japan invited the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to establish its headquarters in Yokohama, and has been supporting the sustainable management of tropical forests as well as legal and sustainable tropical timber trade through the organization for nearly 40 years. Through voluntary contributions to ITTO, the Government of Japan provides support for tropical timber-producing countries, including holding workshops in Brazil in 2024 for companies involved in forestry, utilizing tools for sustainable forest management (such as tropical forest monitoring software).

Regarding the conservation of marine living resources, Japan conducts training and workshops on countermeasures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the ASEAN region in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). These cooperative efforts help reduce the impact on fish ecosystems of IUU fishing that exceeds regulatory thresholds. In doing so, Japan contributes to the sustainability of the fishing industry, one of the core industries for ASEAN



Forest biomass survey exercise conducted jointly with German experts in Phou Khao Khouay National Park in Vientiane Province, Laos (Photo: JICA)

<sup>64</sup> See [5](#) on page 91.

<sup>65</sup> "Mobile Application for Macro Plastic Survey" <https://arcg.is/1DO0WW>

countries, and to the sustainable development of fishing communities.

### ■ Environmental Pollution Control Measures

In developing countries, regulatory measures on hazardous chemicals are often inadequate, which in some cases leads to environmental pollution and health damage. Japan has accumulated knowledge, experience, and technology related to environmental pollution control measures and utilizes them to solve the problems in developing countries. Japan also conducts technical cooperation, such as dispatching experts to and accepting trainees from developing countries, in the areas of environmental management techniques in the chemical industry, analysis techniques and risk evaluation for environmentally hazardous chemicals, as well as trace analysis techniques for hazardous chemicals.

The "Minamata Convention on Mercury" was adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2013 and entered into force in August 2017. Through its experience with the Minamata disease, Japan has accumulated technology and expertise in preventing environmental pollution and health damage caused by mercury, and is actively sharing the technology and expertise with the world, thereby demonstrating leadership in global mercury control efforts. In addition to conducting training programs on mercury management to support Nepal, Malaysia, and other countries in ratifying the Convention, Japan conducted technology needs surveys in Indonesia, Viet Nam, and other countries, which has ratified the Convention, to promote the overseas expansion of Japan's advanced mercury management technology. Furthermore, since 2019, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) as an implementing agency has been conducting the "Project for Promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences" with Japan's contribution. Through this project, Japan supports the Parties to the Convention in improving the quantity

and quality of domestic mercury-related information and developing a platform to implement mercury management in line with the Convention.

In the field of waste management, based on the "MARINE Initiative," Japan announced its commitment to develop 10,000 officials engaging in waste management around the world by 2025 and has already trained approximately 30,000 officials by FY2023 through various means, such as training programs.

Moreover, as a model project for waste management support in Africa, Japan promotes resource circulation through efficient resource recovery in Kenya. The outcomes and experiences gained from this project are shared with member countries and cities through the "African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)."\* At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced that, under the ACCP, it would promote decarbonization and recycling in the waste sector, improve public health including through waste management that benefits 30 million people in Africa, as well as implement human resources development for 1,000 people. Through the ACCP, which has expanded to 47 countries and 188 cities, including 5 countries and 80 cities that joined after TICAD 8, Japan has been promoting efforts in these fields.



Wastewater treatment plant constructed with yen loans in the northern part of Florianópolis City, Santa Catarina State, Brazil (Photo: State Water Supply and Sanitation Company of Santa Catarina)



### Glossary

#### Global Environment Facility (GEF)

A multilateral financial mechanism for six multilateral conventions, namely the UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), that provides primarily grants for projects that would contribute to global environmental benefits in developing countries. Established in 1991, 186 member countries including Japan are participating (as of December 2024). The World Bank administers the contributions by donors. The GEF supports developing countries under five focal areas, namely biodiversity loss, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste through 18 implementing agencies including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

### Green Climate Fund (GCF)

A multilateral climate fund established by the decision of COP16 (Cancun Agreement) in 2010, in order to support developing countries in reducing their GHGs (mitigation) and in their responses to the effects of climate change (adaptation).

### Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

A mechanism to quantitatively evaluate contributions from Japan to GHG emission reductions or removals realized through the diffusion or implementation of leading decarbonizing technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure, etc., mainly in developing countries, to acquire part of the credit, and to use the contributions to achieve Japan's NDC.

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A convention adopted in 1992 to advance global efforts to address biodiversity issues. The objectives of CBD are the following: (1) conservation of biological diversity, (2) sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (utilizing living resources for the future while maintaining diversity at each level of ecosystems, species, and genes), and (3) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Through the provision of economic and technical assistance to developing countries from developed countries, the international community as a whole facilitates the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity worldwide.

### African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)

ACCP was established in 2017 by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, together with JICA, the City of Yokohama, UNEP, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) aiming to share knowledge on waste management and promote the achievement of the SDGs in Africa. 188 cities in 47 countries in Africa have joined the Platform, holding plenary sessions, developing various guidelines and educational materials, and planning study tours, among others.

## (2) Health and Medical Care

SDG 3 aims to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." In addition, achieving universal health coverage (UHC)<sup>66</sup> is positioned as an important global target in order to respond to various health issues, diversified across countries and regions. On the other hand, at present, it is estimated that at least half of the world's population has no access to basic medical care, and that over 4.9 million<sup>67</sup> children under the age of five die annually due to preventable diseases. Approximately 287,000 women<sup>68</sup> die during and following pregnancy and childbirth per year, primarily due to the lack of emergency obstetric care provided by doctors and midwives. Moreover, COVID-19 has had a wide range of effects on people around the world. It has also exposed various vulnerabilities, including those related to vaccine distribution, in the current global health architecture (GHA), which comprises the governance and finance for addressing global health and medical issues.

In light of various changes in the global situation, such as the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Japan formulated the "Global Health Strategy" in May 2022. The goal of the Strategy is (i) to contribute to developing GHA for international health security and strengthening Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) for public health emergencies including pandemics, and (ii) to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC

required for the post-COVID-19 era in order to embody human security, and Japan promotes initiatives in line with this Strategy.

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Building Global Health Architecture (GHA) that Contributes to Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR) to Future Health Crises

Building on the experience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response, and amid an unprecedented level of interest from the international community in strengthening PPR for future health emergencies, Japan is actively cooperating with international organizations to address these challenges. Japan has provided financial contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Health Emergencies Programme,\* the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE),\* and other relevant programs to support WHO's response to health crises. These contributions were also used to respond to the acute phase of COVID-19. Through cooperation with the World Bank, Japan also provides support for capacity building and strengthening the health system to prepare for and respond to health emergencies in developing countries. Additionally, Japan has supported the Pandemic Fund, launched in 2022 and hosted by the World Bank, as one of its founding donors, assisting its efforts in enhancing the PPR capabilities of low- and middle-income countries. In October 2024, at the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the

<sup>66</sup> The concept that all people have access to effective and quality-assured health services at affordable costs without financial hardship.

<sup>67</sup> According to data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/>

<sup>68</sup> According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) (as of April 26, 2024). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

Bank and the Fund, then Finance Minister Kato announced Japan's intention to contribute \$50 million in addition to the \$70 million already pledged. Japan also contributes to the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HEPRTF), established in cooperation with the World Bank Group. Furthermore, Japan serves as a co-chair, together with the World Bank, of the Health Systems Transformation and Resilience Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HSTRF), which has been active since 2024.

Based on the achievements that Japan made as the G7 Presidency in 2023, Japan continues in 2024 to work on raising international awareness and maintaining momentum through various international conferences that Japan hosts or participates in, under the philosophy of breaking the cycle of "panic" and "forgetfulness" and guiding structural global change in preparation for the next pandemic. For example, the outcome document of the G7 Apulia Summit, held in June 2024, reflected key priorities that Japan has consistently placed importance on and has been emphasized during the G7 Hiroshima Summit and other forums, such as achieving UHC, equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) for infectious disease emergencies, strengthening GHA, and enhancing coordination between financial and health authorities. At the G20, discussions on strengthening pandemic response financing have continued, building on the outcomes of the G7 in 2023, and Japan has been actively contributing to these discussions.

During the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting held in August, two thematic events focused on health were organized. During these events, titled "Global Health Financing to Achieve Universal Health Coverage" and "Accelerating Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with Innovations toward 2030," active discussions were held with participation from representatives of African countries and the Global Health Initiatives, etc. Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka, who delivered opening remarks at the latter event, emphasized the importance of mobilizing private funds from the perspective of sustainable financing, while referring to the "Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health (Triple I)," which was endorsed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in 2023.

Japan also actively participates in rulemaking in the international arena. Since February 2022, Japan has been taking part in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on a "WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) (WHO CA+)" held under the WHO. Japan also actively contributed to discussions on the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR),<sup>69</sup> and a set of IHR amendments was adopted by consensus on June 1, 2024, the final day of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

## ■ Promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Japan has promoted international cooperation based on the recognition that it is necessary to address existing health issues that suffered a setback since the spread of COVID-19 and to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC.

Japan has long provided support for the health and medical care systems in countries in Southeast Asia and Africa based on the view that building a sustainable and resilient health system will serve as the foundation for controlling infectious diseases. In addition, based on various lessons learned from pandemics such as COVID-19, Japan is working to strengthen health systems, including the establishment and networking of core medical facilities and support for human resources development in the medical field. For example, in March 2024, Japan and Uganda exchanged notes regarding Japan's support through grants for the improvement of medical equipment in two of the three regional referral hospitals in the eastern part of the country, with the aim of strengthening the medical systems in hospitals in eastern Uganda, where the poverty rate is high. These efforts contribute to the promotion of UHC, as well as to the PPR for public health emergencies. Japan also provides assistance in a wider range of areas to create a more resilient environment against infectious diseases, including the development of water and sanitation infrastructure such as water supply and sewage systems, and the enhancement of food security. Japan also contributes to the prevention of infectious diseases by collaborating with NGOs to build handwashing facilities and toilets in health facilities and schools, and to conduct hygiene awareness activities. In partnership with Sanrio Company, Ltd., Japan has also implemented awareness-raising activities using handwashing videos featuring Hello Kitty, one of the company's characters (see Part III, 3 (3) on page 73 on efforts in the area of water and sanitation).

Japan has consistently emphasized the importance of UHC as the foundation for human capital development and sustainable growth. In close collaboration with relevant organizations, including the World Bank and WHO, Japan has been supporting developing countries in achieving UHC. From this perspective, it was announced in 2024 that the "UHC Knowledge Hub" will be established in Japan the following year, in partnership with the World Bank and WHO, with the aim of collecting and sharing knowledge on health financing and other relevant areas, as well as developing human resources among finance and health authorities in developing countries.

Primary healthcare services under UHC include all types of services, including nutritional improvement,

<sup>69</sup> Health regulations established by the WHO with the aim of preventing the international spread of diseases to the greatest extent possible.



Remote treatment being provided by the Indonesia University Hospital under technical cooperation "Project for Capacity Development of ICU Using Telemedicine under COVID-19 Pandemic" in Indonesia (Photo: Otto Ferdinand)

vaccination, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, infectious disease control, noncommunicable disease (NCD) control, and comprehensive community care and long-term care for older persons (see Part III, Section 1 (1) on page 33 regarding nutritional improvement).

Especially with regard to maternal and child health in developing countries, there are major issues that are yet to be solved. In response to this situation, in 2024, Japan provided support to improve maternal and child health in numerous countries, including Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Zambia.

Japan carries out activities utilizing the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook as a means of improving maternal and child health, drawing on its own experience and expertise. The MCH Handbook can contribute to the Continuum of Care (CoC) from pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period,<sup>70</sup> to the neonatal period, infancy, and early childhood. It also enables mothers to acquire knowledge about health, raising their awareness and helping them modify their behavior. As a concrete example of this assistance, in Indonesia, the MCH Handbook is widely used throughout the country as a result of Japan's technical cooperation on its operation. Furthermore, the Government of Indonesia, together with JICA, hosts international training sessions that invite third countries promoting the use of the MCH Handbook to share and learn from each other's experiences and knowledge. Since 2007, a total of 18 countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Palestine, Tajikistan, and Uganda, have been invited to 16 training sessions.

In the African region, the "Tunis Declaration," which

was adopted at TICAD 8 in August 2022 as its outcome document, confirms the importance of realizing the concept of human security, building a resilient and sustainable society to achieve the SDGs, and intensifying efforts in the health sector to achieve UHC. The Joint Communiqué of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in August 2024 also expressed the importance of promoting prevention of diseases, strengthening health systems including local manufacturing and value chains of medicines and vaccines to achieve UHC and advance primary healthcare.

Japanese NGOs implement projects in the area of health and medical care using the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the Japan Platform (JPF).<sup>71</sup> For example, in 2024, AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services, a Japanese NGO, constructs public health facilities equipped for childbirth and provides medical equipment and supplies, in addition to conducting technical training for skilled birth attendants in the Chure Rural Municipality of Kailali District in far western Nepal.

Japan works in cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the World Bank, as well as NGOs to promote maternal and child health that includes sexual and reproductive health services, aiming to thereby improve the health of a greater number of women and children. Japan also contributes to raising vaccination rates in developing countries through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance,\* and bilateral cooperation. In June 2024, Japan announced a contribution of \$30 million to the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA),<sup>72</sup> a financing mechanism launched by Gavi to accelerate the expansion of commercially viable vaccine manufacturing in Africa.



A doctor conducts a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for an infant at a makeshift clinic in Gaza City, Palestine (Photo: CCP Japan)

<sup>70</sup> The period after childbirth in which women recover to a similar condition before pregnancy, usually around one to two months after birth.

<sup>71</sup> See glossary on page 137.

<sup>72</sup> A support program by Gavi aimed at establishing a sustainable vaccine manufacturing foundation in Africa and improving the resilience of vaccine supply. It provides funding to vaccine manufacturers that meet certain criteria to promote the strengthening of vaccine manufacturing capacity. The program will provide up to \$1 billion in support over ten years starting in 2024.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) positions health as one of the key priority sectors in its "Strategy 2030" and sets the following three pillars to achieve UHC in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with Japan: (i) building institutional framework, (ii) accelerating human resources development, and (iii) investing in infrastructures. In April 2021, Japan began contributing to the ADB's Japan Trust Fund for the purpose of providing technical assistance and small grants to support initiatives based on these three pillars. As of October 2024, Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$15 million through the Fund.

Additionally, at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) Leaders' Meeting in September 2024, the four countries, which have experience in cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines, confirmed that they would initially focus on cervical cancer prevention while laying the groundwork to address other types of cancer, as part of their cooperation on health and safety in the Indo-Pacific region. In this context, Japan confirmed that it will continue to (i) provide medical equipment and facilities and technical assistance, (ii) collaborate with cancer-related institutions in each country, and (iii) contribute to international organizations (such as Gavi). In the same month, Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to achieve goals such as promoting UHC and strengthening international health security. Japan has supported building health and medical systems in developing countries for many years from various perspectives such as supporting the capacity building of healthcare workers, networking regional hospitals, and strengthening regional health systems. During the COVID-19 crisis, the medical facilities that Japan has supported evidently played central roles for infection control measures.

### ■ Efforts on Individual Global Health Issues

#### (The Three Major Infectious Diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria))

SDG target 3.3 sets out to end epidemics of the three major infectious diseases by 2030. Japan has been actively supporting measures against these diseases and strengthening health systems, which also contributes to building GHA and promoting UHC, through the Global Fund.<sup>73</sup> From its establishment to September 2024, Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$4.9 billion to the Global Fund. In order to ensure that measures against the three major infectious diseases are carried out more effectively, Japan also implements bilateral cooperation such as enhancing health systems, community empowerment, and improving maternal and



A JOCV providing exercise therapy guidance at Belau National Hospital in Palau (Photo: JICA)

child health, as a complementary support to the efforts made through the Global Fund.

As for bilateral cooperation in HIV/AIDS countermeasures, Japan provides assistance to raise awareness for preventing new infections as well as to promote testing and counseling. Primarily in Africa, in 2024, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) continue to engage vigorously in deepening people's knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention and providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

With regard to tuberculosis, Japan engages in reducing the annual number of deaths from tuberculosis in developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa, in accordance with the "Stop TB Japan Action Plan," revised in 2021. As an interim goal by 2025, Japan aims to achieve a 75% reduction in deaths from tuberculosis (compared to 2015) and a 50% reduction in tuberculosis incidence (compared to 2015; less than 55 cases per 100,000 people) through a public-private partnership, drawing on Japan's own experience and technology cultivated through its struggle against tuberculosis.

In respect of malaria, one of the major causes of infant mortality, Japan supports efforts to combat malaria by strengthening local communities in Myanmar and Solomon Islands. Through contributions to the Global Fund, Japan also takes measures against malaria on a worldwide level.

#### (Responding to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR))

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)<sup>74</sup> is a serious threat to public health, and in recent years, the momentum for countermeasures has been growing. In order to advance measures against AMR, Japan promotes the "One Health Approach," in which actors engaged in the areas of human, animal, and environmental health work together. Based on the consensus at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 on promoting the One Health Approach, Japan announced in the same year that it

<sup>73</sup> Public-Private Partnership established in 2002, following the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, where infectious disease control was raised as a major agenda for the first time. It contributes to efforts in achieving the SDGs by providing financial cooperation for measures against the three major infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria) and strengthening health systems in developing countries.

<sup>74</sup> Pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses, gaining resistance to antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antiviral drugs, which causes the drugs to lose sufficient efficacy.

would contribute approximately ¥1 billion to GARDP,<sup>75</sup> which promotes research and development for new antibiotics and diagnostics. Japan takes the lead in tackling AMR, including through its participation in the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. In 2024, Japan contributed approximately ¥250 million to GARDP.

### (Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs))

Parasitic and bacterial infections, such as Chagas disease, Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis, are known as "neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)." 1.6 billion people worldwide are infected with NTDs, causing major socio-economic losses to developing countries. In June 2022, Japan signed "the Kigali Declaration on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)" and cooperates closely with the relevant countries and international organizations on countermeasures. As of November 2024, Japan has contributed a total of ¥24.72 billion to the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund and provides support for countermeasures against NTDs through GHIT. In May 2024, a pediatric formulation for Schistosomiasis developed through support from GHIT was included in the WHO List of Prequalified Medicinal Products.

In addition, Japan has provided support in combating Lymphatic Filariasis for Pacific Island countries through technical cooperation since the 1970s. The "Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region" provided support through a public-private partnership, with JICA dispatching experts for technical guidance and a Japanese pharmaceutical company offering anthelmintics to WHO free of charge, enabling mass drug administration to stop transmission in infected areas. This long-term support from Japan has proved

successful, with nine of the Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) having eliminated Lymphatic Filariasis. Currently, Japan implements the "Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis Phase 2" aimed at eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis in Papua New Guinea through the dispatch of experts and other means.

### (Polio)

Polio is on the brink of eradication. Japan, in cooperation mainly with UNICEF and Gavi, provides support toward its eradication with a focus on countries where the disease remains endemic (countries with endemic wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan). During 2024, in Afghanistan, Japan provided support for routine immunization activities and the procurement of vaccines necessary for polio vaccination campaigns in cooperation with UNICEF. Similar supports are also ongoing in Pakistan.



A JOCV working with hospital staff on nursing activities at Kampong Cham Hospital in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia, constructed through Japanese grants (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### WHO Health Emergencies Programme

A program within WHO that responds to health emergencies. It evaluates the health emergency response capacity of countries, supports drafting of plans, and monitors new and ongoing health emergency situations. It also provides health services to save lives in countries where health emergencies are occurring.

### Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)

An emergency fund for responding to outbreaks and states of emergency, established by WHO in 2015, reflecting on the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014. Decision-making regarding 24 hours of that decision.

### Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

A public-private partnership established in 2000 with the aim of saving children's lives and protecting people's health by improving immunization coverage in developing countries. Governments of both donor countries and developing countries, relevant international organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, private foundations, and civil society participate in this partnership. Since its establishment, it is said to have vaccinated more than 1 billion children and saved over 16.2 million lives.

<sup>75</sup> An abbreviation for Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership.

### (3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are vital issues linked to human life. Around the world, approximately 2.2 billion people cannot access safely-managed drinking water, and approximately 3.5 billion people live without safely-managed sanitation facilities such as toilets.<sup>76</sup> In particular, in developing countries where piped water is not widely available, women and children are often forced to spend hours fetching water, which limits women's participation in society and children's access to education. Water and sanitation issues are therefore also important for promoting gender equality and an inclusive society. Furthermore, an unreliable water supply has a negative impact on healthcare and agriculture. The development of water and sanitation infrastructure will also help create an environment that is resistant to infectious diseases, and is necessary for achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC).<sup>77</sup> In recognition of these needs, SDG 6 sets forth the objective to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."

#### Japan's Efforts

As a follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference held in May 2023, the Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in June 2024. Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa participated through a video message, stating that Japan is engaged in various activities in cooperation with a number of international organizations through water-related action plans of the international community, including the "Kumamoto Initiative for Water."<sup>78</sup>

Japan continues to support the expansion of access to safe water in developing countries by leveraging its extensive domestic experience, knowledge, and technology, and has been the top donor in the water and sanitation sector since the 1990s in terms of cumulative total assistance. For example, in South Sudan, where the development of basic infrastructure has been delayed since its independence, Japan provides grants for the development of water supply facilities, as well as technical cooperation to strengthen capacities for the operation and maintenance of such facilities, in addition to water fee collection. In Cambodia, Japan supports

the improvement of living environments and tourism development in the tourist city of Siem Reap through the expansion of water supply facilities (water intake facilities, water treatment plants, distribution pipes, etc.) and human resource development for service expansion. In Madagascar, Japan decided in October 2024 to provide grants for the expansion and renewal of existing water treatment plants and water transmission and distribution facilities in Toamasina, the country's second-largest city where its largest port is located.

Japan also cooperates with Japanese and local private companies and research institutions. For example, in Kenya, the "SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for the Measures against Non-Revenue Water of the Water Supply System by Utilizing Mechanical Joint Connections" is implemented utilizing JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys.<sup>79</sup> To address the issue of water leakage from distribution pipes in the country, a pilot project is being implemented, utilizing a Japanese company's technology on water pipe joint connections.<sup>80</sup> In Viet Nam, in response to the rising demand for water supply due to the country's rapid economic growth, faculty from Nagasaki University and Hanoi University of Civil Engineering are working on developing an advanced water purification system using nanofiltration membrane technology that is more cost-effective than conventional systems, under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS).<sup>81</sup>

To address the lack of local information and knowledge with regard to the problem of serious water contamination in many Asian countries, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan implements the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA). Through



A JICA expert and their counterparts visiting a site as part of the "Project for Enhancement of Capacities for Integrated Water Resources Management" in Cuba (Photo: JICA)

<sup>76</sup> According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) survey (as of 2022). <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-report-2023/>

<sup>77</sup> See 66 on page 68.

<sup>78</sup> An initiative announced by then Prime Minister Kishida at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Kumamoto in April 2022. It actively addresses water-related social issues through quality infrastructure development and other means, in cooperation with various countries and international organizations.

<sup>79</sup> See the glossary on page 130.

<sup>80</sup> A part used at the joints that connect pipes together. An important component of water infrastructure to use water efficiently.

<sup>81</sup> See the glossary on page 43.



A JOCV teaching children how to effectively wash hands in the provincial city of Ouidah, Benin (Photo: JICA)

cooperation among 13 participating countries<sup>82</sup> from Asia, WEPA aims to enhance water environment governance in Asia through building human networks, gathering and sharing information, and strengthening capacity. At the 19th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop held in Kanagawa Prefecture from January 30 to February 1, 2024, based on previous discussions on domestic and industrial wastewater management, participants exchanged information about current challenges in each country with a focus on the water environment itself. During the meeting, in regard to legal frameworks and compliance, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka presented examples of water environment-related policies that have recently been enacted or amended. Furthermore, at the 10th World Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia in May of the same year, initiatives to improve water quality through the exchange of knowledge and experience were shared.

As a leading donor in the water and sanitation sector, Japan continues to contribute to ensuring access to safe water and sustainable water resources for people in developing countries, drawing on its accumulated expertise.

## (4) Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Sustainable Cities

With concerns over climate change expected to increase, the frequency, and scale of disasters, as well as their economic and social impacts are becoming more severe, especially in developing countries that are vulnerable to such events. Disaster risk reduction efforts are essential to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. There is a need to build disaster-resilient and adaptable societies, protect people's lives

from disasters, and pursue sustainable development. A critical priority is to mainstream disaster risk reduction by integrating such perspective into all policies and plans.

In recent years, growing attention has been paid to a range of challenges related to urban management. These challenges include the disposal of large volumes of waste generated in urban and suburban areas, air and water pollution, the development of infrastructure such as sewage and waste treatment systems, and rapid population growth accompanied by accelerated urbanization. Addressing these challenges and working toward realizing sustainable cities have become key priorities in development cooperation.

Accordingly, the SDGs include Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." This reflects increasing international attention to the challenges of human settlements, including the pursuit of sustainable cities.

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan leverages the extensive knowledge and expertise it has developed through its past experiences of addressing natural hazards, such as earthquakes and typhoons, to provide proactive support not only in emergency relief, but also in disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. (See "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on pages 76 and 139 for disaster risk reduction efforts in Indonesia and Argentina, and "Featured Projects" on page 87 for the initiative in Ecuador). The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework)," adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), reflects many of Japan's proposals. These include the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, the development of appropriate disaster risk



Engineers from Japan and Bolivia working on the Grant Project for "Road Disaster Prevention of National Road No. 7," which incorporates Japan's latest disaster prevention technologies, such as slope stabilization and debris flow control (Photo: JICA)

<sup>82</sup> The 13 countries are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Japan.

reduction strategies by national and local governments, the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, the concept of “Build Back Better,” which aims to create communities more resilient than before the disaster, and the promotion of women’s leadership in disaster risk management.

In October 2024, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) was held in Manila. At the conference, Japan highlighted key priorities, including strengthening disaster response, promoting investment in disaster risk reduction, and developing early warning systems. Japan also expressed its commitment to further advancing international cooperation in disaster risk reduction. In November, the first-ever G20 Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Brazil, where the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Ministerial Declaration was adopted. The G20 reaffirmed the importance of disaster risk reduction, and in the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders’ Declaration also emphasized the need to promote international cooperation in line with the Sendai Framework and the importance of investment in people and infrastructure, while recognizing the inequalities exacerbated by disasters.

In addition, in response to Japan’s initiative, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2015 designating November 5 as “World Tsunami Awareness Day.” Since 2016, the High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” has been held five times across various locations in Japan. The sixth summit took place in Kumamoto City in October 2024, bringing together a total of 526 high school students—313 from Japan and 213 from 43 other countries and regions. The participants deepened their mutual understanding and friendship while learning about disaster risk reduction and mitigation, including tsunami countermeasures. As an outcome of the summit, the “Kumamoto ‘Kizuna’ Declaration” was announced, expressing the students’ determination to become future leaders in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Moreover, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan has been implementing projects to support the development of tsunami evacuation plans and the implementation of tsunami evacuation drills in countries with high tsunami risk in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the inception of the projects in 2017, notable progress has been made. For example, in Indonesia, the introduction of a mobile phone application (STEP-A) has improved access to tsunami preparedness information at the school level. The app has also been integrated with InaRISK, a digital tool for disaster monitoring and information provision developed by the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, contributing to mainstreaming and institutionalizing disaster risk reduction at both community and national levels. As of the end of 2024, tsunami preparedness plans have been developed or updated and tsunami education

programs have been implemented at 799 schools in 24 countries, with around 220,000 students, teachers, local government and community stakeholders participating in evacuation drills.

Since 2016, Japan has collaborated annually with the Hiroshima Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to support capacity building for female government officials and other stakeholders from developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters. The program places particular emphasis on women’s roles and leadership in the context of tsunami preparedness and response. By the end of 2024, a total of 714 participants from 39 countries had taken part in the initiative.

Japan also engages in the overseas deployment of ICT systems for disaster risk reduction. These systems enable the integrated collection, analysis, and dissemination of disaster-related information, allowing for timely and accurate communication of detailed information down to the community level, thus contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction capacities in developing countries.

## ■ Realizing Sustainable Cities

Japan is actively working to address global challenges directly related to human settlements, including disaster risk reduction, post-disaster recovery, and the promotion of a sound water cycle. Drawing on its knowledge and experience, Japan supports the development of infrastructure such as water supply and sewage systems, waste management, and energy facilities. It also implements disaster risk reduction projects as well as human resources development initiatives, based on the concept of “Build Back Better.” In addition, Japan promotes sustainable urban development through cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). For example, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka, Japan supports the introduction of disaster prevention technologies developed in Fukuoka Prefecture to developing countries.

Following the first meeting held in Potsdam, Germany, in 2022, the second G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers’ Meeting took place in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, in July 2023 under Japan’s Presidency. With the theme “Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Together,” the ministers affirmed the need to address key issues such as achieving net-zero and resilient cities, inclusive cities, and digitalization in cities. The outcome of the meeting was presented as the “Kagawa-Takamatsu Principles.” In November 2024, the third Ministers’ Meeting took place in Rome, Italy, where discussions built on the outcomes of the previous meetings. Participants shared insights on emerging challenges, common principles, and best practices. The outcome document introduced a new commitment for

Indonesia is one of the world's most volcanic countries with 130 active volcanoes. Among them, Mount Merapi, located in central Java Island, is one of the most active volcanoes in the world, erupting every 5 to 10 years. While residents living at the foot of the volcano benefit from fertile volcanic ash soil and abundant spring water, they are also exposed to the threats of pyroclastic and debris flows.

In the wake of the 1969 eruption of Mount Merapi, the Government of Indonesia began implementing measures to mitigate debris flow disasters using sediment disaster control technology known as sabo and sought cooperation from Japan. Sabo is a technology that controls the movement of debris flows with structures\*1 to protect people's lives and livelihoods from sediment-related disasters. Japanese sabo technology, developed through years of disaster experience, is renowned worldwide, to the extent that the word "SABO" is used even in foreign languages.

Japan began its support in 1970 by dispatching a sabo expert, and in 1977, assisted with the formulation of a master plan for land erosion and volcanic debris control. Based on this master plan, approximately 250 sabo facilities were constructed to date, including projects funded by Japanese ODA Loan. These facilities have repeatedly captured debris flows, protecting the lives and livelihoods of residents. However, the eruption of Mount Merapi in 2010 was the largest in the past 100 years, releasing volcanic debris equivalent to 28 times the amount estimated in the master plan, causing significant damage. Therefore, in 2015, through ODA Loan, Japan supported the construction of sabo facilities to channel and store debris flows and to revise the master plan for land erosion and volcanic debris control, so as to address issues such as debris flows occurring in rivers at the foot of Mount Merapi and unexpected debris flows caused by changes in terrain.

Mr. MIZOGUCHI Masaharu, Deputy Director General of the International Division at Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd., who participated in these Japanese ODA Loan projects, reflects on the challenges and how his company overcame them. He explains, "We modified the design of sabo facilities each time the surveyed terrain changed due to heavy rain or floods. Based on the characteristics of riverbed fluctuations in Indonesia's volcanic regions, we made various improvements, such as placing the foundations of sabo dams at deeper positions than those in Japan to enhance durability. Also, since there was a risk of debris flows and flash floods during construction, we ensured workers' safety by strengthening



Mr. Mizoguchi (second from the left) with staff from Indonesian companies involved in the construction of the sabo facility (Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)



A sabo dam that is used as a bridge during normal times (Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

evacuation systems specifically for such events in addition to normal safety management."

Reflecting on how Japanese technology was applied locally in response to the evolving needs of the partner government, he recalls, "In the 1980s, when Indonesia was undergoing economic development, employment was the national priority. Therefore, labor-intensive construction methods such as stone masonry utilizing inexpensive labor were widely used. In the late 1990s, when it was hit by the Asian financial crisis, there was a demand for efficient infrastructure development with limited budgets. This led to the active promotion of multi-functional sabo facilities that could also be used as bridges or intake weirs during normal times. In recent projects, as economic development progressed, to maintain higher quality structures, factory-mixed concrete transported to sites began to be used as construction material instead of stone masonry and on-site mixed concrete, which were used before." He adds, "I believe that our ability to respond to the demands of each era led to trust in Japan."

Mr. FUKUSHIMA Junichi, who has a deep understanding of field operations as the General Manager of the company's Jakarta office, says, "We also made efforts to build relationships with local governments and residents, and tried to reflect their voices by designing multi-functional sabo facilities that can be utilized even outside of emergency situations. Local residents use the sabo facilities during normal times and are conscious that these are their own facilities. We often hear from them that they are now able to lead stable lives thanks to sabo," expressing his sense of contribution to the improvement of local lives.

The knowledge gained through technical cooperation on sabo in Indonesia was also applied to disaster prevention in Japan, such as in the volcanic debris flow control project at Mount Unzen Fugen-dake. Mr. Mizoguchi states, "Japan's technical cooperation overseas is by no means one-sided. It brings mutual benefits. I would like to continue to be involved with a focus on mutual cooperation moving forward."



Mr. Fukushima with staff from Indonesian companies involved in the construction of the sabo facility (Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

\*1 Such as a dam or a levee built with stone and/or concrete, etc. to stem the flow of water or sediment from rivers and valleys.

“Joint Action,” reaffirming the intention to establish an ever-closer network for dialogues within and outside the G7, and to continue supporting the exchange between the G7 governments on matters of common interest and practice regarding sustainable urban development, with the involvement of key international partners such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UN-Habitat.

## (5) Quality Education for All

There are an estimated 58 million children worldwide who are unable to attend primary school. When secondary education is included, the number of out-of-school children rises to approximately 244 million.<sup>83</sup> Since 2000, the proportion of out-of-school children has particularly increased in sub-Saharan Africa. Children in vulnerable situations, such as those with disabilities, refugee and internally displaced children, and children from ethnic minorities or remote communities, are at the highest risk of being left behind. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the fragility of education systems around the world. Moreover, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world, including the Middle East where the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen, have resulted in the destruction of numerous educational facilities. This has deprived children and students of their right to education and disrupted international educational exchange.

Education is a vital “investment in people” and is indispensable for promoting human security. SDG 4 aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” and the international community is working towards achieving the targets set out in the “Education 2030 Framework for Action.”\* The Summit of the Future, held in 2024, underscored the importance of education in addressing a wide range of challenges, including poverty reduction (see “Development Cooperation Topics” on page 88 for details on the Summit of the Future). Japan will continue to advance educational initiatives with a focus on quality education for all, the empowerment of women, children, and youth, and the provision of educational opportunities in conflict and disaster situations.

## Japan’s Efforts

Japan supports developing countries in a wide range of fields, including efforts to enhance basic education<sup>84</sup> and higher education.

