

From
the People of Japan

White Paper on
Development Cooperation 2020

Japan's International Cooperation

International cooperation in the COVID-19 era:
our commitment to the future



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[Cover Photograph]



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) sharing knowledge on properly dispensing prescriptions and medicinal safety with pharmacist colleagues at a national hospital in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

[Back Cover Photograph]



Children at the José Cecilio del Valle Basic Education Center in San Lorenzo, Valle Department, Honduras. The school building was repaired and renovated to improve the learning environment through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.



See page 152 for details on ODA-Man.

In principle, this White Paper describes Japan's development cooperation implemented from January 1 through December 31, 2020. However, some matters that occurred through February 2021 are also included. Please note that all titles of individuals in the text are current as of the time of writing.

Foreword

The year of 2020 was a year of confronting the crisis caused by the global pandemic of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working tirelessly to issue the Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases in a prompt and attentive manner, strengthen border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of the virus, and give support to Japanese nationals overseas who had difficulties in leaving other countries or returning to Japan. In 2020, I visited 22 countries and held 112 telephone and video conferences. I have spent most of my days coordinating closely with the countries concerned and making maximum efforts to respond to the situations at home and abroad.

The COVID-19 pandemic is indeed a global crisis. Its response demands international coordination and cooperation, especially support for developing countries with fragile medical systems. Japan has provided over ¥170 billion (\$1.54 billion) in assistance to improve the health and medical service in developing countries, and established the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, which provides up to ¥500 billion (\$4.5 billion) over the course of two years to bolster economic activities in developing countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region. And we have provided such assistance at an unprecedented speed, both bilaterally and through international organizations.

In addition, Japan aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage under the principle of “leaving no one’s health behind.” In order to fully support global equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics including in developing countries, Japan immediately responded to the call for contributions to the COVAX Facility and has promoted the supply of therapeutics through the Patent Pool. These supports from Japan have been highly valued and appreciated by countries around the world.

The subtitle of this year’s White Paper is “International cooperation in the COVID-19 era: our commitment to the future.” It reflects our hopes that we can overcome the COVID-19 crisis in coordination with other countries, and that we can build a better future by strengthening health and medical systems and making our society more resilient to infectious diseases.

What we have to do for this purpose is not limited to combating infectious diseases. The year 2020 marked the first year of the Decade of Action that calls for accelerated efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guided by the principle of human security, Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the SDGs and tackle global issues by making active and strategic use of ODA. Furthermore, in order to realize a decarbonized world, which the Paris Agreement aims for, Japan will partner with other countries and lead international efforts at this year’s COP26 and beyond by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050, that is, to realize a carbon-neutral society.

As the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe, Japan has advanced initiatives toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” aiming to establish a free and open order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region, the core of the world’s vitality. A large number of countries now share and support this vision. ODA is an important tool in the effort to realize FOIP. We will strategically utilize ODA to promote quality infrastructure development so that we can enhance connectivity across the Indian and Pacific Oceans and support maritime law enforcement capacity building, etc., together with the United States, Australia, and India, as well as countries in ASEAN, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa and beyond. Through these efforts, we will advance coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned.

The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2020, Japan’s International Cooperation, records Japan’s development cooperation activities throughout 2020. In order to give you a good sense of what have been done in 2020, we put in Part I Japan’s assistance for responding to COVID-19 and our international efforts for vaccine development and deployment. It also contains interviews of Japanese personnel taking active roles in international organizations around the world, and it shows some examples where Japanese assistance provided to developing countries are particularly utilized. In addition, the columns focus on Japan’s contributions to health and medical care, including a column about a former JICA training participant at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana. We used social media to invite the public to nominate column topics.

It is my sincere hope that this White Paper on Development Cooperation will help you to better understand various Japanese policies and initiatives on development cooperation.

March 2021

Minister for Foreign Affairs
MOTEGI Toshimitsu



Introduction: Significance of Japan's International Cooperation

The total amount of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) gross disbursements in 2019 was approximately \$18,919.77 million (¥2,063.1 billion). There are various issues to address, such as the low birth rate, aging population, and disaster recovery and disaster risk reduction, and on top of this, the spread of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Japan's public finances and the economic lives of its citizens since 2020. Under such circumstances, why does Japan support developing countries through ODA?

After World War II, Japan came back from the ruins and rebuilt itself. In the course of reconstruction and economic growth to join the ranks of developed countries, Japan received support from the United States and other developed countries as well as international organizations such as the World Bank. Basic infrastructures, which were essential for the reconstruction and development of Japan including the Tokaido Shinkansen, the Tomei Expressway, the Kurobe Dam, and the Aichi Canal Project, were built using such support. Japan, which has already achieved economic development, has now been supporting the economic development of developing countries by utilizing ODA. There are high expectations for Japan from various countries around the world in this regard.

When we turn our eyes to global issues, climate change, natural disasters, environmental problems, infectious diseases, and refugees among others are getting more serious, and their impacts are spreading all over the world. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the international community has been promoting initiatives to build a society where "no one will be left behind" by 2030. Under this situation, contributing to the stability and development of developing countries through ODA not only creates a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community, but also helps protect the lives of Japan's citizens and realize prosperity. For example, as a result of industrialization supported by Japan, octopus and salmon from developing countries are exported to Japan and served in our daily meals. Cooperating for a certain country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or marine plastic litter will lead to improving the environment surrounding Japan. Engaging in cooperation with various stakeholders around the world in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic will also contribute to preventing its global spread, support Japanese people and companies abroad in resuming activities, and lead to the prevention of the spread of disease in Japan as well.

Over 65 years have passed since Japan started to provide ODA. The support and human resources development in various fields that Japan has provided to developing countries through ODA have led to their current trust in Japan. Since ODA is implemented using precious tax funds, it should be appropriately utilized and put to use for developing countries. Japan will continue to provide development cooperation to address global issues so that such effort will enhance Japan's peace, security, and prosperity.

Japan's activities are connected to the world,
so helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 around
the world is important for Japan too!



Development Cooperation of Japan

The foundation of Japan's development cooperation policy is the Development Cooperation Charter (decided by the Cabinet in February 2015). The Development Cooperation Charter defines Japan's basic policies as contributing even more proactively to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community from the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and securing the national interests of Japan through these efforts. The ever more strategic and effective use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is required as one of the most important foreign policy tools (the Development Cooperation Charter is published on page 182 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website) ¹.

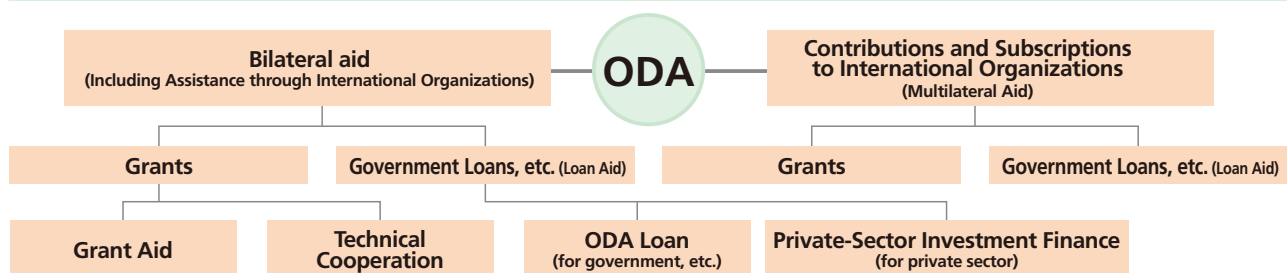
1. Japan's basic policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

The Development Cooperation Charter identifies the following three basic policies for Japan's development cooperation for the aforementioned objectives: contributing to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes, promoting human security, and cooperation aimed at self-reliant development through assistance for self-help efforts as well as dialogue and collaboration based on Japan's experience and expertise.

2. Priority issues of the Development Cooperation Charter

In line with the basic policies described above, Japan will promote cooperation in accordance with the following three priority issues: "quality growth" and poverty eradication through such growth, sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society, and building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges.

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)



● 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," and ODA is public funding for those activities. The government or governmental implementing agencies provide funds (grants, loans, etc.) and technical assistance to developing countries or international organizations through ODA for the "development" of the developing countries, including peacebuilding, governance, promotion of basic human rights, and humanitarian assistance.

The eligible developing countries and regions are included in the list (see page 25, Chart I-10) developed by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

● What types of ODA are there?

ODA can be divided into **grants** and **loan aid**. There is also **bilateral aid** which directly assists developing countries and regions and **multilateral aid** which is contributions to international organizations.

