

# Part I

1 Japan's ODA: Its Track Record and Significance

4

2 Future Directions of Japan's ODA

12

## 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.)

# 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

**1964**

Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 1964

**1961**

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

**1973**

First oil crisis

**1979**

Second oil crisis

**1975**

First G7 Summit

<Key Events in the World>

**1945**

End of the World War II

**1950**

Start of the Korean War

**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.



# 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

**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)

**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)



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

**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

**2011**

Great East Japan Earthquake

**2020**

Global spread of COVID-19

**2022**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine

**2019**

From the Heisei era to the Reiwa era

**2021**

Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

**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.

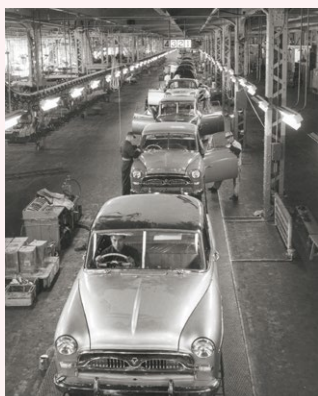
community has become increasingly fragmented and confrontational. In this context, it has become ever more important for countries to overcome differences in values and work together. Accordingly, the role of development cooperation has grown significantly. With a rising need to collaborate with a diverse 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.



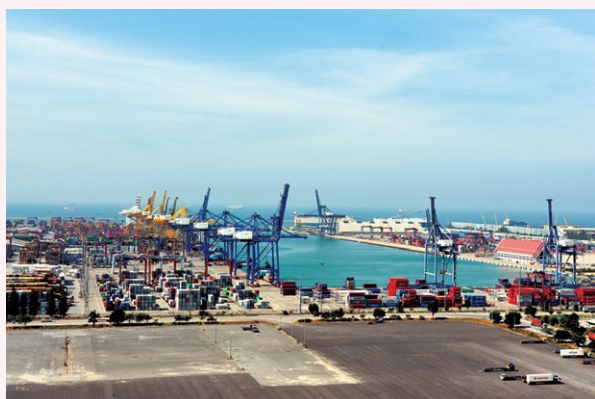
financing for large-scale infrastructure development has sometimes diverged from the approach of European countries, which focuses on fiscal and programmatic support, it has ultimately contributed to the rapid economic growth of developing countries, including Asia, and to poverty reduction, thereby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

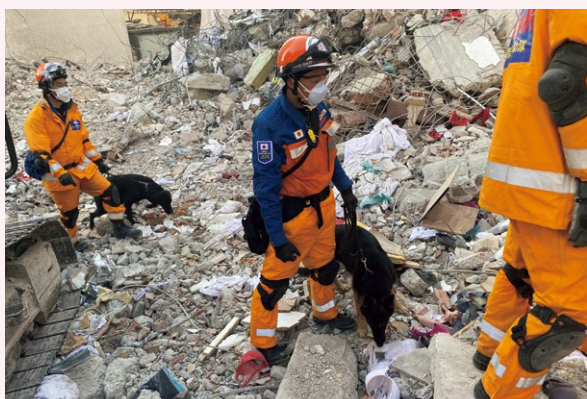
### (3) Significance of ODA

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)

*Achim Steiner*

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

貸谷伊知郎

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.

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



**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

*Michiyo Adachi 安達*

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.



**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

*Rentsendoo Jigjid*

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 (AUDA-NEPAD)

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.

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.

## 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 Dasho 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 Dasho 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



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.