In El Salvador, Japan has been developing and revising textbooks and teachers’ guides for primary and secondary education, as well as providing teacher training since 2006, to help students acquire essential literacy, reading comprehension, and numeracy skills. These teaching materials are continuously distributed nationwide. Since 2021, Japan has also supported efforts to use findings from learning assessments and academic performance surveys to revise curricula and textbooks, as well as to improve teaching methods. Japan has carried out similar textbook and teachers’ guide development in Laos, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, and other countries. The materials designed for developing countries are made available on the JICA website,<sup>85</sup> and their use is also encouraged within Japan to help children who face learning difficulties due to insufficient Japanese language skills.

In Africa, at the TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced that it will work on initiatives in education aimed at improving children’s learning by promoting school enrollment, enhancing inclusiveness, and providing school meals. Through these efforts, it has committed to delivering quality education, including STEM<sup>86</sup> education, to 9 million children and enhancing access to quality education for 4 million girls. At the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August 2024, Japan and its partners affirmed the steady progress of these initiatives. By November 2024, the “School for All”<sup>87</sup> project, launched in Niger in 2004 as an initiative to build trust among schools, parents, and local communities, to support schools through community involvement, and to improve children’s learning environments, had been introduced in approximately 70,000 primary schools across 11 countries. Furthermore, the “Peacebuilding and Community Reconciliation Model,” which is a development model proposed by Japan, is being piloted in regions affected by prolonged conflicts, where children’s education has been disrupted by school closures due to the increase of refugees and displaced populations caused by events such as prolonged conflicts. Additionally, at TICAD 8, Japan has committed to developing highly skilled human resources through various means, including the Japan-Africa university network that accepts and provides training programs to African students as well as to advancing research

<sup>83</sup> See pages 211 and 214 of the “Global Education Monitoring Report 2023,” <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/technology>

<sup>84</sup> Educational activities aimed at enabling individuals to acquire knowledge, values, and skills necessary for life. These mainly include primary education, lower secondary education (equivalent to Japanese junior high school), pre-school education, and adult literacy education.

<sup>85</sup> Education Materials: <https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/education/materials/index.html>

<sup>86</sup> STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and refers collectively to these four fields.

<sup>87</sup> A community-wide school management initiative in which “everyone,” including parents, teachers, and local residents, forms a School Management Committee and works with the government to manage the school. It supports children’s learning by sharing the importance of education with the entire community, not only parents and teachers. It began in 23 primary schools in Niger in 2004 and has now expanded to multiple countries in Africa.

cooperation in science and technology.

Japan also collaborates with more than 20 Japanese universities to establish a university network centered at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)/the Pan-African University Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI) in Kenya, among others. By strengthening cooperation in education, research, and industry-academia partnerships, Japan aims to address social challenges across the African region through research collaboration. As of March 2024, this initiative has contributed to the development of 3,261 highly skilled professionals.

As an example of cooperation leveraging Japanese-style education, Japan has supported the establishment of the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) since 2008. E-JUST offers practical engineering education at international standards, contributing to the development of researchers in Egypt as well as the broader Middle East and Africa region. Additionally, under the "Egypt-Japan Education Partnership" launched in 2016, 55 Egypt-Japan Schools (EJS) delivering Japanese-style education have been opened. At EJS, students engage in "Tokkatsu" <sup>88</sup> (special activities), such as class meetings, day duties, club activities, and cleaning, that encourage children to take an active role in school management alongside their academic studies. In June 2024, 904 children graduated from 51 EJS schools across Egypt. Moreover, Japan supports human resources development in developing countries through diverse initiatives, including strengthening networking among higher education institutions between Japan and ASEAN, fostering collaboration with the industrial sector, participating in joint research projects with neighboring countries, and accepting international students to Japanese universities.

In addition to these efforts, Japan supports children often in vulnerable situations, including girls excluded from schooling, children with disabilities, and children in conflict-affected areas, as well as refugee and displaced children and those of their host communities. For example, in Ukraine, as a means of supporting regions affected by conflict, Japan assists internally displaced children who can no longer attend their former schools, by providing distance learning equipment and mental healthcare, enabling them to continue learning safely in their places of refuge. In Palestine, where unstable security conditions have restricted school attendance, Japan signed and exchanged notes in February 2024 for the grant "Project for the Improvement of E-learning Equipment," with the aim of ensuring children's access to learning opportunities. Through this cooperation, audiovisual production equipment will be provided to a television station in the West Bank, and primary schools in the area will be equipped with audiovisual and ICT



Then State Minister Fujii visiting one of the Egypt-Japan Schools (EJS), accompanied by Minister of Education and Technical Education Dr. Abdel Latif, in December 2024

devices to support remote classes, which is expected to improve the overall learning environment. In Afghanistan, Japan builds temporary classrooms and public libraries, to create safe learning spaces for girls. It also promotes inclusive education that accommodates children with disabilities, as well as education integrating perspectives on climate change and disaster risk reduction. For instance, in Uzbekistan, Japan helps strengthen the capacity of personnel responsible for training teachers, to ensure that pre-school children with disabilities can access quality education.

In the Asia-Pacific region, as part of its collaboration with international organizations, Japan supports initiatives toward achieving SDG 4 through contributions to a funds-in-trust within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). These efforts include the organization of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference (APREMC-II). In addition, the initiative "Education for Sustainable Development: \* Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)," led by UNESCO, began in January 2020. It aims to support progress towards achieving all the SDGs by fostering the builders of a sustainable society. As the country that first proposed ESD, Japan continues to promote the initiative and contributes to its global dissemination and advancement through the aforementioned funds-in-trust. Through this mechanism, Japan and UNESCO jointly organize the "UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development," which recognizes organizations and institutions with outstanding practices in ESD implementation. To date, 21 organizations have received this award, leading to the active promotion of ESD.

Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$55.89 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) from 2008 to 2023.\* At the Global Education Summit held in July 2021, Japan pledged to provide over \$1.5 billion in support for the education sector over five

<sup>88</sup> An abbreviation of the Japanese term for "special activities." This initiative seeks to shift learning from a knowledge-heavy, theory-centered approach to one focused on acquiring life skills—such as problem-solving abilities, independence, social competence, and self-management—by incorporating activities like cleaning, class meetings, and day duty, which foster discipline, ethics, and cooperation.

years (2021 to 2025), including continued assistance to GPE, as well as support for the education and capacity building for 7.5 million girls in developing countries. Over the three-year period beginning in FY2021, more than 4.1 million girls have received support, and this commitment will continue going forward. Furthermore, in March 2024, an additional \$3 million was provided to the global fund for education in crises, Education Cannot Wait (ECW)\* to help ensure that children in Ukraine can learn in safer environments.



Female students learning through the “Advancing Quality Alternative Learning Project Phase 2,” which supports the provision of non-formal education in Pakistan, where many children are out of school (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### **Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA)**

A framework that succeeds “The Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All,” which aimed to achieve education for all and was adopted at the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. The FFA was adopted at the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting, held alongside the UNESCO General Conference in 2015.

### **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

Education that fosters builders of sustainable societies. ESD was recognized as a key to achieving all the SDGs in the resolutions of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in 2017. This was reaffirmed in “ESD for 2030,” adopted by the resolution of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2019. “ESD for 2030” succeeds the “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)” (2005-2014) and the “Global Action Program (GAP) on ESD” (2015-2019), serving as a new international framework for implementation from 2020 to 2030.

### **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**

An international partnership established in 2002 under the leadership of the World Bank to support the education sector in developing countries. Its members include developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil societies, and private-sector corporations and foundations. The partnership was renamed the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 2011, succeeding the Fast Track Initiative (FTI).

### **Education Cannot Wait (ECW)**

A fund established at the World Humanitarian Summit convened by the UN in Istanbul in May 2016, aimed at supporting children and young people in emergency situations—such as conflicts and natural disasters—by enabling their access to education.

## **(6) Gender Equality and an Inclusive Society**

It is often the case that the social norms and systems in developing countries are generally shaped by men’s perspectives, leaving women in vulnerable positions in many areas. At the same time, women are key actors in development, and their participation benefits not only themselves but also enhances the overall effectiveness of development efforts. For example, when women who have previously had little or no access to education acquire literacy skills, they are better able to obtain accurate information on public health and the prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. This, in turn, supports appropriate family planning, promotes women’s social participation and economic empowerment, and ultimately contributes to sustainable and inclusive

economic growth in developing countries.

The SDGs emphasize that “realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets.” Specifically, Goal 5 sets out to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment is indispensable for realizing “quality growth.” Through gender mainstreaming,<sup>89</sup> it is essential to ensure that women and men participate equally in all stages of development cooperation and share its benefits equitably.

Challenges such as poverty, conflicts, infectious diseases, terrorism, and disasters affect people differently depending on their circumstances, including their country and region, and whether they are women or children. Due to infectious diseases, armed conflicts, large-scale disasters, and other factors, the number of people living in poverty worldwide has begun to rise. In some countries, widening disparities and deteriorating

<sup>89</sup> Gender mainstreaming means integrating a gender perspective into all policies, programs, and projects in order to achieve gender equality across all fields. In the context of development, it refers to the process of identifying the distinct challenges, needs, and impacts for both women and men at every stage—planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation—of all development policies, programs, and projects, based on the premise that such initiatives affect women and men differently.

humanitarian conditions have also been observed, creating an even further need for support for those in vulnerable situations. The concept of human security, which emphasizes the protection and empowerment of each individual, is therefore indispensable for realizing the SDGs' guiding principle of "leaving no one behind."

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Promoting Women's Capacity Enhancement and Participation

In the "Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment,"<sup>90</sup> Japan established three basic principles: (i) respecting women's rights, (ii) building the capacity of women to reach their full potential, and (iii) advancing women's participation and leadership in political, economic, and other public spheres. Based on this strategy, Japan advances its efforts within the international community to promote gender mainstreaming, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Japan contributed \$50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)<sup>91</sup> in 2018, followed by an additional \$5 million in June 2023. As of June 2023, We-Fi has supported 149,256 women-owned/led small and medium enterprises (WSMEs) in 67 countries. Of these, in concrete figures, 127,428 WSMEs have received financial assistance, while 28,404 participated in training programs to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for business management. According to the World Bank, 70% of WSMEs in developing countries are either unable to secure financing from financial institutions or are subject to unfavorable borrowing terms. To address this challenge, Japan, through We-Fi, promotes the development of gender-equal legal frameworks and supports female entrepreneurs in gaining equal access to financing and markets.

The Leaders' Communiqué of the G7 Apulia Summit, held in June 2024, reiterated the commitment to collectively increase ODA for gender equality. It also emphasized that the G7 leaders will explore ways to increase ODA for climate change measures, particularly in Africa, in a gender-responsive manner, thus contributing to the further advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Japan also provides support through UN Women, contributing approximately \$21 million in 2023 and \$22 million in 2024. These contributions have supported initiatives such as promoting women's political



Women selling handicrafts and processed food products from the Petra region through the "The Project for Formulating Tourism Development Master Plan in Petra Region" currently being implemented in Jordan (Photo: Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority)

participation and economic empowerment, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, strengthening women's role in peace and security, and advancing gender-responsive policies and budgets. In 2024, Japan provided emergency assistance and livelihood support to women who have been economically and socially affected by conflicts and disasters in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Eastern Europe, including Afghanistan and Ukraine. For example, in Pakistan, 60 women's community centers were established during the six-month period from February to August to promote women's independence. A total of 6,609 women and 1,131 girls used these centers, while 7,000 women were assisted in obtaining identity documents. In addition, 280 men and community leaders received support to improve their knowledge of gender-based violence prevention and gender equality.

Japan regards sexual violence in conflict as an issue that cannot be overlooked. From this standpoint, Japan prioritizes cooperation with the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC).<sup>92</sup> In 2024, it contributed approximately \$660,000 to the OSRSG-SVC to support activities in Sudan, including protection and prevention measures against sexual and gender-based violence, as well as health, psychological, and legal support for refugees and internally displaced women.

In 2024, Japan contributed an additional €2 million to the Global Survivors Fund (GSF),\* bringing its total contributions to €10 million so far. Japan, as its board member, actively contributes to supporting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in conflict-affected areas, including Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

<sup>90</sup> A thematic policy formulated in 2016 to promote women's active participation in development cooperation.

<sup>91</sup> The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) was launched at the G20 Hamburg Summit in 2017. By supporting women entrepreneurs and women-owned or women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) in developing countries to overcome obstacles such as limited access to finance and institutional or regulatory barriers, the initiative aims to foster women's rapid economic empowerment and their active participation in economic and social life, thereby contributing to regional stability, reconstruction, and peacebuilding.

<sup>92</sup> For details on Japan's efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict, see also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website ([https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page23e\\_000466.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page23e_000466.html))

## ■ Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Japan has formulated its National Action Plans since 2015 to implement UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS),<sup>93</sup> adopted in 2000 as the first Security Council resolution to explicitly link women to the peace and security agenda, and the related resolutions. In April 2023, the Government of Japan formulated the Third National Action Plan (2023-2028)<sup>94</sup> based on exchanges of opinions with relevant ministries and agencies, experts, NGOs, civil society, and public comments. Specifically, Japan, with the cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies, supports women in conflict-affected and fragile countries, mainly through international organizations and bilateral assistance (see “Japan’s Development Cooperation Efforts for the Promotion of WPS” on page 84).

In September 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa announced at the “WPS Focal Points Network<sup>95</sup> High-Level Side Event” that Japan would co-chair the Network in 2025 together with Norway and host the Network’s capital-level meeting in Tokyo in February 2025, with a view to further advancing the WPS agenda in cooperation with other countries.

In January 2024, the Taskforce on WPS was established to provide coordination across the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). In June, the second WPS Taskforce meeting was held to share policies incorporating a WPS perspective in disaster risk reduction, disaster response, and reconstruction across relevant ministries and agencies, and to discuss how these policies can be leveraged in diplomatic efforts.



Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa meeting with women leaders in Côte d'Ivoire, April 2024

At the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in August, Japan and many African countries reaffirmed the role of WPS and the importance of incorporating women’s and youth perspectives.

## ■ Assistance for People at Risk of Vulnerability

### (Disability and Development)

Persons with disabilities are often placed in disadvantaged positions in society. Japan’s ODA gives due consideration to the circumstances of people whose equal participation in society is hindered, including persons with disabilities. Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>96</sup> also requires States Parties to take measures for international cooperation and its promotion.

Policies for persons with disabilities span a wide range of fields, including welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Drawing on its accumulated expertise and experiences in these areas, Japan supports developing countries’ disability-related measures and policies through ODA.

For example, Japan carefully responds to diverse local needs by incorporating barrier-free design in railway and airport construction, developing rehabilitation and vocational training facilities, and providing minibuses to improve mobility for persons with disabilities. In addition, it extends broad technical cooperation to strengthen the capacity of organizations and personnel involved in disability and development. Such efforts include accepting trainees from developing countries, as well as dispatching experts and JOCVs to promote social participation and employment opportunities.

### (Assistance for Children)

Children are generally highly vulnerable, and today many around the world face harsh conditions due to conflicts, natural disasters, and other challenges. In response, Japan provides humanitarian and development assistance for children through various channels, including bilateral cooperation and international organizations. In 2024, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Japan assisted children being affected by poverty, conflict, and climate change-related natural disasters in 40 countries across Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human

<sup>93</sup> The concept promotes sustainable peace by protecting women while enabling them to participate in conflict prevention, recovery, and peace-building in leadership roles. In 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the first resolution in the Council’s history to explicitly recognize that equal participation of women, protection from sexual violence in conflict, and gender equality are essential for international peace, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution.

<sup>94</sup> The Third WPS Action Plan (FY2023-2028) is structured around five pillars: (1) Promoting women’s participation and integrating a gender perspective in peacebuilding; (2) Preventing and responding to sexual violence and gender-based violence; (3) Disaster risk reduction, disaster response, and climate change initiatives; (4) Implementing WPS within Japan; and (5) Monitoring, evaluation, and review framework.

<sup>95</sup> The largest WPS-related network among UN member states, which serves as a platform to share lessons learned and good practices. In addition to governments, regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union (AU), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are also members. As of December 2024, the network brings together 103 members from 93 countries and 10 regional organizations.

<sup>96</sup> A convention that sets out measures to realize the rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and of promoting respect for their inherent dignity. Japan ratified the Convention in 2014.

Security Projects,<sup>97</sup> which supports initiatives for economic and social development at the community level, Japan carried out projects that help improve children's living environments. These include the construction and renovation of schools, the provision of medical equipment to hospitals, and the development of water supply facilities.

For example, in Samoa, Japan supported the reconstruction of an elementary school that had been demolished due to aging facilities, and handed over a new single-story concrete building in November 2024. Through this cooperation, children attending the school are now provided with a safe and suitable learning environment, which is expected to contribute to enhancing the quality of basic education in the community.

In Nepal, where it is estimated that about one in every 6.5 children aged 5 to 17 is engaged in child labor,<sup>98</sup> Japan supports a project implemented through a Japanese NGO in Makwanpur District—an area known for both sending and receiving child laborers. The project aims to reduce child labor through education and social work. (For initiatives in the Philippines that support the social reintegration of children from impoverished families, see "Featured Project" on page 83).



A JOCV teaching sports to children with disabilities in El Salvador  
(Photo: JICA)



Children in Costa Rica studying in a school building reconstructed with Japan's assistance after it was damaged by a major earthquake

### **(Support for People in Conflict Situations)**

It should also be noted that in situations of conflict, not only women and girls but also people in vulnerable social positions, including persons with disabilities and children, are particularly affected. Socially disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities caused by conflict or landmines, orphans, widows, and ex-combatants including child soldiers, and the rapidly increasing number of child refugees and internally displaced persons are especially vulnerable to the impacts of conflict. Nevertheless, the reality is that in post-conflict recovery, assistance is often delayed, making it difficult for them to share in the benefits of peace and reconstruction.

From this perspective, Japan provides support for the social reintegration of child soldiers and the protection of the most vulnerable children in conflict-affected areas through UNICEF. In the Gaza Strip of Palestine, this includes mental healthcare and explosives risk reduction education for children, as well as the distribution of identification wristbands to help reunite children with their families if they become separated. Japan also supports newborn care in Sudan, continued learning in Ukraine, assistance for former child soldiers in the Central African Republic, and protection of children and women who are victims of sexual violence in South Sudan and Somalia.

Through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Japan carries out protection activities for refugees and displaced persons, while providing humanitarian assistance tailored to the needs of those most likely to be in vulnerable situations. For example, in Uganda, this includes psychosocial support for children in refugee settlements to protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation. In Ukraine, assistance is provided to vulnerable groups, such as elderly people who have lost their homes due to conflict



Children of Aimeliik Elementary School in Palau taking a school bus provided by Japan

<sup>97</sup> See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145.

<sup>98</sup> "Nepal Child Labour Report 2021" <https://www.ilo.org/publications/nepal-child-labour-report-2021>

and female-headed households including the provision of non-food items (NFIs), shelter support, and legal

assistance (see also Part III, Section 3 (5) on page 77 for educational support in conflict-affected areas).



## Glossary

### Global Survivors Fund (GSF)

Fund launched by Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates 2018. It aims to facilitate access to reparations and support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence against the backdrop that many of them do not receive public reparations. GSF conducts awareness-raising activities regarding the development of the judicial system to support and give relief to survivors.

## Featured Project 4

### Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) (March 2021 – March 2024)



### Foster Resilience and Support the Social Reintegration of Children in Vulnerable Situations

The Philippines has achieved high economic growth in recent years, yet the pace of poverty reduction remains slow, leaving many children in vulnerable situations. A considerable number of children fall into delinquency and end up in residential care facilities or juvenile rehabilitation facilities. Unfortunately, these children often fail to acquire adequate life skills to thrive in society during their time spent at these facilities, and some return to delinquency behavior or repeat criminal activities after being released.

In order to support the stable reintegration of such children into society, ACTION (A Child's Trust Is Ours to Nurture), a Japanese NGO, developed the "Life Skills\*1 Intervention Program" and the "Capacity Building Training on House-parenting," which aim to teach facility staff (house-parents) how to appropriately interact and care for these children. With the cooperation of the Government of the Philippines, these initiatives were institutionalized, and the "Life Skills Intervention Program" was introduced in 116 juvenile rehabilitation facilities across the country. Approximately 80% of the



During a Capacity Building Training session on House-parenting (Photo: ACTION)

children who participated in the program showed improvement in life skills, with feedback indicating that they "started to consider others' feelings when acting" and that they "are now able to control their anger." In addition, through the "Capacity Building Training on House-parenting," 240 trainers were developed, who then provided training sessions to more than 1,000 facility staff nationwide.

The organization, which also supports children within Japan, recognized the limited availability of Japanese-language materials in the field of childcare. Building on the outcomes of this project, they developed the "Life Skills Intervention Program" materials for Japanese elementary, lower secondary, and upper secondary school students, with plans to introduce them to child welfare facilities across Japan.

While supporting better social lives for children in the Philippines, the organization will also share knowledge and experience gained through these activities for the benefit of Japanese society.

Life Skills Intervention Modules for Children at Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)

Facilitator's Guide



Textbook for "Life Skills intervention Program" in Tagalog (Photo: ACTION)

\*1 WHO defines life skills as the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enables individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

# Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives to Promote Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

## South Sudan

### Reach Alternatives (REALs) / Japan Platform (JPF)

#### Project for the Distribution of Protection Items to Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons Affected by the Sudan Crisis in Juba

With support from Japan Platform, REALs distributed essential items to residents of an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp to safeguard the health and human rights of women and girls, protect them from gender-based violence, and ensure dignified living conditions in shelters, even amid displacement.



(Photo: ©REALs)

## Kenya

### United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

#### Building Resilience for Sustained Provision and Uptake of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Services in Selected Climate Change and Disaster Prone Counties in Kenya

In areas seriously affected by climate change-induced disasters such as droughts and floods, Japan, through UNFPA, provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, along with gender-based violence prevention and response, to mothers, children, and pregnant women whose lives and health are at risk.



(Photo: UNFPA Kenya)

## Mozambique

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

#### Strengthening the fishing sector in Northern Mozambique for gender-inclusive programming to counter violent extremism in Northern Mozambique

Japan, through IOM, provides fishing-related livelihood and income-generating opportunities to internally displaced persons who were forced to flee due to attacks by insurgent groups, as well as to returnees and host communities, with a focus on women and gender equality.



(Photo: IOM)

## Ukraine

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

#### Multi-sectoral response to urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine with a view to laying the foundations for community, development, and peace in Ukraine

Japan, through UNHCR, supports capacity building, training, and awareness-raising efforts to enhance protection for vulnerable displaced and war-affected individuals and communities, including survivors of gender-based violence.



(Photo: UNHCR)



## Sri Lanka

### JICA

#### Project for Women's Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Networking

Japan supports the implementation of pilot activities and the development of models to empower women running small businesses. These activities include business skills training, the development of demand-driven services and products, and collaboration with business partners to expand market access. The initiative also strengthens the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.



(Photo: JICA)

Japan is promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) with the aim of further contributing to realizing a peaceful international community. This section introduces some of Japan's initiatives (for details on WPS, see page 81, Part III, 3(6)).

\*This article highlights three of the five pillars of Japan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (Third Edition, FY2023-2028) that are related to international cooperation initiatives:

**I. Promoting Women's Participation and Gender Perspective in Peacebuilding**

**II. Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**

**III. Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Response, and Response to Climate Change**

**Iraq**

**Global Survivors Fund (GSF)**

**Interim Relief Measures for Victims of Conflict-Related Violence**

Japan, through GSF, provided assistance for the formulation and implementation of interim relief measures—including livelihood support, medical care, education, and psychological services—for the Yazidi, a religious and ethnic minority in Iraq who suffered conflict-related sexual violence at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).



(Photo: ©Katie van der Werf / GSF)

**Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras**

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)**

**Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection in Human Mobility Crisis in Central America**

Japan, through UN Women, supports capacity building for migrant women and women in host communities, and provides assistance for responses to gender-based violence, including protection for survivors and psychological and legal support.



**Guatemala**

**JICA**

**Advisor for Strengthening Intervention Capacities for Women Entrepreneurs**

The advisor aims to improve the livelihoods and incomes of women entrepreneurs by providing basic entrepreneurship knowledge, technical training, and financial management support to women in impoverished areas, women's groups, and technical staff of the Secretariat of Social Works of the Wife of the President of the Republic (SOSEP).



(Photo: JICA)

**Asia, Oceania, Latin America**

**JICA**

**Gender- and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change**

Since 2016, JICA has conducted the Knowledge Co-Creation Program on disaster response for government officials and civil society organizations engaged in disaster risk reduction and the promotion of gender equality in developing countries, with a focus on incorporating gender and diversity perspectives and ensuring inclusive participation.

(Participating countries in 2023: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uganda)



(Photo: IC Net Limited)

## (7) Culture and Sports

Cultural heritage that symbolizes a country can help improve the livelihoods of local communities when developed as a tourism resource, for example, by creating employment opportunities. Heritage sites that attract international visitors can also provide an important source of foreign currency for the national economy. At the same time, many cultural assets are in danger of disappearing due to shortages of funding, equipment, and technical expertise, underscoring the need for preservation support. The World Heritage Convention,<sup>99</sup> an international framework for safeguarding sites of universal value as the shared heritage of humanity, affirms that protecting such heritage and fostering international cooperation for this purpose are responsibilities of the entire international community. The preservation and promotion of culture, including the invaluable cultural heritage of developing countries, is therefore a challenge to be addressed collectively, not only by the countries where the heritage is located.

Furthermore, sports not only help maintain and improve health, but are also regarded as an important form of education—an “investment in people” that promotes “human security.” Sports foster respect for others, a spirit of mutual understanding, and an awareness of social norms. In addition, the influence and positive power of sports can serve as a “catalyst” for development and progress in developing countries.

### Japan’s Efforts

Since 1975, Japan has provided support through the Cultural Grant Assistance\* to promote culture, including sports, and higher education, as well as preserve cultural heritage in developing countries. Facilities established under this program also serve as hubs for disseminating information about Japan and facilitating cultural exchanges, thereby deepening understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity toward Japan. In 2024, Japan implemented 17 Cultural Grant Assistance projects, covering education, including Japanese language education, cultural heritage preservation, and sports.

Moreover, Japan provides support for the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust established in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In FY2024, it contributed approximately ¥500 million, enabling multiple projects in cultural

heritage preservation. Japan places particular emphasis on human resources development and capacity building in developing countries, transferring preservation and restoration techniques and knowledge through the dispatch of experts, mainly Japanese, and the organization of workshops, so that developing countries can safeguard their cultural heritage independently in the future. In addition, it implements comprehensive support to address contemporary challenges facing cultural heritage, such as disaster prevention and climate change. Japan also supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, including traditional dance, music, craft techniques, and oral traditions, through successor training, documentation and conservation, and the establishment of protective frameworks under the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Japan also conducts training programs to enhance the capacity for cultural heritage protection by inviting young experts from the Asia-Pacific region as part of the “Project for the Promotion of Cooperation for the Protection of World Heritage and Other Cultural Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region.” The biennial training covers both the preservation and restoration of wooden structures and the documentation of archaeological sites. In 2024, an online program was held for Laotian experts engaged in cultural heritage protection, focusing on the recording, preservation, and utilization of archaeological artifacts using digital technology.

In the field of sports, Japan has continued “Sport for Tomorrow,”<sup>100</sup> an international cooperation program launched in 2014 to build momentum for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, even after the Games concluded. The program seeks to advance initiatives that highlight Japan’s presence through international exchange and cooperation in sports, while also contributing to the SDGs through international cooperation projects that leverage Japan’s strengths.



A JOCV teaching rugby to children in Cameroon (Photo: JICA)

<sup>99</sup> The official title of the Convention is the “Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.” Its purpose is to establish a framework of international cooperation and assistance to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, recognized as the heritage of all humankind, from threats such as damage or destruction. The Convention was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. Japan became a State Party in 1992.

<sup>100</sup> Sport for Tomorrow official website: <https://www.sport4tomorrow.jpnsport.go.jp/>

In 2024, 173 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) were dispatched to developing countries in the field of sports. Additional initiatives include providing sports facilities and equipment, dispatching and inviting

coaches and athletes, and carrying out projects for technical cooperation, promotion of Japanese culture, and human resources development. <sup>101</sup>



## Glossary

### Cultural Grant Assistance

Cultural Grant Assistance is a form of grant that supports the procurement of equipment and supplies as well as the construction and improvement of facilities for the promotion of culture (including sports), higher education, and the preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries. The program seeks to promote cultural and educational development in these countries and to foster friendly relations and mutual understanding through cultural exchanges with Japan. It consists of two schemes: "Cultural Grant Assistance," which targets governmental organizations in developing countries, and "Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects," which supports small-scale projects implemented by NGOs and local public entities.

**Featured Project 5**  **Project for the Improvement of Seismic Isolation Equipment for Museums in the Province of Manabi**  General Cultural Grant Assistance (April 2022 – March 2024) 

### Conservation of Cultural Properties through Japan's Disaster Prevention Technologies

Ecuador possesses a great deal of diverse and invaluable cultural heritage that illustrates the history of the ancient Andes. In recent years, the Government of Ecuador has reaffirmed the importance of preserving these cultural properties, actively reorganizing national museums, and promoting greater public engagement and awareness in the conservation of cultural properties. On the other hand, Ecuador is an earthquake-prone country, and in 2016, the country was struck by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake. The damage extended to the cultural properties, with those exhibits in the museums near the epicenter falling off from toppled display cases and shelves due to a lack of proper anti-seismic measures. Immediately after the earthquake, Japan dispatched experts to assess the damage to cultural properties and has continued to provide support towards the prevention of further damage to cultural properties by sharing empirical knowledge from Japan's disaster risk management efforts for cultural properties with Ecuadorian engineers through invitation programs.



Ecuadorian President Noboa (back right) receiving an explanation on the exhibits at the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center (Photo: JICA)



Visitors appreciating cultural heritage items displayed in anti-seismic showcases provided by the Government of Japan at the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center (Photo: Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador)

In this project, Japan supported the Manta National Museum and Cultural Center, as well as the Hojas-Jaboncillo Archaeological Museum, both of which were damaged in the 2016 earthquake, by providing seismic-isolation display cases and mobile shelves utilizing Japanese disaster prevention technology. The project is expected to significantly reduce the risks of damage to 1,726 cultural properties that previously lacked sufficient anti-seismic measures. President Noboa of Ecuador, who was present at the handover ceremony for the equipment, expressed his gratitude to Japan, noting that the installation of the country's first anti-seismic exhibition equipment is a significant milestone that would contribute not only to the conservation of cultural properties, but also to the promotion of understanding of history by future generations of Ecuador.

<sup>101</sup> MOFA sports diplomacy initiatives: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/culture/people/sports/index.html>



## Summit of the Future

### – “Pact for the Future” for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for Future Generations –

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations. Yet, the international community is facing compound crises including poverty, climate change, and infectious diseases. It is necessary to implement efforts to make further progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Now more than ever, the international community must overcome division and confrontation, and strengthen cooperation to address these pressing global challenges.

In September 2020, in the declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, UN Member States pledged to strengthen global governance and requested the Secretary-General to report back with recommendations to respond to current and future challenges. In response, in September 2021, the Secretary-General submitted a comprehensive recommendation titled “Our Common Agenda,” which includes a proposal to hold the Summit of the Future. The then Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the Summit of the Future convened in September 2023.

On September 22 and 23, 2024, the Summit of the Future was convened on the margins of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly with the aim of restoring trust in UN and addressing the achievement of SDGs and new global challenges through international cooperation. At the summit, an outcome document titled “The Pact for the Future” was adopted, which declared to implement 56 actions across five chapters: “Sustainable development and financing for development,” “International peace and security,” “Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation,” “Youth and future generations,” and “Transforming global governance” to protect the needs and interests of present and future generations. In particular, in the development

context, the document underscores commitments to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just, and transformative actions in order to implement the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,”\*1 to achieve the SDGs and to leave no one behind, to invest in people to end poverty and strengthen trust and social cohesion, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a crucial contribution to progress across all the SDGs.

At the Summit of the Future, the then Prime Minister Kishida highlighted the importance of the “rule of law,” “human dignity,” “investing in people,” “nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,” and “UN Security Council reform” to ensure a future defined by peace, freedom, and prosperity, and called on the international community to share responsibility and unite under multilateralism.

To effectively address global challenges, it is imperative to strengthen the functions of the UN, including the Security Council reform, and to advance global governance reforms. Looking ahead to the coming decades, Japan will promote development cooperation toward achieving “human dignity,” which is the foundation of all international cooperation, and the spirit of “leaving no one behind” in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” This will be done while promoting the rule of law and under the concept of human security, taking into account the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus (HDP nexus) as an opportunity to strengthen strong and effective multilateralism centered on the UN. Furthermore, Japan will actively contribute to efforts toward the comprehensive achievement of the SDGs and beyond, in cooperation with the international community.

\*1 See the glossary on page 36.



Then Prime Minister Kishida delivering a speech at the Summit of the Future (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)



Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa delivering a speech at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the Summit of the Future

# Part IV

## Regional Profiles

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A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) conducting a soybean growth survey with fellow agricultural engineers in the Okinawa Settlement, home to many Japanese descendants in Bolivia (Photo: JICA)



# East Asia

East Asia consists of countries with diverse economic circumstances, including least developed countries (LDCs), <sup>1</sup> such as Cambodia and Laos, and countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, which have achieved significant economic growth but still face various domestic challenges.

The stability and development of these countries at the heart of the Indo-Pacific region are directly connected to Japan's own security and economic prosperity. From this perspective, Japan engages in development cooperation, responding to the diverse socio-economic contexts and the shifting needs of development projects of the East Asian countries.

## Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to the remarkable economic growth of East Asia through development cooperation that integrates ODA with trade and investment. This includes developing socio-economic infrastructure through "quality infrastructure investment," <sup>2</sup> supporting institutional and human resources development, promoting trade, and stimulating private investment. In recent years, Japan has sought to further enhance open regional cooperation and integration based on shared fundamental values. At the same time, it has worked to foster mutual understanding and sustained regional stability through youth and cultural exchanges, as well as the promotion of Japanese language. In order to establish Asia as "a growth center open to the world," Japan provides support to strengthen the region's capacity for growth and expand domestic demand in each country.

## Support for Southeast Asia

Most of the ASEAN member states <sup>3</sup> are key to a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" and have strong economic ties with Japan, with approximately 15,800 Japanese-affiliated company offices operating in the region as of October 2023. The region is of great importance to Japan, both politically and economically. ASEAN has adopted the "ASEAN Community Vision 2025" in 2015, and has been making efforts to further deepen its integration through strengthening connectivity and narrowing the development gaps within the region. Moreover, the "ASEAN Outlook on

the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)"\* (2019) advocates openness, transparency, inclusivity and other principles as ASEAN's guiding principles of action, and the "Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2020, affirmed that AOIP shares fundamental principles with FOIP. The leaders also concurred on further reinforcing the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership through enhanced practical cooperation and synergy in the four areas outlined in the AOIP (maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation). In the year of 2023, which marked the historic milestone of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) was established at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in September. Moreover, the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was adopted at the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, held in December of the same year, outlining a new vision for cooperation, along with its Implementation Plan, which outlines 130 specific cooperation items.