Grants in **bilateral aid** are cooperation that is provided to developing countries and regions. They consist of **grant aid** which provides necessary funds for the development of the society and economy of developing countries and regions without imposing an obligation of repayment, and **technical cooperation** which develops human resources that will be the actors in the development of the society and economy of developing countries and regions by utilizing the know-how, technology, and experience of Japan. **Grants** also include contributions to international organizations for specific projects and target countries.

Additionally, **loan aid** in bilateral aid includes **ODA loans** for lending the necessary funds to developing countries and regions under concessional terms such as low interest rates and long repayment periods, and **Private-Sector Investment Finance** which offers loans and investment to corporations and other entities in the private sector responsible for implementing projects in developing countries and 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), international organizations, and international financial institutions including the World Bank. Most of the contributions are provided as grants, but in recent years, loans have also been used for international financial institutions.

☆ Various information about ODA is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website ².

¹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000138.html

² <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>

Casting Gentle Eyes

- In pursuit of assistance so that no one will be left behind -

This collection of photographs consists of award-winning and other outstanding works from the photography exhibitions held at Global Festa JAPAN through 2019.

(See page 152 for details on Global Festa JAPAN.)



Nepal

"Happy handwashing" 2018 Award winner

(Photo: NGO AMDA Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services)



Ethiopia

"The day water arrived at our village"

2018 Grand Prize winner

(Photo: KONDO Shimon, NPO HOPE International Development Agency Japan)



Bangladesh

"I'll help, mom" 2019 Exhibit piece

(Photo: NPO IVY)



Bangladesh "Clearing the path for our own futures"
2017 Grand Prize winner, NGO category
(Photo: UEJIMA Yuki, NPO Shapla Neer)



Cambodia "We love to study!" 2019 Exhibit piece
(Photo: OGASAWARA Daisuke, NPO Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) (taken during a training in Cambodia))



Kenya "To infinite heights" 2019 Award winner (Photo: HASEGAWA Mai)



Uganda "Experimenting with science together"
2018 Award winner
(Photo: YASUMURA Taiju)



Laos "I wonder how much my baby has grown this month" 2019 Award winner
(Photo: NPO ISAPH)

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Columns marked with **Public nomination** were created by selecting topic ideas from those submitted by the public via MOFA's Twitter, Facebook, ODA email newsletter, or similar.

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Columns marked with **Public nomination** were created by selecting topic ideas from those submitted by the public via MOFA's Twitter, Facebook, ODA email newsletter, or similar.

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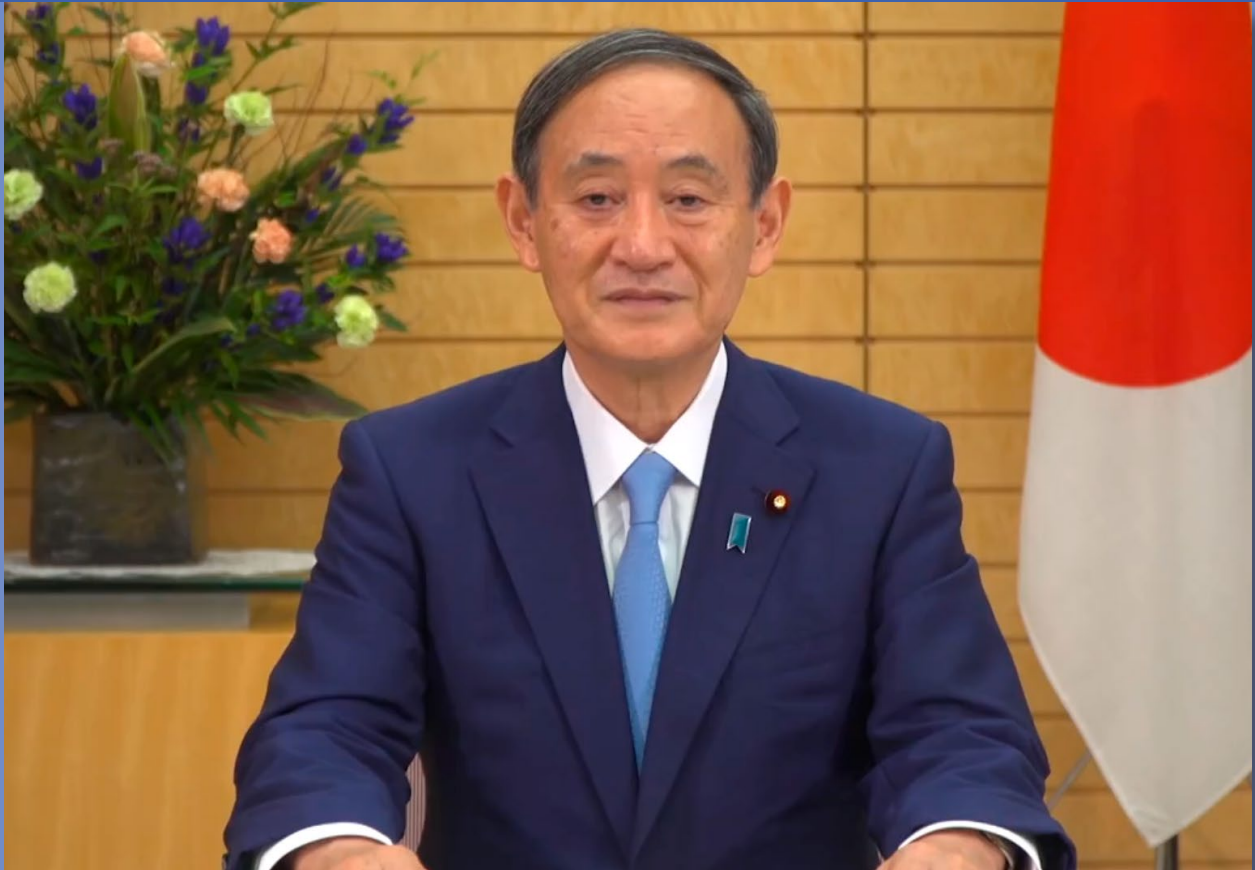
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Part I

COVID-19 Pandemic and Japan's Efforts

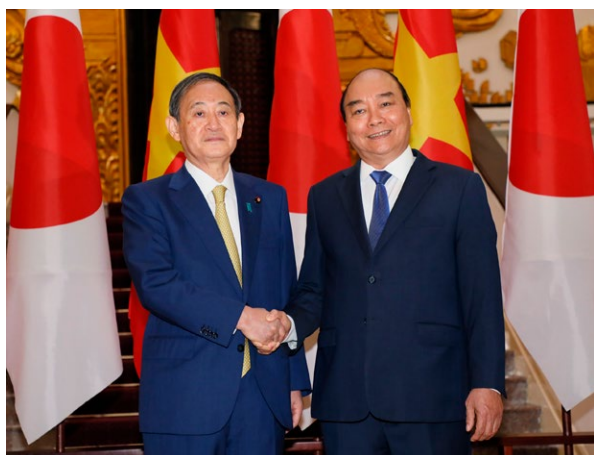


Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide delivering a statement at the General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 26, 2020) (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

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1. Human Security Crisis and Japan's Response

The year of 2020 was a year that the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic significantly affected the entire world. The spread of COVID-19 had a serious impact on the lives and livelihoods of all people on earth, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, and whether they are from developed or developing countries. It is a human security crisis that threatens people's survival, livelihood, and dignity. The pandemic demands an ever more coordinated response by the international community to ensure that no one is left behind, based on the concept of human security, which Japan has long promoted. Under this concept, Japan promotes the following comprehensive efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC): (i) overcoming the current COVID-19 crisis; (ii) strengthening health and medical systems against future health crises; and (iii) generating an enabling environment for health security across broader sectors. To this end, Japan extended assistance at an unprecedented speed, providing over ¥170 billion in assistance to health and medical sectors of countries with fragile health and medical systems and establishing the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, which provides up to ¥500 billion over two years to bolster economic activities in developing countries mainly in the Asia-Pacific region.



Prime Minister Suga visiting Viet Nam on his first overseas trip since taking office (October 2020) (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

(1) Japan's Efforts

A. Bilateral Assistance

Firstly, as bilateral assistance in response to COVID-19, Japan decided to provide health and medical equipment through grant aid amounting to ¥48 billion to developing countries for the purpose of supporting their health and medical systems. Upon consulting with each

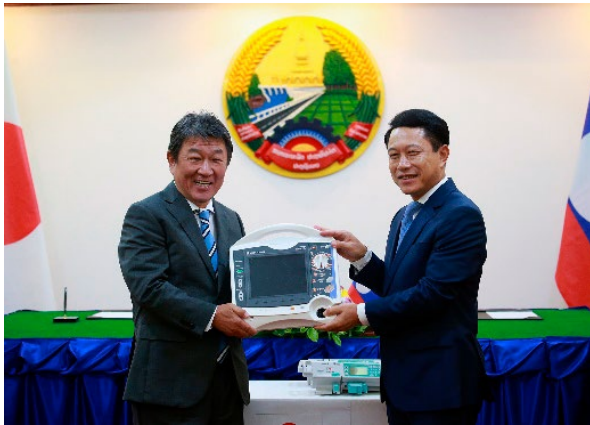
government about needs for equipment to strengthen their health and medical systems for the medium to long-term, equipment such as X-ray imaging equipment, thermography cameras, and ambulances have arrived and are being utilized in recipient countries since the end of July 2020. In addition, Japan provided a total of ¥1.5 billion in new technical cooperation for capacity building assistance, including human resources development, to strengthen health and medical systems for the medium to long-term. Some of the technical cooperation projects which were already under way, in collaboration with local counterpart organizations, provided assistance for system improvement including trainings on protection against infection among healthcare workers and on prevention of in-facility infection, as well as provision of medical supplies and equipment (see pages 10 and 11 for specific cases of grant aid, etc. implemented in 2020 and see page 14, "ODA Topics," regarding the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases).

In April 2020, Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid for supplying Avigan tablets to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and provided the tablets to 45 countries by December 31, 2020.

As the pandemic has dealt a catastrophic economic blow to many countries, the Government of Japan established the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan to provide up to ¥500 billion over the course of two years to support the maintenance and revitalization of economic activities in developing countries. As of December 1, 2020, Japan expeditiously provided funds for implementing necessary economic measures mainly to developing countries in the Asia-Pacific, such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, and the Maldives. Japan will continue to provide not only short-term assistance but also medium and long-term support to help developing countries build resilient health and medical systems and maintain and revitalize their economic activities.

B. Assistance through International Organizations

Secondly, Japan has provided COVID-19 related assistance through international organizations. By the end of March 2020, Japan contributed \$140 million and implemented emergency assistance through five United Nations (UN) agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In addition, Japan provided assistance through international organizations, including UN agencies and multilateral development



Foreign Minister Motegi and Foreign Minister Saleumxay at the handover ceremony for health and medical equipment provided to Laos under the Economic and Social Development Programme, a grant aid program on which notes were exchanged in June 2020 (August 2020)



Medical equipment handover ceremony in Myanmar (August 2020)

banks (MDBs) ¹ that provide emergency assistance in developing countries, and through multilateral funds, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund); Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and Unitaids, to prevent the spread of infection, improve healthcare delivery systems, and ensure equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics (see E. on page 6 regarding global efforts for vaccine development and distribution, the glossary on page 67 regarding the Global Fund and Gavi, and page 12 regarding the activities of Japanese staff at Gavi).

In assistance through international organizations, it is possible to provide the necessary assistance quickly, including to countries and regions where bilateral assistance is difficult to reach, by collaborating with those organizations that have expertise and achievements in their respective fields. For example, the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a significant increase in the starving population in the world. Therefore, Japan provided food assistance in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia through contributing funds to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), which espouses the slogan, “Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos” (see page 12 regarding the activities of Japanese staff at WFP and page 89 regarding Japanese assistance through WFP).

Through UNICEF, Japan provided technical assistance on infection prevention to health workers and local government officials mainly in Asia and Oceania, Africa, and the Middle East, along with distribution of disinfectants, soaps, and others. In Kenya and Tanzania, collaborating with Japanese companies, it helped to install easy-to-build toilets and provide hygiene guidance. Through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Japan supported refugees, displaced persons, and other people in 17 countries in Asia and

the Middle East, including the camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Japan provided support to clinics for Palestinian refugees for the prevention of infectious diseases (see the column on page 50 regarding Japan's assistance through UNHCR).

Furthermore, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, launched the Global Health Platform to stimulate private-sector investment in the production and supply of health and medical goods, including COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. Japan announced it will support the establishment of Platform projects and technical assistance for the private sector in developing countries through contributing funds to the IFC.



In June 2020, relief supplies (e.g., pasta and flour) marked with the Japanese flag arrived at the port of Tripoli in Libya. The WFP Libya office circulated a Twitter video ² showing WFP staff distributing food throughout Libya, along with a message of gratitude to Japan.

¹ See the glossary on page 33.

² https://twitter.com/WFP_JP/status/1293392588385349632

C. Assistance by NGOs

Japanese NGOs also have provided a variety of assistance to help combat infectious diseases funded by ODA. In the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, Japanese NGOs provided hygiene products, such as masks and disinfectants, to people involved in the projects, and supported various training and awareness raising programs for COVID-19 prevention. The Japan Platform (JPF) launched the COVID-19 Emergency Response program and provided assistance for surveillance, prevention, and treatment in affected countries, including those struck by natural disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in southern Bangladesh battling COVID-19 and the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan that struck in late May 2020, JPF provided emergency humanitarian assistance to help prevent COVID-19 to affected people, including through COVID-19 awareness raising and distribution of soaps and masks in affected communities (see also pages 47 and 145 regarding JPF).

D. Response of International Community and Other Countries' Efforts

In response to the spread of COVID-19, the UN announced the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19 in March for developing countries with fragile medical systems. The GHRP appealed for \$2 billion (revised to \$10.3 billion in July) for vulnerable countries and regions from April to December 2020.

In May, the European Union (EU) hosted the Coronavirus Global Response event, a summit meeting to raise funding for developing vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics and for ensuring equitable access to them. In addition to the host EU, the heads of State and Government of approximately 30 countries, including Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the United Kingdom, as well as approximately ten ministers, the UN Secretary-General, heads of other international organizations such as WHO, and representatives of civil society and companies such as the World Economic Forum and the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation attended or delivered video messages. From Japan, then Prime Minister ABE Shinzo participated via video message. He underscored that Japan was promoting the development of therapeutics and vaccines both domestically and internationally, that equitable access to such therapeutics and vaccines was important, and that Japan was expanding its support to developing countries with fragile medical infrastructure for strengthening their health systems, and pledged that Japan would make a reasonable contribution in these areas.

At the G20, the first G20 Summit Video Teleconference, which was called for and hosted by the Saudi Arabia Presidency, was held in March, and leaders discussed the economic situation of their countries and measures to prevent the spread of infection. In addition, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors held video conferences in March, April, July, October, and November, and a G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers Virtual Meeting was held in September. These meetings discussed international measures to support the global economic recovery and infection prevention and compiled the G20 Action Plan and its updated version. Japan pointed out that overcoming COVID-19 requires not only developing vaccines and therapeutics but also mass-producing and distributing them worldwide, including developing countries. As part of this effort, Japan proposed creating a patent pool as a mechanism to expedite the licensing of therapeutic patents. In response to Japan's proposal, the updated version of the G20 Action Plan endorsed comprehensive efforts to develop, manufacture, and distribute vaccines and therapeutics and the creation of a patent pool (voluntary licensing of intellectual property) and confirmed the importance of UHC financing. Furthermore, COVID-19 response and recovery were discussed at ministerial meetings of trade and investment, energy, and agriculture and at various working groups.

At the G20 Riyadh Summit in November, Prime Minister Suga stated that in the COVID-19 response, it was important to have a multilateral cooperation framework for securing equitable access to therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics and to reach a G20 agreement on endorsing patent pooling. He also described Japan's



Awareness raising on handwashing to prevent infectious diseases in Bagerhat District, Bangladesh (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)



UNICEF's handwashing support in Myanmar

active role in promoting multilateral cooperation through becoming an original member to launch the ACT Accelerator and supporting the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) (see also the glossary on page 67 regarding the COVAX Facility and E. below regarding global efforts for the development and distribution of vaccines).

The G7 held an extraordinary leaders' video conference twice, in March and April, to exchange views on the economic situation in the member countries and measures to delay the spread of COVID-19. The leaders confirmed that the international community must work together to respond to COVID-19, and shared the view to promote coordination toward the development of vaccines and treatments and use all policy tools to safeguard against downside risks to the economy. Based on the discussions at the leaders' meeting in March, the G7 Foreign Ministers also confirmed their collaboration at their meeting in the same month. In May, the United States hosted a video conference on COVID-19 among the Foreign Ministers of interested countries. At the meeting, Foreign Minister Motegi pointed out the importance of coordination among the countries concerned. He emphasized the need for conducting a review of the international community's response, for sharing information and insights among countries in a free, transparent, and timely manner, and for providing assistance from a medium to long-term perspective to developing countries with vulnerable healthcare systems, and he received the support of the participating countries.