A JICA expert engaging in active dialogue with local stakeholders in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Mindanao, Philippines (Photo: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform, Bangsamoro Transition Authority)

Building on ASEAN's initiatives, Japan implements ODA across a wide range of areas, such as infrastructure development, the rule of law, maritime safety, disaster risk reduction, health and medical care, and peacebuilding. Moreover, in light of the increasing

<sup>1</sup> See the glossary on page 35.

<sup>2</sup> See Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 43.

<sup>3</sup> The 10 ASEAN member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

importance of leveraging the financial resources of the private sector and Multilateral Development Banks in the area of development, Japan presented a policy at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2023 to mobilize \$35 billion in public and private funds for the ASEAN region over the next five years as a new initiative in public-private partnership for finding solutions through co-creation. Japan is working to advance cooperation in collaboration with various actors, including the private sector, and in 2024, it convened a public-private roundtable to promote the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative to support the development of Cambodia.

With regard to strengthening connectivity, Japan promotes cooperation based on the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025,"\* which aims to strengthen "physical connectivity," "institutional connectivity," and "people-to-people connectivity" in the region. In 2019, Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement to support the reinforcement of ASEAN unity and centrality. In accordance with the Agreement, by FY2023 Japan conducted human resources development and training in areas such as cyber security (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 41 for details), marine plastic litter management, public international law, treatment of criminal offenders, disaster medical management, food value chain development, <sup>4</sup> promotion of local industries, customs administration, and prevention and control of infectious diseases. Under the "Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative" announced in September 2023 to further promote both structural and non-structural aspects of connectivity, Japan supported infrastructure projects such as the Metro Manila Subway and Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit. Japan also provided capacity-building support in the field of digital connectivity through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC). Furthermore, Japan is also advancing cooperation that strengthens human and knowledge connectivity, such as arranging acceptance of trainees for the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

In terms of infrastructure development, Japan works to promote "quality infrastructure" investment based on its past experiences of assisting Southeast Asian countries and in accordance with the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment." For example, since 2017, Japan has been advancing the development of the first subway in Metro Manila in the Philippines, aiming to meet the growing transportation demand in Metro Manila, to relieve serious traffic congestion, as well as to ease atmospheric pollution and climate change. In response to the decision of the Government of the Philippines to establish the Philippine Railway Institute (PRI) for human resources development related to

railway operation and maintenance, Japan also provides assistance for the development of PRI facilities, provision of training equipment such as simulators, and assistance in organizational management and capacity building. In March 2024, Japan decided on new financial cooperation for the development of a bypass road in Dalton Pass, which is the main trunk road directly connecting Metro Manila and the north-central part of Luzon Island. The construction of an alternative road that is resilient to disasters and has excellent driving performance is expected to improve access between north-central Luzon Island and Metro Manila, thereby strengthening connectivity and contributing to the revitalization of the Philippine economy. Through such efforts, Japan provides ODA that strategically combines loan aid, grants, and technical cooperation to realize "quality infrastructure" in the Philippines.



A loan aid project "Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project" in the Philippines. Japan has long contributed to regional flood control efforts. (Photo: JICA)

In regard to disaster risk reduction, Japan has continued its efforts since 2009 to enhance disaster management and disaster response capacity in ASEAN with support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). <sup>5</sup> These efforts include the establishment of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA), capacity building of the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), and the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management Programme (ACE-LEDMP).

In the field of health, Japan fully supports the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, including approximately ¥5.5 billion (\$50 million) in contributions to JAIF in 2020. Through these efforts, Japan has been contributing to strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN region to address public health emergencies and to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to emerging

<sup>4</sup> See 2 on page 29.

<sup>5</sup> A fund established in 2006 to support ASEAN's endeavors to advance integration by narrowing the development gap within the region, in pursuit of the establishment of an ASEAN Community. Japan announced its contribution of a total of ¥7.5 billion (approximately \$70.1 million) at the 2005 ASEAN-Japan Summit, and later contributed a total of \$100 million to the "JAIF 2.0" in 2013. Japan provided additional contributions in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

infectious diseases. In Timor-Leste, Japan contributes to the development of medical systems, including improving maternal and child health, through the provision of facilities and equipment for the national hospital and the establishment of basic emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities at community health centers.



A family who completed registration through the mobile birth registration system established in a rural area of Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

With regard to the area of human resources development, Japan has been working on developing approximately 80,000 people over five years from 2019, including in the digital sector such as artificial intelligence (AI), under the "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0" announced at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2018. In Thailand, Japan supports the establishment of two "Kosen schools (Technical Colleges)," that incorporate Japan's unique "Kosen education" system, providing education at the same level as in Japan to develop engineers who will lead innovation. Currently, five departments are operating at these two Kosen schools, and in March 2024, the first cohort of 24 students graduated. In addition, Japan implements the "Innovative Asia" initiative, which supports the circulation of competent human resources in Asian countries including ASEAN through studying abroad at Japanese graduate schools or other institutions, internships at Japanese companies, etc., with the aim of promoting innovation in Asia including Japan. Over the five years from FY2017, Japan accepted a total of 908 people from across Asia for both long-term and short-term programs. Under the "Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21)," a joint initiative through which Japan and Singapore cooperate to provide technical assistance to third countries, the two countries jointly conducted training in FY2023 with focus on the priority areas of (i) connectivity, (ii) maritime cooperation, (iii) urban governance and smart initiatives, (iv) economic development, and (v) resilience building. Moreover, as part of Japan's efforts to share its expertise more widely, the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) operator,

which accumulated sufficient Japanese expertise in Phase 1 of the project, is now conducting training for capacity building of MRT operators in other countries, such as those in Ho Chi Minh City and Dhaka.

Japan also engages in economic cooperation, holding investment seminars, invitation programs, and the "BIMP-EAGA+Japan" dialogue for the East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).<sup>6</sup> For Indonesia, Japan has been developing local fishing ports and markets as part of its maritime and remote island development cooperation. Since 2022, tuna landed at the fishing port on Biak Island in Papua Province, which was developed through Japanese ODA, has been exported to Japan. In addition, since 2023, the development of fishing ports and markets has been undertaken on other remote islands, namely Sabang (Aceh Province), Morotai (North Maluku Province), Moa (Maluku Province), and Saumlaki (Maluku Province).

With regard to the Mekong region,<sup>7</sup> which has great potential for development among the ASEAN countries, the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in July 2024, where the "Mekong-Japan Cooperation Strategy 2024" was adopted to succeed the "Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation" ("Tokyo Strategy 2018").<sup>8</sup> It was decided to steadily implement Mekong-Japan cooperation projects based on three pillars: (i) Resilient and connected society in the post-COVID-19 world, (ii) Digitalization, and (iii) Proactive responses to non-traditional security issues.

Japan places strong emphasis on strengthening connectivity, which is critical for economic growth in the Mekong region. Under the "Tokyo Strategy 2018," Japan has been steadily implementing projects including the development of Sihanoukville Port and the rehabilitation of National Road No. 5 connecting the capital Phnom Penh and the Thai border in Cambodia, the improvement of Vientiane International Airport and the "Monsoon Wind Power Project" to promote cross-border electricity sales in Laos, the construction of the Ho Chi Minh City urban railway in Viet Nam, and the development of the Mass Transit System (Red Line) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Regarding Cambodia, during the visit of then Foreign Minister Kamikawa in July 2024, Japan announced the "three new cooperation approaches," focusing on human resources development and the application of Japanese technology in the fields of social infrastructure, maritime connectivity, and mine action. These initiatives aim to promote cooperation toward strengthening the sustainability of Cambodia's development and further co-creation of social value, and Japan is advancing these cooperative efforts.

Regarding Thailand, during his visit in July 2024, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

<sup>6</sup> A regional framework established in 1994 by Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to promote economic growth in the developing regions of these four countries.

<sup>7</sup> A region including the five countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

<sup>8</sup> Adopted at the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in Tokyo in 2018. It outlines the direction of Japan's cooperation with Mekong.

Komura reaffirmed the commitment to advancing various cooperative initiatives with Thailand, as a "Comprehensive Strategic Partner" of Japan. He also visited project sites such as the Mass Transit System in Bangkok.



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Komura (right) visiting the Red Line (Mass Transit System) and Bang Sue Grand Station developed through Japan's yen loans to Thailand

For Malaysia, which assumes the Chair of ASEAN in 2025, Japan has been providing support to the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology since 2012, contributing to the development of highly productive and competitive human resources for the ASEAN region. This support includes the provision of educational and research equipment and the introduction of Japanese-style engineering education through a yen loan project and technical cooperation projects. Japan is also supporting the dispatch of Japanese language teachers as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), and strengthening collaboration with Japanese industries and universities.

### ■ Assistance for Myanmar

In Myanmar, since the coup d'état in February 2021, the Government of Japan has consistently urged the Myanmar military to take concrete actions to (i) immediately stop the violence, (ii) release those who

are detained, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and (iii) swiftly restore Myanmar's democratic political system. In view of the current situation in the country, Japan decided not to initiate new bilateral ODA projects with the military regime.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate, and delivering humanitarian assistance is an urgent issue. According to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Myanmar announced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in December 2023, 18.6 million people, including 6 million children, are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Therefore, in March 2024, Japan decided to implement additional ODA projects through multiple international organizations and NGOs for the distribution of food and medical supplies, water and sanitation infrastructure, nutrition improvement for pregnant women and infants, medical services, access to education, support for female victims of human trafficking, and drug countermeasures and rehabilitation support for those affected by the coup. These projects are being implemented not only within Myanmar but also in the neighboring country of Thailand. Japan proactively provides humanitarian assistance via international organizations, NGOs, and other organizations, directly benefiting the people of Myanmar, and has provided a total of more than \$152 million in humanitarian assistance since the coup. In addition, in 2024, projects rooted in emergency humanitarian assistance and transitioning to medium-term development are being implemented in Myanmar and Thailand through the Japan Platform (JPF) 9 for humanitarian activities carried out by Japanese NGOs. Japan will continue to strongly urge Myanmar to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access and will remain committed to delivering humanitarian assistance that reaches the people of Myanmar in coordination with international organizations, NGOs, and other partners, based on the on-the-ground situation as well as the urgency of humanitarian needs.



### Glossary

#### ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

An initiative to create a vision for closer cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen ASEAN-centered regional architecture. It is not aimed at creating new mechanisms or replacing existing ones; rather, it is intended to enhance ASEAN's community building process and to better face challenges arising from the current and future regional and global environments. The initiative shares fundamental principles with a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" promoted by Japan.

#### Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025)

An action plan for strengthening ASEAN connectivity that was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in 2016 to succeed the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity" (adopted in 2010). It is positioned as a part of "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together" (adopted in 2015). The document outlines five strategic areas of "sustainable infrastructure," "digital innovation," "seamless logistics," "regulatory excellence," and "people mobility," under which key initiatives are identified.

9 See the glossary on page 137.

## Featured Project 6

Public nomination

### Project for Capacity Development on Comprehensive Traffic Management Planning and Traffic Control Center Operation and Maintenance in Phnom Penh Capital City (PPTMIC)

Technical Cooperation (January 2022 – December 2024)



## Developing Signal Systems for Safe and Comfortable Urban Transportation

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, has seen rapid urbanization driven by strong economic growth. This has led to increased traffic, chronic congestion, and a rise in traffic-related deaths. One major challenge was that, although traffic signals and other equipment had been installed, the signals at each intersection and the control system were not operated in a coordinated manner. For example, traffic signals would change regardless of traffic volume, which hindered improvements to the flow of traffic.

To address this challenge, Japan has provided grants to install intersection signals and a Traffic Control Center (TCC). With traffic volume expected to increase in the future, there is a need for sustainable maintenance and more effective use of facilities and equipment.

This project involves a variety of technology transfers to enable TCC staff to independently and properly maintain and manage the traffic control system, collect and analyze traffic information in a timely manner, and manage traffic effectively. In addition, traffic safety campaigns based on the "3Es," Engineering (signal



TCC staff and JICA experts working together to install traffic signal equipment (Photo: METS Research & Planning, INC.)



A traffic safety campaign incorporating the "3Es": Engineering (signal installation), Education (traffic safety awareness), and Enforcement (traffic law enforcement) (Photo: METS Research & Planning, INC./International Development Center of Japan)

installation), Education (traffic safety awareness), and Enforcement (traffic law enforcement), are being carried out at multiple intersections across the city targeting road users. Through these efforts, Ms. Pheng Pharinet, the head of the TCC, remarks, "Public awareness of traffic management among Phnom Penh residents has changed. We hope to contribute to the city's better development through this traffic control system."

Years of cooperation between Japan and Cambodia, grounded in Japanese technology and expertise, is now poised to bear significant fruit. This collaboration seeks to help the approximately 2.28 million residents of Phnom Penh to commute to work and school and engage in socioeconomic activities without the burdens of traffic congestion and accidents.

The Southwest Asian region has approximately 1.8 billion people and has maintained a high economic growth rate in recent years, offering an attractive market and production base to Japanese companies and attracting attention as an investment destination. It is also a strategically important region because of its location on critical sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa.

At the same time, the Southwest Asian region still faces many development issues, including infrastructure development, the development of primary education and health and medical care systems, the reform of legal institutions, responses to natural disasters, the consolidation of democracy, and actions on the environment and climate change. In particular, poverty reduction is a major challenge, with approximately one-third of the world's poor accounted to be living in this region.<sup>10</sup>

Japan has traditionally maintained friendly relationships with the countries of Southwest Asia and has been providing assistance to the region as its largest partner for many years. By harnessing the region's economic potential, Japan provides assistance in a wide range of areas such as socio-economic development, democratization and consolidation of democracy, peacebuilding, and emergency humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts after natural disasters.

## Japan's Efforts

Development cooperation with India, which has achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years, is a key component of the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership."<sup>11</sup> Japan promotes development cooperation that benefits both Japan and India by bringing together the strengths of both countries, creating new value through co-creation, and thereby addressing social challenges. At the same time, given that India accounts for approximately 20% of the poor population in all developing countries, Japan recognizes the significant need for socio-economic development from the perspective of achieving the SDGs globally. Thus, Japan supports the realization of inclusive and sustainable economic growth in India.

Japan has been comprehensively supporting the Government of India's efforts to achieve the SDGs. In 2024, Japan and India exchanged notes for yen loan

projects, which include the construction of roads, bridges, and the Dedicated Freight Corridor to improve connectivity; the construction of a medical university hospital to strengthen the healthcare system; support for entrepreneurs and micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises in southern India; urban water supply development in the mountainous areas of northern India; forest and biodiversity conservation efforts to tackle climate change; and the diversification of horticultural crops. Regarding the "Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail," then Foreign Minister Kamikawa and Foreign Minister Jaishankar concurred to continue working on the project as a flagship project between India and Japan at the Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2024. In addition, Japan is building a new cooperative relationship with India. In March of the same year, the two Ministers concurred to establish a new forum for discussing bilateral development cooperation in third countries to ensure that their joint support for the development of third countries draws on their respective strengths.



The train depot of the Mumbai Metro Line 3 in India developed with Japanese loan aid (Photo: Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited)

Bangladesh, a long-standing friend of Japan, has seen remarkable development in recent years with an increasing presence of Japanese companies. During then Prime Minister Hasina's visit to Japan in April 2023, the bilateral relations were elevated from a "Comprehensive Partnership" to a "Strategic Partnership." Japan promotes development cooperation under this partnership along with the "Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)" initiative, which consists of the three pillars: (i) development of economic infrastructure, (ii) improvement of the investment environment, and (iii) enhancement of connectivity. In the new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website (note that Afghanistan is included in South Asia) <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>

<sup>11</sup> Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership [https://www.mofa.go.jp/s\\_sa/sw/in/page3e\\_000432.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/s_sa/sw/in/page3e_000432.html)

Pacific (FOIP)," announced by then Prime Minister Kishida in March 2023, Japan highlighted its cooperation with Bangladesh as a concrete example of contributing to multi-layered connectivity. This cooperation is guided by the vision of treating northeastern India, Bangladesh, and the surrounding areas as a single economic sphere, with the aim of fostering growth across the region by helping to build an industrial value chain linking the Bay of Bengal to northeastern India. Under this vision, Japan is advancing projects such as the Matarbari Deep Seaport, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Terminal 3, and the development of economic zones. As Bangladesh is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026, it faces various challenges such as promoting industrial diversification and addressing rapid urbanization in order to sustain and accelerate its steady economic growth. To support these efforts, Japan provides grants to Bangladesh for human resources development targeting young government officials.

Japan also continues to provide humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh. Following the mass influx of displaced persons from Rakhine State, Myanmar, in 2017, Japan has supported the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to accommodate them by working in partnership with international organizations such as the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Japan's assistance, focused on human security, extends to displaced persons camps and their host communities in Cox's Bazar district, as well as on Bhasan Char island, where its support began ahead of other countries. For displaced persons and host community support, fine-tuned cooperation is also provided through Japanese NGOs via the Grants Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the Japan Platform (JPF).<sup>12</sup>

Such humanitarian assistance in cooperation with diverse actors has also proven effective in emergency situations. In response to the flood damage that occurred mainly in southeastern Bangladesh in late August 2024, Japan decided in September of the same year to extend an Emergency Grant of \$1 million through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in areas such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and shelter. In addition, a grant of JPY 300 million to be disbursed for assistance by Japanese NGOs via JPF has been approved.

Sri Lanka, which is located at a key point along sea lanes connecting Asia with the Middle East and Africa, has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. Japan has been working on strengthening cooperation with Sri Lanka in areas such as enhancing connectivity and the maritime sector, toward the realization of a FOIP. Japan has also supported regions where development has lagged behind due to the impact of past conflicts, focusing on improving the livelihoods of people including female-headed households and internally displaced women who

have lost their possessions. The support has extended to fostering industrial and human resources development, particularly in the fishery and agricultural sectors, and to enhancing response capabilities for disaster and oil spillage incidents in the ocean. Furthermore, in response to the critical situation following the economic crisis in 2022, Japan has provided emergency humanitarian assistance tailored to Sri Lanka's needs, such as food and health support, while also supporting the strengthening of governance, including assistance in the formulation of anti-corruption policies.

Following the announcement made by the Government of Sri Lanka in April 2022 regarding its temporary suspension of external debt payments, Japan, as co-chair of the Official Creditor Committee for Sri Lanka, strongly supported Sri Lanka's efforts toward debt restructuring. In July 2024, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on debt restructuring between official creditor countries and Sri Lanka was completed. Following the confirmation of the Sri Lankan government's intention to swiftly conclude a bilateral agreement with Japan, the Government of Japan decided to resume the disbursement of yen loan projects that had been temporarily suspended. Japan will further contribute to Sri Lanka's sustainable development and growth.

The Maldives, like Sri Lanka, is located strategically along the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. In view of this, Japan has been strengthening cooperation with the country toward realizing a FOIP. In 2024, Japan provided grants to the Maldives, an island nation facing security vulnerabilities, for a patrol vessel and related equipment to enhance the capabilities of its Customs Service. Japan also provided dewatering pumps and an emergency support vehicle to help the Maldives, where 80% of the land consists of small, low-lying islands less than one meter above sea level, to quickly respond to frequent natural disasters such as floods. In addition, to ensure that Maldivian citizens can access detailed information on disaster risk reduction in a timely manner during emergencies, Japan provided additional grants to address funding shortfalls caused by price fluctuations for the ongoing support for the development of Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T) systems that were developed in Japan.

With the world's fifth-largest population, and its geopolitical importance as the interface between Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan plays a vital role in the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism. The stable development of Pakistan is important from the perspective of peace and stability in the surrounding regions, as well as in the international community as a whole. Japan continues to support Pakistan in enhancing its capacity to monitor meteorological phenomena and improve the accuracy of meteorological and flood information and early warnings, recognizing the country's

<sup>12</sup> See the glossary on page 137.

frequent vulnerability to natural disasters. Japan also contributes to strengthening maternal and child health and medical systems. As part of its ongoing efforts, Japan provided grants in 2024 to support vaccination for eradication of polio in Pakistan, where wild poliovirus remains endemic, along with grants for human resources development targeting young government officials.



Breakthrough ceremony of the Nagdhunga Tunnel, the very first mountainous traffic road tunnel in Nepal

The establishment of democracy, stability, and prosperity in Nepal, a traditionally friendly nation to Japan, is important for Japan to ensure the stability of the entire Southwest Asia region, which is also politically and economically important to Japan. As Nepal aims

to graduate from LDC status in 2026, Japan has been supporting the realization of sustainable economic development. The support includes the renovation and reconstruction of bridges, hospitals, and other public infrastructure facilities, as well as the refurbishment and rebuilding of houses and schools. Japan also carries out a range of technical cooperation related to strengthening the government capacity in disaster risk reduction and ensuring compliance with the national building code. In April 2024, the Nagdhunga Tunnel, the very first mountainous traffic road tunnel in Nepal, achieved a breakthrough with Japanese loan aid. When completed, this tunnel will streamline Nepal's transportation network, accommodate rapidly increasing traffic demand, reduce travel time, and improve road safety.

Japan's development cooperation toward Bhutan has achieved steady results, especially in the improvement of agricultural productivity, development of economic infrastructure such as road networks and bridges, and human resources development. In 2024, Japan exchanged notes with Bhutan on grants to replace two bridges, Namling Bridge and Durdari Bridge, using Japanese technology. Given that most of Bhutan is mountainous and roads are the primary means of transportation, this support is significant. Furthermore, Japan is supporting human resources development through technical cooperation to ensure that Bhutan's road infrastructure is maintained and managed more effectively.

## Featured Project

7

### Project for Improvement of Livelihoods and Well-being of Female Home-Based Workers (FHBWs) in the Informal Economic Sector in Sindh Province

Technical Cooperation (March 2017 – December 2023)



#### Building Support Systems that Empower Pakistani Women

In Pakistan, many women are engaged in informal employment, with the majority working as home-based workers who carry out paid work in or around their home. These workers often face unstable and unfairly low pay, as well as poor working conditions.

To address this issue, Japan partnered with the Women Development Department and local NGOs in Sindh, a province with a large number of home-based workers, to support women's livelihoods and improve their living conditions through training sessions, seminars, and guidance at their workplace.

During the training sessions and seminars, the support initially focused on household financial management, helping participants develop life plans and savings strategies to prepare for expenses such as those for their children's education and unexpected illnesses. The project then worked on promoting basic business and transactional practices, including meeting delivery deadlines,



Women participating in a training session (Photo: JICA)



A training session on enhancing financial access using smartphone functions (Photo: JICA)

as well as applying quality control and hygiene management techniques. Additionally, efforts were made to develop and expand smartphone-based financial services for women with limited access to formal banking systems.

The model approach developed through the project, along with training materials on livelihood improvement and business skills for female home-based workers, are expected to be used by partner organizations even after the project's completion, in order to support these workers.

Women support families' livelihoods and household finances in many households, and their empowerment is essential to Pakistan's economic and social development. Japan will continue to support maintaining and improving the stable income-generating activities by Pakistani women engaged in home-based work.

The Pacific Island countries are long-standing friends of Japan, connected by the Pacific Ocean and also share deep historical ties with Japan. In addition, with vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ),<sup>13</sup> these countries are key to maritime transport activities and provide essential fishing grounds for bonito and tuna fisheries.

The sustainable development of the Pacific Island countries is important also for Japan. Over many years, Japan has advanced cooperation through bilateral efforts and the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process, building relationships of trust with these countries.

## Japan's Efforts

Pacific Island countries face common challenges unique to small island countries, such as small-scale economies dependent on specific industries, territories dispersed over a vast ocean, difficult access to international markets, and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Recognizing that the sustainable development of the Pacific Island countries requires not only addressing the socio-economic vulnerabilities of each country but also strengthening cooperation across the whole region, Japan has been hosting PALM, a summit meeting between Japan and Pacific Island countries, every three years since 1997.

Japan also promotes cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF),<sup>14</sup> a regional cooperation framework comprising Pacific Island countries and territories. In 2022, the PIF unveiled "The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy)," which presents a vision and strategic pathways for the political, economic, social, and other development in the Pacific Islands region to be achieved by 2050. Japan has consistently expressed strong support for the Strategy.

In PALM10 in Tokyo in July 2024, there were discussions held in line with the seven priority areas<sup>15</sup> outlined in PIF's 2050 Strategy. The meeting reaffirmed the relationship between Japan and the Pacific Island countries and regions to tackle common challenges and stride forward together. The Joint Action Plan also outlined specific initiatives in the seven priority areas of the 2050 Strategy. (See "ODA Topics" on page 100 for PALM10).

One of the seven priority areas is "Technology and



A user boarding a wheelchair-accessible vehicle with a lift provided to the Spinal Injury Association of Fiji through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

Connectivity." Enhancing connectivity and expanding access to digital technology are particularly important in bringing economic and social benefits to the Pacific Island region, which faces unique challenges, and are key to achieving sustainable development. A concrete example of strengthening digital connectivity is the East Micronesia undersea cable, a joint cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Australia, which was jointly announced in December 2021 by six countries: Japan, the United States, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia. In this project, Japan exchanged notes with Kiribati and Nauru on grants in June 2023. In the same month, the components for manufacturing and installation of the undersea cables were officially launched. The project has made steady progress, with the provision of additional grants signed with Kiribati in June 2024 and with Nauru in July 2024.

Japan and the Pacific Island countries have also been advancing cooperation to ensure that the ocean and environment in the Pacific region are sustainably managed and resilient to threats. They work together particularly in areas such as monitoring and sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources, capacity building and provision of equipment in the fields of maritime security and safety, waste management and pollution reduction, countermeasures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and conservation of the Pacific's biodiversity environment and resources.

During the bilateral summit meetings held during PALM10, then Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan would continue to provide support in the maritime

<sup>13</sup> Maritime zones where a sovereign country has certain economic rights that can be established outside its territorial waters.

<sup>14</sup> As of November 2024, the PIF is comprised of 16 member countries and two territories, including Australia, New Zealand, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, Niue, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia.

<sup>15</sup> (1) Political Leadership and Regionalism, (2) People-Centered Development, (3) Peace and Security, (4) Resources and Economic Development, (5) Climate Change and Disasters, (6) Ocean and Environment, (7) Technology and Connectivity.

domain. Japan has been supporting sustainable development by providing patrol boats to Nauru, which will enhance the country's capabilities in maritime rescue, disaster relief, and the control of territorial violations and illegal fishing. Japan also supported the Solomon Islands by assisting in the establishment of the "Fisheries Research Center" at Solomon Islands National University. Furthermore, to Pacific Island countries where the fishery industry is an important source of income, such as Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, Japan provided fishery research vessels as well as fisheries-related equipment to conduct sustainable monitoring of changes in fisheries resource stocks and distribution.

People-to-people exchange and human resources development are the foundation of "kizuna" between Japan and the Pacific Island countries. Over the past 50 years, more than 4,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been dispatched to the Pacific region. They have lived alongside the people of the Pacific, contributing to social improvement in a wide range of fields such as education, health, construction, environment, IT, sports and culture, and have dedicated themselves to the development of those countries. Japan



Members of the 800th cohort of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers since dispatching to Papua New Guinea began in 1980 (Photo: JICA)

also promotes people-to-people exchange programs that invite and send youth (JENESYS)<sup>16</sup> and government scholarship programs so that young people from Pacific Island countries and regions can deepen their understanding of Japan to become leaders of the future.

Through these various initiatives, Japan will work hand in hand with the Pacific Islands countries in building a resilient, stable, and prosperous region.

**Featured Project** 8 

**The Project for Unexploded Ordnance Disposal in Central and Western Solomon Islands**  
Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (March 2022 – March 2025)

**Solomon Islands** 

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS** 

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS** 

## Toward Safe and Secure Communities Free from Unexploded Ordnance

Even 80 years after the end of World War II, Solomon Islands, which witnessed fierce battles during the war, still has numerous unexploded ordnances (UXOs) remaining on its territory, leading to several casualties every year. These UXOs not only threaten the safety of residents but also impede the utilization of agricultural land and infrastructure development, hindering the country's economic development. While donor countries, led by Australia and the United States, have supported efforts to collect and dispose of these UXOs, progress has not been sufficient due to shortages of personnel and equipment. Another challenge is that local residents do not have sufficient knowledge about UXOs or the skills needed to handle them upon encounter.

In response, Japan provided equipment for UXO disposal operations, including hydraulic excavators and trucks for transporting UXOs, to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project.\*1 Japan is

also supporting awareness-raising activities on the risks and handling of UXOs for school students and residents in Guadalcanal Province and Western Province, the target areas of this project. Through these initiatives, UXO disposal operations are being carried out efficiently across a combined area of 15,634 km<sup>2</sup> in both provinces, while local residents are gradually gaining a deeper understanding of UXOs.

As part of initiatives other than the aforementioned ODA efforts, the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan, which possess expertise in UXO disposal, are engaged in activities to share their knowledge on former Japanese military ordnance types and methods for public awareness with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. Through these efforts, Japan is providing capacity building support aimed at creating synergistic effects in UXO disposal operations.

Japan will continue to support UXO disposal operations in Solomon Islands, in cooperation with partners like Australia and the United States.



Awareness-raising poster on UXO



Hydraulic excavator provided for UXO removal

\*1 See Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145.

<sup>16</sup> People-to-people exchange between Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. An abbreviation of Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths.



## The 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) and Japan's Development Cooperation in the Pacific Region

The 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) was held in Tokyo from July 16 to 18, 2024. The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting is a summit-level meeting that Japan has been hosting every three years since 1997. It aims to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region through candid exchanges of opinions at the leaders' level on various issues facing Pacific Island countries, while enhancing the partnership between Japan and these countries. PALM10 was co-chaired by the leaders of Japan and the Cook Islands, with the participation from leaders and representatives of 19 countries and regions,\*1 including 16 Pacific Island countries and regions, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

At the PALM10, the leaders reaffirmed the relationship of "striding forward together" toward the future while tackling common challenges, based on the discussions held in light of changes affecting the region. Building on this, the leaders adopted the Leaders' Declaration and endorsed its annex, the "PALM10 Joint Action Plan," which identified seven priority areas of cooperation: (1) Political Leadership and Regionalism, (2) People-Centered Development, (3) Peace and Security, (4) Resources and Economic Development, (5) Climate Change and Disasters, (6) Ocean and Environment, (7) Technology and Connectivity. These areas are consistent with the "2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent" or "2050 Strategy"\*\*2 developed by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).\*3 The Joint Action Plan outlines concrete actions for the next three years in these priority areas for Japan and PIC Members to jointly undertake in order to realize the future vision described in the



Then Prime Minister Kishida, leaders and representatives from the Pacific countries and regions attended the PALM10 Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

### "2050 Strategy."

In the area of climate change, Japan announced "the Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative," as an "All Japan" initiative that mobilizes Japan's technology, know-how, and financial resources. Pacific Island countries are frequently exposed to natural disasters such as cyclones and are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For example, in Fiji, Japan supports the establishment of a seamless disaster management system through "Stand-by Loans for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation" and demonstration experiments of disaster risk management notification services using the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System "Michibiki."

In addition to supporting "hard aspect" such as infrastructure and facility development, Japan provides support in "soft aspect" such as dispatching technical experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), to address the specific challenges faced by Pacific Island countries. For example, in Solomon Islands, for enhancing the capacity development of the staff members at the Ministry of Forestry and Research as well as promoting the community-led forest management model, JICA dispatched Sustainable Forest Resource Management Advisor and utilized timber processing equipment provided by grant aid in collaboration with JOCVs.

Through such cooperation, Japan and Pacific Island countries will further strengthen their partnership founded on mutual trust and KIZUNA, which signifies "bonds" in Japanese.



Training session on forest resource management and portable sawmill safety, conducted as part of technical cooperation project, Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management in Solomon Islands (Photo: JICA)

\*1 Japan, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand.

\*2 See Part IV, Section 3 on page 98.

\*3 See 14 on page 98.

As a major force in the international arena, Latin America and the Caribbean has an enormous emerging market with a population of approximately 660 million<sup>17</sup> and a regional GDP of approximately \$7 trillion.<sup>18</sup> Many countries in the region share values and principles with Japan, such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, and are strategically important from diplomatic and economic perspectives. Also, since the region is a supplier of minerals, energy, and food, and particularly given the current circumstances where the stability of global food and energy supplies is a major challenge, it has become increasingly important in terms of strengthening supply chains and economic security in the international community including Japan. In addition, this region has the world's largest Nikkei community (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) with a population of approximately 3.1 million, and there are also descendants who crossed the ocean to come to Japan and support Japanese industry. Thus, the personal and historic bond with Japan has been traditionally strong and this helps Japan maintain a stable and friendly relationship with the region for a long time.

On the other hand, the Latin American and the Caribbean region still has major developmental needs to be addressed as common challenges facing the international community, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, vulnerabilities in the areas of health and medical care, and poverty. There are also many countries in this region having vulnerabilities particular to small island states. In addition, the region is confronted by challenges, such as migrants who aim to immigrate to North America to flee from poverty and insecurity in their countries, Venezuelan refugees fleeing to neighboring countries due to the worsening political, economic, and social situations, and the situation in Haiti where the domestic political, economic, and security environments have continued to deteriorate since the murder of the president in July 2021.

Japan has deepened trust and friendship as partners with Latin American and Caribbean countries, under the keyword "juntos" (meaning "together" in both Spanish and Portuguese). As part of such foreign policy, Japan provides assistance unique to Japan (such as "quality infrastructure," disaster risk reduction and mitigation utilizing Japan's experiences, clean energy technology,

"Visible Japanese Development Cooperation" through technical cooperation by volunteers and others) in ways that consider each country's income level, situations, and needs. Through such assistance, Japan strives to help the region realize resilient and sustainable development. Japan also supports and leverages the Nikkei people and their communities that form the foundation of strong ties with Japan, and is further strengthening its multi-layered network of human resources based on trust.

## Japan's Efforts

In 2024, which became a "Year of Latin America and the Caribbean" with Latin American and Caribbean countries chairing the G20 and APEC and leading the international community, Japan advanced diplomacy under the "Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean." This Initiative seeks to strengthen cooperation in areas of increasing importance in international arenas, including oceans, gender, and disarmament and non-proliferation, while pursuing "diplomacy through diverse networking" as an approach to complement and strengthen historically strong relationships with Latin America and the Caribbean. Various efforts were also implemented in development cooperation to materialize the "Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean" (see also "ODA Topics" on page 105).