At the end of October, the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting was held via video conference, where Prime Minister Suga delivered a video message in the opening session. Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy Nishimura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Washio, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Munekiyo attended. At the meeting, many countries reiterated that international cooperation and coordination were essential for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, including support for developing

countries, and noted that the recovery must be designed to "build back better." Prime Minister Suga: (i) emphasized the importance of international collaboration and cooperation amid the COVID-19 pandemic; (ii) expressed his hope for the OECD to play its role as a vital forum for international policy coordination toward preventing the spread of infection while revitalizing socioeconomic activities; and (iii) explained Japan's efforts concerning digitalization and resuming cross-border travel.

Major donors launched a variety of emergency response packages, including health, medical, humanitarian, and socioeconomic assistance. The United States announced emergency response assistance for more than 120 developing countries. The EU held the Coronavirus Global Response event in May. It also announced that "Team Europe" would combine funds from the EU, its member states, and others to provide emergency response support, focusing on the neighboring regions of the Western Balkans, the Middle East, and Africa. France, a member of Team Europe, announced emergency response support for its priority aid areas in Africa, the oceanic basins, and the Middle and Near East. Germany launched measures for health and medical care, food security, assistance for displaced persons, and humanitarian assistance by allocating its 2020 development aid budget to COVID-19 assistance and other means. The United Kingdom hosted the Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (Gavi's third donor pledging conference) in June, which established the COVAX Facility, an international framework to ensure equitable access to vaccines for countries worldwide, including developing countries. Australia launched an emergency response package that focuses on the neighboring Pacific region.

China stepped up its assistance from March 2020, when the spread of COVID-19 began to slow down in the country, including provision of medical supplies to countries where the virus was spreading. For example, "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era," a white paper released by China's State Council in January 2021, states that China provided emergency



UNHCR Representative to Syria Ito (center) distributing hygiene products to residents



Foreign Minister Motegi visiting Mongolia and holding a meeting with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Enkhbaatar (October 2020)

assistance to 150 countries and ten international organizations.

To combat infectious diseases that have a catastrophic impact worldwide, it is essential that countries cooperate under the leadership of international organizations with expertise such as WHO. Japan supports the study by the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), which is under way based on a resolution adopted at the World Health Assembly in May, and will continue to make contributions in cooperation with other WHO member countries.

E. Global Efforts for Vaccine Development and Distribution

With regard to vaccines that are critical for controlling the spread of infection and ending the pandemic, it is important to ensure equitable access for every country, especially developing countries. Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and WHO have proceeded efforts together, and Japan is actively participating in these discussions.

In June 2020, the Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (Gavi's third donor pledging conference) was hosted by the United Kingdom. Heads of State and Government of 42 countries, including Japan, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and China, 23 ministers, heads of international organizations such as WHO and UNICEF, and representatives of civil society and companies such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation attended or delivered video messages. From Japan, then Prime Minister Abe participated via video message. At the conference, a call was made for financial contributions necessary for Gavi's activities from 2021 to 2025, and Japan pledged to contribute \$300 million over the coming years, including for responding to COVID-19. The Summit raised a total of approximately \$8.8 billion, exceeding the target of \$7.4 billion.

In addition, in response to the pandemic and for the purpose of global development, manufacture, and distribution of vaccines, Gavi, CEPI, WHO, and other partners have been working on initiatives such as the COVAX Facility, an international framework to ensure equitable access to vaccines regardless of a country's economic strength. At the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of UHC in October, Japan announced that it would contribute more than \$130 million to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). This contribution is a part of Japan's pledge of \$300 million, which was announced at the above Gavi conference.

MDBs, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to which Japan contributes funding, have also announced assistance to support their recipient countries in purchasing COVID-19 vaccines. As a donor, Japan has actively participated in the discussions in the establishment phase of these programs.

F. Response to Debt Issues of Developing Countries

The spread of COVID-19 has caused a deterioration of the macroeconomic environment, especially in developing countries with the most vulnerable financial conditions, where foreign direct investment is expected to decline by up to 45%, and many countries are facing increased repayment burdens.

In light of this situation, in April 2020, the Paris Club, which consists of 22 major creditor countries including Japan, and the G20, which includes non-Paris Club countries such as China and Saudi Arabia, agreed on the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). This will allow the most vulnerable and poorest countries to temporarily postpone payment of their official debt through the end of 2020 (see also page 36 regarding initiatives for debt issues). In October 2020, the Paris Club and the G20 agreed on a six-month extension of the DSSI through the end of June 2021. As of December 1, 2020, 36 developing countries have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Paris Club (a group of creditor countries) on the DSSI. Furthermore, in November 2020, the Paris Club and the G20 agreed on the "Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI" ("Common Framework") to provide debt relief to DSSI-eligible countries on a case-by-case basis. As a member of the Paris Club and the G20, Japan will steadily implement suspension of debt-service payments for developing countries based on the DSSI, and as necessary, provide debt relief on a country-by-country basis based on requests from DSSI-eligible countries under the Common Framework.

In May, at the initiative of UN Secretary-General Guterres, the UN held the High-level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond in an online format. Heads of State and Government of approximately 50 countries, heads of international organizations, and others attended or delivered video messages. From Japan, then Prime Minister Abe attended via video message. At the meeting, participants shared the view that it was important for the international community to work together to ensure stable financing and address issues such as debt vulnerabilities for developing countries. Japan expressed that it was essential to promote impact investment by private resources for the achievement of the SDGs.

During the UN General Assembly in September, the High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond was held online. Heads of State and Government of more than 40 countries, approximately ten ministers, heads of international organizations, and others attended and expressed their views on economic recovery policies for developing countries affected by COVID-19. From Japan, Foreign Minister Motegi attended and explained the supports Japan had

provided. He also emphasized the importance of further mobilizing private resources through ESG investment ³ and impact investment and stated that Japan would accelerate its efforts.

(2) Japan's Assistance Utilized in the COVID-19 Crisis (See pages 10 and 11 for details)

Based on the concept of human security, Japan has traditionally provided assistance in various sectors, including health, water and sanitation, education, and gender, to achieve the SDGs. Such Japanese assistance has made a significant contribution to the people of developing countries during the pandemic.

In particular, in the health and medical care sector, Japan has experience in eradicating malaria and other infectious diseases in the post-World War II era, which led to Japan's highest level of life expectancy in the world. Japan has shared such experience and knowledge with countries around the world. For more than 65 years since it began providing ODA, Japan has implemented wide-ranging assistance in the health and medical care sector and fulfilled a leading role in the international health field, and its efforts have been highly appreciated by many countries. Some examples include the promotion of UHC based on Japan's own experience, the use of mosquito nets to prevent malaria, the encouragement of handwashing, the distribution of Maternal and Child Health Handbooks, and the improvement of water supply and sewerage systems.

For responding to COVID-19, developing countries are using medical and water supply facilities and medical equipment constructed and provided, respectively, with Japanese assistance. Furthermore, healthcare workers and public health experts who have received training through Japan's steady technical and capacity-building supports are playing an active role on the front lines in their respective home countries (see "Stories from the

Field" on page 15 regarding the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana).

In addition to assistance in the areas of health and medical care and water sanitation, Japan has helped introduce distance learning by providing information and communication technology (ICT) supports for children who are unable to attend school due to a lockdown (see also "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 73). Japan has also been providing assistance for the production of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as medical masks, gowns, and goggles, in developing countries through industrial human resources development support. In such ways, Japan's assistance to date has been useful in containing the pandemic.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer who was dispatched to Madagascar in 2010 made and released a handwashing song to communicate the importance of handwashing to children. The song has been sung by all age groups from adults to children in Madagascar and is still being sung today ⁴. (YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRzjhj7LWoc>) (Photo: JICA)



Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology staff delivering face shields made with 3D printers (left) to a hospital (Photo: JICA)



³ Investment that also considers Environment, Social, and Governance factors.

⁴ More information is available on JICA's COVID-19 website (<https://www.jica.go.jp/COVID-19/en/index.html>).

(3) Japan's Development Cooperation in the COVID-19 Era

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects across the world have been affected in no small way by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March 2020, due to the spread of COVID-19, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), JICA experts, development consultants, companies engaged in development cooperation, some NGO personnel, and others had returned temporarily to Japan from developing countries.

When travel from Japan to overseas was restricted and visits to project sites in developing countries were becoming increasingly difficult, they explored creative ways to continue to support projects while being in Japan (see also Project Introduction Column on page 57 regarding specific initiatives).