In February 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Brazil and Panama. In Panama, in addition to strengthening traditional bilateral relations grounded in shared values and principles, she confirmed that Japan will strengthen cooperation in areas where both countries put priorities, such as ocean and gender cooperation. With Brazil, the G20 Chair in 2024, she confirmed that Japan will further cooperate in addressing urgent issues facing the international community and in global governance reforms, including the UN Security Council reform. In May 2024, then Prime Minister Kishida visited Brazil and Paraguay, and confirmed the importance of cooperation in various fields, from maintaining and strengthening the international order to environmental protection and climate change measures. Through these efforts, Japan continues to deepen its engagement with the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

<sup>17</sup> World Bank website (as of December 2024) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2023&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

<sup>18</sup> World Bank website (as of December 2024) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?end=2023&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

## ■ Efforts toward Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Issues

While the Latin American and the Caribbean region is blessed with abundant nature, the region is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Therefore, it is of great importance that Japan supports this region, drawing on its expertise and experience in disaster risk reduction.

Japan provides assistance utilizing its expertise in the disaster risk reduction to the Latin American countries facing the Pacific Ocean, such as Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, where earthquakes frequently strike. In 2024, Japan provided emergency relief goods through JICA to Brazil, which suffered from flooding, and Bolivia, which was affected by forest fires, as well as to Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which were all affected by hurricanes. For Caribbean countries, Japan delivers various assistance and helps them overcome the particular vulnerability of small island states to natural disasters. In recent years, Japan has been dispatching experts in disaster risk reduction to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDEMA) and helping enhance the capacity for formulating disaster risk reduction policies in the region.



Promotional activities for Genova coffee by the Women Coffee Producers' Association in Genova City, Colombia (Photo: JICA)

Moreover, Japan is engaged in a wide range of cooperation in the efforts to address environmental issues in the region, including scientific and technological research on climate phenomena, the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection of the Amazon rainforest using remote sensing. During then Prime Minister Kishida's visit to Brazil in May 2024, Japan and Brazil launched the "Japan-Brazil Green Partnership Initiative (GPI)" for cooperation on environment, climate change, and sustainable development. As part of this initiative, Japan contributed to the Amazon Fund, which aims to prevent deforestation in the Amazon, as the first contributor in Asia. Furthermore, under the GPI, Japan has announced cooperation in disaster risk reduction and

promotion of triangular cooperation, as well as in the conversion of degraded pasture into farming land from the perspective of global warming countermeasures and food security, and in agroforestry,<sup>19</sup> a sustainable agriculture and forestry method that restores forests and maintains forest ecosystems by planting a wide variety of plants together.

## ■ Economic and Social Infrastructure Development

In order to promote economic and social infrastructure development of the Latin American and the Caribbean region, Japan actively engages in developing water supply and sewerage infrastructure in metropolitan regions and the countryside. In 2024, Japan decided to provide Guatemala, where water supply capacity has not kept pace with population growth and where insufficient drainage capacity has led to road flooding, traffic congestion, and a deteriorating sanitation environment, with water supply and sewerage system maintenance equipment such as pumps and crane trucks. Japan also decided to provide Antigua and Barbuda, which faces severe water shortages, with seawater desalination equipment.

In Honduras, Japan has been supporting landslide prevention measures along the National Road No. 6, a major international artery connecting the capital city of Tegucigalpa with neighboring Nicaragua, and decided to assist in constructing a bridge at a location where landslides are worsening.

In addition, Japan works on spreading its terrestrial digital broadcasting system (ISDB-T)<sup>20</sup> through public-private collaboration. As of December 2024, 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Japanese system. For these countries, Japan supports technical transfer and human resources development to achieve smooth introduction of the system.

## ■ Initiatives in the Areas of Health and Medical Care, and Education

Due to the underdeveloped medical system, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and tropical diseases are still serious public health concerns for the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Therefore, establishing a system enabling rapid and accurate diagnosis and treatment is needed.

In Bolivia, improving medical equipment was a particularly urgent issue. In June 2023, Japan decided to provide Bolivia with a grant of ¥300 million and has installed medical equipment utilizing its advanced medical technology in the country's national

<sup>19</sup> Agroforestry: a form of agriculture and forestry that involves planting trees and raising livestock and growing crops in the spaces between the trees.

<sup>20</sup> See <sup>19</sup> on page 39.

medical institutions.

Japan makes continuous effort for the Nikkei communities in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as providing support for the welfare facilities of the Nikkei communities, accepting trainees, and dispatching JOCVs.

Assistance in the sector of education is extremely important for Latin American and the Caribbean countries, where poverty still persists and education is under-budgeted. Based on the idea that education is crucial as an "investment in people," Japan has been providing El Salvador with technical cooperation in mathematics and arithmetic education for more than 15 years. Additionally, since the spread of COVID-19, Japan has provided El Salvador, which prioritizes the promotion of digitalization in the education sector from the perspective of improving the quality of education and ensuring access to learning opportunities regardless of location, with equipment to promote the production of digital teaching materials.



A JICA expert conducting tango therapy in Paraguay, aiming to promote independent living and social participation for persons with disabilities (Photo: JICA)

## ■ Assistance for Central American Migrants and Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

The Central American region faces the problem of migrants who seek to immigrate to the United States and Mexico, fleeing poverty and insecurity in their country. Japan provides support for the measures to address the root causes of their migration such as poverty, insecurity, and disasters. Moreover, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme (WFP), Japan provides El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico with assistance for the promotion of voluntary repatriation of migrants, prevention of outflow of migrants, and social reintegration of returnees.

Under the "Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean," Japan has been providing protection services against gender-based violence and other issues to 20,000 migrant women in Panama, Costa Rica, and Honduras through UN Women from the perspective

of addressing migration issues and gender equality, including Women, Peace and Security (WPS). In addition, Japan has implemented programs for 3,500 men and women, including both local residents of communities hosting the migrants and the migrants themselves, on the importance of social cohesion and problem-solving from a gender perspective (see footnote 93 on page 81 regarding WPS. Also, see "Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives to Promote WPS" on page 84 for Japan's WPS initiatives).

Due to the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in Venezuela, approximately 7.77 million refugees and migrants have fled mainly to neighboring countries as of May 2024. The lack of adequate response has been a challenge, causing deterioration of the living conditions for the host community residents and regional instability. Therefore, in October 2024, Japan decided to provide assistance totaling approximately ¥1.3 billion through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, and Peru, which have been hosting displaced persons from Venezuela. This assistance is aimed at providing humanitarian assistance and promoting economic and social inclusion of refugees and migrants by strengthening their protection and supporting the establishment of their livelihoods.

## ■ Support for Haiti in Response to its Worsening Security Situation

In Haiti, especially since 2021, there have been frequent occurrences of violence and kidnappings against civilians by armed groups, which have become more influential. Nevertheless, the Haitian National Police (HNP), which should play a central role in improving security in the country, is short of both personnel and equipment. In view of this situation, the dispatch of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti was decided at the United Nations Security Council in October 2023, and Japan supported this decision.

In Haiti, the influx of weapons and illegal drugs, human trafficking, and the emergence of irregular migrants have combined to make the deterioration of security and humanitarian situations recognized not only as a domestic problem but also as a serious international concern. Japan has been assisting in improving the security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, in cooperation with the United States and other G7 countries, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). As part of these efforts, in November 2023, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police, Japan decided to provide police vehicles and police ambulances to the Haitian National Police in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## ■ South-South Cooperation / Triangular Cooperation

There are countries in Latin America and the Caribbean which have built a strong track record in South-South cooperation.\* Japan has developed partnership programs on triangular cooperation\* with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico. Under the "Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean," Japan is developing "diplomacy through diverse networking" by triangular cooperation. Japan collaborated with Argentina in 2024, for example, to provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, Japan cooperated with Mexico in introducing production systems for non-traditional tropical fruits in northern countries of Central America. In Chile, Japan implements the KIZUNA Project (Disaster Risk Reduction Training Program). This project aims to develop Chile as a hub for disaster risk reduction training in the Latin American and Caribbean region, building on

Japan-Chile disaster risk reduction cooperation that has continued since 1960. Over five years, more than 5,000 people from 27 countries have participated in training programs with experts dispatched from Japan. In Brazil, many years of cooperation from Japan resulted in the widespread use of the Japanese-style community police system. Building on this experience and the framework of triangular cooperation, Brazilian experts are currently dispatched to Central American countries to pass on their know-how in the field of community policing. Furthermore, Japan and Brazil are collaborating to conduct training programs, including vocational training, for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

In order to provide more effective and efficient assistance, Japan works with regional organizations such as the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the CARICOM to formulate regional projects related to common development issues in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.



## Glossary

### **South-South cooperation / Triangular cooperation**

South-South cooperation refers to cooperation implemented among developing countries, utilizing knowledge, skills, resources, technology, and other assets. When such South-South cooperation is supported by developed countries, donors, or international organizations, it is referred to as triangular cooperation.

## ODA Topics 4



## Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean

### – Japan's Development Cooperation Efforts during the Year of Latin America and the Caribbean –

In 2024, the world turned its attention to Latin America and the Caribbean as the “Year of Latin America and the Caribbean,” with Brazil presiding over the G20 and Peru over APEC.

Many Latin American and Caribbean countries are key partners that share values and principles such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. As the free and open international order based on the rule of law is coming under serious challenges, collaboration with these countries is becoming all the more critical. With a combined population of approximately 660 million and a regional GDP of around \$7 trillion, the Latin American and Caribbean region not only holds immense economic potential but is also rich in mineral and energy resources essential for decarbonization, as well as food resources. Its importance is growing further in terms of strengthening supply chain resilience and ensuring economic security. Moreover, beyond the trust and friendship cultivated over history between Japan and the region, a unique bond exists through the world's largest Nikkei community (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) comprising approximately 3.1 million people.

In 2024, the “Year of Latin America and the Caribbean,” Japan deepened its cooperation with the region through high-level visits and other efforts, reflecting the region's importance.

In February, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Panama and announced the “Diplomatic Initiative toward Latin America and the Caribbean,” building on the principles, achievements, and trust Japan has cultivated through its past diplomatic engagement with the region. It seeks to establish and foster new partnerships with Latin American and Caribbean countries by integrating themes of growing global relevance and Japan's unique perspectives into existing bilateral and multilateral diplomatic efforts.



Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa paying a courtesy visit to then President Cortizo of Panama



Foreign Minister of Honduras Enrique Reina, IAEA Director General Grossi, and then Director-General of the Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau Noguchi (from left), holding the signed letter of intent on trilateral cooperation in medicine in Honduras

Japan is undertaking various cooperative efforts to concretize the initiative. As part of its development cooperation, in March, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa and visiting International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Grossi agreed to collaborate and cooperate in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the framework of the initiative. Building on this agreement, in September, the signing procedure of a letter of intent on trilateral cooperation in medicine (radiotherapy) in Honduras, was completed among the three parties, including Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina. Going forward, Japan and the IAEA are expected to contribute to the expansion of radiotherapy in Honduras, a country that is striving to reduce its cancer mortality rate.

Furthermore, the initiative emphasizes cooperation on ocean-related issues as one of the key areas of partnership between Japan and the region. As 2024 was designated the “Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year,” Japan decided in February to provide grant aid for fisheries and marine research vessels to Jamaica. In recent years, Jamaica's fisheries and marine sector, and more broadly its economy, has been heavily affected by declines in fish catches. Through the provision of these vessels, it is expected to enable Jamaica to grasp the impacts of climate change on its marine ecosystems, thereby leading to sustainable resource management and fisheries and marine development.

Japan will continue to enhance its cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean countries in areas of growing importance to the international community, while also strengthening its historically strong bilateral ties through diplomacy that leverages diverse networks.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which began in February 2022, continues to this day, worsening the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and its neighboring countries and destabilizing Ukraine's economy and society. It has also disrupted global supply chains, highlighting challenges for the entire international community such as food and energy security—which are fundamental for people to live with dignity—as well as the maintenance and strengthening of a free and fair trading system. These compound crises are by no means "someone else's problem" for Japan; they have had serious impacts on the daily lives of Japanese citizens and on the business activities of Japanese companies.

Taking the consistent position that Russia's outrageous aggression must not be tolerated and that support for Ukraine and its neighboring countries is essential, Japan has collaborated with the international community, including the G7, from the outset of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Japan also continues to advance public- and private-sector support for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, including through the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in February 2024.

Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as those that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, that were once under communist regimes are now pursuing market-based economic development. Japan regards European countries as important partners that share fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, a market economy, and the rule of law, and supports their efforts in areas such as reconstructing economic infrastructure and addressing environmental challenges. Japan also works to strengthen comprehensive relations with the European Union (EU) and other Europe-based international organizations through continued dialogue and cooperation, as well as the development of human networks.

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Support for Ukraine and Neighboring Countries

#### (Overview)

In February 2024, the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction was held in Tokyo, with participation from government officials and business representatives from both countries.



Then Prime Minister Kishida delivering the keynote address at the Leaders' Session of the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

At the conference, then Prime Minister Kishida emphasized that support for Ukraine is "investing in the future" for Ukraine, Japan, and the world. He announced that, based on three principles—"inclusiveness," "partnership," and "knowledge and technology"—Japan would make what he called "Japan's unique contribution" through public-private collaboration and through five actions (including support through international financial institutions, public-private partnership projects through ODA, and JICA's Private Sector Investment Finance for Ukrainian venture capitalists, etc.). He also stated that Japan would closely follow up on the joint communiqué and 56 cooperation documents signed by both public and private sectors, which were presented as concrete outcomes, and continue collaborating with G7 countries, other partners, and international organizations.

On the occasion of the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction, a WPS session was held to explore concrete ways to integrate a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)<sup>21</sup> perspective into Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction efforts. Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa presented Japan's approach to supporting Ukraine's self-sustaining development in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the Ukrainian people, aiming at the "reintegration" of families, communities, and the nation as a whole. She emphasized that this support is carried out through an all-Japan effort in coordination with the international community, including the G7, and introduced Japan's WPS-related initiatives in its assistance for Ukraine (see "Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives to Promote WPS" on page 84 for details).

<sup>21</sup> See 93 on page 81.

In April, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Italy to attend the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and met with then Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kuleba. She expressed Japan's intention to steadily follow through on the outcomes of the Japan-Ukraine Conference for the Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in February, and the two ministers concurred to continue close coordination.

From June 11 to 12, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Fukazawa attended the Ukraine Recovery Conference co-hosted by the governments of Germany and Ukraine in Germany, where he presented Japan's initiatives in support of Ukraine's reconstruction. He stressed the importance of the international community working together to support Ukraine, particularly in light of the severe situation with ongoing attacks across the country. At the women's leadership session, he underscored the need to integrate a WPS perspective into every phase of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, and announced Japan's participation in an alliance, initiated by the host country Germany, that emphasizes gender equality and women's rights.

On June 13, then Prime Minister Kishida attended the G7 Apulia Summit, where he stated that Japan would continue to strongly promote support for Ukraine. He highlighted that Japan had been providing financial assistance since the beginning of the year to meet Ukraine's urgent funding needs, and emphasized Japan's focus on mine action, including the provision of large Japanese-made mine-clearing machines, and plans to host an international conference on mine action for Ukraine in 2025 (see page 53, "From the Field of International Cooperation" for details on mine action support). He furthermore underscored Japan's commitment to supporting Ukraine's reconstruction over the medium to long term, noting that in addition to the 56 cooperation documents signed with Ukraine in February, another 23 were signed during the reconstruction conference in Berlin. The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to jointly addressing the situation in Ukraine and concurred to launch the "Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration Loan for Ukraine,"<sup>22</sup> utilizing Russia's frozen assets. On the margins of the summit, then Prime Minister Kishida also held talks with President Zelenskyy of Ukraine, during which they signed the "Accord on Support for Ukraine and Cooperation between the Government of Japan and Ukraine," outlining cooperation including humanitarian assistance and recovery and reconstruction support.

Subsequently, then Prime Minister Kishida attended the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, held in Switzerland from June 15 to 16. He welcomed the fact that representatives from about 100 countries and international organizations had gathered, building on the discussions at the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, with the aim of bringing peace

to Ukraine. He stated that Japan, as a co-chair, would actively contribute to the discussions on nuclear safety, one of the main themes of the Summit, and stressed the importance of humanitarian issues, noting Japan's intention to strengthen its efforts in fields such as mine clearance. Furthermore, at the Japan-Ukraine Summit Meeting in September, then Prime Minister Kishida explained that steady follow-up was being undertaken on the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction, and announced that the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Kyiv office was scheduled to open in October.

On October 17, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge took part in the Ukraine Mine Action Conference held in Switzerland. He outlined Japan's role as the host of the 2025 conference and reaffirmed Japan's commitment to mine action support for Ukraine, while engaging with partner countries and international organizations to enhance coordination.

Furthermore, on October 25, the G7 Finance Ministers reached agreement on the details of the "Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration Loan for Ukraine." On the same day, a G7 Leaders' Statement was issued confirming agreement on how approximately \$50 billion would be provided under this facility. Japan announced that, within this framework, it would extend a yen loan of ¥471.9 billion (approximately \$3.3 billion),<sup>23</sup> as part of the \$50 billion commitment by the G7.

Japan will continue to provide support that is closely attuned to the needs of the Ukrainian people facing difficulties, while working in coordination with the international community, including the G7.

### (Humanitarian Assistance and Support for Recovery and Reconstruction)

As Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues, the war has damaged infrastructure and facilities that support daily life—including energy, transportation, housing, and schools—placing the Ukrainian people in a dire situation. Even as the aggression continues, Japan is providing support that is responsive to the needs of the Ukrainian people, including women and children, integrating perspectives such as WPS across all phases, from humanitarian assistance to livelihood reconstruction to recovery support, economic revitalization, and industrial advancement, so that Ukrainians can envision a better future.

As part of emergency recovery efforts aimed at restoring daily life to near-peacetime conditions, Japan provides assistance that improves humanitarian conditions and livelihoods—including in electricity, healthcare, education, and temporary infrastructure—in cooperation with international organizations, Japanese NGOs, and NGOs in Ukraine and neighboring countries

<sup>22</sup> A G7 framework under which loans are provided to Ukraine, with repayment sourced from future "special revenues" generated by the immobilization of assets owned by the Russian state, in order to address Ukraine's financing needs.

<sup>23</sup> Based on the exchange rate published by the EU on September 19, 2024.



Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa exchanging views at the Spilno Spot, a facility established by UNICEF at Kyiv Central Railway Station, Ukraine, to provide support for women and children

(see “Featured Projects” on page 110). For instance, in response to the widespread destruction of energy infrastructure and large-scale power outages across Ukraine, Japan has supplied generators and solar lanterns. In January 2024, when then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Ukraine, Japan provided support for the transportation of autotransformers and the provision of gas turbine generators through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In November, then Foreign Minister Iwaya visited Ukraine to provide additional gas turbines and power-related equipment for water pumping facilities through UNDP, as well as small generators through JICA. By supporting damaged energy infrastructure facilities, these efforts contribute to restoring and strengthening electricity and heating supplies, helping the people of Ukraine endure the winter.

In addition, Japan has supported the country’s recovery and reconstruction from an early stage in areas such as mine action and debris clearance, restoration of basic services, including infrastructure, the revival of agricultural production and industrial development, and the strengthening of democracy and governance. Building on ¥75.51 billion in grant aid approved in

March 2023 to support the emergency recovery plan, in February 2024 Japan decided to provide an additional ¥15.8 billion in grant aid under “the Programme for Emergency Recovery Phase 3.” This assistance covers mine and unexploded ordnance clearance, the power and energy sectors, the transport sector, and other priority areas, thereby contributing to the country’s rapid recovery and reconstruction.

The removal of mines and unexploded ordnance is not only essential for ensuring the safety and security of residents, but also a prerequisite for recovery and reconstruction, underpinning the rebuilding of livelihoods, agriculture, and industry. In July 2024, as part of its mine and unexploded ordnance clearance efforts in Ukraine, Japan provided four large demining machines to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). From July to August, it also conducted training for SESU personnel on the operation and maintenance of these demining machines. This training was carried out with the cooperation of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), which Japan has been supporting since the 1990s (see “Stories from the Field” on page 53). In this way, Japan is providing comprehensive support for mine and unexploded ordnance clearance in Ukraine, drawing on the expertise it has developed through its long-standing demining assistance in Cambodia.

Regarding support for economic recovery and industrial advancement, despite the impact of Russia’s aggression, the ICT sector, an export-oriented industry, has remained strong in both Ukraine and Moldova. In February 2024, Japan decided to invest up to \$200 million in Horizon Capital Growth Fund IV, L.P., an investment fund targeting the two countries, through JICA’s overseas investment and loan project. This investment is intended to further promote the growth of the ICT sector, a key contributor to the economies of both countries.

In addition, Japan launched the Ukraine Business Support Project in April 2024 to accelerate the country’s recovery and reconstruction by mobilizing private sector funding and technology and revitalizing the economy through private sector participation. Building on the framework of the existing SDGs Business Supporting Survey,<sup>24</sup> the project is designed to reduce risks in the initial stages of market entry by supporting activities such as information gathering and market research, which are particularly difficult in wartime Ukraine. In July, fourteen projects were selected. With a view to promoting future investment in Ukraine, Japan will continue to actively support the country’s economic development by assisting Japanese companies in formulating business expansion plans.



Then Foreign Minister Iwaya and Ukrainian Minister of Energy Galushchenko attending the handover ceremony for power-related equipment in Ukraine

<sup>24</sup> See the glossary, page 130.



Training on the operation and maintenance of demining machines for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). Participants are gaining practical experience using actual demining equipment (Photo: JICA)

### (Support for Poland and Moldova)

Russia's prolonged aggression against Ukraine has placed a sustained burden on neighboring countries. In this context, Japan provides support to these countries to help alleviate their burdens while delivering effective humanitarian, recovery, and reconstruction assistance to Ukraine.

For Poland, which has been at the forefront of support for Ukraine, serving as a hub for both military and humanitarian assistance, Japan has provided humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs. This includes support for temporary housing and social integration projects for displaced Ukrainians, as well as the provision of school buses for displaced children and educational equipment for displaced children with disabilities, helping support the daily lives of Ukrainian evacuees over the long term. In January 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Poland and concurred with Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski to continue working closely on future support for Ukraine, including the involvement of the private sector in reconstruction efforts. The two Foreign Ministers also held a telephone conversation in July, during which then Foreign Minister Kamikawa reaffirmed Japan's commitment to cooperating with Poland, which has accepted a large number of evacuees from Ukraine, and expressed her intention to promote collaboration between Polish and Japanese companies in the field of reconstruction. Both sides confirmed their continued partnership.

Moldova provides shelters, food, medical services, and other assistance to evacuees who have fled from Ukraine, and many of them continue to live as displaced persons with support from Moldova. As these efforts place a significant economic burden on the country, Japan has been extending assistance to help mitigate the impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and

reduce Moldova's vulnerability to economic crises. In December 2023, Japan decided to provide grant aid of ¥300 million to support improvements in agricultural management, as the country has faced difficulties in purchasing fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. In November 2024, Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Popsoi visited Japan and held a Japan-Moldova Foreign Ministers' Meeting with then Foreign Minister Iwaya, during which he expressed appreciation for Japan's support. The two Foreign Ministers concurred to continue working closely together in light of the tense international situation, including the war in Ukraine.

### ■ Support for the Western Balkans

Reforms in the Western Balkan countries<sup>25</sup> were once stalled due to the conflicts of the 1990s. As a result of reconstruction assistance from donor countries and international organizations, as well as the countries' own reform efforts, they have now moved beyond the reconstruction phase and require support to achieve sustainable economic development. In support of a united Europe, Japan provides development cooperation to these countries in collaboration with the EU and other partners. Under the 2018 "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative,"<sup>26</sup> Japan assists the Western Balkan countries in implementing the socio-economic reforms necessary for EU accession.

Regarding Serbia, in April 2024, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka attended the completion ceremony of the flue gas desulfurization facility at the Nikola Tesla Thermal Power Plant, which was constructed with support from Japan's yen loans. The facility is also significant in promoting Serbia's green transition as the country moves from coal toward renewable energy. Japan will continue to support Serbia's efforts toward decarbonization.

Japan also supports the development of human resources who will play a key role in the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In recent years, this has included assistance to strengthen medical and health systems



An ambulance provided by Japan to the Pelagićevi Clinic in Bosnia and Herzegovina being used for emergency transportation of patients (Photo: Pelagićevi Clinic)

<sup>25</sup> The six countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

<sup>26</sup> An initiative aimed at supporting the socio-economic reforms of the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession and promoting reconciliation and cooperation among different ethnic groups.

aimed at improving the quality of life of the people, support for enhancing border management capabilities essential for progress in the EU accession process, and the sharing of knowledge on disaster prevention and mitigation.

In July of the same year, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, and presented Japan's efforts under the "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative" in these

countries. She highlighted the importance of gender equality and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) perspective for promoting peace and stability in the Western Balkans, a region that has been working toward reconciliation and development after the conflicts, and expressed Japan's commitment to continue cooperating with countries in the region. (See "Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives to Promote WPS" on page 84 for details on Japan's WPS initiatives.)

**Featured Project 9** Project for the Distribution of Cash, Food, and Daily Necessities to Internally Displaced Persons and Vulnerable Non-Displaced Residents in the Izmail City Area of Odesa Oblast

Japan Platform (JPF) (March – July 2024)

Ukraine

1 NO POVERTY 2 ZERO HUNGER

## Support for the People of Ukraine Facing Humanitarian Crisis

Russia's aggression against Ukraine that began in February 2022 continues even now, after more than two and a half years. Izmail City and its surrounding areas in Odesa Oblast in southern Ukraine have become a haven for many displaced persons. Both displaced persons and local residents who host them face dire living conditions, resulting from shortages of daily necessities due to soaring prices and disrupted supply chains, as well as disruptions to financial services such as banks and ATMs.

In response to this situation, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO), one of the member organizations of Japan Platform (JPF),<sup>\*1</sup> a platform for emergency humanitarian assistance, established a base in neighboring Romania. To alleviate the plight of displaced persons and local residents in Izmail City and its surrounding areas, NICCO, in cooperation with CHIC, a Ukrainian civil society organization, distributed food, daily necessities, and cash.

Specifically, NICCO, despite limited available resources, provided relief supplies tailored to the specific needs of approximately 1,000 people who particularly required support. The beneficiaries included single-parent and elderly households in urban areas, economically disadvantaged people living in remote areas with limited logistical access, and elderly and disabled persons. The support enabled their access to food, daily necessities, hygiene products, and medicines.

The beneficiaries shared their feedback as follows: "Previously, I had to reduce the number of meals or rely on support from relatives and friends, but thanks to this assistance, my food situation improved," and "Amid the disruption of food and supply distribution due to the turmoil of the conflict, it was extremely helpful to have daily necessities delivered to numerous households, including those that have difficulty going out shopping." NICCO will continue to provide support that contributes to improvements in humanitarian situations and living conditions, standing in solidarity with people facing difficulties.

**Displaced persons receiving food and daily necessities (Photo: NICCO)**

**Staff of the partner organization CHIC packaging food and daily necessities for distribution at the civic hall in Izmail City (Photo: NICCO)**

\*1 See the glossary on page 137.

The Central Asian and Caucasus region, located in a geopolitically important place linking East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Russia, is also an important region from the strategic perspective of energy security, being positioned on an important route for energy transportation which produces abundant natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and rare earths. In particular, since Russia's aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, it has been attracting attention as a point of connectivity between Europe and East Asia without passing through Russia.

Central Asian and Caucasus countries have been working toward transitioning to a market economy and economic development since their independence in 1991. However, they still face challenges such as the aging economic infrastructure dating back to the former Soviet Union era, the expansion of business human resources for further market economy development, and the establishment of social service delivery systems including health and medical care. Additionally, this landlocked region, which is vulnerable to the geopolitical influence of major countries in its vicinity and the security situations in neighboring countries, faces concerns about social unrest associated with the reintegration of returnees from conflict areas such as Afghanistan. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen border control and customs procedures against cross-border trafficking of illegal drugs and other items.

Cooperation with the Central Asian and Caucasus region, which continues to experience high economic growth and population increase, is becoming increasingly important in terms of maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law amid rapidly changing global circumstances.

## Japan's Efforts

Japan launched the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue in 2004, recognizing that regional cooperation is essential for the development of Central Asia, and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. With the aim of contributing to peace and stability in Central Asia, which is a partner in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order, Japan acts as a catalyst to promote regional cooperation led by the Central Asian countries. Within the framework of the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue, nine Foreign Ministers' Meetings have been held to date, fostering partnership based on friendship and mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. Furthermore,

Japan promotes cooperation in various fields including politics, economy, and people-to-people exchanges by organizing Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) and business dialogues, expert meetings on themes such as anti-drug measures, border management, and tourism, as well as Tokyo Dialogues (open symposiums by experts) on themes such as Connectivity with Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Along with these initiatives, Japan provides cooperation toward the free, open, and sustainable development of the Central Asian and Caucasus region, including supporting democracy and market economy development, developing economic and social infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, managing borders, and implementing anti-drug measures.

Regarding strengthening connectivity, Japan is working on the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route. For example, in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, customs systems differ from country to country, and crossing borders requires considerable time for complicated procedures and inspections. To reduce such costs, in 2024, Japan began cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is involved in international cooperation in the customs sector, to improve customs clearance efficiency for customs officials in the region. In addition, under the framework of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII),<sup>27</sup> the G7, including Japan, is cooperating on the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route.

With regard to human resources development, since 1993, Japan has accepted approximately 13,220 trainees from Central Asian and Caucasus countries in



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji (third from left) visiting a store supported by the technical cooperation project "One Village One Product Movement" during his visit to the Kyrgyz Republic in June 2024

<sup>27</sup> See 31 on page 44.

fields such as health, agriculture, and education, while dispatching approximately 3,380 experts to those countries. Moreover, since the transition to market economies, Japan has been providing cooperation to develop the human resources necessary for nation-building by supporting young government officials from these countries to study in Japan through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), by launching the JICA Development Studies Program, and providing business human resource training through the Japan Center for Human Resources Development.

Regarding the provision of social services, Japan has implemented projects to strengthen health and medical care systems and to improve sanitary conditions in these countries. For example, in Uzbekistan, Japan decided to provide medical containers equipped with medical devices for performing CT scans and X-ray examinations to enable the provision of mobile medical services in rural areas. In the Kyrgyz Republic, where the proportion of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases is higher than the world average, Japan decided to provide medical equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and breast cancer, with the aim of providing timely and appropriate medical services. In Tajikistan, Japan decided to construct wells, elevated water tanks, and water supply and drainage networks to

establish safe and reliable water supply services.

In recent years, a flashpoint for ethnic tensions has become apparent in the Caucasus region. In September 2023, in response to Azerbaijan's military activities in Nagorno-Karabakh, more than 100,000 persons were displaced to Armenia. The following month, the Government of Japan decided to extend an Emergency Grant of a total of \$2 million to support displaced persons in Armenia and Azerbaijan through international organizations. Subsequently, Japan has been supporting recovery and reconstruction in Armenia through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), by developing infrastructure such as electricity and water in temporary shelters and local medical services.

Additionally, Japan assists in strengthening the system of public order in the areas near the Tajik border with Afghanistan through establishing border security offices, delivering equipment for the digitalization of border control, and organizing personnel training. Furthermore, in the five countries of Central Asia, which neighbor Afghanistan, Japan provides support to promote social stability by providing skills training and employment support for youths returning from conflict areas or migrant work, as well as by encouraging social participation through community activities so that they can reintegrate into society.

## Featured Project 10

### Developing Curricula of Teacher Training Course at Higher Education for Promotion of Inclusive Education

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (February 2024 – February 2025)



#### Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment for People with Disabilities

In Tajikistan, although access to education in public schools for children with disabilities is legally guaranteed, actual attendance remains limited. This is due to factors such as a lack of awareness and prejudice regarding disabilities, insufficient barrier-free facilities in school buildings, and inadequate progress in creating an appropriate educational environment, including teacher training and teaching materials tailored to individual needs.

The Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), has been promoting inclusive education\*1 since 2014 in collaboration with public schools and higher education institutions. Under this project, teacher training on inclusive education and the development of a collection of practical teaching examples were carried out at a teacher training college in Tursunzoda City in western Tajikistan. Eight teachers who underwent the training delivered lectures to 202 students aspiring to become teachers. In turn, these trainee teachers conducted lessons on disability inclusive-related topics during their practicum at public schools. Including the students who participated in these lessons, a total of approximately 800 individuals have so far deepened their understanding of inclusive education through this project.



Information session on admission to Pedagogical College in Tursunzoda City, held for persons with disabilities and their families (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)



Teachers at Pedagogical College in Tursunzoda City learning about teaching methods and sign language for people with hearing impairments from a local expert on hearing impairments (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)

A public school teacher who attended a trainee teacher's lecture commented, "I was not sure how to interact with students with Down syndrome, but I was able to learn practical examples of how to give lessons and speak to children with disabilities, so I want to apply these in my own classes." Changes are beginning to take place on the ground.

In addition, the project supported improvements to barrier-free facilities at the teacher training college and carried out awareness-raising activities for local residents to deepen their understanding on disabilities.

Japan will continue to promote inclusive education through partnerships with NGOs, with the aim of creating an environment where everyone, regardless of having disability or not, can receive quality education, and hence support nation-building in Tajikistan.

\*1 Education where people with and without disabilities learn together, with the aim of enhancing respect for human diversity, and enabling people with disabilities to develop their mental and physical abilities to the maximum extent possible and to participate effectively in a free society.

# Middle East and North Africa

Japan relies on the Middle East and North Africa region for approximately 90% of its crude oil imports. For global logistics, the region is of critical importance to Japan's economy and energy security. Moreover, with its high population growth rate and expanding youth population, the region holds significant potential for future growth.

At the same time, the Middle East and North Africa region faces a range of destabilizing factors and challenges. Most recently, the humanitarian situation surrounding the Gaza Strip has become extremely grave due to the armed conflict following the terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and others on October 7, 2023, with repercussions spreading to Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere in the region. In addition, the escalation of tensions over Iran, along with the ongoing combat in Syria that continues to generate refugees and internally displaced persons, has had a profound impact on the stability of the region as a whole, including neighboring countries. Following the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, humanitarian needs have also grown both in the country and in neighboring countries. Risks of the spread of violent extremism, including groups like the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)," continue to exist in many areas. In addition, in recent years, the region has also suffered from large-scale natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, further raising concerns over deteriorating humanitarian and security conditions.

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan has long contributed to peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa through ODA and other means. Going forward, Japan will build on the good relationships it has cultivated with countries in the region and actively pursue diplomatic efforts aimed at easing tensions and stabilizing the situation.

## Japan's Efforts

Peace and stability in this region are vital for the stability and prosperity of the international community as a whole, including Japan. At this point, assistance efforts are needed in areas such as economic assistance and human resources development to realize sustainable peace and stability in the region.

### Middle East Peace (Assistance to Palestine)

Positioning assistance to Palestine as a key pillar of its policy to contribute to peace in the Middle East, Japan has provided approximately \$2.6 billion in support since

the Oslo Accords in 1993. In particular, it has delivered a range of humanitarian assistance to improve the severe living conditions of socially vulnerable populations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as those affected by conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Following the terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and others on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent military operations by the Israel Defense Forces in the Gaza Strip, numerous civilian casualties occurred and the humanitarian situation severely deteriorated. In response, Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance in areas such as food and health through bilateral cooperation, as well as through international organizations including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and NGOs.

Japan is also engaged in a wide range of initiatives aimed at stabilizing and improving the daily lives of Palestinians, strengthening the fiscal capacity, and enhancing administrative quality, in preparation for the establishment of a future Palestinian state and a viable economy. In February 2024, it decided to provide grants for audiovisual materials and ICT equipment to enable remote learning at schools in the West Bank, ensuring students' access to education. In September, it also decided to provide grants for firefighting equipment at fire stations in three governorates in the West Bank to strengthen firefighting and rescue capabilities (see also "Featured Project" on page 116).

After the discovery in January 2024 of allegations that UNRWA staff members were involved in the terror attacks, Japan temporarily suspended its funding to UNRWA (approximately \$35 million) as part of its support for



Children playing in a safe area at the shelter in the Gaza Strip (Photo: CCP Japan)

Palestine. In April, Japan resumed its contributions after confirming measures to ensure the appropriateness of projects funded by Japan, including (i) the establishment of a "Japan-UNRWA Project Management and Monitoring Mechanism," (ii) promotion of the participation of women in leadership positions in UNRWA governance reform and other initiatives, and (iii) reaffirmation that Japan would take all necessary measures in the event of fund misuse. Japan will continue to ensure UNRWA's transparent and proper use of funds.

### ■ Assistance to Lebanon

Following the deterioration of the situation in Gaza after October 7, 2023, exchanges of attacks between Hezbollah and Israel began in Lebanon. In particular, since mid-September 2024, Israel has conducted large-scale air strikes on southern and eastern Lebanon, including the southern suburbs of the capital, Beirut, resulting in over one million internally displaced persons, according to the Lebanese government. In response to the worsening humanitarian situation in Lebanon caused by this escalation, Japan decided in October to provide Emergency Grant totaling \$10 million.

### ■ Assistance to Syria, Iraq, and Neighboring Countries

Regarding the Syrian crisis, a pressing concern for the international community, Japan announced at the seventh Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" (Brussels VII Conference) held in June 2023 that it would continue providing assistance aligned with the needs of the Syrian people and neighboring countries. Japan has provided assistance in areas such as humanitarian aid and social stabilization. In 2024, it decided to provide grants to support agriculture affected by the prolonged crisis and natural disasters, as well as to improve livelihoods and living conditions.

As for Iraq, Japan has provided support for the oil and gas sector, the backbone of Iraq's economy, as well as for basic lifeline services such as electricity, water, and sewage, through ODA loans and other measures. Japan also works to strengthen governance and improve living conditions through support in the health and education sectors, and promotes women's empowerment, aimed at helping the self-reliant development of Iraq as a stable and democratic country.

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Japan has provided approximately \$3.5 billion in assistance to Syria, Iraq, and neighboring countries. In this region, where humanitarian conditions have been constantly changing, Japan delivers aid in a timely and effective manner.

Under the Japan-Jordan Partnership Program (JJPP),



Basrah Refinery under construction with Japan's yen loan to Iraq (Photo: JGC Corporation)

Japan provides training in human resource development for nationals from neighboring countries, including Iraq, in Jordan, which plays a key role in hosting Iraqi refugees and supporting Iraq's reconstruction. Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Jordan has received a large number of Syrian refugees. In support of both the refugees and host communities, Japan has helped develop water supply facilities to ensure stable water provision and promote efficient and effective use of water resources amid water shortages due to population growth. It also supports Jordan's efforts to modernize its economy and public finances, including assistance for stabilizing electricity supply through ODA loans and grants.

Moreover, Japan supports human resource development and the self-reliance of refugees. For example, to cultivate future leaders for Syria's reconstruction, it has accepted a total of 144 Syrian students from FY2017 to December 2024 under the "Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)" <sup>28</sup> and the Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT) program.

### ■ Assistance to Yemen

Yemen faces "one of the world's worst humanitarian crises," with approximately 60% of its population in need of some form of humanitarian assistance due to the prolonged conflict. Since 2015, as a major donor, Japan has provided a total of approximately over \$460 million in humanitarian aid through international organizations. In 2024, in addition to continuing humanitarian support via international organizations, Japan not only provides assistance through NGOs, but also provides higher education opportunities and training in Japan to foster human resources for Yemen's self-reliant stabilization, including accepting Yemeni students under the Japanese Government Scholarship program and conducting JICA-led training primarily for Yemeni government officials. As part of efforts to create an environment conducive to economic activity, Japan also supports improving logistics efficiency at the Port of Aden.

<sup>28</sup> This initiative, announced by Japan in May 2016 as part of its Middle East support measures, aims to provide educational opportunities for Syrian youth deprived of schooling due to the crisis. Implemented in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it targets Syrian youth who have fled to Jordan and Lebanon as refugees.

## ■ Assistance to Afghanistan

Even after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, international organizations and NGOs have continued to operate in Afghanistan, and the international community has provided support. The humanitarian situation, however, remains dire, due to the Taliban's repressive policies, including increased restrictions on the rights of women and girls, exemplified by the promulgation of the "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" in August 2024, which imposes severe restrictions on the conduct of the people of Afghanistan. In coordination with the international community, Japan continues to engage with the Taliban to improve the situation. At the same time, Japan has set out a proactive humanitarian aid policy in the international arena, such as in the G7 and the UN Security Council, underscoring the importance of restoring stability to Afghanistan.

Since August 2021, Japan has provided assistance in areas such as shelter, health, water and sanitation, food, agriculture, and education, which includes support for women's livelihoods through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), infectious disease prevention through UNICEF, counter-narcotics capabilities through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and improvements to urban living environments through the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). In addition, immediately after the floods that struck northern Afghanistan in May 2024, Japan provided emergency relief supplies.

Since 2001, Japan has offered a wide range of development assistance to Afghanistan in support of its sustainable and self-reliant development, including hosting two ministerial-level meetings (in 2002 and 2012) and providing assistance in fields such as humanitarian relief, health, education, agriculture and rural development, and women's empowerment. Japan will continue to work closely with the international community and provide support based on a careful assessment of the needs of the Afghan people, while keeping in mind the establishment of a self-reliant economy and the promotion of women's empowerment.

## ■ Assistance to the North Africa Region

In Egypt, under the initiative of President El-Sisi, efforts are underway to introduce Japanese-style education from early childhood through to postgraduate studies, contributing to education and human resource development. Japan also provides a mix of ODA loans, grants, and technical cooperation across diverse fields: transportation infrastructure such as the Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4 and Borg El Arab International Airport; the health sector, with a focus on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC); <sup>29</sup> irrigation agriculture and rural development; and tourism development through projects related to the Grand Egyptian Museum, including its construction, artifact conservation and restoration, and museum operations and exhibitions (For details on the introduction of Japanese-style education, see Part III, Section 3 (5) on page 78; for support to the Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4, see "Stories from the Field" on page 46).

Furthermore, located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, Egypt plays a key role in promoting peace and stability across the Middle East and Africa. Since the outbreak of civil war in Sudan in April 2023, Egypt has hosted evacuees, asylum seekers, and returnees from Sudan. Following the escalation of the Gaza crisis in October of the same year, it has also admitted severely injured patients from Gaza. In light of these developments, Japan decided in March 2024 to support efforts to improve and strengthen Egypt's strained medical and health services, providing medical equipment and training for healthcare workers through the WHO.

Tunisia is experiencing a severe nationwide water shortage due to climate change. The government has designated addressing water scarcity and adapting to drought as key national strategies. Japan has been supporting social infrastructure development, particularly in the water sector. In February 2024, it decided to provide a grant for a new advanced sewage treatment plant adjacent to an existing facility, designed for efficient operation and maintenance.

In Morocco, strengthening the health system is a priority, with the aim of achieving UHC by improving access to and quality of health services and establishing medical coverage. In September 2024, Japan decided to provide an ODA loan to support institutional reforms for expanding and improving maternal and child health and nutrition services, as well as enhancing the medical coverage system.

<sup>29</sup> See 66 on page 68.

## Passing the Baton of Technical Cooperation from Japan to Indonesia, Palestine, and Central America

The Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) is a regional cooperation framework initiated by Japan in February 2013. It aims to support Palestinians' state-building efforts by leveraging human resources and economic development expertise from East Asian countries, in order to realize peace through a "two-state solution," where a future independent Palestinian state and Israel live side by side in peace and security.

Indonesia, a key member country of CEAPAD, has been developing livestock artificial insemination technology at the Singosari Artificial Insemination Center since the 1980s with Japan's technical support through JICA. This project leveraged Indonesia's expertise to provide training on livestock artificial insemination technology and reproductive management to livestock technicians from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. The Palestinian artificial insemination team that received the training is actively engaged in applying and disseminating not only



Learning how to use equipment such as pipettes and procedures for semen dilution (Photo: JICA)



A lecture on artificial insemination using a schematic diagram of the bovine reproductive tract (Photo: JICA)

artificial insemination techniques but also the broader knowledge that they acquired, contributing to the development of the livestock industry in Palestine.

Furthermore, the Palestinian Authority, through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PIC), has utilized this technology not only for domestic application and dissemination, but also for providing technical cooperation to Central American countries such as El Salvador and Nicaragua. In this way, the baton of technical cooperation that originated in Japan has been passed on to the world through "triangular cooperation,"\*1 where developed countries support South-South cooperation between developing countries.

\*1 See the glossary on page 104.

Africa is a hopeful continent with a young population, and by 2050 it is expected to account for one-quarter of the world's population. With abundant natural resources and significant potential as an economic market, the region is anticipated to demonstrate dynamic growth. At the same time, Africa faces various challenges, including poverty, fragile health systems, and the rise of terrorism and violent extremism.

To address these challenges, African countries pursue sustainable development under "Agenda 2063,"<sup>30</sup> Africa's own development framework. Amid developments that continue to challenge the foundation of the international community, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, coordinated international responses have become more important than ever. In this context, Africa's position in the international community has shifted significantly, and its importance and influence as a major global actor continue to grow. For these reasons, it is essential to further strengthen cooperation with African countries.

## 8 Japan's Efforts

After the end of the Cold War, when developed countries' interest in supporting Africa had waned, Japan underscored Africa's significance and took the pioneering step of launching the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)\* as a testament to its commitment. Guided by the principle of supporting African-led development, Japan has consistently emphasized the importance of African "ownership" and international "partnership." Together with a wide range of stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector, and civil society, Japan has fostered substantive dialogue aimed at advancing Africa's development. TICAD 9 is scheduled to take place in Yokohama in 2025, from August 20 to 22.

In April 2024, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Madagascar, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria to strengthen economic relations and connectivity, as well as to enhance cooperation on global issues, including the rule of law and Women, Peace and Security (WPS).<sup>31</sup> In August, the TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held in Tokyo under the theme, "Co-create innovative solutions with Africa." The meeting brought together representatives from 47 African countries, international organizations, private companies, parliamentarians,



Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa (center) with Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad, Merzoug (left), serving as co-chairs at the 2024 TICAD Ministerial Meeting

and civil society organizations. With a strong emphasis on listening carefully to views expressed by the African side, participants advanced discussions through dialogue under three perspectives: future-oriented problem-solving, youth and women, and connectivity and knowledge platforms. Discussions took place in three sessions on society, peace and stability, and economy.

The participants concurred on disseminating many innovative solutions and ideas shared during the discussion throughout Africa and contributing to addressing global challenges, and adopted a joint communiqué.

In December, the 3rd Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum was held in Côte d'Ivoire, co-hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. From Japan, then State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ogushi and then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto participated together with representatives of Japanese companies. From Africa, around 20 ministers attended, including Côte d'Ivoire's Prime Minister Beugré Mambé, as the co-host country, and some 1,200 public and



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto delivering remarks at the 3rd Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum

<sup>30</sup> Adopted at the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in 2015, the same year the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was endorsed.

<sup>31</sup> See 93 on page 81.

private sector representatives from about 40 countries participated to engage in discussion on promoting cooperation between Japanese and African companies and to advance Japanese business activities in Africa.

## Economy

Japan aims to strengthen a free and fair international economic system to support a robust recovery from the effects of infectious diseases, the situation in Ukraine, and other challenges affecting the food, energy, and related sectors, while protecting people's livelihoods. It also promotes green growth in each country, contributing to a resilient and sustainable Africa. In addition, Japan places special focus on vibrant young people and supports the expansion of private enterprises, including start-ups.

Japan places particular emphasis on human resources development for Africa. Over the three years leading up to March 2024, it has offered training opportunities to around 291,000 people across a wide range of fields, including industry, healthcare, agriculture, the judiciary, and public administration. In addition, as part of "investment in people" toward realizing quality growth, Japan has long promoted development. As of December 2024, the ABE Initiative\* has offered training opportunities to over 9,000 youths from Africa. There are also good examples of ABE Initiative participants returning to their home countries after completing their training and applying the specialized knowledge and skills they acquired in Japan to find employment in Japanese companies, start their own businesses, and assume prominent positions in government agencies and universities in their home countries, while contributing to development in their own countries and the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

Japan also promotes "quality infrastructure investment" <sup>32</sup> to enhance connectivity, focusing on three priority geographic areas. <sup>33</sup> In addition, by leveraging digital transformation (DX), <sup>34</sup> Japan supports logistics improvements through infrastructure development and One Stop Border Posts, while also working with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to build capacity in border control and tariff collection.

In response to worsening food security driven by multiple factors—including price increases caused by conflicts, terrorism, political instability, natural disasters,

Russia's prolonged aggression against Ukraine, extreme climate events, and infectious diseases—Japan provides both short-term support, such as food assistance, and medium- to long-term support aimed at enhancing agricultural production capacity. In 2024, Japan decided to provide grants to 32 sub-Saharan African countries facing severe food insecurity, such as hunger, food shortages, and malnutrition—with projects being implemented to deliver cereals such as rice, beans, vegetable oil, canned fish, etc., one after another. To strengthen medium- to long-term food production capacity, Japan also supports initiatives aimed at doubling rice production in Africa and co-financing approximately \$320 million to the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Emergency Food Production Facility. In addition, Japan provides capacity building support to train 200,000 agricultural personnel over the three-year period from 2023 and extends assistance to the fisheries sector. Japan will continue contributing to strengthening food security across Africa.

Japan is also engaged in cooperation on green growth, aiming for a structural transition to decarbonization. Specifically, Japan provides yen loans for geothermal power projects in Kenya and has been implementing technical cooperation for the development of power transmission lines and grid stabilization in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Mozambique. Furthermore, in Southern and Western Africa, Japan has launched region-wide technical cooperation, with a focus on human resources development and capacity building, toward the realization of stable power supply in the long run through intra-regional power interchange.



The container terminal developed under the "Mombasa Port Development Project" in Kenya, financed by a Japanese yen loan (Photo: Toyo Construction Co., Ltd.)

<sup>32</sup> See Part III, Section 1 (3), page 43.

<sup>33</sup> Three areas covering the East Africa Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor, and the West Africa Growth Ring.

<sup>34</sup> See 15, page 38.

## Society

At TICAD 8, Japan expressed its commitment to addressing widening disparities and to realizing a better living environment, in line with human security, the SDGs, and "Africa's Agenda 2063."

Infectious diseases control continues to be a major challenge for Africa. To respond to public health threats, including infectious diseases, Japan supports seven African countries<sup>35</sup> through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in establishing immunization information management systems using digital technology. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Japan works on empowering medical personnel to strengthen support to the frontline hubs for infectious disease control.

Japan continues to strengthen health systems in Africa through international organizations and bilateral channels. Since TICAD 8, Japan has trained approximately 27,300 healthcare workers and 7,970 medical personnel and researchers specializing in infectious disease control. Through support like this, it has contributed to expanding medical services to 1.38 million people across Africa. Furthermore, with a focus on prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) to future public health emergencies, it contributes to the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC)<sup>36</sup> in Africa, based on the principle of "leave no one's health behind." Since 2022, Japan has also supported projects in water, sanitation, and hygiene in 42 African cities since 2022.

In addition, Japan strives to improve access to quality education for youth and women. At TICAD 8, it made a commitment to providing quality education, including STEM<sup>37</sup> education, to 9 million people and to improving access to education for 4 million girls. Since



A JICA expert training agricultural extension workers in Namibia on the use of syringes for livestock (Photo: JICA)



A JICA expert conducting training on superior seeds for producing high-yield, high-quality rice in Zambia (Photo: JICA)

then, Japan has helped to promote school enrollment, enhance inclusiveness, and provide school meals through technical cooperation and other initiatives. For example, since its launch in 2004, the "School for All" project,<sup>38</sup> designed to improve the learning environment for children through collaboration among schools, parents and guardians, and communities, has been rolled out to approximately 70,000 primary and junior high schools across nine African countries.

In Africa, it is also urgent to address the challenges arising from rapid urbanization. Under the "African Clean Cities Platform,"<sup>39</sup> Japan has been promoting public health improvements through waste management, as well as decarbonization and recycling initiatives, in 190 cities across 47 countries as of November 2024. It is also undertaking environmental initiatives, including the regular monitoring of forests through the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST).

## Peace and Stability

At TICAD 8, Japan expressed its commitment to supporting Africa's own efforts to achieve peace and stability, which are prerequisites for economic growth, investment, and better livelihoods. This support is provided under the "New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA),"\* which aims to address the root causes that undermine human security as well as peace and stability. Japan continues to work steadily toward the realization of these goals.

The rule of law is essential for realizing peaceful and stable societies and sustainable growth. As specific support for Africa's own efforts related to the rule of law, Japan assists in building institutions and strengthening governance in the judicial and administrative sectors, including through human resources development,

<sup>35</sup> Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, Malawi, South Sudan, Tunisia, and Uganda.

<sup>36</sup> See 66, page 68.

<sup>37</sup> See 86, page 77.

<sup>38</sup> See 87, page 77.

<sup>39</sup> See the glossary, page 68.

supports the conduct of fair and transparent elections, and helps ensure public safety. Furthermore, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the government and citizens—the foundation of peace and stability—Japan supports initiatives where local governments and communities collaborate.

Japan assists Africa's own efforts in mediation and conflict prevention by enhancing peacekeepers' capability at Peacekeeping Training Centers in Africa and supporting regional organizations such as the African Union (AU). Since 2008, Japan has made available financial contributions amounting to over \$110 million for projects for Peacekeeping Training Centers in 15 African countries and has dispatched over 60 Japanese instructors to develop the training capacity of these facilities and conduct training. Furthermore, Japan has provided an additional \$8.5 million to expand the "UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP)," a support framework for peacekeepers, to deliver training to personnel deployed to AU-led peace support operations.

In the Sahel, under NAPSA, Japan contributes to regional peace and stability. In particular, with a focus on the vulnerabilities of administrative systems, it provides training for personnel involved in institution building, as well as vocational training and education opportunities for the youth. For example, to support stability in the Sahel, Japan, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), implements a project to improve public services, including support for residents of the Liptako-Gourma region,<sup>40</sup> with a view to contributing to stronger community foundations.

Since South Sudan's independence in 2011, Japan has supported the country's nation-building efforts. Under the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (or the International Peace Cooperation Act), Self-Defense Forces personnel are deployed to the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) as staff officers. Japan also supports South Sudan's own peace process initiatives, including through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional organization in East Africa. Alongside support for infrastructure development, human resources development, and food assistance, Japan contributes to consolidating peace and stabilizing the economy in South Sudan.

Moreover, in South Sudan, Japan supports the organization of "National Unity Day," a nationwide sporting event to promote reconciliation, friendship, and unity among citizens. Since its inception in 2016, the event has been held annually by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of South Sudan. It is important for the international community to continue cooperating to consolidate peace in South Sudan, so that citizens can feel the consolidation of peace and prevent another conflict.

To maintain peaceful and stable societies, it is important not only to protect vulnerable people such as women in conflict situations, but also to enable women in leadership to participate in conflict prevention as well as humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction assistance. Japan supports Africa's peace and stability from the perspective of advancing the WPS agenda as well (see "Japan's Development Cooperation Initiatives to Promote WPS" on page 84 regarding Japan's WPS efforts).



Women participating in group savings under the "Women's Empowerment through Community Participatory Water Supply System in Oida" in Ethiopia (Japan's Grant for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: Hope International Development Agency Japan)

<sup>40</sup> A border area of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, which is frequently affected by terrorist attacks.



## Glossary

### Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

An international summit-level conference on African development launched by Japan in 1993, TICAD embodies the principles of African "ownership" and international "partnership." In August 2022, TICAD 8 was held in Tunisia, attended by 48 African countries, including 20 heads of state and government.

### African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

Launched at TICAD V in 2013, this program is designed to foster industrial human resources in Africa. It offers young Africans opportunities to pursue master's degrees at Japanese universities, participate in internships at Japanese companies, and receive Japanese language and business skills training, among other business programs. Since 2016, the program has also provided training for future on-site leaders through the Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS).

### New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)

Proposed by Japan at TICAD 7 in Yokohama in August 2019, this initiative is based on the principles of respecting Africa's ownership and addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism. Under NAPSA, Japan supports: (1) African-led efforts for conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution by the AU and regional economic communities (RECs); and (2) institution building, strengthening governance, preventing youth radicalization, and enhancing resilience at the community level. At TICAD 8 in August 2022, Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Africa's own efforts under NAPSA to achieve peace and stability, which are prerequisites for economic growth, investment, and better livelihoods.

## Featured Project 12

### Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the General Hospitals in Lusaka District / Project for Strengthening Laboratory-based Surveillance for Infectious Diseases

Technical Cooperation (May 2021 – May 2026 / April 2023 – April 2028)



### Improving Health Services and Reinforcing Infectious Disease Control – Measures Taken and Achievements in Response to a Cholera Outbreak –

In Zambia, particularly in the capital city Lusaka, with recent population growth, there has been a chronic shortage of primary-level hospitals providing basic medical care and existing hospitals are facing serious challenges in operations management and service quality. In addition, since the country's infectious disease surveillance systems are insufficient, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS continue to be major causes of death, and outbreaks such as cholera have resulted in significant casualties.

Japan has worked to improve operations management capabilities to enhance service quality at five primary-level hospitals in Lusaka, which were built with previous grants by Japan. It has also supported capacity development at the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), the country's central hub for infectious disease control.

In October 2023, Lusaka experienced the largest cholera outbreak



Water point providing oral rehydration solution in a community (Photo: JICA)



A JICA expert explaining the layout of the cholera treatment center to the Zambian Minister of Health during an inspection visit (Photo: JICA)

in its history, with more than 700 reported deaths. From the early stages of the outbreak, Japan helped curb the spread of infection by providing guidance on treatment protocols at the five target hospitals and by distributing oral rehydration solution in densely populated areas lacking adequate sanitation infrastructure. In addition, Japan worked with ZNPHI to collect and analyze essential infectious disease data in real time and to share it with the Ministry of Health and hospitals, enabling timely and appropriate responses. President Hichilema of Zambia expressed his appreciation for Japan's support during his visit to a Japan-assisted cholera treatment center, and these efforts received wide coverage in the local media.

Improving access to healthcare services and strengthening infectious disease surveillance systems are concrete steps toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which Japan pledged to promote at TICAD. By strengthening health systems, Japan will continue to save lives and support Zambia's nation-building.

Chart IV

Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region (2023)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or Region	Type	Bilateral ODA								
			Grants			Total	Government loans etc.		(A)-(B)	Total (Net disbursement)	
			Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			
	<b>Asia region total</b>		<b>362.20</b>	<b>246.86</b>	<b>408.00</b>	<b>1,017.05</b>	<b>9,655.07</b>	<b>4,286.21</b>	<b>5,368.86</b>	<b>6,385.91</b>	<b>10,672.12</b>
	East Asia region total		194.96	107.78	251.84	554.58	3,641.98	2,809.38	832.60	1,387.18	4,196.56
	(ASEAN total)*1		165.12	81.03	222.02	468.16	3,639.33	2,250.66	1,388.67	1,856.83	4,107.49
1	Philippines		32.95	4.86	45.15	82.95	1,279.43	360.96	918.47	1,001.43	1,362.39
2	Indonesia		1.75	2.83	41.04	45.62	937.18	880.23	56.95	102.57	982.80
3	Viet Nam		23.10	1.67	40.31	65.08	671.62	587.40	84.23	149.31	736.70
4	Myanmar		12.78	60.95	12.92	86.66	376.33	58.15	318.18	404.83	462.99
5	Cambodia		51.89	—	29.53	81.42	282.79	13.37	269.42	350.83	364.21
6	Thailand		1.14	10.72	21.66	33.52	90.80	259.94	-169.14	-135.63	124.31
7	Laos		41.17	—	20.03	61.20	1.18	20.64	-19.46	41.74	62.38
8	Mongolia		18.97	—	18.85	37.82	2.65	35.45	-32.79	5.03	40.48
9	Timor-Leste		10.85	10.74	7.51	29.11	—	1.49	-1.49	27.62	29.11
10	Malaysia		0.34	—	11.35	11.69	—	69.97	-69.97	-58.29	11.69
11	*Brunei		—	—	0.04	0.04	—	—	—	0.04	0.04
12	China		—	—	—	—	—	521.78	-521.78	-521.78	—
	Multiple countries in East Asia*2		0.01	16.02	3.46	19.49	—	—	—	19.49	19.49
	Southwest Asia region total		128.59	96.57	124.01	349.17	5,702.77	1,233.57	4,469.20	4,818.37	6,051.94
1	India		2.80	5.17	38.17	46.15	3,727.70	881.81	2,845.89	2,892.04	3,773.84
2	Bangladesh		29.95	26.80	31.23	87.98	1,881.50	120.41	1,761.09	1,849.07	1,969.48
3	Pakistan		27.70	34.26	12.71	74.68	5.68	218.38	-212.70	-138.02	80.35
4	Sri Lanka		39.01	25.36	12.24	76.61	—	—	—	76.61	76.61
5	Nepal		18.42	1.00	15.67	35.09	41.28	10.93	30.35	65.44	76.37
6	Bhutan		3.13	1.50	10.84	15.48	46.62	1.19	45.43	60.91	62.10
7	Maldives		7.58	2.47	2.51	12.57	—	0.86	-0.86	11.71	12.57
	Multiple countries in Southwest Asia*3		—	—	0.62	0.62	—	—	—	0.62	0.62
	Central Asia and Caucasus region total		38.28	13.53	25.40	77.21	279.10	121.54	157.56	234.78	356.32
1	Uzbekistan		3.79	1.99	7.12	12.91	267.91	42.16	225.75	238.66	280.82
2	Tajikistan		14.63	3.81	6.19	24.64	—	—	—	24.64	24.64
3	Kyrgyz Republic		14.41	0.99	7.50	22.90	0.37	7.71	-7.34	15.57	23.28
4	Azerbaijan		0.22	—	0.49	0.71	10.82	24.93	-14.11	-13.40	11.53
5	Georgia		4.22	0.59	1.04	5.86	—	7.52	-7.52	-1.67	5.86
6	Armenia		0.65	1.98	0.72	3.35	—	7.99	-7.99	-4.64	3.35
7	Kazakhstan		0.35	—	1.43	1.78	—	29.67	-29.67	-27.89	1.78
8	Turkmenistan		—	—	0.80	0.80	—	1.55	-1.55	-0.75	0.80
	Multiple countries in Central Asia and Caucasus		—	4.16	0.10	4.26	—	—	—	4.26	4.26
	Multiple countries in Asia*4		0.36	28.98	6.74	36.08	31.21	121.73	-90.51	-54.43	67.30
	<b>Oceania region total</b>		<b>109.26</b>	<b>60.11</b>	<b>35.27</b>	<b>204.64</b>	<b>36.54</b>	<b>22.83</b>	<b>13.71</b>	<b>218.35</b>	<b>241.18</b>
1	Papua New Guinea		6.68	—	7.10	13.78	36.54	5.98	30.56	44.34	50.32
2	Kiribati		22.10	—	0.38	22.49	—	—	—	22.49	22.49
3	Solomon Islands		19.61	—	2.68	22.29	—	—	—	22.29	22.29
4	Vanuatu		18.97	—	1.87	20.84	—	14.06	-14.06	6.77	20.84
5	Tonga		10.90	—	2.36	13.27	—	—	—	13.27	13.27
6	Marshall Islands		9.60	0.61	1.35	11.56	—	—	—	11.56	11.56
7	Nauru		11.03	—	0.06	11.09	—	—	—	11.09	11.09
8	Palau		4.58	0.16	5.45	10.19	—	0.94	-0.94	9.25	10.19
9	Fiji		1.16	—	8.85	10.01	—	0.43	-0.43	9.58	10.01
10	Samoa		2.70	—	2.93	5.62	—	1.42	-1.42	4.21	5.62
11	Federated States of Micronesia		1.04	2.17	0.78	3.98	—	—	—	3.98	3.98
12	Tuvalu		0.36	—	0.07	0.43	—	—	—	0.43	0.43
13	*Cook Islands		0.24	—	0.05	0.29	—	—	—	0.29	0.29
14	Niue		0.16	—	0.01	0.17	—	—	—	0.17	0.17

Rank	Country or Region	Type	Bilateral ODA							
			Grants			Total	Government loans etc.		(A)-(B)	Total (Net disbursement)
			Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)		
15	[Tokelau]		—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00
	Multiple countries in Oceania		0.13	57.17	1.33	58.62	—	—	—	58.62
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean region total</b>			<b>74.12</b>	<b>22.10</b>	<b>97.51</b>	<b>193.73</b>	<b>702.44</b>	<b>215.58</b>	<b>486.86</b>	<b>680.59</b>
1	Brazil		0.34	—	11.39	11.73	222.57	79.77	142.80	154.53
2	Panama		0.04	—	8.43	8.47	207.58	21.95	185.62	194.10
3	Ecuador		1.73	—	3.37	5.11	178.15	3.02	175.13	180.24
4	El Salvador		2.25	—	4.21	6.46	52.45	17.46	34.99	41.44
5	Honduras		9.18	—	4.15	13.33	18.53	—	18.53	31.86
6	Peru		0.78	—	6.62	7.39	9.98	36.93	-26.95	-19.55
7	Bolivia		9.84	—	5.70	15.54	0.02	—	0.02	15.56
8	Haiti		1.68	13.54	0.03	15.25	—	—	—	15.25
9	Cuba		10.20	—	3.79	14.00	—	—	—	14.00
10	Jamaica		11.49	—	1.41	12.90	—	—	—	12.90
11	Paraguay		7.39	—	4.05	11.44	—	25.81	-25.81	-14.36
12	Nicaragua		7.56	—	2.57	10.13	0.95	0.17	0.78	10.91
13	Costa Rica		0.08	—	1.15	1.23	8.46	12.78	-4.32	-3.09
14	Guatemala		0.63	—	4.29	4.92	3.37	8.45	-5.08	-0.16
15	Mexico		0.31	—	6.54	6.85	—	2.05	-2.05	4.81
16	Dominican Republic		0.73	—	5.25	5.98	—	3.35	-3.35	2.63
17	Venezuela		0.10	5.00	0.19	5.29	—	—	—	5.29
18	Colombia		0.86	—	3.45	4.32	—	—	—	4.32
19	Saint Lucia		3.11	—	0.94	4.05	—	—	—	4.05
20	Argentina		0.11	0.10	3.18	3.39	0.22	3.41	-3.19	0.21
21	Suriname		3.02	—	—	3.02	—	—	—	3.02
22	*Chile		0.52	—	1.94	2.46	—	—	—	2.46
23	Guyana		1.76	—	0.24	1.99	—	—	—	1.99
24	Belize		0.21	—	0.54	0.75	—	—	—	0.75
25	*Uruguay		0.07	—	0.60	0.67	—	—	—	0.67
26	Saint Vincent		—	—	0.59	0.59	—	—	—	0.59
27	Grenada		0.12	—	0.03	0.15	—	—	—	0.15
28	*Barbados		—	—	0.14	0.14	—	—	—	0.14
29	*Saint Christopher and Nevis		—	—	0.07	0.07	—	—	—	0.07
30	*Antigua and Barbuda		—	—	0.05	0.05	—	—	—	0.05
31	Dominica		0.02	—	0.01	0.03	—	—	—	0.03
32	*Trinidad and Tobago		—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01
	Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean		—	3.46	12.56	16.02	0.16	0.43	-0.27	15.75
<b>Europe region total</b>			<b>561.94</b>	<b>251.67</b>	<b>42.10</b>	<b>855.71</b>	<b>136.72</b>	<b>59.91</b>	<b>76.81</b>	<b>932.51</b>
1	Ukraine		550.19	225.15	31.85	807.19	10.93	—	10.93	818.12
2	Moldova		9.42	22.99	1.24	33.65	98.32	1.98	96.34	130.00
3	Serbia		0.54	1.00	3.38	4.92	27.47	43.86	-16.38	-11.46
4	Kosovo		0.17	—	1.83	2.00	—	—	—	2.00
5	Albania		0.59	—	0.98	1.57	—	5.01	-5.01	-3.44
6	Montenegro		0.22	—	1.01	1.23	—	—	—	1.23
7	North Macedonia		0.12	—	0.97	1.09	—	3.73	-3.73	-2.63
8	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.69	—	0.27	0.96	—	5.34	-5.34	-4.38
9	Belarus		—	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	0.02
	Multiple countries in Europe* <sup>15</sup>		—	2.53	0.54	3.07	—	—	—	3.07
<b>Middle East and North Africa region total</b>			<b>63.26</b>	<b>384.07</b>	<b>75.13</b>	<b>522.46</b>	<b>2,070.35</b>	<b>638.96</b>	<b>1,431.39</b>	<b>1,953.85</b>
1	Iraq		0.51	25.50	12.05	38.06	1,145.44	206.30	939.14	977.20
2	Egypt		4.87	7.28	15.30	27.45	417.66	161.61	256.05	283.50
3	Tunisia		3.69	0.18	2.24	6.11	202.41	45.79	156.62	162.74
4	Afghanistan		5.32	148.99	11.32	165.64	—	—	—	165.64