The JOCVs (JICA Volunteer) program, a public participatory program that was founded in 1965 and has been delivering results for more than half a century, was also affected by the pandemic. As mentioned above, all dispatched JOCVs had returned to Japan sequentially since mid-March. The dispatch of the third group of FY2019 JOCVs, which was going to be done after April, was suspended. JOCVs have been dispatched to Viet Nam and other countries ready to receive them since the

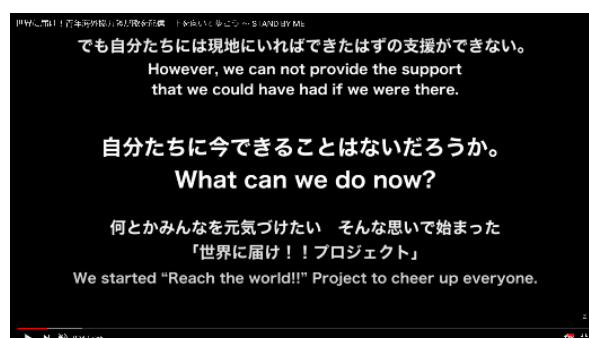
end of November. JOCVs, 577 of them, are waiting in Japan to be dispatched or re-dispatched as of December 1, 2020.

JOCVs waiting in Japan are conducting some activities such as utilizing their skills and experiences to tackle challenges in Japan, continuing JOCV activities remotely, and improving themselves for reassignment. Support for farmers, foreign language support and other responses by JOCVs with medical qualifications such as midwives, nurses, and public health nurses, and support for the education of children with foreign roots are some examples of JOCVs' contributions to domestic challenges. "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Tsumagoi Cabbage" is among the support for farmers. Tsumagoi Village in Gunma Prefecture was facing a serious labor shortage due to the halt of the visit of foreign technical interns. JOCVs who had temporarily returned to Japan supported the Village through collaboration between JICA and a non-profit organization "Shizenjuku Terakoya" from May to November 2020. The participating JOCVs made proposals on improving communication between foreign technical interns and farmers and mitigating various challenges arising from differences in cultural practices.

Most of the JICA experts also had to come back temporarily to Japan. They continued their work through



Released a video in which JOCVs who evacuated from their posts amid the spread of COVID-19 are singing "Sukiyaki" in the language of their assigned countries (Photo: OKAMOTO Ryuta, WATATU Inc.)



JOCVs working as "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for Tsumagoi Cabbage" while on standby in Japan (Photo: Shizenjuku Terakoya)



Kenya Medical Research Institute staff member working at a laboratory improved with Japanese grant aid. Japan has been supporting the development of facilities and human resources of infectious diseases control centers in Africa, together with domestic research institutes. (See "Stories from the Field" on page 15 regarding assistance for the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana, and "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 149 regarding research on zoonotic virus infections in Zambia.)

communicating remotely with their counterparts in the field while on standby in Japan. JICA staff members, experts, and others have returned to their assigned countries since June 2020, according to the local circumstances.

Furthermore, JICA trainees who had come to Japan from developing countries were unable to return to their countries due to flight cancellations and other difficulties caused by the pandemic. JICA supports these trainees until their return. As for short-term trainees who were going to come to Japan, JICA has made efforts to conduct their training even during the COVID-19

pandemic through online training and other ways. JICA has sequentially accepted long-term trainees and others since October.

In addition, in order for Japanese NGOs engaged in international cooperation to gather information to strengthen their foundation and capabilities and review their management strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MOFA convened a FY2020 NGO study group on the theme of "Towards a Resilient Society: Redesigning Japanese NGOs under the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic."

Assistance from Japan Utilized in the COVID-19 Crisis

Turkey

Health and Medical Care in Remote Areas

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
Project for Provision of Mobile Health Center in Altinordu (2018)

In Turkey, a mobile health screening vehicle equipped with health screening equipment was donated by Japan to carry out periodic health checks of residents living in mountainous areas, Syrian refugees, and others. Medical services using the vehicle and equipment began in March 2020, and they are contributing to not only regular mobile health screenings but also those related to COVID-19.



Myanmar

Healthcare and Medical Equipment

Supplementary Budget (2020)

Grant Aid (Economic and Social Development Programme)

The first batch of medical equipment donated as part of the program (ten sets each of an ICU bed, syringe pump, and suction pump) arrived at Yangon International Airport in mid-August. This was handed over to Professor Zaw Than Htun, Director General of the Department of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Sports, by Mr. MARUYAMA Ichiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Since then, the equipment is being used in medical facilities across the country.

Bangladesh

Local Production of Medical PPE*

Technical Cooperation: Project for Capacity Building of Nursing Services (2016–2021)

In Bangladesh, personal protective equipment (PPE) including medical masks, gowns, and goggles, was in short supply. To protect frontline health care workers, the JICA Bangladesh office called for the cooperation of the country's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and as a result, Snowtex Group, a Bangladeshi company, produced and supplied PPE conforming to WHO standards domestically, thanks to guidance from the Japanese goods inspection company K2. This is expected to contribute to securing jobs at local garment factories for workers who have faced difficulties due to the global economic downturn, while also helping to strengthen Bangladesh's export industry.*



(Photo: JICA)

Rwanda

Local Production of Medical Face Shields

Technical Cooperation: ICT Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening Project (2017–2021)

Fablab is a creative space established by JICA in 2016 to assist ICT entrepreneurs in Rwanda. The space is fully equipped with 3D printers, computer numerical control machine tools, and laser cutters, among others. Following the spread of COVID-19, Fablab was certified as the country's only production base for medical face shields by the Rwandan government in 2020, and it has been distributing these to medical facilities across the country.



(Photo: JICA)

Ethiopia

Supplying Safe Water

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (2017–2020)

HOPE International Development Agency Japan, a Japanese NGO that carries out international cooperation, has been working to improve water supply systems and provide hygiene education in Ethiopia since 2017. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, HOPE provided instructions on handwashing while also distributing items such as masks, sanitizers, and soap. As part of this project, community residents have been participating in constructing simple water supply systems, which has enabled them to manage and repair the facilities by themselves after installation has been completed. Moreover, communities are encouraged to invite women onto their water committees after the facilities are put in place, which helps to empower women and increase their social engagement.



(Photo: KONDO Simon, HOPE International Development Agency Japan)

Cambodia

Healthcare and Medical Equipment

Supplementary Budget (2020) Grant Aid (Economic and Social Development Programme)

In Cambodia, where healthcare and medical systems are fragile, COVID-19 is expected to cause a huge number of human casualties once it spreads across the country. Therefore, Japan has been implementing procedures at an unprecedented speed to support the country, providing high purity oxygen generators—essential for medical facilities—in August. This equipment is being utilized effectively in hospitals and other facilities across Cambodia. Japan will continue to work closely with the Cambodian government to deliver life-saving equipment, including ambulances and ultrasound imaging devices.

Bhutan

BCP for Telecommunication Based on Lessons Learned from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake —A Mission to Ensure Communications to Save Lives

Technical Cooperation: Project for Development of Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for Disaster Control in the Kingdom of Bhutan (2018–2021)

This project was started in order to formulate a business continuity plan (BCP) for disasters in Bhutan, an earthquake-prone country. The first positive case of COVID-19 in Bhutan was confirmed in March 2020, approximately three months after the BCP began operation in December 2019. Consequently, BCP staff at Bhutan Telecom, who had learned the importance of BCPs and ensuring the safety of employees during disasters through staff training in Japan, developed a BCP that was applicable to the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the one initially formulated during the project for large-scale disasters. The new plan is still being deployed as a measure against COVID-19 to this day.



Urgent Measures with Consideration for Women and Children*

Technical Cooperation (Country-Focused Training): Gender Mainstreaming, Women's Empowerment, and Child Well-Being and Child Rights (2019–2021)

Bhutan commenced its response against COVID-19, which took gender and children into consideration, only two weeks after the first positive case of COVID-19 in the country was confirmed in March 2020. The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), with Gender Focal Persons who received training in Japan at the forefront, has been raising awareness of the increased risk of domestic violence during the COVID-19 crisis and providing items to children's daycare centers. A documentary about domestic violence was produced as part of the project with the support of Japan, and it was broadcast more than ten times over a five-day period on the state-run channel. In addition, educational posters and pamphlets on proper handwashing techniques, methods of preventing infection, basic knowledge of COVID-19, and similar topics were distributed at children's daycare facilities run by NCWC to ensure that appropriate guidance on hygiene could be given to children and their parents.



(Photo: JICA)

Laos

Healthcare and Medical Equipment

Supplementary Budget (2020) Grant Aid (Economic and Social Development Programme)

The medical system in Laos is extremely fragile, so if the infection spreads, there is a risk that it will spread rapidly not only within Laos, but also across the Mekong region. This programme therefore provided the country with healthcare and medical equipment, such as compact ambulances and hospital beds, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country and the international community through the strengthening of Laos's healthcare and medical systems. At a handover ceremony held on August 23 during the visit to Laos, Foreign Minister MOTEGI himself handed over syringe pumps and defibrillators that arrived in the first batch of equipment to Foreign Minister Saleumxay of Laos. Foreign Minister Saleumxay then expressed his deep gratitude for Japan's assistance. This equipment is being used effectively in hospitals and other medical facilities across Laos.