Rank	Country or Region	Type	Bilateral ODA								
			Grants			Total	Government loans etc.		(A)-(B)	Total (Net disbursement)	
			Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			
5	Jordan		13.32	11.44	7.41	32.17	106.76	47.83	58.92	91.09	138.92
6	Türkiye		4.08	13.72	5.81	23.60	113.76	105.69	8.07	31.67	137.36
7	[Palestine]		18.36	38.90	7.17	64.42	28.44	—	28.44	92.87	92.87
8	Syria		0.85	63.54	3.12	67.51	—	—	—	67.51	67.51
9	Morocco		1.11	2.10	5.93	9.14	55.50	68.11	-12.61	-3.47	64.64
10	Yemen		0.74	22.38	0.42	23.54	—	—	—	23.54	23.54
11	Lebanon		1.29	7.09	0.20	8.58	—	—	—	8.58	8.58
12	Iran		0.32	4.83	1.90	7.05	—	2.88	-2.88	4.17	7.05
13	Libya		—	5.25	0.19	5.44	—	—	—	5.44	5.44
14	Algeria		0.07	0.71	0.47	1.24	—	0.57	-0.57	0.67	1.24
15	*Saudi Arabia		—	—	0.89	0.89	—	—	—	0.89	0.89
16	*Kuwait		—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
(Middle East subtotal)* <sup>6</sup>			44.79	336.40	50.28	431.47	1,394.40	362.70	1,031.70	1,463.16	1,825.86
(North Africa subtotal)* <sup>7</sup>			9.74	15.52	24.13	49.39	675.57	276.08	399.49	448.88	724.96
Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa* <sup>8</sup>			8.73	32.15	0.72	41.61	0.38	0.18	0.21	41.81	41.99
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa region total</b>			<b>449.23</b>	<b>287.44</b>	<b>278.95</b>	<b>1,015.63</b>	<b>843.06</b>	<b>115.83</b>	<b>727.22</b>	<b>1,742.85</b>	<b>1,858.68</b>
1	Côte d'Ivoire		22.85	3.00	8.37	34.22	93.74	—	93.74	127.97	127.97
2	Mozambique		33.91	17.20	16.37	67.49	57.89	4.76	53.14	120.62	125.38
3	Kenya		6.99	13.87	34.91	55.76	63.06	62.80	0.26	56.02	118.82
4	Botswana		0.14	—	2.12	2.26	110.21	1.87	108.33	110.59	112.46
5	Madagascar		24.80	2.50	9.68	36.98	63.32	—	63.32	100.30	100.30
6	Senegal		11.11	0.56	15.75	27.42	58.05	0.22	57.83	85.26	85.47
7	Ethiopia		28.54	35.18	17.14	80.86	3.19	—	3.19	84.05	84.05
8	Uganda		12.71	7.68	14.76	35.14	27.52	5.73	21.78	56.93	62.66
9	Democratic Republic of the Congo		18.59	21.92	10.10	50.61	—	—	—	50.61	50.61
10	Ghana		33.90	2.34	12.54	48.77	0.00	—	0.00	48.77	48.77
11	South Sudan		22.95	11.71	12.20	46.87	—	—	—	46.87	46.87
12	Malawi		34.70	3.07	6.21	43.98	—	—	—	43.98	43.98
13	Djibouti		33.65	4.95	4.43	43.03	—	—	—	43.03	43.03
14	Nigeria		13.33	11.87	7.13	32.34	—	4.06	-4.06	28.28	32.34
15	Sudan		10.95	11.97	4.55	27.47	—	—	—	27.47	27.47
16	Tanzania		4.21	1.39	13.13	18.72	8.03	9.81	-1.78	16.94	26.75
17	Cameroon		2.19	10.63	5.92	18.73	7.71	1.64	6.07	24.80	26.44
18	Somalia		—	24.32	1.90	26.23	—	—	—	26.23	26.23
19	Niger		17.51	5.94	2.73	26.19	—	—	—	26.19	26.19
20	Zambia		14.80	0.66	10.37	25.84	—	—	—	25.84	25.84
21	Rwanda		3.62	3.48	9.05	16.15	6.01	—	6.01	22.16	22.16
22	Burkina Faso		7.34	8.79	4.44	20.57	—	—	—	20.57	20.57
23	Burundi		12.65	5.80	1.63	20.08	—	—	—	20.08	20.08
24	Mauritania		15.58	2.30	1.08	18.95	—	—	—	18.95	18.95
25	Mali		4.99	9.39	1.93	16.31	—	—	—	16.31	16.31
26	Togo		7.21	6.21	1.59	15.00	—	—	—	15.00	15.00
27	Guinea		9.24	3.28	1.80	14.32	—	—	—	14.32	14.32
28	Sierra Leone		6.21	5.23	1.83	13.27	—	—	—	13.27	13.27
29	Zimbabwe		6.11	3.51	3.16	12.78	—	—	—	12.78	12.78
30	Chad		—	12.67	0.10	12.77	—	—	—	12.77	12.77
31	Gambia		7.62	3.64	0.63	11.89	—	—	—	11.89	11.89
32	Liberia		4.45	2.19	2.49	9.13	—	—	—	9.13	9.13
33	Central Africa		—	7.22	0.11	7.34	—	—	—	7.34	7.34
34	South Africa		0.35	1.00	5.31	6.66	—	—	—	6.66	6.66
35	Benin		0.90	2.31	3.37	6.58	—	—	—	6.58	6.58
36	Namibia		0.22	3.28	2.75	6.26	—	—	—	6.26	6.26
37	Mauritius		2.18	—	3.06	5.24	0.89	7.64	-6.75	-1.51	6.13
38	Cabo Verde		2.62	0.26	0.66	3.54	2.38	2.62	-0.23	3.30	5.92
39	Angola		0.07	1.27	4.11	5.46	—	—	—	5.46	5.46
40	Comoros		3.56	0.43	0.08	4.06	—	—	—	4.06	4.06

Rank	Country or Region	Type	Bilateral ODA								
			Grants			Total	Government loans etc.		(A)-(B)	Total (Net disbursement)	
			Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			
41	Republic of the Congo		0.07	2.00	0.94	3.01	—	—	—	3.01	3.01
42	Lesotho		0.34	1.87	0.28	2.49	—	—	—	2.49	2.49
43	Gabon		0.34	—	1.61	1.95	—	—	—	1.95	1.95
44	Sao Tome and Principe		1.49	—	0.07	1.56	—	—	—	1.56	1.56
45	Eritrea		—	0.27	0.87	1.14	—	—	—	1.14	1.14
46	Eswatini		0.05	0.58	0.38	1.02	—	1.44	-1.44	-0.42	1.02
47	Guinea-Bissau		0.06	—	0.13	0.19	—	—	—	0.19	0.19
48	*Seychelles		—	—	0.14	0.14	—	—	—	0.14	0.14
	Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa*9		4.11	9.69	15.07	28.87	341.06	13.25	327.80	356.67	369.93
	Assistance encompassing multiple regions		16.37	1,373.57	1,305.73	2,695.67	438.61	0.20	438.41	3,134.08	3,134.28
	Total		1,636.38	2,625.81	2,242.69	6,504.88	13,882.80	5,339.53	8,543.26	15,048.14	20,387.67

## Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- "Grant aid" above does not signify the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- Aid to "multiple countries" refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
- "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" refers to assistance that cannot be regionally classified such as grants through multilateral institutions, etc. and technical cooperation including survey and research that do not target specific regions or countries.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
- Countries with an asterisk \* are the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," and square brackets [ ] denote region names.
- \*1 Figures of the (ASEAN total) are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- \*2 Figures under "Multiple countries in East Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Myanmar.
- \*3 Figures under "Multiple countries in Southwest Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, as well as for multiple countries including Myanmar.
- \*4 Figures under "Multiple countries in Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including some areas of the Middle East.
- \*5 Figures under "Multiple countries in Europe" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Türkiye.
- \*6 Figures of the "Middle East subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, [Palestine], Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, and Yemen.
- \*7 Figures of the "North Africa subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.
- \*8 Figures under "Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, for multiple countries including Türkiye, and for multiple countries that cut across North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- \*9 Figures under "Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries that cut across some areas of North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.



# Part V

## Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation

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A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) conducting an experiment with local staff at a pharmaceutical storage facility in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)



# Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

The Development Cooperation Charter sets forth the basic policy of “co-creation” whereby various actors, such as the private sector and public financial institutions, bring their respective strengths and create new social values through dialogue and collaboration in relation to various development challenges for which there are as yet no defined solutions.

## (1) Partnership with the Private Sector

In recent years, private sector investment activities have been playing an increasingly important role in the economic growth of developing countries. Various business activities conducted by the private sector contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of developing countries through job creation, human resources development, and technological advancement. The Government of Japan promotes effective and strategic development cooperation through such partnerships with the private sector.

Since 2012, JICA has been partnering with private companies to dispatch their employees as JICA Volunteers (see Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 144 for details on the JOCV (Partnership Program)). Through their assignments, these volunteers are expected to draw on their professional experiences to contribute to the growth of developing countries, while learning unique business practices and identifying market needs in the countries of their assignment, and to apply such knowledge to their business activities in Japan upon their return.

### ■ SDGs Business Supporting Survey

Japanese companies’ refined products, technologies, and know-how have the potential to contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)\* is a program that examines the compatibility of Japanese companies’ products, technologies, and know-how with the development needs of developing countries, and supports overseas business development by such companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Through this type of public-private partnership, Japanese companies’

business contributes to the socio-economic development of developing countries (see JICA’s website 1 for the overview of the program and its benefits). In FY2024, a total of 57 businesses were selected to receive support for their operations in 21 developing countries (see Chart V-1 on page 129, “Stories from the Field” on page 40, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 58 and 131 as well).



A demonstration experiment in Mexico by a Japanese company on enhancing ecosystem function by submerging a “Shell Nurse” artificial reef (Photo: Ocean Construction Co., Ltd./SDGs Business Supporting Survey)

### ■ Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

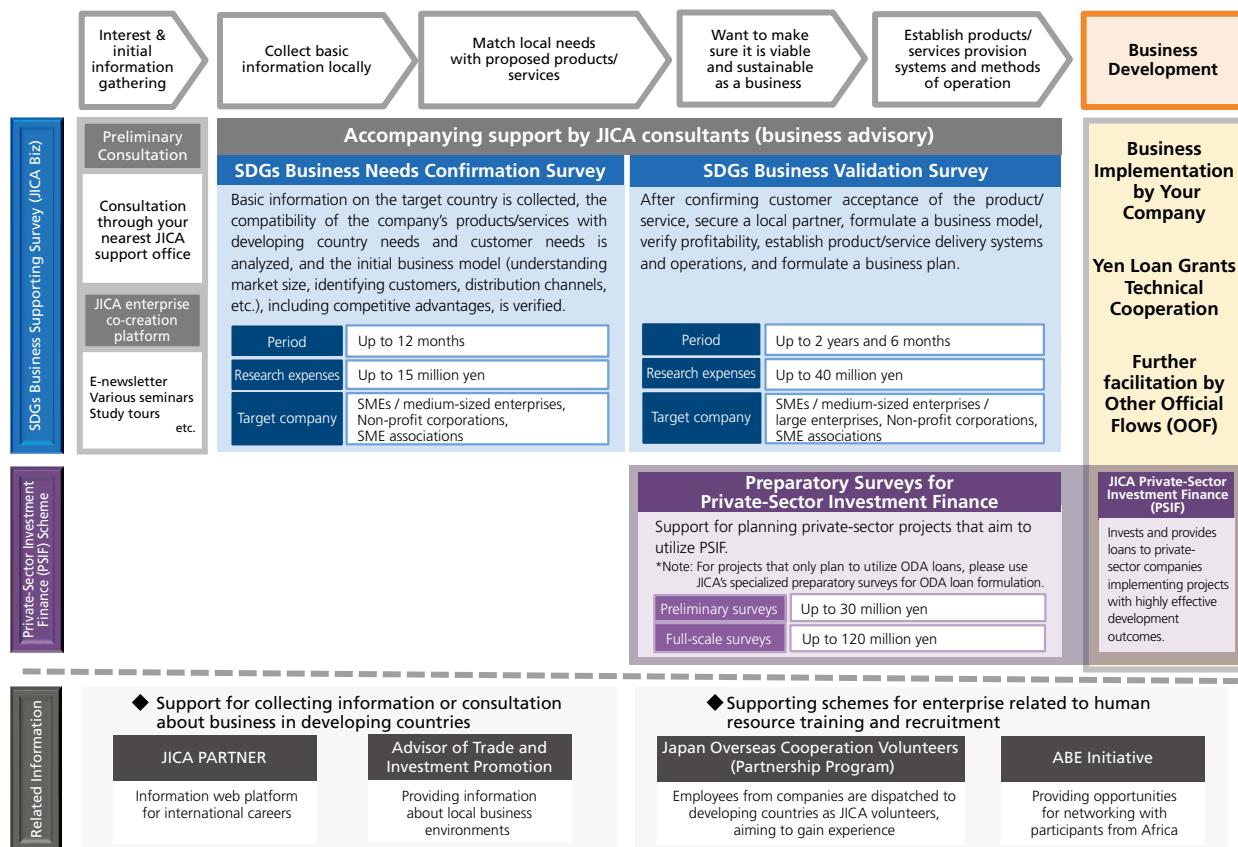
Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)\* refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides investments and loans to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As of the end of FY2023, the cumulative amount of commitments since FY2011 has reached approximately 985.5 billion yen, with many Japanese companies participating (see JICA’s website 2 for more information about the program’s framework, target areas, conditions, and other details). Recent examples of successful PSIF projects include the Export-Oriented Industry Support Project for Ukraine and Moldova, and the Agricultural Sector Support Project in Brazil, both signed in 2024. The former was signed in February 2024 in conjunction with the Japan-Ukraine Economic Recovery Promotion Conference, and aims to promote foreign currency acquisition and job creation in both countries through investments in export-oriented ICT

1 SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (JICA Biz) [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/sme/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html) (in Japanese only)

2 Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance\\_co/loan/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html) (in Japanese only)

Chart V-1

## ODA Facilities to Support Public-Private Partnership



companies in Ukraine and Moldova. This project is expected to contribute to the reconstruction and socio-economic development of both countries. Additionally, investment destinations of at least 30% of the fund are to be companies owned by female managers and entrepreneurs, thereby adding the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment to the project's agenda. The latter aims to improve financial access for Brazil's agricultural sector and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through support for lending operations conducted by Brazil's largest credit union, with the goal of expanding agricultural production and increasing farmers' income.

At the side-event on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) held during the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, then Prime Minister Kishida expressed Japan's commitment to contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries through public and private infrastructure investment. Based on this commitment, Japan newly established three financing facilities: the Facility for Accelerating Climate Change Resilient and Sustainable Society (ACCESS), the Facility for Supporting Agricultural supply chain and Food security Enhancement (SAFE), and the Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion (FAFI). New projects under these facilities were signed recently,

including the Climate Change Action Support Project in Nigeria (in November 2023) under ACCESS and the Project for Rural Financial Access Improvement in India (in December 2023) under FAFI.

### ■ Preparatory Survey for Private-Sector Investment Finance

Recent years have seen a growing trend of infrastructure development through public-private partnerships in developing countries and of socio-economic development through private-sector projects. JICA conducts Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) to formulate projects that utilize private-sector funds on the premise that public support is provided. JICA supports feasibility studies for the formulation of business plans and calls for proposals widely from the companies that explore the possibility of participating in projects in developing countries (see JICA's website for more information about the program's framework, target areas and countries, and other details). <sup>3</sup> The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to 2024 has reached 92, and in 2024, three projects were adopted in Asia.

<sup>3</sup> Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html) (in Japanese only)

## ■ Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

The Government of Japan provides grants for public works projects in which Japanese companies are expected to be involved in facility development, as well as subsequent operation and maintenance. The Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights is designed to support Japanese companies in leveraging their technologies and know-how in the socio-economic development efforts of developing countries through the acquisition of business and management rights in infrastructure projects under public-private partnerships (PPP) in developing countries. In February 2024, an Exchange of Notes was signed in Tunisia for a grant project to construct an advanced wastewater treatment plant that enables the reuse of wastewater as industrial water, utilizing Japanese companies' technologies.

## ■ Collaboration with Public Financial Institutions

Japan's development cooperation takes place in partnership with diverse actors. In implementing development cooperation, it is important for the Government to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling other official flows (OOF) such as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC),\* Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN), the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including private sector ones.



## Glossary

### **SDGs Business Supporting Survey (JICA Biz)**

One of the private-sector partnership programs implemented by JICA that supports Japanese companies in expanding their businesses overseas to contribute to solving challenges in developing countries. The program offers two types of support: "SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey" and "SDGs Business Validation Survey." Applications from Japanese companies are accepted once a year.

### **Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)**

A type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA that provides the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries with necessary financing in the form of investments and loans. Projects in developing countries entail various risks, and high returns cannot often be expected. Thus, private financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient financing. By providing investments and loans through PSIF to private-sector projects that, despite risks, have the potential to create jobs and revitalize the economy, JICA contributes to promoting economic and social development in developing regions. PSIF assists in the fields of (1) infrastructure development and growth acceleration and (2) SDGs including poverty reduction and climate change actions.

### **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**

A policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government. While its primary purpose is to supplement the services of general financial institutions, its goal is to contribute to the sound development of Japan and the international economy and society. To this end, JBIC operates in the fields of (1) promoting the overseas development and securement of resources that are important for Japan, (2) maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese industries, (3) promoting overseas businesses that also work to preserve the global environment, such as preventing global warming, and (4) preventing disruptions to international financial order or taking appropriate measures with respect to damages caused by such disruptions.

## (2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

### ■ Partnership in the G7 and G20

The G7 Apulia Summit was held in June 2024 under the Italian Presidency. Then Prime Minister Kishida represented Japan and attended the session on "Africa, Climate Change, and Development," to discuss critical issues facing the international community, including climate change, development, and gender, with a

focus on cooperation with Africa. Then Prime Minister Kishida stated that the G7 countries should try to attain synergy among their respective efforts while further promoting initiatives such as the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) that meet Africa's needs. He also emphasized the importance of continuing to focus on achieving the SDGs while respecting human dignity and human security. In addition, he expressed Japan's intention to demonstrate tangible outcomes, through progress in the reform of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs),<sup>4</sup> such as effectively allocating highly concessional development funds to developing countries.<sup>5</sup> During the session on

<sup>4</sup> See the glossary on page 36.

<sup>5</sup> See the beginning of Part II, Section 2 on page 22.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES 3

from  
Japan to  
the World

## Supporting Renewable Energy Projects in Tonga with "Made in Okinawa" Knowledge and Technology – Introduction of Disaster-Resistant Wind Power Generation (Tilttable Wind Turbines) –



Tonga, an island country in the South Pacific, has limited energy resources and a large portion of the power supply is generated by imported diesel. As an island country, transportation costs are relatively high, resulting in high electricity prices. Tonga is also vulnerable to fluctuations in international energy prices, which in turn affect both national finances and the daily lives of its citizens. In response to the two challenges that it faces—ensuring energy security and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions—Tonga has been actively promoting the adoption of renewable energy since 2010 through the implementation of the "Tonga Energy Road Map (TERM)."

In this context, Progressive Energy Corporation (PEC), a member of the Okinawa Electric Power Company Group, worked with Tonga to introduce tilttable wind turbines, as Tonga and Okinawa face similar weather challenges, such as typhoons. Since 2009, PEC has been constructing, maintaining, and managing such turbines in the remote islands in Okinawa, taking advantage of the unique features of these turbines, which can be tilted nearly 90 degrees to the ground to prevent damage or collapse from strong typhoon winds, and enable easier maintenance compared to the conventional models. After exploring the possibility of expanding their technology to the global market as part of solutions to help countries facing similar disaster-related issues to Okinawa, PEC proposed a plan to introduce tilttable wind turbines in Tonga through JICA's Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology. With the support from Japan's grant, in 2019, they completed installing five tilttable wind turbines in Tongatapu Island where the capital, Nuku'alofa, is located.

Mr. GIBO Minoru, Managing Director of PEC, reflects, "To foster a better understanding of tilttable wind turbines, we invited engineers from Tonga Power Limited to Okinawa to have them experience maintenance operations firsthand. This stimulated their interest in introducing the turbines in Tonga." Mr. CHINA Shunei, who was dispatched to Tonga as a technical staff member during the project, recalls the challenges he faced: "In addition to the language and cultural barriers I had,



A study tour of the tilttable wind turbines for Tongan students (Photo: Progressive Energy Corporation)



Assembling wind turbines together with Tongan engineers  
(Photo: Progressive Energy Corporation)

there were significant differences in safety awareness upon construction work in comparison to Japan. We took extra care and started from providing guidance on basic safety practices commonly observed in Japan, such as using harnesses when working at heights." PEC not only provided such technical guidance on safety but also conducted training on equipment operation and maintenance. Mr. China added, "I would be happy to see the people of Tonga take ownership and apply the techniques they learned from Japan, rather than relying entirely on the technical expertise of Japanese people."

Tonga's wind power generation facilities were completed after eight years since PEC first started exploring the business overseas in 2012. Mr. Gibo recalls, "I was impressed when Tongan students from secondary school and local residents came to visit the site. They cheered as they saw the wind turbines completed. They also expected lower electricity costs."

Mr. WAKUTA Morito, Manager of the Electric Section of the Engineering and Sales Department, says, "To my understanding, this Tonga case was Japan's first grant project of installing the wind power plants. It is an honor for a small Okinawa-based company like ours to be part of such a major project. We would love to work with other countries facing similar challenges by making the best use of the experience and know-how we obtained through this project."

Responding to such enthusiasm, five companies in the Okinawa Electric Power Group established a joint company "SeED Okinawa LLC" in 2021. It will serve as a one-stop facility to support a wider range of businesses introducing renewable energy worldwide, including not only wind power but also solar power generation. It is expected that the renewable energy technologies developed in Okinawa will be widely introduced overseas.

The Government of Tonga has set an ambitious target to achieve 100% renewable energy for its national electricity supply by 2035. By introducing clean energy solutions with less environmental impact, Japan remains committed to enhancing energy security in countries including Pacific Island countries, and working for the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Africa, Climate Change, and Development," the G7 leaders confirmed that the G7 would coordinate more closely in addressing various issues, including climate change and development, while staying attuned to the African voices.

In October, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge attended the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting held in Pescara. Discussions were held on the G7's response to food security, which has been severely affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, as well as conflicts, climate change, and natural disasters; the importance of advancing cooperation under PGII to fill the investment gap for infrastructure around the world; and measures to build and strengthen the Global Health Architecture (GHA) and achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In the PGII session, then State Minister Tsuge shared the prospect that the G7's ongoing efforts related to PGII would serve as a catalyst for new growth for partner countries and regions, and reiterated the importance of promoting fair and transparent development finance while complying with international rules and standards, such as the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment." He also reaffirmed Japan's resolve to continue strongly supporting each country's autonomous growth through the promotion of quality infrastructure investment, in cooperation with the G7 and various partners (see Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 43 for quality infrastructure). Furthermore, in the margins of the meeting, a humanitarian conference on the Middle East was held with the participation of relevant countries, regions, and international organizations in addition to the G7, and the participants discussed the importance of avoiding escalation of the situation in the Middle East and improving the humanitarian situation.

At the G20, the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting on the Establishment of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty <sup>6</sup> were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July, with then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka representing



Then Prime Minister Ishiba speaking at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Japan. During the Development Ministers' Meeting, the participants discussed ensuring access to safe water and sanitation services, addressing inequality in a wide range of areas including climate change, digital technologies, and gender, as well as triangular cooperation. <sup>7</sup> Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister Hosaka presented Japan's efforts with specific examples, in which Japan—one of the world's leading donors in the water and sanitation sector—has provided a wide range of support, including the development of quality infrastructure and human resources, and, in so doing, fostered learning and co-creation of solutions with various partners for the overall improvement of access to water and sanitation. Regarding the challenges of inequality, he explained how Japan has consistently taken action toward investment in people, including the provision of quality education, over the seven decades of its history of ODA provision, and stated that accelerating collaboration among partners in the international community, including through triangular cooperation, is essential.

Then Prime Minister Ishiba represented Japan at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November. In Session 1, "Fight against Hunger and Poverty," development issues were discussed with a focus on measures against hunger and poverty. Prior to this session, Japan also expressed its will to participate in the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty," which was launched on that occasion. Then Prime Minister Ishiba explained that Japan espouses the philosophy of human security and aims to eradicate hunger and poverty for the realization of a prosperous society where everyone can live happily with human dignity. Then Prime Minister Ishiba went on to state that, to that end, and in recognition of the importance of establishing food security and developing sustainable and resilient food systems, Japan is determined to actively contribute to the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty." Furthermore, regarding disaster risk reduction, he stated that Japan would continue to steadily



Then Prime Minister Kishida speaking at the G7 Apulia Summit  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

<sup>6</sup> A platform to support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. It was established at the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November 2024. As of January 2025, 90 countries, including Japan, and 76 organizations are participating.

<sup>7</sup> See the glossary on page 104.

implement the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” and strengthen disaster prevention measures together with G20 members. In Session 2, “Reform of the Global Governance Institutions,” having emphasized the importance of MDB evolution, then Prime Minister Ishiba addressed developing countries’ debt issues, stating that it is necessary to expedite the debt restructuring process under the G20 “Common Framework” and further improve debt transparency. He also explained that Japan has led the debt restructuring process of Sri Lanka—the first case of coordination with emerging creditor countries in the debt restructuring of a middle-income country—and expressed Japan’s intention to continue to provide necessary support for solving challenges that developing countries face (see Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 45 for efforts to address debt issues). Noting how the G20’s roles are increasingly important in leading international cooperation in many areas, then Prime Minister Ishiba also called for the development of a global governance regime where all countries go beyond confrontation and share responsibilities.

### ■ Partnership with Major Donor Countries and Others

In 2024, which marked the 60th anniversary of Japan’s accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan chaired the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting for the first time in 10 years. Then Prime Minister Kishida delivered the keynote speech as the chair, and Japan led discussions on multiple topics including sustainable development under the theme “Co-creating the Flow of Change: Leading Global Discussions with Objective and Reliable Approaches towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.” In the breakout session on sustainable development, then Foreign Minister Kamikawa pointed out the importance of mobilizing private finance catalyzed by ODA to meet the development financing needs of developing countries, and stated that Japan is actively contributing to reforming MDBs to ensure stable and sustainable financing necessary for development. In addition, she emphasized that OECD should mobilize technical expertise and human resources for sustainable development under the concept of “co-creation.”

In addition, Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. Following the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in April 2024, the Japan-U.S. Strategic Diplomacy and Development Dialogue (at the Vice-Ministerial level) was held in May, where wide-ranging discussions were held from a strategic perspective on Japan-U.S. cooperation in addressing various challenges for the international community and strengthening engagement with countries of the Global South through diplomatic and development efforts.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the G7 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Tsuge held separate meetings with Mr. Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic; Ms. Isobel Coleman, then Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and Mr. Thani Mohamed Soilihi, Minister of State for Francophonie and International Partnerships of the French Republic, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and confirmed that Japan would further deepen cooperation in international arenas including the G7. In addition, on the occasion of the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka held meetings with Mr. Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Mr. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development of Canada; and Mr. Seiso Joel Mohai, Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of South Africa, and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the G20 in the field of development.

The member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD are traditionally engaged in development cooperation. However, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Brazil, and South Africa, have become active in providing assistance to developing countries in recent years. Through such assistance, these emerging countries have come to exercise considerable influence over development challenges. Japan coordinates with other countries, including emerging countries, and supports emerging countries’ effective provision of assistance to developing countries. At the 16th Japan-India Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue, held in March 2024, Japan and India concurred on establishing a forum for discussing bilateral development cooperation in third countries.

The “Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)” is a multi-stakeholder platform for driving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation, bringing together not only donor countries but also a wide range of stakeholders, including developing countries, international organizations, private sectors, civil society, and local public entities for discussions. Japan has been serving as a Steering Committee member of GPEDC since January 2024, and continues to cooperate with various countries to ensure that the four principles of GPEDC—country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability—are practiced in development cooperation.

### ■ Partnership with International Organizations

To address various developmental and humanitarian issues as well as global challenges, Japan promotes collaboration with international organizations. Then Foreign Minister Kamikawa held meetings with Ms. Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organization

for Migration (IOM), who visited Japan in February, as well as with Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who visited Japan in March, and with Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), who visited Japan in June. Then Foreign Minister Iwaya held a meeting with Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who visited Japan in November.

In addition, in order to facilitate Japan's assistance implemented by international organizations, Japan also holds dialogues with major international organizations, including UN agencies. In 2024, Japan engaged in regular policy dialogues with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and others (see "Stories from the Field" on page 151 for a Japanese officer who works for IOM).

## ■ Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)<sup>8</sup> is a collective term for international organizations that support the poverty reduction and sustainable socio-economic development of developing countries. As poverty worsens and inequality widens due to cross-border challenges such as the pandemic and climate change, the World Bank and other MDBs promote initiatives, including MDB evolution, toward strengthening their response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review).\*

The importance of MDB evolution for enhancing their functions was also addressed at the G7 Apulia Summit in June 2024 and the G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit in November, following the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan's Presidency in 2023, where the leaders of each country expressed their support for advancing MDB evolution. The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration endorsed the "G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger and More Effective MDBs," which is expected to accelerate MDBs' progress toward the SDGs and enhance their capacity to address global challenges.



## Glossary

### Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF) Review

An independent review of the CAF of MDBs, a G20 initiative, which explores measures to maximize the use of MDBs' existing capital. A roadmap featuring the progress and other information of the CAF review was formulated at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2023, and the importance of the continuous implementation of the review was recognized at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in April 2024.

## (3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement development cooperation activities that directly benefit local communities in various fields in developing countries and regions. In addition, in places affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, or conflicts, they provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. Being close to different local populations in developing countries, NGOs are capable of carefully responding to the needs of local communities. They implement assistance at the grassroots level, which can be hard to reach through the support of governments and international organizations. The Government of Japan positions Japanese NGOs that engage in "visible development cooperation" as strategic partners in development cooperation, and its

collaboration with NGOs is centered around three pillars: financial cooperation for NGO development cooperation projects, support to enhance NGO capabilities, and dialogues with NGOs (see the MOFA website on international cooperation and NGOs<sup>9</sup>).

## ■ Financial Cooperation for NGOs' Projects

The Government of Japan cooperates with Japanese NGOs in various ways and helps them smoothly and effectively carry out projects in development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance in developing countries and regions.

### (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects)

The Government of Japan, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, provides financial support to socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries. The projects

<sup>8</sup> See the glossary on page 36.

<sup>9</sup> Cooperation with NGOs [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page\\_000025.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000025.html)

cover a wide range of fields, such as health, medical care and sanitation, rural development, assistance for persons with disabilities, education, disaster risk reduction, and landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. In FY2023, 62 Japanese NGOs received grants under this scheme to implement 109 projects in 39 countries and one region, amounting to approximately ¥7 billion (see "Featured Projects" on pages 112 and 136).

#### (Japan Platform (JPF))

Japan Platform (JPF)\* supports and coordinates emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs in cooperation with Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the government. As of December 2024, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF. In FY2023, JPF implemented 145 projects under 20 emergency humanitarian assistance programs in response to disasters and conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Gaza, Türkiye, Pakistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Mozambique, and other locations (see "Featured Project" on page 110).



Indigenous women selling chili peppers harvested with support from Japan in Guatemala (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: Plan International Japan)



Japanese NGO staff working in Moldova to provide opportunities for children from Ukrainian refugee families and host communities to interact and deepen mutual understanding (Japan's emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan))

#### (NGO Project Subsidies)

NGO Project Subsidies is another form of financial support from the Government of Japan available to Japanese NGOs. The scheme supports three types of projects: "research projects" that identify and formulate development cooperation projects and conduct post-project evaluations, "international cooperation-related projects in Japan" and "international cooperation-related projects based overseas," which support the organization of and participation in training sessions and lectures in Japan and abroad with the aim of helping applicant NGOs expand and strengthen their international cooperation operations. In FY2023, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to four Japanese NGOs, supporting project formulation studies, and organization of seminars and workshops, including those held online, in Japan or abroad.

#### (JICA Partnership Program (JPP))

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is an effort in international cooperation where interested entities such as Japanese NGO/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, or universities assist local citizens in developing countries in getting involved in the economic and social development or reconstruction in their own areas. Leveraging their own technologies, knowledge, and experience, applicant organizations propose projects to JICA. Then, upon the approval of JICA, the organizations are contracted to implement the projects (see the JICA website <sup>10</sup> for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 200 projects are implemented every year. The number of the countries where JPP operates has reached a cumulative total of approximately 80.



A beekeeper from Marumori Town teaching beekeeping techniques to small-scale farmers in Zambia (JICA Partnership Program) (Photo: Marumori Town and Kouya Development Association)

<sup>10</sup> JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/partner.html>

## Featured Project 13

### Project for Improvement of Nutrition among Under-5 Children in Atsimondrano District

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – March 2024)

Public nomination



#### Aiming to Improve Nutrition in Newborns, Infants and Young Children

In Madagascar, a significant number of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, primarily due to poverty, lack of knowledge among caregivers, and unsanitary living conditions. Chronic malnutrition severely impairs both physical and cognitive development, raising concerns about its long-term effects on health as well as its economic impacts.

AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a Japanese NGO, has been working since 2022 to improve the nutritional status of children in the Atsimondrano District of the Analamanga Region, where chronic malnutrition has caused serious growth and development disorders among children. In order to improve child nutrition, the organization implemented training for caregivers and developed over 700 trainers. It also conducted more than 10,000 training sessions over the course of one year for local residents on knowledge related to child nutrition improvement, including nutrition, health, water and sanitation, as



Trainers conducting a session for local residents  
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)



A boy receiving agricultural tools for home gardening  
(Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

well as livelihood enhancement. In addition, it provided necessary tools and seeds for home gardens to 1,000 households, installed over 400 sanitary latrines, and broadcasted more than 400 radio programs on the importance of nutrition, implementing a multifaceted approach.

These efforts helped caregivers become more aware of the importance of child nutrition, and many reported improved household finances through home gardening. One trainer commented, "Mothers who used to feed their babies solid food from as early as three months now exclusively breastfeed until six months. By making their own insecticides and compost, and managing household finances, they learned to save money." AMDA-MINDS will continue to support community-led efforts to ensure the healthy growth of children.

#### ■ NGO Support to Improve the Enabling Environment for NGOs

In international cooperation, MOFA carries out the following programs with the objective of further strengthening the organizational structures and project implementation capabilities of Japanese NGOs and developing their human resources.

##### (NGO Consultant Scheme)

Under this scheme, MOFA commissions highly experienced Japanese NGOs throughout Japan as "NGO Consultants" who are tasked to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, procedures to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education. In FY2023, MOFA commissioned 10 organizations that handled more than 5,600 questions and inquiries and provided approximately 70 on-site services.<sup>11</sup>

##### (NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program)

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program

and NGO Study Program in support of organizational development through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program is designed to train younger generations who can play a leading role in Japanese NGOs in international cooperation in the future. A total of seven interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2023.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career staff from Japanese NGOs in international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training. Upon completion of training, they are expected to share their experience and learning widely within their organization and with other NGOs, and contribute to enhancing the capacity of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2023, nine people received training.

##### (NGO Study Group)

MOFA supports research activities conducted by NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity and expertise. The NGO Study Group hosted by MOFA aims to strengthen the organization and capacity of NGOs. Under specific themes facing the NGO community, each study group is organized to undertake a range of

<sup>11</sup> Consultation and lecture services at events related to international cooperation, provided in cooperation with local governments and partner organizations.

activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2023, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: (i) "Analysis on Development Cooperation issues in the G7 / C7 and Ideal Roles of Japanese NGOs based on the Discussions at the G7 Hiroshima Summit" and (ii) "Past achievements in strengthening the foundation of NGOs (strengthening measures taken by NGOs themselves, governments, companies, etc.) and the methods and measures required in the new era." The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website <sup>12</sup> (in Japanese only).

### ■ Dialogue with NGOs (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings and NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting)

In FY2023, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting\* was held in August. The meeting of a subcommittee, namely the "Partnership Promotion Committee," took place in July and December 2023 and March 2024, and the "ODA Policy Council" met in July and November 2023 and March 2024, featuring lively exchanges of views (see the MOFA website <sup>13</sup> for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

JICA holds the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting to engage in dialogue and collaboration with NGOs. Two meetings took place in FY2023, with 93 participants in the first meeting and 73 participants in the second meeting (see the JICA website <sup>14</sup> for more information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

## Glossary

### Japan Platform (JPF)

An emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in partnership with NGOs, the business community, and the government. JPF aims to support and coordinate with Japanese NGOs to ensure their rapid and effective emergency humanitarian aid activities in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or conflict that causes a vast number of refugees or displaced persons, etc. JPF utilizes ODA funds from the Government of Japan, as well as donations from companies and citizens to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including the distribution of food/non-food items, and support to rebuild lives, in the situation of a large-scale natural disaster or a vast number of refugees or displaced persons fleeing from conflicts.

### NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting

In order to promote a stronger partnership and dialogue between NGOs and MOFA, the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting was launched in 1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. It comprises the Plenary and two subcommittees: the "ODA Policy Council" and the "Partnership Promotion Committee."

## (4) Collaboration with Local Governments

Japanese local governments have accumulated extensive expertise and human resources in areas such as water supply and sewerage systems, waste disposal, healthcare and maternal and child health, social welfare, agricultural extension, primary and secondary education, vocational training, environmental conservation, and public transportation, based on their experiences in providing public services to local residents. The Government of Japan engages in development cooperation that leverages the technology and know-how of such local governments by dispatching local government officials as experts and ensuring their involvement in grant projects for developing countries facing similar development challenges. For example, in

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, water supply facilities, which had been devastated by civil war, achieved the "Miracle of Phnom Penh"—providing potable tap water 24 hours a day—through technical cooperation by the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau since 1999. Kitakyushu City's cooperation extended to other Cambodian cities, and has currently expanded to water utility planning for the whole country.

Moreover, the Government of Japan proactively promotes overseas outreach of local governments, including industries within their jurisdiction, in order to revitalize and internationalize the regional communities of Japan. MOFA and JICA now accept local governments' application for the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) under the "regional revitalization" category, and implement technology transfers to developing countries in collaboration with those local governments.

In addition, 15 JICA offices across Japan function as a "nexus between Japanese local communities and

<sup>12</sup> The reports of NGO Study Group [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>13</sup> NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>14</sup> Regular meetings with NGOs [https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo\\_meeting/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html) (in Japanese only)

developing countries” by providing information on international cooperation to various local actors such as citizens, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, and undertake a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities. Furthermore, JICA has assigned coordinators for international cooperation to relevant local government bodies, where they serve as liaison officers for local governments and regional NGOs and promote various international cooperation activities in 44 prefectures.

## **(5) Partnership with Universities and Research Institutions, etc.**

The Government of Japan strives to collaborate with universities on a broad range of intellectual aspects of the overall socio-economic development of developing countries, namely theorizing and transmitting unique Japanese philosophies of development cooperation, practicing such development cooperation philosophies, teaching the lessons learned from the development field to the Japanese community, and developing human resources for international cooperation. In addition, as part of these efforts, the Government of Japan facilitates “international brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research among students and researchers from developing countries and those from Japan. In fact, the Government of Japan successfully promotes projects under technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and so forth in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, for the purpose of training highly competent professionals who can play a central role in the socio-economic development of their home countries, the Government of Japan accepts junior government officers from developing countries as international students at Japanese universities through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS). To date, the number of universities accepting those international students has reached a cumulative total of 41. In FY2023, Japan accepted more than 300 students from 19 countries, and the cumulative number of JDS Fellows enrolled in the master’s or doctoral programs in Japan has exceeded 6,000. Furthermore, Japan supports the development of advanced engineering professionals

from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to advance, through strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and supporting joint research and joint education within the region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project.\* Currently, to ensure the future sustainability of the network, Japan is also focusing on collaboration with other institutions and securing external funding.

In addition, MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program,”<sup>15</sup> in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Under the SATREPS program, international joint studies between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 42 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 139 for assistance in Argentina).

JICA collaborates with Japanese universities to implement the “JICA Development Studies Program,” which provides master’s and doctoral students from developing countries with an opportunity to learn about the development, history, and modernization experiences of Japan and various regions in the country. In order to scale similar efforts overseas, JICA also implements the “JICA Chair” program to support the establishment of “Japanese Studies” courses at top universities in developing countries. Additionally, working with the Open University of Japan, JICA has launched online lecture initiatives, such as the production of the “Japanese Modernization Lecture Series” program, which systematically presents the history of Japanese modernization and the importance of international cooperation.

These partnerships with universities contribute to enhancing the capacity of developing countries’ academia to provide solutions to development challenges and to promoting international understanding toward Japan. They also support the internationalization of Japanese universities by providing opportunities for international scholars’ training and research activities.



### **Glossary**

#### **ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)**

Established in 2001 as a university network comprising 19 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 11 partner universities from Japan (currently 26 ASEAN countries<sup>16</sup> and 18 Japanese universities). Japan has supported this network from its planning phase, and through JICA, has implemented initiatives related to degree acquisition, joint education and research, collaboration between industry and academia, and network development in support of training highly qualified professionals in the engineering sector.

<sup>15</sup> See the glossary on page 43.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES 4

## from Japan to the World Safeguarding Lives and Property in Argentina through the Application of Japan's World-Class Weather Forecasting System

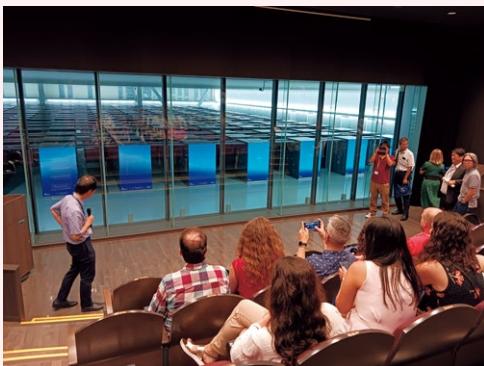


Argentina grapples with flood damage due to heavy rainfall, exacerbated by climate change and other factors. Particularly in major urban areas such as Buenos Aires Province and Córdoba Province, rapid population growth and urbanization have caused the expansion of densely populated areas, increasing the country's vulnerability to disasters. To mitigate disaster damage, it is essential to swiftly convey accurate information about when and where to evacuate, based on reliable weather data and forecasts. The development of accurate weather forecasting and disaster information systems is thus an urgent priority.

To address this situation through "the power of science," RIKEN has been working since 2022 under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)\*1 program, in collaboration with research institutions, including the national meteorological agencies of Japan and Argentina, to develop a comprehensive solution package for observation, prediction, warning, and communication, aimed at reducing meteorological and flood risks.

Several decades ago, Japan, like Argentina today, relied on forecasters making weather predictions based on their experience and knowledge, using limited observation tools. Japan now issues warnings and evacuation information with world-leading accuracy, enabled by cutting-edge equipment and forecasting technology, including the geostationary meteorological satellite "Himawari" and observation data from the Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS). This SATREPS project aims to tackle challenges by researching and developing forecasting technologies tailored to Argentina's current circumstances. Dr. MIYOSHI Takemasa, Chief Scientist at RIKEN and leader of this project, reflects on its progress: "Although Argentina, like other developing countries, lacked sufficient equipment and technical resources, efforts were already underway to modernize its weather radar. By focusing on flood control measures in Buenos Aires Province and Córdoba Province, we strive to enhance weather forecasting accuracy through the integration of Argentina's existing infrastructure and observation data with Japan's technological expertise. Installation and operation of observational equipment and large-scale computing systems have already begun, laying the foundation for generating higher-quality information, including high-precision simulations."

Preventing disaster damage requires not only delivering collected information to residents in a timely and accurate



Argentine researchers visiting the "Fugaku" supercomputer (Photo: PREVENIR Project)



Disaster risk reduction education in a suburban area of Córdoba (Photo: PREVENIR Project)

manner but also ensuring their understanding. As part of this project, smartphone applications and websites are being developed to communicate flood forecasts and warnings. In parallel, initiatives to raise disaster awareness among the public, who are the recipients of disaster-related information, are ongoing, such as special classes at local schools and workshops for community members. For example, educational materials on flood preparedness were created and distributed to schools to support disaster education. Training sessions are also being held for primary school students, teachers, and disaster management officials of local governments in the target areas. These sessions introduce the project and offer opportunities to explore flood control measures from an educational perspective. Feedback from participants, such as their impressions of the applications and websites, is gathered to support the development of more user-friendly systems.

Regarding the significance of the SATREPS project, Dr. Miyoshi explains, "This project allows us to study whether the systems we have developed can be applied in environments different from Japan, such as on a continental scale or within a Southern Hemisphere climate. Damage caused by disasters is inherently unjust, and economically vulnerable regions often bear the brunt of their impacts. The system being developed in Argentina does not require state-of-the-art facilities or vast amounts of high-quality data, making it suitable for deployment in other developing countries facing similar challenges. In this way, we can give back to society by helping to minimize disaster damage through the development of weather forecasting and disaster information systems."

Additionally, drawing on his own research journey—sparked by an encounter with an Argentine mentor during his graduate studies—Dr. Miyoshi highlights the deeper personal and professional rewards of the project that go beyond its academic and social significance, "By allowing young Japanese researchers to spend extended periods working on-site, the project enables fostering connections with their international counterparts. These relationships lay the groundwork for continued research collaboration even after the project ends. SATREPS also plays a vital role in bridging generations of researchers."

Dr. Miyoshi also shares his hopes for the future: "Forecasting severe weather is directly tied to saving lives. I hope this project will bear fruit and help protect as many people as possible. I want to contribute to ensuring that the power of science can serve to mitigate the devastating impact of these unjust disasters, even if only to a small extent."

\*1 See the glossary on page 43.

## (6) Collaboration with People with a Deep Interest in and Understanding of Japan, Japanese Descendants (Nikkei) Living Abroad, and Others

Foreign nationals who have participated in training programs or studied in Japan through Japan's ODA are important human assets with an understanding of Japanese culture and values. There are also cases where these people form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through our overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with these people, who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, after returning to their home countries, participants of JICA's Training Program for Young Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their own countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated into the newly launched "ASEAN-Japan Friendships Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21)." Since then, AJAFA-21 has continued to conduct exchange activities within the ASEAN region and with Japan. In March 2024, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Training Program for Young Leaders, 28 AJAFA-21 members from nine countries visited Japan for a commemorative ceremony. During the ceremony, each country reported on the history of building trust between ASEAN countries and Japan through this program and shared future prospects. They confirmed that ASEAN countries and Japan will continue to work together as true equal partners to solve common global challenges. In March 2025, the Executive Council Meeting of AJAFA-21 national alumni association representatives for FY2024 is scheduled to be held in Laos.

Japan strives to increase follow-up support for participants of the ABE Initiative <sup>16</sup> after they complete the program. Using online methods and other means, Japan provides networking opportunities with Japanese company representatives and information to participants who wish to work for Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020. As of October 2024, the network had more than 1,200 people, including current participants and graduates, as well as Japanese corporate representatives and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), disseminating business information related to Japanese companies in Africa and facilitating mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers annual online networking opportunities for all graduates to connect with each

other. Furthermore, a group of volunteer participants established an organization called Kakehashi Africa, which aims to become a business partner with Japanese companies. While maintaining a network that stretches across the African continent, it is active in over 48 African countries. The organization is engaged in activities such as conducting business surveys, providing business information, and matching the needs of Japanese companies and local resources. It has also collaborated with JICA, including on entrepreneurship training (see also "Stories from the Field" on page 141 for the activities of the alumni association of trainees returning from Japan).



ABE Initiative participants interacting with Japanese companies and other students (Photo: JICA)

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries of their residence and play a role as the foundation of strong ties between Japan and those countries. Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account for approximately 60% of the world's Nikkei people, support regional development and contribute greatly to the economic growth of their countries through the transfer of technology, etc., while also playing an important role as a "bridge" and "partner" with Japan. As part of its technical cooperation with these communities, JICA implements training programs for Nikkei community members, as well as the Education Program for Next-Generation Nikkei for Nikkei youth (junior high school, high school, and university students), who assume a leading role in collaboration between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. In FY2023, 142 Nikkei people from 11 Latin American and the Caribbean countries participated in the Training for Nikkei communities. In addition, JICA dispatches JOCVs to Nikkei communities who are motivated to apply their skills and experience to the communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In FY2023, 43 JOCVs were sent to four countries in support of development in the region while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

<sup>16</sup> See the glossary on page 121.

## Stories from the Field 5

# Trainees Returning from Japan Advancing National Development and Japan-Nepal Relations – The Network and Contributions of JICA Alumni in Nepal –

Nepal, a traditionally pro-Japan country, has the lowest income level in Southwest Asia. Its main industry, agriculture, struggles with low productivity. The country also faces a number of challenges, including its landlocked geography, natural disasters, underdeveloped social infrastructure, and governance issues.

Japan has long accepted many government officials and engineers from Nepal through JICA's training programs, supporting them in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to address national challenges. The JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), whose members include former JICA trainees who have returned after completing their training or studies in Japan, not only applies what they have learnt in Japan in developing their home country, but also contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal.

JAAN was established in 1973 and currently has nearly 1,100 members. Many members hold key positions in the government as well as in major public and private institutions, forming an extensive network. While working to strengthen connections among alumni, members leverage their experiences in Japan to support Nepal's development in a wide range of areas from various positions.

For example, in the energy sector, under the leadership of Mr. Kul Man Ghising, now Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, the country has achieved a stable electricity supply for its citizens, resolving the long-standing issue of scheduled power outages. In the field of education, Ms. Biva Kalika Malla Shrestha, who serves as vice-principal at a Nepali high school, is making notable contributions.

"I visited Japan in 1996 and 2018. Having received an education centered on blackboard-based, one-way instruction, I was impressed by Japan's primary education methods, which emphasize learning through practice. It made me realize that education drives national development. As an educator, I'm working to integrate Japanese teaching methods in Nepal, working with relevant institutions to enhance children's learning," she says with enthusiasm.



JAAN executive committee members paying a courtesy call on President Paudel of Nepal (Ms. Shrestha, fourth from the left; Dr. Bhusal, seventh from the left) (Photo: JAAN)



JAAN providing food assistance in areas affected by flooding that occurred in September 2024 (Dr. Bhusal at the center) (Photo: JAAN)

The current president of JAAN, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, came to Japan in 1997 as a JICA trainee, where he received training in agriculture. As his desire to continue learning in Japan grew following his training, he made his way back, and over the course of seven years, earned his doctoral degree from the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences at Ehime University. After returning to Nepal, he made full use of the expertise he gained in Japan by working on agricultural research and development projects at international NGOs and major donor agencies. He is dedicated to improving the lives of the poor by increasing farmers' income through new agricultural technologies and production of high-value crops. Dr. Bhusal reflects on his experience and says, "I learned the importance of considering human health and plant health as one, and that management, not just agricultural technology, is crucial."

One of the characteristics of JAAN's activities, Dr. Bhusal explains, is that "JAAN always carries out its work flexibly, adapting to the needs and circumstances of the times." For example, in 2024, JAAN redirected funds typically allocated for their annual event during Nepal's traditional "Dashain" festival to provide relief supplies to flood victims, contributing to the country's recovery. In recent years, JAAN has also expanded its network beyond national borders, organizing international seminars with participation from South Asian countries, in addition to hosting domestic seminars focused on human resource development.

Furthermore, JAAN contributes to the development of friendly bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal by strengthening cooperation and fellowship with the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, JICA Nepal Office, JICA experts dispatched from Japan, and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, as well as by regularly engaging in discussions. A relationship of mutual cooperation has been established, with the Government of Nepal and JAAN offering support to Japan during the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Government of Japan and JICA providing aid to Nepal following the major earthquake in 2015.

JAAN is expected to continue playing a vital role in Nepal's development while serving as a bridge between Nepal, Japan, and other countries.

## (1) Enhanced Alignment of Policy Formulation and Project Implementation

### ■ Policy Framework on Development Cooperation

Under the Development Cooperation Charter, which sets out Japan's development cooperation principles, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) formulates the Country Assistance Policy<sup>17</sup> for each recipient country as well as the Sectoral Development Policy<sup>18</sup> in light of international efforts on development, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Country Assistance Policy identifies the priority areas and directions of Japan's development cooperation for a given developing country or region, taking into account its political, economic, and social situations along with its development plans, development challenges, and other relevant factors. As an appendix to the Country Assistance Policy, the Rolling Plan is developed as a compilation list of all ODA projects in the country or region at various stages of implementation, organized by development issue and cooperation program with visualized implementation schedules, in order to increase correlation among and forward planning of development cooperation projects.

To implement Japan's development cooperation more effectively, Japan shares its medium-term development cooperation policies with the governments of recipient countries, while also strengthening policy consultations with them and promoting efforts to achieve mutual recognition and understanding.

### ■ Implementation Architecture of Development Cooperation

In the implementation of development cooperation in accordance with the relevant policies, the Government of Japan and implementing agencies work together to effectively utilize different modalities such as grants, technical cooperation, and loan aid. With a view to maximizing development impacts, Japan strives to implement development cooperation with the optimized combination of bilateral cooperation and multilateral

cooperation through international organizations and NGOs, through "co-creation" in partnership with various actors.

In order to strengthen its posture to realize smooth processing from project conceptualization and formulation to implementation, the Government of Japan has put in place the country-based ODA Task Force\* in each ODA-recipient country, comprised mainly of the Embassy of Japan and the JICA office, who have first-hand knowledge of local development needs and operational realities in consideration of the status of the bilateral relations and political, economic, and social situations of the recipient country. In addition, the ODA Task Force participates in the process of drafting the Country Assistance Policy and the Rolling Plan, formulating and shortlisting project candidates, strengthening collaborations with other donors, international organizations, Japanese companies, and NGOs with active local presence, and recommending and reviewing development cooperation modalities.

Japan also provides follow-up support even after project completion to ensure that each project is widely recognized by the government and people of the recipient country for many years to come and delivers effects properly.

### ■ Improved Project Management and Ensuring Accountability of ODA

From the perspective of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation and ensuring accountability to the Japanese public, it is important to carry out proper evaluations and incorporate the results of evaluations in the improvement of policies and projects. In order to improve management and fulfill the accountability of ODA, Japan has taken the following measures: (i) enhancing the PDCA cycle (policy planning and project formation (Plan), implementation (Do), evaluation (Check), improvement (Act)), (ii) strengthening program approaches, and (iii) reinforcing "visualization." With these measures, Japan is striving to ensure strategic consistency in the PDCA cycle of its development cooperation.

The ongoing efforts toward the enhanced PDCA cycle include: (i) formulating Country Assistance Policies for all ODA recipient countries, (ii) convening the Development Project Accountability Committee, (iii) setting impact

<sup>17</sup> Country Assistance Policy and Rolling Plan for Respective Countries [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/seisaku/kuni\\_enryo\\_kakkoku.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/seisaku/kuni_enryo_kakkoku.html)

<sup>18</sup> Sectoral Development Policy <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/bunyabetsu/index.html>

indicators for each project, and (iv) strengthening the evaluation mechanism.

For more effective and efficient ODA operation, it is essential to strengthen the PDCA cycle not only at the project level but also at the policy level. To this end, the Government of Japan carries out evaluations of economic cooperation policies in line with the “Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA),”<sup>19</sup> and evaluations by third parties are carried out in order to ensure objectivity and fairness. The recommendations and lessons learned from these evaluations are fed back to development cooperation policy for further improvements in ODA management.<sup>20</sup>

The ODA evaluations by third parties are implemented both from the “development viewpoints,” which concern how well ODA is contributing to the recipient country’s development, and from the “diplomatic viewpoints,” which examine what desired impacts ODA has brought to Japan’s national interests.

Evaluations from the “development viewpoints” are carried out under three evaluation criteria; how the development cooperation policy is aligned with Japan’s high-level policies, global priorities, and local needs of the recipient country (Relevance of Policies); how much impact ODA has delivered (Effectiveness of Results); and what processes have been taken to ensure ODA’s Relevance of Policies and Effectiveness of Results (Appropriateness of Processes). Evaluations from the “diplomatic viewpoints” are conducted under two criteria: how ODA is expected to contribute to Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Importance) and how ODA has contributed to the realization of Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Impact).

In addition, following the recommendations from the “Review of Japan’s ODA Evaluations from FY2015 to FY2021,” conducted in FY2022, MOFA is strengthening

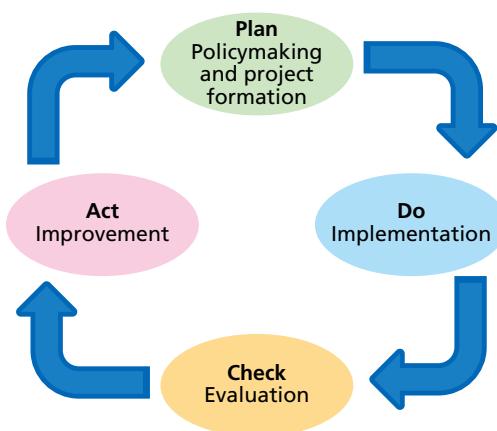
ODA evaluations in line with the priority policies, approaches, and implementation principles of the Development Cooperation Charter.

MOFA publishes the evaluation results on its website<sup>21</sup> to ensure accountability to the Japanese public while promoting public understanding and support for ODA through higher levels of transparency.

At the project level, JICA mainly carries out evaluation by modality—grants, loan aid, and technical cooperation—as well as thematic evaluations. Having established a coherent evaluation mechanism for each modality, JICA conducts monitoring and evaluations for each project through ex ante, mid-term, and ex post stages. As for projects whose cost exceeds a certain threshold, JICA commissions third-party ex-post evaluations. JICA also invests in impact evaluations<sup>22</sup> in order to rigorously verify the effectiveness of projects.

MOFA and JICA conduct ODA evaluations primarily based on the Evaluation Criteria of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).<sup>23</sup>

Chart V-2 PDCA Cycle



## Glossary

### Country-Based ODA Task Force

The ODA Task Force was introduced in FY2003 to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Japan’s development cooperation in a given developing country or region. With the Embassy of Japan of the country or region and the JICA Office at its core, the ODA Task Force convenes representatives of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and other organizations as key members.

<sup>19</sup> Other than at the policy level, ex-ante evaluations are conducted on loan aid projects in which the maximum amount of loan offered through an Exchange of Notes (E/N) is ¥15 billion or more and on grant projects in which the maximum amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more. In addition, ex-post evaluations are conducted on “pending projects” and “incomplete projects.” (“Pending projects” are projects for which the loan agreement has not been signed or loan disbursement has not begun after five years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc. “Incomplete projects” are projects for which loan disbursements have not been completed after 10 years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc.)

<sup>20</sup> Since FY2017, in addition to policy-level ODA evaluations, grant projects in which the amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more are subject to third party evaluations while the project in which the aid amount falls between ¥200 million and ¥1 billion are internally evaluated. Japan strives to ensure that the results of these ex-post evaluations are utilized to improve the formation of ODA projects in the future.

<sup>21</sup> ODA Evaluation <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/kaikaku/hyoka.html>

<sup>22</sup> Evaluation method verifying the effects of development projects by using methods from statistics and econometrics.

<sup>23</sup> In December 2019, coherence was added to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability that had been in use since 1991.

## (2) Institutional Design for Development Cooperation that Enables Qualified Response with Japan's Strengths

The human resources, knowledge, high level of technical competency, and institutions that Japan has developed in the course of its democratic economic development while valuing its own traditions are assets for development cooperation. Japan builds on these strengths to engage in development cooperation.

### ■ Investment in People

Since Japan began providing ODA in 1954, it has consistently emphasized "investment in people" to transfer its technologies and expertise through acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts, and strove to develop human resources with careful programming. For the purpose of contributing to solving problems in developing countries, Japan has hosted from developing countries trainees in a wide range of fields, including public administration, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and manufacturing, energy, education, health, medicine, transport, and communications. In FY2023, 9,253 new trainees from 137 countries and regions came to Japan to participate in training programs, while a total of 463 new trainees from seven countries participated in the In-Country Training Program—conducted in the home countries and regions of the trainees—and 2,479 new trainees from 110 countries and regions participated in the Third-Country Training Program. Furthermore, through the Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts, Japan aims to develop the human resources of developing countries by providing advanced policy recommendations to governments tackling development challenges and by developing technologies tailored to local conditions, in pursuit of enhanced development outcomes. As of FY2023, a total of 6,827 JICA experts, both new and those from previous fiscal years, are active in 103 countries and regions.

### ■ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program)

Started in 1965, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program) has a long track record of success over half a century. More than 57,000 volunteers have been dispatched to 99 developing countries and regions in total, and as of December 2024, 1,756 volunteers are in service in 74 countries. This is an ODA program that invites public participation in the true sense of the word and has contributed to developing countries and regions while embodying the "visibility

of Japanese development cooperation." Furthermore, the program not only contributes to the socio-economic development in developing countries and regions but also to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries and regions through cultivating people's affinity for Japan, and, as a result, it is highly acclaimed both domestically and internationally.

In 2012, the JICA Volunteer Program, to dispatch personnel in partnership with private companies and organizations (hereinafter referred to as "private entities"), local governments, and universities, became officially institutionalized.<sup>24</sup> In partnership with private entities, the Program actively supports the overseas outreach of these companies through the dispatch of their staff as volunteers, tapping their professional experience from Japan for activities in developing countries and, upon return to Japan, by incorporating their knowledge of country-specific business practices and market needs from volunteering days in their corporate activities. By December 2024, 134 volunteers had been dispatched from private entities to 39 countries (see "Featured Project" on page 146 for specific examples). In partnership with local governments, the Program enables the community-building know-how of Japanese municipality offices to be utilized for community development in developing countries through the dispatch of their staff as volunteers. Those former volunteers are expected to incorporate the community-building experiences from their volunteering days in their work back in local government offices in Japan for community development and nation-building. By December 2024, 80 volunteers had been dispatched from local government offices to 13 countries. The Program also supports university students being dispatched in partnership with universities, with the hope that the volunteering experiences in developing countries will enhance their personal growth and lead to effective human resource development in both Japan and developing countries. By December 2024, 1,123 volunteers had been dispatched from universities to 40 countries.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the JICA Volunteer Program returns its advantages to the Japanese society in the form of former volunteers' contribution to regional revitalization and the business expansion of Japanese corporations to developing countries on the back of the global perspectives they newly obtained through the volunteering activities. Since 2022, to enhance such effects, JICA has been implementing the "GLOCAL Program (Pre-departure Type)," which provides opportunities for prospective JOCVs undergoing pre-dispatch training that intend to address challenges faced by regional communities in Japan after their volunteering service abroad to participate in activities for regional revitalization and multicultural coexistence implemented by local governments. In FY2023, 112

<sup>24</sup> In April 2023, the "Private Sector Partnership," "Local Government Partnership," and "University Partnership" dispatch programs were reorganized and integrated into the "Partnership Program."

pre-dispatch volunteers participated in the program in 20 areas across 12 prefectures. Those who participated in the program regarded it as beneficial for acquiring firsthand experiences of fostering social relationships in a new place, gaining personal connections with communities that last beyond the end of the program, and broadening their career options after volunteer service abroad. Host local governments give highly positive feedback on the program, noting that insights from outsiders' perspectives helped residents rediscover the value of their own communities.

In order to promote these initiatives, Japan strives to make it easier for more people to join the JICA Volunteer Program through supporting former volunteers' pursuit of career advancement as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the Volunteer Program while retaining one's job.



A JOCV teaching Japanese language and culture to children at an elementary school in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Photo: JICA)

### ■ Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative

Japan's advanced technologies and science and technology are major advantages. At the same time, as emerging and developing countries raise their technological base and present diversified needs, it is becoming important to provide value-added development cooperation in a way that couples the cooperation on quality hardware provision, including the equipment procurement and facility development, with the cooperation on software provision, including intervention in operation and maintenance, institutional building, and human resources development. Against such a backdrop, Japan has launched in the revised Development Cooperation Charter of June 2023 the galvanized Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative, which advocates the proactive proposition of a cooperation menu, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), Other Official Flows (OOF), and private funding, which leverage Japan's strengths in strategically important fields for foreign policy. In September 2023, Japan formulated the strategy document, "Co-creation for common agenda

initiative" <sup>25</sup> and identified (i) climate change response and green transformation (GX), (ii) economic resilience, and (iii) promotion of digitalization and digital transformation (DX) <sup>26</sup> as strategic fields to promote this initiative.

Based on the above strategy document, Japan and a prospective developing country work together to formulate sector-based goals, scenarios, and a menu of possible development cooperation through policy dialogue. Through the process of presenting a cooperation menu indicating mid- to long-term inputs from Japan—indicative figures of financial contribution and enabling workforce, overview of a mixture of projects by different modalities, etc.—and discussing policy initiatives to be undertaken by developing countries, Japan and the developing country would gain a consensus on the overall framework of cooperation, if desired. Japan also emphasizes establishing a platform for dialogue for each target developing country with relevant stakeholders from both Japan and developing countries. Through these efforts, Japan aims to realize development cooperation goals and solve challenges of developing countries while also attempting to "co-create" with various stakeholders in addressing Japan's own challenges and promoting economic growth.

A specific example of the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative is the cooperation for the development of Cambodia's digital economy and society. In December 2023, then Prime Minister Kishida and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet reached a consensus on a cooperation menu <sup>27</sup> for the development of Cambodia's digital economy and society during their summit meeting. In March 2024, a public-private roundtable meeting was held to further promote cooperation by leveraging private sector services, products, and expertise. Relevant ministries (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), relevant organizations (JICA, Japan ICT Fund (JICT), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)), and private companies participated in the conference.

Additionally, in March 2024, at the Japan-Mozambique Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the two countries concurred on advancing cooperation under the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative for the stabilization of security in the northern region and stable supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG). In April 2024, at the Japan-Madagascar Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the two countries agreed to utilize this initiative for the development of the Greater Toamasina area and the improvement of production technology for critical minerals. We are also promoting cooperation in disaster prevention and climate change

<sup>25</sup> Strategic fields and approaches to cooperation through the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative: "Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative with Partners" <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100553362.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> See 15 on page 38.

<sup>27</sup> For details of the Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative menu in the digital field for Cambodia, refer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100597089.pdf>).

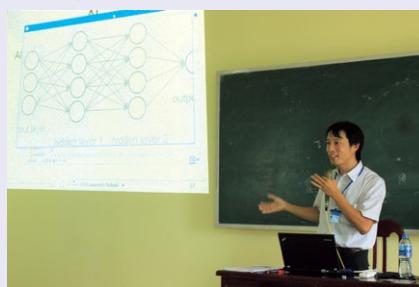


## Applying Computer Technology Skills in the Field

I was dispatched as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) to Dong Thap Province in Vietnam, where I was assigned to a three-year community college to help improve a newly introduced e-learning system and assist with classes in the Department of Information Technology.

The college had begun using the e-learning system for submitting assignments and distributing education materials, but students were complaining that it was difficult to use. Therefore, I collected feedback from students and submitted proposals for improvement to the school. Since the practice of conducting surveys by questionnaire was not yet common at the college, it was a new experience for me to explain the concept of what surveys were to the faculty members.

For class support, I developed teaching materials on the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technology and taught classes. I also introduced programming case studies related to the control of manufacturing equipment. Drawing on my prior experience as an industrial engineer in factories, I strived to help students visualize how the technologies they were learning could actually be applied in real life.



A class in the Department of Information Technology at Dong Thap Community College, Vietnam (Photo: IWAMOTO Hideaki)



Conducting a soil survey in Tanzania (Photo: IWAMOTO Hideaki)

After completing my term as a volunteer, I returned to work for TOPPAN Holdings Inc. in Japan and became involved in developing environmentally friendly plastic products. When I searched for and built relationships with new development and manufacturing partners, the ability to coordinate and dive into unknown environments developed as a volunteer proved to be beneficial.

Currently, I am stationed in Tanzania, working on a pilot project to realize smart agriculture.\*1 At a coffee farm of TANJA Corporation Ltd. run by OS Trading & Investment Pte. Ltd., a company collaborating with TOPPAN Holdings Inc., we are working to optimize farm operations by leveraging satellite data and IoT technology,\*2 aiming to develop a business that contributes to improving the lives of local residents. Drawing on my experiences as a volunteer, including adapting to different cultures and regions from those of Japan, I am committed to contributing to new business development in East Africa.

\*1 The application of robotics, AI, and other advanced technologies, along with agricultural data, to enhance productivity and efficiency in agriculture.

\*2 Technology that connects common devices to the internet, enabling remote monitoring, control, detection, and device interconnection via internet.

countermeasures in Fiji and the Oceania region through this initiative.

Most recently, in October 2024, at the Japan–Laos Summit Meeting, the two countries concurred on cooperation on strengthening power connectivity between Laos and neighboring countries and promoting decarbonization through clean electricity in Laos, including the possible start of a Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative. At the 2nd Asia Zero-Emission Community (AZEC) Leaders Meeting held in the same month, then Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan would consider implementing this initiative for Laos to contribute to regional decarbonization, with Laos as a future supply base of clean energy in the region.

### Grant for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

Espousing the philosophy of human security, Japan's Grant for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which traces its origin to the "Small-Scale Grant" initiated in FY1989, directly and agilely implements relatively small-scale development projects,<sup>28</sup> targeted at populations in localities of developing countries and regions where access to public service is limited. These projects address

basic human needs (BHN) and encompass education, health and medical care, water and sanitation, landmine clearance, and disaster prevention. Within this framework, Japan also undertakes specific projects in which Japanese companies and local governments collaborate in project implementation, providing complementary services such as technical training. This approach leverages Japan's expertise and technological capabilities to effectively address social challenges in developing countries and regions. In FY2023, a total of 507 projects were executed across 115 countries and regions.

### Loan Aid

In order to enhance the "visibility of Japanese development cooperation" through utilizing and transferring Japan's advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries, the Government of Japan continuously improves its systems, including the introduction of the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP). Through these efforts, the ratio of orders received by Japanese companies has remained at around 60% to 70% in loan projects, which supports their business expansion overseas.