Marshall

Healthcare and Medical Equipment

Supplementary Budget (2020) Grant Aid (Economic and Social Development Programme)

Marshall is an island country comprising 29 atolls and numerous islands. While measures such as suspending entry into the country have been successful in containing the spread of COVID-19 within the country, Japan has decided to offer assistance in preparation for the future, aiming to provide facilities and medical equipment for quarantine, diagnoses, and isolation, as well as improve the overall level of medical care over the medium to long-term. Thanks to assistance from Japan, the main hospitals in the country are scheduled to be equipped with radiography systems, CT scanners, bedside monitors, and other equipment. Among these, stethoscopes and blood pressure manometers have already reached Marshall, and these have been distributed to 52 clinics on remote islands to help improve basic medical care.

Brazil

5S as a Measure Against COVID-19, Implementation of KAIZEN*

Training Program for Nikkei Communities (2016)

In Brazil, where infection is widespread, former JICA trainees of the Training Program for Japanese Descendants are playing an active part in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Santa Cruz Hospital was a Japanese hospital built in São Paulo in 1939, and has long been well-regarded as a medical facility for Japanese immigrants and local residents. In 2016, nurses working at the hospital participated in the Training Program for Japanese Descendants courses "Improvement of Nurses' Management Skills by 5S-Kaizen" and "Kaizen and 5S," acquiring knowledge of 5S from the perspective of preventing infection and 5S-Kaizen (improvement) for medical equipment (5S: five Ss comprising *seiri* (sort), *seiton* (set), *seiso* (shine), *seiketsu* (standardize), and *shitsuke* (sustain)). With the former JICA training participants at the forefront, the hospital is currently employing the knowledge of 5S and Kaizen in developing guidelines for internal and external related parties, drawing up a zoning plan to separate ICU nurses and those in charge of general wards, and implementing initiatives to separate the lines of movement of patients suspected of having COVID-19 and other patients to prevent contact between them.



* Details on episodes are also available on JICA's special website regarding COVID-19 (<https://www.jica.go.jp/COVID-19/en/index.html#TeamJICAinaction>).

Japanese Personnel Playing Active Roles in International Organizations across the World

—Voices from Japanese staff members working on vaccine roll-outs, food assistance, health and medical care services, and protection of children and vulnerable people around the world—



Ms. KITAJIMA Chika

Senior Manager of Resource Mobilization, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Vaccines are the most promising way to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership leading the COVAX Facility, a mechanism designed to rapidly develop safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and deliver them to people across the world. As the senior manager of resource mobilization, I am in charge of fundraising for Gavi's activities. These activities previously focused on vaccinations for children in the world's poorest countries. However, we have expanded the scope of our activities and support due to COVID-19. The COVAX Facility is the only mechanism in the world that delivers vaccines in a fair and equitable manner to people who need them the most, regardless of whether

they are from developing or developed countries, and over 180 countries and regions have participated with the objective of procuring and supplying two billion vaccine shots by the end of 2021. Since the probability of success in developing new vaccines is not necessarily high, the Facility also serves as an "insurance" for securing vaccines by supporting the development and manufacture of a variety of vaccines. The Japanese government has been a major donor country of Gavi since 2011, and is helping to encourage other countries to participate in supporting the COVAX Facility by being the first to announce its participation.

See the Glossary on page 67 regarding Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the COVAX Facility.

Ms. FUJII Akiko

Resident Representative in the Maldives, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Maldives—a land of everlasting summer. It never ceases to attract tourists from all over the world. However, far away from the luxury resorts, ordinary people's lives on the local islands have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as the country's economy mostly depends on tourism. Many people lost their jobs or experienced a reduction in income when the border was closed between March 27 and July 15, 2020, and tourism revenue fell to virtually zero. According to a study carried out by the UNDP and the Ministry of Economic Development, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the younger generation the hardest, a group whose unemployment rate was already high. In the capital city of Malé, where 150,000 people are packed onto two square kilometers of land, the infection spread quickly, and some food imports were disrupted. The COVID-19 crisis revealed the vulnerability of the small island nation.

Through the support of the Japanese government, UNDP swiftly initiated a project to assist the recovery of smallholder farmers and micro enterprises, targeting young people and women who had lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We assisted in the development of urban vegetable gardens as part of Hulhumalé city's smart city initiatives, while in Laamu Atoll, where there is a relatively large amount of farming land available, the project promoted agri-business. The Maldives' first co-shared kitchen has also been developed to support women who lack the initial funding to start a business. 'Build Forward Better'—the concept of making the living environment better than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic—is the key to recovery. On your next vacation to the Maldives, why don't you visit the local islands and try some homemade dishes that make use of local vegetables?



Mr. HIBI Yukinori

Head of Programme, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Libya Office in Tripoli

Since September 2018, I have been responsible for programs in Libya as the Head of Programme in WFP Libya. Due to the worsening security situation in the country, I spent the first three months of this assignment working remotely in the neighboring country of Tunisia. Then, from April to November 2020, I went back to Japan temporarily because of COVID-19 and continued to work remotely from my home there, adjusting to local working hours in Libya, which are seven hours behind Japan. As of December 2020, I am back working at the Libya Office.

In this country of almost seven million people, there are still about 900,000 people who require humanitarian assistance. The impact of COVID-19 has made it difficult to run operations, while at the same time almost doubling the number of people requiring food assistance. WFP Libya is currently facing these difficulties head on to provide support to over 200,000 people. We are ensuring that stringent measures against infection are being implemented at every worksite. As an example, since schools are closed due to COVID-19, we changed on-site school feeding for approximately 20,000 children to take-home ration distributions, and continue to provide nutritionally balanced meals to students. By leveraging my experience in running projects remotely, the use of technology, and the expertise of my colleagues, I am forging ahead with these new initiatives.



Ms. SAWAYA Natsuko

Public Health Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Niger

Niger's borders were closed in the middle of March 2020 to limit the spread of infection of COVID-19. This meant that we had to help people from West African countries stranded at our transit centers in Niamey, the capital, and the Agadez Region return home to their native countries, as well as support the lives of migrants during quarantine, including Nigeriens repatriated from Algeria. I am participating in the national monitoring committee for COVID-19 in Niger as a member of IOM, and I work hard day after day to support those people, together with the government and other partners, including international organizations such as WHO.

Meanwhile, a state of emergency has been declared in regions including Tillabéri due to flooding and terrorism, which has displaced a large number of people both inside and outside the country. We have therefore been helping to provide shelters and health and medical services with assistance received from Japan, while taking into consideration the situation of each affected person, such as pregnant women and children, who are among the most vulnerable. I am working hard with the sincere hope that our support will have positive outcomes, and that each person will one day be able to deal with these difficulties by themselves.

Dr. KITAMURA Tomomi

Doctor, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Middle East and North Africa Regional Office in Jordan

The UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office is based in Amman, the capital of Jordan, and undertakes the management and evaluation, technical support, and information sharing of 16 Country Offices and their regional activities. As for support related to COVID-19, the Health and Nutrition section where I belong works with the Country Offices on infection prevention and control, procurement of medicine and medical equipment, strengthening communication, and the continual provision of health and nutrition services to women and children.

As measures against COVID-19, our office is working together with five organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), to create an online training program for primary health care workers. We also hold online meetings in cooperation with WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to discuss, together with health ministers of nine countries with high child and maternal mortality rates, how to maintain the provision of health and nutrition services to women and children during the COVID-19 crisis. We regularly hold discussions with health ministries and other international organizations on promoting this kind of collaboration within the region. The Regional Office may not carry out a large number of field activities. However, I hope that we can engage in activities that take advantage of our strength of being involved in the entire region.



Ms. YOSHIKAWA Miho

Child Protection Specialist, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Cambodia

Since May 2016, I have been working for UNICEF as a Child Protection Specialist in Cambodia, Southeast Asia. My role mainly involves the development, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of various programs/projects to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation. In 2020, UNICEF Cambodia focused its work on protecting children affected by COVID-19.

With support from Japan, UNICEF Cambodia has implemented a wide range of initiatives in the areas of health, water, hygiene and sanitation, child protection, education, and communications to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and address its socioeconomic impacts. In the child protection sector in particular, UNICEF Cambodia has been proactively working to create an environment in which every child can continue to access social welfare and child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support, in close partnership with the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, as well as NGOs. As a staff member at UNICEF, I would like to further contribute to ensuring that as many children across the world as possible can live their lives safely and fully enjoy their childhood.