<sup>28</sup> The general limit for each project is ¥20 million, with a maximum of up to ¥100 million.

# Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation centered on ODA has contributed greatly not only to the development and growth of developing countries but also to the establishment of firm bonds of friendship and trust between Japan and developing countries. At the same time, it has helped enhance Japan's standing in the international community and ensure the country's peace and prosperity. On the other hand, there have been cases of fraud committed in ODA projects, as well as failures in delivering expected outcomes and delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Government of Japan has made various efforts to learn lessons from these experiences for the future, such as improving evaluation systems, enhancing transparency, strengthening project management processes, and holding dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders, including recipient countries and civil society. The Government will continue to strive to engage in more effective and appropriate development cooperation.

Furthermore, in order to implement projects with due consideration for environmental and social aspects, JICA has established the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations as a part of its efforts to ensure the appropriateness of its development cooperation.

## (1) Prevention of Fraudulent Practices

Fraudulent practices related to ODA projects not only hinder their appropriate and effective implementation, but also undermine trust in ODA that is funded by the taxes paid by the people of Japan. Therefore, fraudulent practices are absolutely unacceptable.

Based on lessons learned from past fraudulent practices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA have strengthened efforts to prevent those practices. These include enhancing monitoring systems (such as strengthening the function of the consultation desk for information related to fraud and corruption and expanding third-party checks), increasing penalties (such as extending the maximum period of suspension of eligibility for participation, increasing penalty charges for breaching contracts, and introducing a point-deduction system applicable to corporations that repeatedly

commit serious fraudulent practices), and expanding the scope of suspension of eligibility for participation (such as subjecting the groups of the suspended corporations and entities who have received business transfers from the suspended corporations to penalties).

Japan will remain firmly committed to the prevention of fraudulent practices in ODA under the strong conviction that fraudulent practices related to ODA projects can never be tolerated.

## (2) Safety Measures for People Involved in International Cooperation Projects

Ensuring the safety of not only JICA-associated workers but also all actors involved in international cooperation projects, such as employees of companies and members of NGOs, is a prerequisite for the implementation of development cooperation centered on ODA projects, and MOFA and JICA work on taking sufficient security measures and establishing safety measures on a regular basis.

Following the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2016, the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects, in which the relevant ministries, agencies, government-related organizations, and experts participated, carried out its review and released the "Final Report."<sup>29</sup> MOFA and JICA strive to implement the safety measures<sup>30</sup> recommended in the report as well as to continue and enhance actions to ensure the effectiveness of safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects. At the 2024 Council, which was made permanent after publication of the report, MOFA shared information on recent terrorist attacks and kidnapping cases that require special attention, while JICA provided information on incidents affecting the safety of people involved in ODA projects that occurred during the year, and on related safety measures. The participants discussed various circumstances, measures, efforts, and other matters related to the safety of those involved in international cooperation projects.

Furthermore, in the wake of the terrorist attack in Dhaka, the Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas

<sup>29</sup> Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22\\_000141.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22_000141.html)

<sup>30</sup> The following five points are proposed as new safety measures: (i) Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information, (ii) A code of conduct of project partners and NGOs, (iii) Physical and non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills, (iv) Post-crisis response, and (v) Raising crisis management awareness and improving organizational structures of MOFA and JICA.



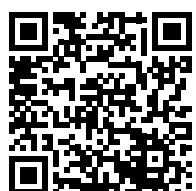
Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji attending the 9th plenary meeting of the "Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network"

Safety Measures Network <sup>31</sup> was established in 2016 to strengthen overseas safety measures for personnel associated with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including those involved in international cooperation projects. With participants from ministries and agencies involved in the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, the Network holds a director-general-level plenary meeting about once a year. In January 2024, the 8th plenary meeting was held, and in January 2025, the 9th plenary meeting was held, attended respectively by then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuge and then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Miyaji. At these meetings, organizations participating in the Network confirmed that they would continue to actively engage in awareness-raising activities, as well as further strengthen cooperation with organizations and relevant ministries and agencies to advance safety measures for SMEs.

In 2024, when the security situation deteriorated in



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MOFA Golgo 13's Security Guidelines Page

Iran, Israel, Palestine and other countries, MOFA and JICA, building on the aforementioned regular security measures and initiatives, while accurately assessing the situation and cooperating with international organizations, swiftly evacuated those involved in international cooperation projects from those countries, placing the highest priority on human lives to ensure their safety.

Additionally, following multiple evacuation cases in 2023, in March 2024, MOFA created an expanded second edition of "Golgo 13's Security Guidelines for Japanese SMEs Abroad," which has been used to strengthen overseas safety measures for Japanese nationals including those involved in international cooperation projects. This edition includes a new episode emphasizing the importance of "preparing for evacuation."

### (3) Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation

In the recent years, there has been a growing international concern about sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in humanitarian and development assistance. In July 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) adopted the "DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance." In 2023, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan's Presidency, the G7 leaders confirmed their commitment to the elimination of SEAH in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué.

In light of these developments, MOFA conducts awareness-raising activities such as staff training. It also makes available the summaries of Japan's basic position and the DAC Recommendation on the MOFA website <sup>32</sup> to promote public understanding.

JICA raises awareness of the importance of SEAH prevention among a wide range of relevant parties involved in JICA projects through its website, which posts the president's call for eliminating SEAH, <sup>33</sup> and through its employment regulations and ethics guidelines for JICA personnel that take into account SEAH prevention measures. In addition, it works to develop a consultation service as well as a response and monitoring system in case of an incident.

In addition, MOFA is taking measures such as incorporating SEAH prevention into the implementation guidelines for the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects from FY2022 onward.

<sup>31</sup> Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network [https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen\\_info/network.html](https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen_info/network.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>32</sup> International Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) in Development Cooperation [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page24\\_000019.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page24_000019.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>33</sup> Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/compliance/seah\\_ereadication.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/compliance/seah_ereadication.html)

## (1) Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation

To implement effective and strategic development cooperation, it is essential to secure and foster human resources with advanced knowledge of development challenges, as well as public understanding and support.

The Government of Japan has set a target of 1,000 Japanese working for UN-related agencies by 2025. To this end, in collaboration with universities and Japan offices of international organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) actively recruits, trains and supports Japanese nationals who can play active roles on the global stage.<sup>34</sup> As mentioned in the recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA, considering the development of global human resources, including those engaged in development cooperation, as an urgent issue, the government organizes seminars in and outside of Japan to explain the recruitment system of international organizations to a wide range of audiences, including students at secondary and higher educational institutions and professionals already employed. Recently, seminars mainly take place online, allowing incumbent Japanese staff of international organizations to remotely participate and share their experiences. Also, among other things, the government produces videos and holds seminars featuring senior officials and human resource experts from international organizations.

Moreover, the Government of Japan offers the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, supporting Japanese professionals who pursue careers in international organizations, including those engaged in the area of international development (see "Stories from the Field" on page 37, "Featured Project" on page 62, and "Stories from the Field" on page 151 for examples of Japanese staff members at international organizations, including one sponsored under the JPO Programme). MOFA established the JPO Programme in 1974 and has since sent a cumulative total of over 2,000 JPOs. The program marked its 50th anniversary in 2024. In FY2023, 55 JPOs were dispatched. In addition, MOFA implements the "Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development."<sup>35</sup>

Through the Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment (PARTNER)<sup>36</sup> website, JICA centrally distributes information on international cooperation (such as recruitment and various training and seminar opportunities) undertaken by a wide range of actors such as ministries, agencies, JICA, NGOs, international organizations, companies, and universities. It also provides services such as human resources registration services and career counseling. Furthermore, JICA offers internships to university and graduate students who are interested in Japan's international cooperation and are willing to play an active role as international cooperation personnel in various fields in the future. JICA also engages competent professionals with extensive work experience in developing countries through the Senior Advisor System while administering the Associate Experts Program and the Capacity Enhancement Training in support of human resources development.

Furthermore, the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development analyzes knowledge gained in the field of development cooperation, provides feedback on research results to JICA projects, and contributes to the realization of human security and the achievement of the SDGs by publishing reports and academic books on human security and organizing symposiums.



Mr. HARADA Masatake, Education Officer at UNICEF Mozambique, with children participating in the pre-school education program supported by UNICEF (Photo: UNICEF Mozambique)

<sup>34</sup> The website of the Recruitment Center for International Organizations (<https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/>) (in Japanese only) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides information on vacancies in international organizations and other information related to careers in international organizations.

<sup>35</sup> See <sup>40</sup> on page 50.

<sup>36</sup> International Cooperation Career Information Website "PARTNER" <https://partner.jica.go.jp/> (in Japanese only)

## (2) Efforts on Information Disclosure and the Promotion of Public Understanding and Support

In today's globalized world, Japan and developing countries are in a relationship of mutual support. Japan's ODA is of great significance as a critical effort by Japan to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, including developing countries, and thereby defend Japan's national interests. Since ODA is funded from the public resources of the people of Japan, it is crucial to communicate the significance and efforts of development cooperation in an easily understandable manner, and to gain the recognition and support of a wide range of people in the country. It is also important that Japan's efforts be properly understood overseas in order to enhance friendly bilateral relationships and Japan's credibility in the international community. From these perspectives, ODA public relations are becoming increasingly important. Furthermore, to promote collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including private companies, local governments, and NGOs, it is essential to raise awareness and get many people involved.

The Government of Japan undertakes various efforts in public relations and information dissemination on ODA.

### ■ Strengthening Public Relations and Information Dissemination

MOFA strives to conduct more effective ODA public relations, in cooperation with JICA. Domestically, MOFA focuses on publicizing its policies, using specific measures to reach young people and small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas that are not very familiar with ODA. The measures include posts on ODA websites, social media, and YouTube channels, as well as email newsletters, videos, public relations events, and ODA Delivery Lecture series. For example, MOFA has created the third TV drama series titled "First Step 3: Sekai wo Tsunagu Heiwa eno Negai," (Japanese only) and a series called "Eagle Talon's Go! ODA Man," featuring well-known personalities and characters. These public relations activities are intended to communicate respective themes to the public in easily understandable and accessible manners. As a joint public relations effort not only by MOFA and JICA but also by other parties involved in development cooperation in Japan, MOFA, together with JICA and the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), holds one of the largest events on international cooperation in Japan called "Global Festa JAPAN" every year around the time of International Cooperation Day (October 6). In 2024,

multiple events commemorating the 70th anniversary of international cooperation are being held (see "ODA Topics" on page 153 for details on the specific initiative). MOFA also puts efforts into International Cooperation Delivery Lectures where people can hear from those involved in international cooperation.

Overseas, Japan is committed to increasing the visibility of its cooperation. For example, Japanese embassies in developing countries, etc. have local media organizations report on ODA project sites, create public relations materials in local languages, and display Japan's national flag on equipment and facilities donated or built by Japan. Furthermore, ambassadors and Consuls-General of Japan themselves frequently post on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram to improve the understanding of local people about Japan's ODA.

In the White Paper on Development Cooperation published annually, MOFA aims to make its contents easy and interesting to read, by featuring many photos and stories from the field, and strives to ensure transparency on the implementation status of ODA with relevant statistical data. The White Paper is also published in both English and Japanese. As a result of these efforts, public response to various public relations tools has steadily increased, as shown by the number of participants in Global Festa JAPAN, the number of ODA Delivery Lectures, and the number of views of posted ODA-related videos. Japan is committed to continuously strengthening public relations even further.

### ■ Information Disclosure on Implementation and Evaluation of ODA

MOFA and JICA set up the "ODA Mieru-ka Site" <sup>37</sup> (a website designed to visualize ODA) on the JICA website, and makes available to the public ODA project summaries, results, ex-ante/ex-post evaluations, and other related information.

Likewise, the MOFA website features the results of policy- and project-level ODA evaluations <sup>38</sup> and other related information, in addition to new ODA projects and statistical materials, for more effective implementation and the promotion of public understanding and support for ODA.

### ■ Promotion of Development Education

MOFA holds the "ODA Delivery Lecture" series, in which MOFA officials provide explanations on international cooperation, including ODA, at educational institutions, NGOs, and other organizations in Japan. Over the past 10 years, a total of 318 ODA Delivery Lectures have been organized with the involvement of approximately 32,000 participants, mainly students. In

<sup>37</sup> ODA Mieru-ka Site <https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/> (in Japanese only)

<sup>38</sup> ODA evaluations <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>

## Stories from the Field 6

# Voices of Japanese Personnel Working in International Organizations

## – Tackling the Challenges of Forced Displacement –

In 2024, Japan celebrates the 50th anniversary of the start of its Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme.<sup>\*1</sup> More than 2,000 young Japanese professionals have been dispatched to international organizations through this programme, and as of the end of 2023, approximately half of the 960 Japanese staff (at professional level or above) working in UN-related organizations are former JPOs. Thus, the JPO Programme plays a significant role as the first step for Japanese nationals pursuing careers in international cooperation as staff members of international organizations. The author of this column, Ms. SHINOZAKI Tomomi, is among those who have benefited from the programme and is set to assume a regular staff position as of January 2025.

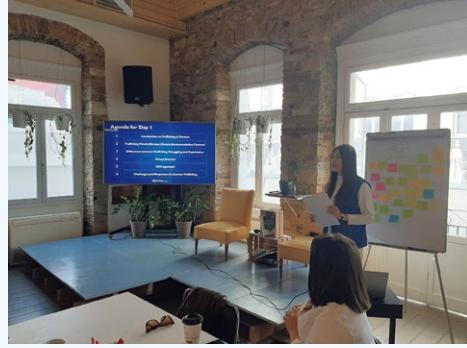
### Refugee Camp Visit Leading to a Career in International Cooperation

After visiting Hiroshima on an elementary school field trip and hearing testimonies from atomic bomb survivors, I began to think, "I want to contribute to global peace through meaningful roles in international cooperation." To identify the fields I aspired to work in, I actively took part in internships both in Japan and overseas as well as study abroad programs during my student years. While studying Post-war Recovery Studies in graduate school, I traveled to Uganda to conduct research for my master's thesis. Engaging directly with refugees and hearing their stories firsthand shaped my desire to pursue a career at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Witnessing the struggles of people forced to flee and rebuild their lives in countries with different languages and cultures, I became determined to support displaced individuals and address the root causes of forced migration.

After completing graduate school, I joined a Japanese NGO and provided assistance to displaced persons in South Sudan and Uganda. I then served as a UN Volunteer at IOM Nigeria through the "Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development"<sup>\*2</sup> before being appointed as a JPO at IOM Greece in January 2022, where I supported efforts to combat trafficking in persons.<sup>\*3</sup> Since April 2023, I have been working on IOM Somalia's peacebuilding programme from its Kenya-based Sub-Office. Initially, I was primarily responsible for project formulation



Refugee women working in a market within a refugee settlement in Uganda to make a living (Photo: SHINOZAKI Tomomi)



The author conducting training on counter-trafficking in persons for IOM Greece staff (Photo: SHINOZAKI Tomomi)

and reporting on ongoing projects. Over time, I was entrusted with managing projects that I had developed myself. I am currently tasked with a broad scope of work, including coordination with the Somali government, donors, and other international organizations, as well as the recruitment of local staff, selection of local NGOs as implementing partners, budget management, and monitoring activities.

### Addressing the Root Causes of Forced Displacement

In Somalia, the activities of violent extremist groups, notably Al-Shabaab, have been a significant cause of forced migration and human suffering. Therefore, the Government of Somalia aims to dismantle these groups by encouraging voluntary defections and providing rehabilitation and reintegration support for "low-risk" defectors. Many women who have left these groups, such as the wives of the combatants, face serious challenges including discrimination and alienation from local communities and the risk of retaliation from the groups, despite not being directly involved in killings or acts of violence. Many are also victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The project I am currently managing provides psychosocial care, vocational training, and other support to low-risk defectors from violent extremist groups, including such women, as well as marginalized young people who are at high risk of being recruited by these groups. The project aims to promote their socio-economic reintegration and meaningful participation in society. At IOM Somalia, I am based in the Nairobi Support Office in the Kenyan capital. I regularly communicate with local staff via phone, social media, email, and online meetings. While it is difficult to visit project sites in person, I find great fulfillment in delivering much-needed assistance in hard-to-reach areas through cooperation with local staff and partner NGOs who share the same aspirations. I am committed to continuing my work on addressing the issues that cause forced displacement and supporting those affected by it.

**SHINOZAKI Tomomi**  
**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**  
**Somalia Office**

\*1 Established by a 1961 resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, this program allows international organizations to accept young professionals on the condition that their costs are covered by their respective governments.

\*2 See 40 on page 50.

\*3 See 51 on page 56.



## ODA Public Relations

### – Bringing ODA Closer to the Public –

#### ■ Communicating Japan's Development Cooperation

According to a public opinion survey\*1 conducted by Japan's Cabinet Office in 2023, 79.4% of respondents indicated that, regarding the future of development cooperation, it should be either "more actively promoted" or "maintained at the current level," reflecting positive public support. This positive public opinion is driven by a growing awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as a broader understanding—amid the multiple crises facing the international community, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine—that countries must work together to address global challenges such as disasters and infectious diseases. There is also a growing recognition that development cooperation contributes to ensuring the stable supply of energy and other resources, that it is necessary to enhance trust in Japan within the international community, and that it serves as an important tool for strategically advancing Japan's foreign policy.

This column highlights several initiatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) to communicate information and policies regarding the significance of Japan's development cooperation.

#### ■ 70th Anniversary Commemoration of Japan's Official Development Assistance

2024 marks the 70th anniversary since the inception of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). MOFA, in collaboration with JICA and other relevant organizations, designated this milestone year as an opportunity to reflect on the role ODA has played over the past seven decades and to engage the Japanese public in discussions on the future of international cooperation. To commemorate this occasion, various events were held, including the International Cooperation 70th Anniversary Kick-off Event in Kobe in March, the International Cooperation MIRAI Conference in May, Global Festa JAPAN 2024 in September, and the Symposium to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Japan's ODA in December.



The Symposium to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Japan's ODA, held at the United Nations University on December 17

#### ■ Television Dramas

MOFA also produces public outreach content featuring well-known figures to reach a wider audience.

As one of these initiatives, the Ministry produces and broadcasts the TV drama series "The First Step" with TV personality and author Mr. MATAYOSHI Naoki as the host. The series, set in MOFA's International Cooperation Bureau and the field sites of international cooperation, explores Japan's development efforts. In 2024, the third installment, "The First Step 3: Sekai wo Tsunagu Heiwa e no Negai [A Wish for Peace That Connects the World]," was released. Centered on Japan's support for mine clearance in Cambodia, the drama follows a young man's personal growth through interactions with diverse individuals, driven by his desire for a peaceful, conflict-free world.



The third installment of the TV drama series "The First Step 3: Sekai wo Tsunagu Heiwa e no Negai" (Japanese only), set in MOFA's International Cooperation Bureau and actual cooperation sites

#### ■ Go! ODA-Man

ODA-Man, now in his seventh year as MOFA's ODA PR character (see also Part V, Section 4 (2) on page 150), has continued to raise awareness of Japan's ODA efforts around the world through various video episodes. In 2024, three new episodes were released: "ODA-Man Goes! The 70th Anniversary of International Cooperation Edition," which looks back on 70 years of ODA and highlights its significance, "The 100-Year Journey of Japan and Türkiye;" and "The SATREPS\*2 Edition."



Go, ODA-Man!

## ■ Global Festa JAPAN 2024



Stage event: "Sekai wo Tsunagu Heiwa e no Negai—Weaving the Future through Mine Clearance Support"

"Global Festa JAPAN 2024," a major international development and cooperation event, took place on September 28-29, 2024. Marking its 33rd edition, the event was held under the theme "70 Years of International Cooperation—Together into the Future." Approximately 200 organizations working in the field of international cooperation—including NGOs, NPOs, international organizations, companies, universities, and foreign embassies in Japan—set up exhibition booths at the event. It also featured live sessions with diverse guests, experiential workshops, and food and merchandise booths offering cuisine and cultural items from various countries. With a combined audience of in-person attendees and online viewers, the event attracted approximately 74,000 participants, a significant increase over the previous year.



Then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hosaka delivering remarks at the opening ceremony of Global Festa JAPAN 2024

MOFA launched the event with an opening ceremony, followed by various sessions and activities. These included an on-stage presentation by ODA-Man explaining "Co-



The Lobby Gallery, featuring exhibits by foreign embassies in Japan, international organizations, NGOs and others. MOFA also participated with a booth that aimed to clearly explain how Japan's ODA contributes globally.

creation for common agenda initiative" \*3 in simple terms, a session on how ODA can support the overseas expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises, a quiz segment introducing how ODA is connected to everyday food ingredients, and a talk featuring individuals working on the front lines of mine clearance and reconstruction support in Cambodia. The Ministry also held the award ceremony for its annual ministerial photo contest.\*4 Under the theme "A World Where Everyone Shines for the First Step!", the contest received many submissions filled with smiling faces, and award-winning works were selected from among 350 entries. Other activities included a career seminar for those interested in working in international organizations hosted by MOFA's Recruitment Center for International Organizations, and a session reporting on NGO activities in international cooperation, attended by officials from MOFA's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Division of the International Cooperation Bureau and NGO representatives. For details, please refer to the event report\*5 on the ODA section of the Ministry's website.

## ■ ODA Email Newsletter, ODA Public Relations X

MOFA publishes an ODA email newsletter monthly, which is also available on the ministry's website. In addition, it shares information about ODA on the social media platform X. As of December 2024, the newsletter has about 20,000 subscribers, and MOFA's X account has over 13,000 followers.



MOFA's ODA account on X



ODA email newsletter



Key visual for the 70th Anniversary of International Cooperation

\*1 The FY2023 Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy was conducted from September to October 2023 by a research agency commissioned by the Cabinet Office. The survey was administered by mail to 3,000 Japanese nationals aged 18 and over across the country (Cabinet Office Public Opinion Survey: <https://survey.gov-online.go.jp/r05/r05-gaiko/index.html> [in Japanese only]).

\*2 See the glossary on page 43.

\*3 See Part I, Section 2 (2) on page 12 and Part V, Section 2 (2) on page 145.

\*4 Report on the MOFA Photo Contest "A World Where Everyone Shines for the First Step!"

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew\\_001313\\_00001.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew_001313_00001.html) (in Japanese only)

See also Special Photograph Collection (1) on page vi for the photographs submitted to the contest.

\*5 Global Festa JAPAN 2024 event report

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew\\_000001\\_00233.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/pagew_000001_00233.html) (in Japanese only)

addition to face-to-face delivery lectures where JICA's 15 domestic offices introduce former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), local stakeholders in international cooperation, and JICA trainees visiting Japan as lecturers, JICA also holds online delivery lectures where JOCVs and JICA staff dispatched to developing countries share their experiences and cross-cultural understanding. In FY2023, approximately 1,600 lectures were held and attended by approximately 140,000 participants. Other efforts to promote understanding and participation in international cooperation include "Visit JICA," in which students can visit JICA offices in Japan, and the "JICA Essay Contest on International Cooperation for Junior and Senior High School Students." JICA also manages the exhibition facility "JICA Global Plaza."



ODA Delivery Lecture given by a MOFA official



Online delivery lecture connecting with JOCVs dispatched to developing countries

### ■ Promotion of Discussion and Dialogue

The Government of Japan holds information sessions for NGOs, companies, business associations, and others on how to utilize ODA in respective activities. In addition, the Government organizes public lectures on international trends and Japan's efforts in international cooperation, providing opportunities for dialogue with the public interested in diplomacy and ODA.

# Reference

## Reference Statistics

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# 1 FY2024 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)

## (1) ODA Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2023			FY2024		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
General account budget	5,709	98	1.7	5,650	-60	-1.0
Project budget (net)	20,415	4,679	29.7	23,995	3,580	17.5
Scale of projects (gross)	27,533	4,643	20.3	31,439	3,905	14.2
JP¥ exchange rate against US\$	¥137			¥139		

Note:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.

## (2) ODA General Account Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2023			FY2024		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
I Grants*1	5,231	90	1.8	5,165	-66	-1.3
1. Bilateral grants	4,235	111	2.7	4,166	-69	-1.6
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,634	1	0.1	1,562	-72	-4.4
(2) Technical cooperation	2,591	110	4.4	2,594	3	0.1
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral	996	-21	-2.1	999	3	0.3
(1) UN and other international organizations	650	-63	-8.9	653	3	0.5
(2) Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)	346	43	14.0	346	-0.1	-0.04
II Loans	478	8	1.6	485	6	1.3
JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	478	8	1.6	485	6	1.3
III Total	5,709	98	1.7	5,650	-60	-1.0

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

\*1 As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient."

**(3) ODA Project Budget**

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2023			FY2024		
	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
I Grants*1	8,528	-95	-1.1	8,615	87	1.0
1. Bilateral grants	4,878	101	2.1	4,799	-79	-1.6
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,634	1	0.1	1,562	-72	-4.4
(2) Technical cooperation	3,234	100	3.2	3,227	-6	-0.2
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	3,650	-196	-5.1	3,815	165	4.5
(1) UN and other international organizations	1,070	-93	-8.0	1,105	35	3.3
(2) MDBs	2,580	-103	-3.8	2,710	130	5.1
II Loans	19,005	4,738	33.2	22,824	3,819	20.1
(1) JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	18,940	4,740	33.4	22,800	3,860	20.4
(2) Others	65	-2	-3.2	24	-41	-63.4
III Total (project scale)	27,533	4,643	20.3	31,439	3,905	14.2
(Reference) Amount recovered	-7,118	—	—	-7,443	—	—
Net	20,415	4,679	29.7	23,995	3,580	17.5

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

\*1 As defined by the OECD-DAC: "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient."

#### (4) Financial Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance

FY2023 project budget			FY2024 project budget		
Expenditure by type of assistance			Budgetary sources		Expenditure by type of assistance
Grants 163.4 billion (0.1% increase)		MOFA 442.8 billion (0.0% increase)		MOFA 438.3 billion (1.0% decrease)	Grants 156.2 billion (4.4% decrease)
Technical cooperation 323.4 billion (3.2% increase)	General account 570.9 billion (1.7% increase)		General account 565.0 billion (1.0% decrease)		Technical cooperation 322.7 billion (0.2% decrease)
Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)		Total for 12 ODA-related ministries and agencies 128.1 billion (8.2% increase)		Total for 12 ODA-related ministries and agencies 126.7 billion (1.1% decrease)	Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)
UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 107.0 billion (8.0% decrease)					UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 110.5 billion (3.3% increase)
MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 258.0 billion (3.8% decrease)	Special account 1.1 billion (9.9% increase)		Special account 1.2 billion (4.6% increase)		MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 271.0 billion (5.1% increase)
Loan 1.9005 trillion (33.2% increase)	Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 264.6 billion (6.2% decrease)		Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 280.8 billion (6.1% increase)		Loan 2.2824 trillion (20.1% increase)
	Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 1.9166 trillion (32.7% increase)		Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 2.2969 trillion (19.8% increase)		
Net ¥2.0415 trillion (29.7% increase) Amounts recovered ¥711.8 billion			Net ¥2.3995 trillion (17.5% increase) Amounts recovered ¥744.3 billion		

Note: Each figure has been rounded to the nearest ¥100 million.

## (5) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (General Account)

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2023	FY2024		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	48	25	-23	-48.5
National Police Agency	19	19	0.3	1.6
Financial Services Agency	200	200	-0.01	-0.01
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	1,022	1,022	0.4	0.04
Ministry of Justice	855	1,568	713	83.4
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	442,841	438,264	-4,577	-1.0
Ministry of Finance	82,820	83,443	622	0.8
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,506	17,955	449	2.6
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	10,587	7,761	-2,826	-26.7
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2,510	2,432	-78	-3.1
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	11,688	11,333	-355	-3.0
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	308	334	27	8.7
Ministry of the Environment	534	612	79	14.8
Total	570,937	564,969	-5,969	-1.0

## Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- The FY2023 budget figures reflect the transfer of some project budgets between certain ministries and agencies conducted in 2024, to provide a comparison with the FY2024 budget figures.

## (6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2023	FY2024		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	48	25	-23	-48.5
National Police Agency	19	19	0.3	1.6
Financial Services Agency	200	200	-0.01	-0.01
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	1,022	1,022	0.4	0.04
Ministry of Justice	855	1,568	713	83.4
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	484,058	482,557	-1,502	-0.3
Ministry of Finance	2,216,305	2,614,453	398,148	18.0
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,506	17,955	449	2.6
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	10,929	8,087	-2,842	-26.0
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	9,055	4,830	-4,226	-46.7
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	12,490	12,203	-287	-2.3
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	308	334	27	8.7
Ministry of the Environment	534	612	79	14.8
Total (project scale)	2,753,329	3,143,865	390,537	14.2
(Reference) Amount recovered	-711,822	-744,324	—	—
Net	2,041,507	2,399,541	358,034	17.5

## Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

## 2 Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2023

\*In Reference Statistics 2, "grants" signifies transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient, as defined by the OECD-DAC.

### (1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency

2023 (calendar year)		Dollar basis (US\$ million)			Yen basis (¥100 million)		
Type	Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)	Current year	Previous year	Rate of increase/decrease (%)	
Grant aid	1,636.38	963.53	69.8	2,299.22	1,266.35	81.6	
Debt relief	—	3.10	-100.0	—	4.08	-100.0	
Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	2,625.81	2,293.02	14.5	3,689.42	3,013.68	22.4	
Technical cooperation	2,242.69	2,368.63	-5.3	3,151.11	3,113.05	1.2	
Total grants	6,504.88	5,628.28	15.6	9,139.75	7,397.16	23.6	
Government loans, etc.	13,882.80	14,020.44	-1.0	19,506.17	18,426.82	5.9	
(Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement)							
(Amount recovered)	5,339.53	5,516.41	-3.2	7,502.37	7,250.13	3.5	
(Amount recovered excluding debt relief)	5,339.53	5,516.41	-3.2	7,502.37	7,250.13	3.5	
(Net disbursement)	8,543.26	8,504.02	0.5	12,003.80	11,176.69	7.4	
(Net disbursement excluding debt relief)	8,543.26	8,504.02	0.5	12,003.80	11,176.69	7.4	
Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis)	20,387.67	19,648.72	3.8	28,645.93	25,823.98	10.9	
Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis)	15,048.14	14,132.30	6.5	21,143.56	18,573.85	13.8	
Grants to multilateral institutions	3,618.54	2,622.39	38.0	5,084.27	3,446.56	47.5	
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	3,618.54	2,622.39	38.0	5,084.27	3,446.56	47.5	
Total ODA (Gross disbursement)	24,006.22	22,271.11	7.8	33,730.20	29,270.54	15.2	
Total ODA (Net disbursement)	18,666.68	16,754.69	11.4	26,227.83	22,020.41	19.1	
Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)	4,451.23	4,517.51	-1.5	625,425.50	593,728.60	5.3	
% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)	0.42	0.37		0.42	0.37		

Notes:

- Conversion rate: 2022 US\$1 = ¥131.4283, 2023 US\$1 = ¥140.5061 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."

## (2) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector

2023 (calendar year)

(Commitment basis, Unit: US\$ million)

Sector	Type	Grant aid	Technical cooperation	Total grants	Government loans, etc.	Bilateral ODA	
						(Share, %)	
I. Social infrastructure & services		1,426.78	540.01	1,966.79	1,135.66	3,102.45	11.01
1. Education		174.65	268.80	443.45	—	443.45	1.57
2. Health		740.10	80.63	820.73	499.54	1,320.27	4.69
3. Population policies and reproductive health		21.07	13.73	34.80	—	34.80	0.12
4. Water and sanitation (water and sewerage)		128.03	72.51	200.54	337.20	537.74	1.91
5. Government and civil society		282.04	52.19	334.23	213.51	547.75	1.94
6. Other social infrastructure & services		80.89	52.15	133.05	85.41	218.45	0.78
II. Economic infrastructure & services		337.46	214.41	551.87	15,233.08	15,784.95	56.03
1. Transport and storage		124.01	124.80	248.80	13,281.56	13,530.37	48.02
2. Communications		56.63	20.39	77.02	—	77.02	0.27
3. Energy		151.67	46.65	198.32	1,837.54	2,035.86	7.23
4. Banking and financial services		4.59	6.39	10.98	—	10.98	0.04
5. Business support		0.56	16.18	16.74	113.98	130.73	0.46
III. Production sectors		236.18	258.01	494.20	2,464.48	2,958.68	10.50
1. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries		208.84	144.61	353.45	349.56	703.01	2.50
1) Agriculture		191.40	107.38	298.78	349.56	648.34	2.30
2) Forestry		3.31	20.11	23.42	—	23.42	0.08
3) Fisheries		14.13	17.12	31.25	—	31.25	0.11
2. Manufacturing, mining, and construction		18.29	77.32	95.62	1,901.41	1,997.03	7.09
1) Manufacturing		17.69	75.03	92.73	456.21	548.93	1.95
2) Mining		0.60	2.29	2.89	1,445.20	1,448.09	5.14
3) Construction		—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Trade and tourism		9.04	36.09	45.13	213.51	258.64	0.92
1) Trade		7.79	26.79	34.58	213.51	248.10	0.88
2) Tourism		1.25	9.29	10.55	—	10.55	0.04
IV. Multi-sector aid		1,000.66	550.17	1,550.83	2,238.53	3,789.35	13.45
1. General environmental protection (environmental policy, biodiversity, etc.)		20.32	20.02	40.33	66.25	106.58	0.38
2. Other multi-sector (urban/rural development, etc.)		980.34	530.15	1,510.49	2,172.28	3,682.77	13.07
V. Commodity aid and general program assistance		47.30	—	47.30	714.21	761.51	2.70
1. General budget support		—	—	—	714.21	714.21	2.54
2. Food aid		47.30	—	47.30	—	47.30	0.17
3. Import support		—	—	—	—	—	—
VI. Debt relief*1		—	—	—	11.15	11.15	0.04
VII. Humanitarian aid (emergency food assistance, reconstruction, disaster risk reduction, etc.)		1,024.93	12.03	1,036.96	—	1,036.96	3.68
VIII. Administrative costs and others		67.08	661.51	728.59	—	728.59	2.59
Total		4,140.41	2,236.14	6,376.54	21,797.11	28,173.65	100.00

BHN (I.+III.1+V.2+VII.)	2,707.86	696.65	3,404.51	1,485.22	4,889.73	17.36
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Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."
- BHN (basic human needs) are composed of: I. Social infrastructure; III-1. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, V-2. Food aid, and VII. Humanitarian aid from the table above.
- BHN refer to the minimum living requirements for human beings such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as education.
- The data is based on how the OECD DAC measures and collects data.

\*1 "VI. Debt relief" does not mean granting new funds but rather modifying repayments and other conditions of loans already provided by the government.

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## **Japan's International Cooperation**

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