Titles of individuals and article contents are all correct as of the time of interview.

ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases

—Driving Japan-ASEAN cooperation toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” by strengthening capabilities to respond to infectious diseases—

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been raging across the world, and it has greatly impacted societies and economies in the Indo-Pacific region. The numbers of infections and deaths are still increasing around the world as of the end of December 2020, and large-scale lockdowns and other restrictions are having severe impacts on citizens' lives.

ASEAN^{*1}, which has been a long-term partner of Japan, is no exception. Even in the ASEAN region, which had recorded a low number of infections at the start of the year, the number of infections increased rapidly in a number of countries around April, highlighting the importance of establishing countermeasures against infectious diseases. This region has close geographical, social, and economic ties with Japan, and many Japanese companies have expanded their businesses in the region. Strengthening ASEAN's regional capabilities to cope with infectious diseases not only contributes to the region as a whole, but is also extremely important from the perspective of ensuring the safety of Japanese people living in the region, as well as preventing the spread of infectious diseases in Japan. Furthermore, for Japan, which has set forth the promotion of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” as a pillar of its diplomacy, supporting efforts to strengthen the infectious diseases response system in ASEAN countries, which is key to achieving this goal, is a top priority.

Under these circumstances, in response to a request from the ASEAN Secretariat, then Prime Minister Abe announced at the Special ASEAN Plus Three (Japan-China-Republic of Korea) Summit on COVID-19 held on April 14, 2020 that Japan would strongly support ASEAN on three pillars; namely, strengthening of ASEAN's infectious disease response capability, the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, and support for strengthening the resilience of the economy.

The ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, positioned as a regional resource hub, aims to strengthen ASEAN's capabilities in preparing for, detecting, and responding to public health emergencies and emerging diseases. Specifically, plans for the Centre include enhancing surveillance and field epidemiology, creating regional reference laboratory networks^{*2}, and conducting training for personnel responsible for public health emergencies and emerging diseases, among other activities. Japan has contributed approximately ¥5.5 billion (\$50 million) to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF^{*3}) toward the establishment of this Centre.

With a view to establishing the Centre as soon as possible without losing momentum, Japan has been conducting a feasibility study (FS^{*4}) since June 2020 in cooperation with experts from ASEAN countries, as well as various regions and organizations including the United States, Australia, and the



Prime Minister Suga attending the 23rd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

World Health Organization (WHO).

Preparations for the establishment of this Centre have been moving forward together with ASEAN, while also fully respecting ASEAN's needs and intentions, and the ASEAN member states have shown great interest in the initiative. The Mekong countries welcomed Japan's cooperation at the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in September, while ASEAN member states commended Japan's cooperation at the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and expressed that they were looking forward to the official announcement of the establishment of this Centre at the upcoming Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting. The establishment was officially announced by Prime Minister Suga together with the leaders of ASEAN countries at the 23rd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November. On this occasion, the leaders of the ASEAN side expressed their appreciation for Japan's support.

To develop the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases into an organization that protects the people of ASEAN from the threat of infectious diseases as a regional hub for public health emergencies and emerging diseases, Japan will spare no effort in providing continuous support to further accelerate the initiative, while also providing as much knowledge as possible. Going forward, Japan, as a true friend of ASEAN, will continue to work together with the region to overcome this difficult period and advance firmly toward realizing greater prosperity for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

*1 ASEAN comprises the following 10 member states: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. (Singapore and Brunei are not eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA).)

*2 A network of reference laboratories for realizing early-stage testing of pathogens, among other activities.

*3 See the glossary on page 40.

*4 See the glossary on page 141.

Stories from the Field



Using Experience Gained in Japan for Measures against Infectious Diseases in the Future

—An ex-JICA training participant fighting against COVID-19 at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana—

Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) was established in 1979 with support from Japan to commemorate the achievements of Dr. NOGUCHI Hideyo, a bacteriologist who devoted his life to tirelessly researching yellow fever. The Institute is now greatly contributing to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana. NMIMR had carried out over 350,000 COVID-19 PCR tests as of the end of December 2020, and it was responsible for approximately 80% of all tests undertaken in Ghana at the peak of the pandemic. For approximately 40 years since NMIMR's establishment, Japan has not only contributed to improving research equipment at the Institute, but also to developing its human resources through numerous targeted research activities and projects as countermeasures against infections and epidemics.

Dr. Mildred Adusei-Poku is one of the Ghanaian researchers working on the frontline at NMIMR right now. A virologist, Dr. Adusei-Poku started working at NMIMR in 2009, participating in the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program* under the "Studies of Anti-viral and Anti-parasitic Compounds from Selected Ghanaian Medicinal Plants" project conducted from 2010 to 2015. She talked about joining NMIMR, as well as her experience during her visit to Japan under the above-mentioned project, as follows.

"In Ghana, people are required to complete a mandatory one year of National Service after their undergraduate studies. I was assigned to the Virology Department at NMIMR as I had studied Biological Sciences. It was a great honor for me since, even at that time, NMIMR was one of the largest research institutes in Africa conducting advanced research in the areas of infectious diseases and nutrition. Later, I was part of a team that undertook research exploring medicinal plants in Ghana that could be effective in the treatment of HIV/



Dr. Adusei-Poku preparing a PCR test (Photo: JICA)

AIDS. During that period, I attended a three-week training program at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University in Japan as part of the SATREPS project. I learned research and problem-solving methods that were new to me, and it was a privilege for me to share this knowledge with my colleagues at NMIMR on my return."

Dr. Adusei-Poku then began studying at Kumamoto University in Japan on a Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) in 2015, earning a doctorate degree for her research on HIV/AIDS. She stated that her senior colleagues at NMIMR who had experience in Japan encouraged her to pursue a doctorate degree in Japan. Following her seniors' footsteps, she is now supervising activities related to COVID-19 at NMIMR while also lecturing at the Department of Medical Microbiology, the University of Ghana Medical School.

Dr. Adusei-Poku talked about the role of NMIMR in Ghana. "NMIMR was one of only two institutes testing for COVID-19 in Ghana when the country confirmed its first cases in March 2020. Therefore, NMIMR worked to enhance the testing capacity of other medical institutions to increase the number of testing facilities in the country. I was one of the people who had the privilege to instruct professionals at these other institutes on how to effectively test for the disease and handle the test results."

Dr. Adusei-Poku talked about her own future. "I will seek to enhance my knowledge and experience, as well as explore collaborative working relationships that will improve our collective understanding of infectious diseases." It is hoped that NMIMR will continue to cultivate more people like Dr. Adusei-Poku who can lead the fight against infectious diseases in Africa.



NMIMR's Advanced Research Center for Infectious Diseases. Construction was carried out with Japan's support and completed in March 2019. (Photo: JICA)

*See the Glossary on page 40.

2. Japan's Official Development Assistance and Trends in Aid of Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement

(1) Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement

Japan's total ODA in 2019 ⁵ was approximately \$15,587.66 million (approximately ¥1,699.8 billion) according to the Grant Equivalent System (GE system) ⁶ introduced from 2018. Gross ODA disbursements amounted to approximately \$18,919.77 million (approximately ¥2,063.1 billion), which was an approximate 9.7% increase on a dollar basis compared to the previous year (2018) (an approximate 8.3% increase on a yen basis). As a result, among the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan ranked fourth ⁷ following the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom in terms of both the GE system and gross disbursements.

The breakdown is as follows. Under the GE system, bilateral ODA accounted for approximately 75.7% of overall disbursements, while ODA to international organizations accounted for approximately 24.3%. In terms of gross disbursements, bilateral ODA accounted for approximately 77.6% of overall disbursements, while ODA to international organizations accounted for approximately 22.4%. Bilateral ODA is expected to contribute to the strengthening of Japan's relations with recipient countries. Meanwhile, ODA to international organizations that have expertise and political neutrality enables Japan to support countries and regions where its direct bilateral assistance is difficult to reach. Japan will actively provide aid that ensures the "visibility of

Japan," while making flexible use of the above types of assistance and coordinating between them.

As regards gross disbursements of bilateral ODA by aid scheme, the disbursements for bilateral ODA calculated as grant aid totaled approximately \$2,555.99 million (¥278.7 billion), or approximately 13.5% of the total ODA gross disbursements. Among these grants, grant aid through international organizations accounted for approximately \$1,160.34 million (¥126.5 billion), or approximately 6.1% of total ODA. Technical cooperation accounted for approximately \$2,722.11 million (¥296.8 billion), or approximately 14.4% of total ODA. With regard to government loans, loan disbursements accounted for approximately \$9,398.92 million (¥1,024.9 billion), or approximately 49.7% of total ODA. As for the grant equivalent of government loans, the total was approximately \$6,515.53 million (¥710.5 billion).

Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements (including support for graduated countries) by region are as follows. They are in the order of gross disbursements (percentage out of the total disbursements). (See Chart I-2 on page 18 and Chart III-1 on page 98 for details.)

- ◆Asia: \$8,972.14 million (61.1%)
- ◆Middle East and North Africa: \$1,511.28 million (10.3%)
- ◆Sub-Saharan Africa: \$1,553.46 million (10.6%)
- ◆Latin America and the Caribbean: \$412.83 million (2.8%)
- ◆Oceania: \$221.04 million (1.5%)
- ◆Europe: \$77.02 million (0.5%)
- ◆Assistance covering multiple regions: \$1,934.83 million (13.2%)

⁵ DAC Statistics final figures for disbursements in 2020 are to be published at the end of 2021.

⁶ The GE system records the amount of a loan aid 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 loan aid more accurately compared to the net flow system, which was the standard previously used by the DAC (the full amount of the loan is recorded; on the other hand, repaid amounts are counted as negative).

⁷ Excluding assistance for graduated countries. See page 166, "Reference Statistics 2(1): Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (2019)," for details regarding disbursement amounts including graduated countries.

Chart I-1

Japan's ODA by Type (2019)

2019 (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		2,555.99	2,630.91	-2.8	2,787.20	2,905.52	-4.1
(Debt relief)		—	(23.72)	(-100.0)	—	(26.19)	(-100.0)
(Grants through multilateral institutions)		(1,160.34)	(1,314.79)	(-11.7)	(1,265.30)	(1,452.02)	(-12.9)
Technical cooperation		2,722.11	2,647.54	2.8	2,968.35	2,923.89	1.5
Total grants (A)		5,278.10	5,278.45	0.0	5,755.55	5,829.40	-1.3
Loan aid (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement) (B)		9,398.92	8,006.18	17.4	10,249.14	8,841.85	15.9
(Amount recovered) (C)		7,199.60	7,185.74	0.2	7,850.87	7,935.78	-1.1
(Net disbursement) (D)=(B)-(C)		2,199.32	820.44	168.1	2,398.27	906.07	164.7
(Grant equivalent) (E)		6,515.53	5,477.69	18.9	7,104.92	6,049.44	17.4
Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis) (A)+(B)		14,677.02	13,284.63	10.5	16,004.69	14,671.26	9.1
Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis) (A)+(D)		7,477.42	6,098.89	22.6	8,153.82	6,735.48	21.1
Total bilateral ODA (Grant equivalent basis) (A)+(E)		11,793.63	10,756.13	9.6	12,860.47	11,878.84	8.3
Grants (F)		3,123.03	2,639.86	18.3	3,405.54	2,915.40	16.8
Loan aid (Amount disbursed) (G)		1,119.72	1,325.52	-15.5	1,221.01	1,463.88	-16.6
Loan aid (Grant equivalent) (H)		671.00	767.53	-12.6	731.70	847.64	-13.7
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross and net disbursement basis) (I)=(F)+(G)		4,242.75	3,965.38	7.0	4,626.55	4,379.28	5.6
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent basis) (J)=(F)+(H)		3,794.03	3,407.38	11.3	4,137.24	3,763.04	9.9
Total ODA (Gross disbursement) (A)+(B)+(I)		18,919.77	17,250.01	9.7	20,631.23	19,050.53	8.3
Total ODA (Net disbursement) (A)+(D)+(I)		11,720.17	10,064.27	16.5	12,780.37	11,114.75	15.0
Total ODA (Grant equivalent) (A)+(E)+(H)		15,587.66	14,163.52	10.1	16,997.71	15,641.88	8.7
Preliminary estimate of nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)		5,346.04	5,135.33	4.1	582,963.20	567,134.50	2.8
% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)		0.22	0.20		0.22	0.20	
% of GNI (Grant equivalent basis)		0.29	0.28		0.29	0.28	

Notes:

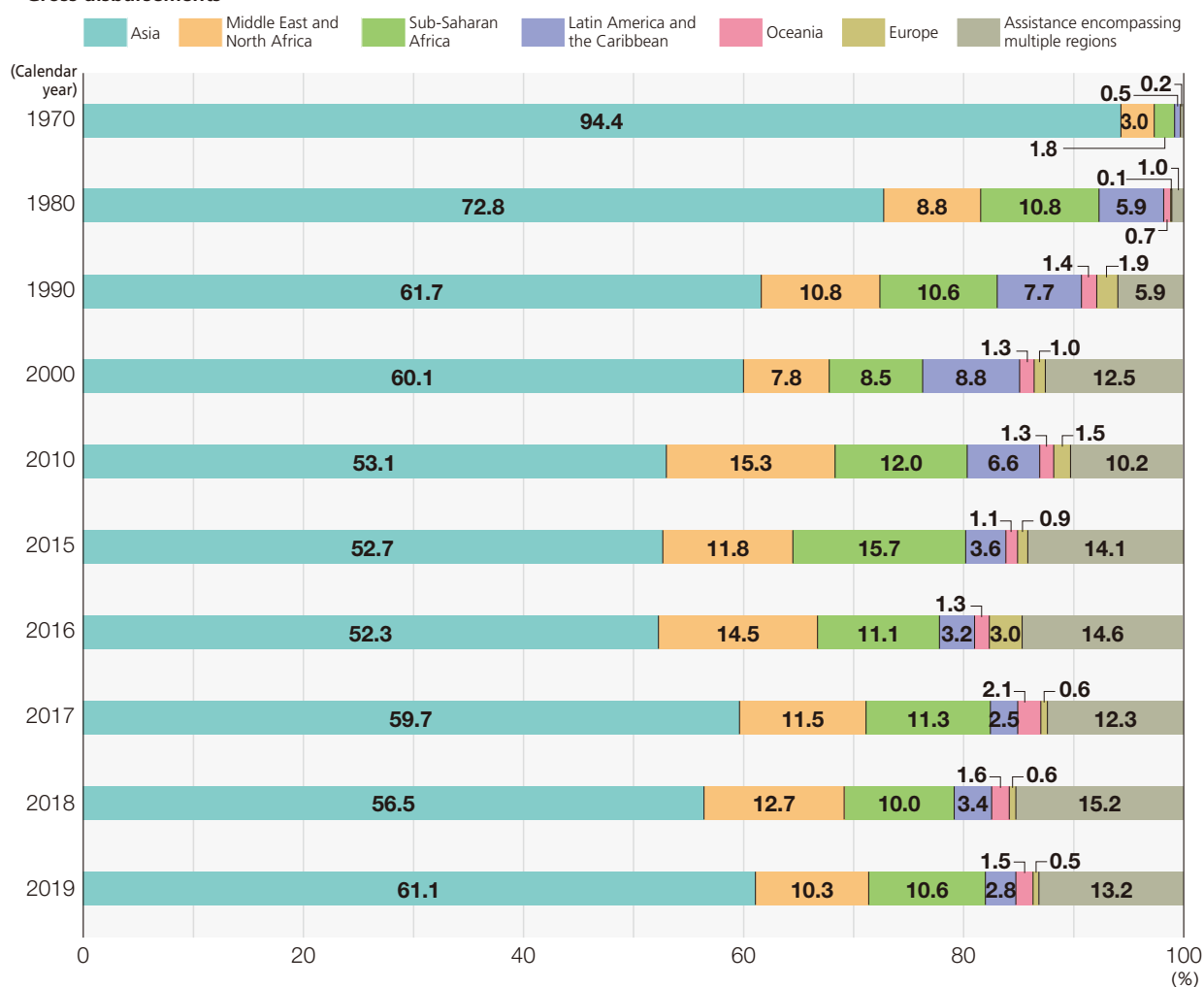
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [-] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Excluding assistance to graduated countries. For more information regarding disbursements that include assistance to graduated countries, see Reference Statistics: 2(1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (2019) (page 166).
- The grant equivalent are calculated starting from 2018.
- "Grant aid" here includes debt relief and grants provided through international organizations (those that can be classified by country).
- Debt relief refers to exemption from commercial debts, and does not include debt deferral.

- Conversion rate: 2018 US\$1=¥110.4378, 2019 US\$1=¥109.0459 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC)
- Graduated countries are countries that have been removed from the DAC List of ODA Recipients, see Chart I-10: DAC List of ODA Recipients (Countries and Regions) (page 25).
- Japan has a record of disbursements to the following 16 graduated countries and regions that are not DAC members: Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, [French Polynesia], Kuwait, [New Caledonia], Oman, Romania, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay (square brackets [] denote region names).

Chart I-2

Trends in Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region

Gross disbursements



Notes:

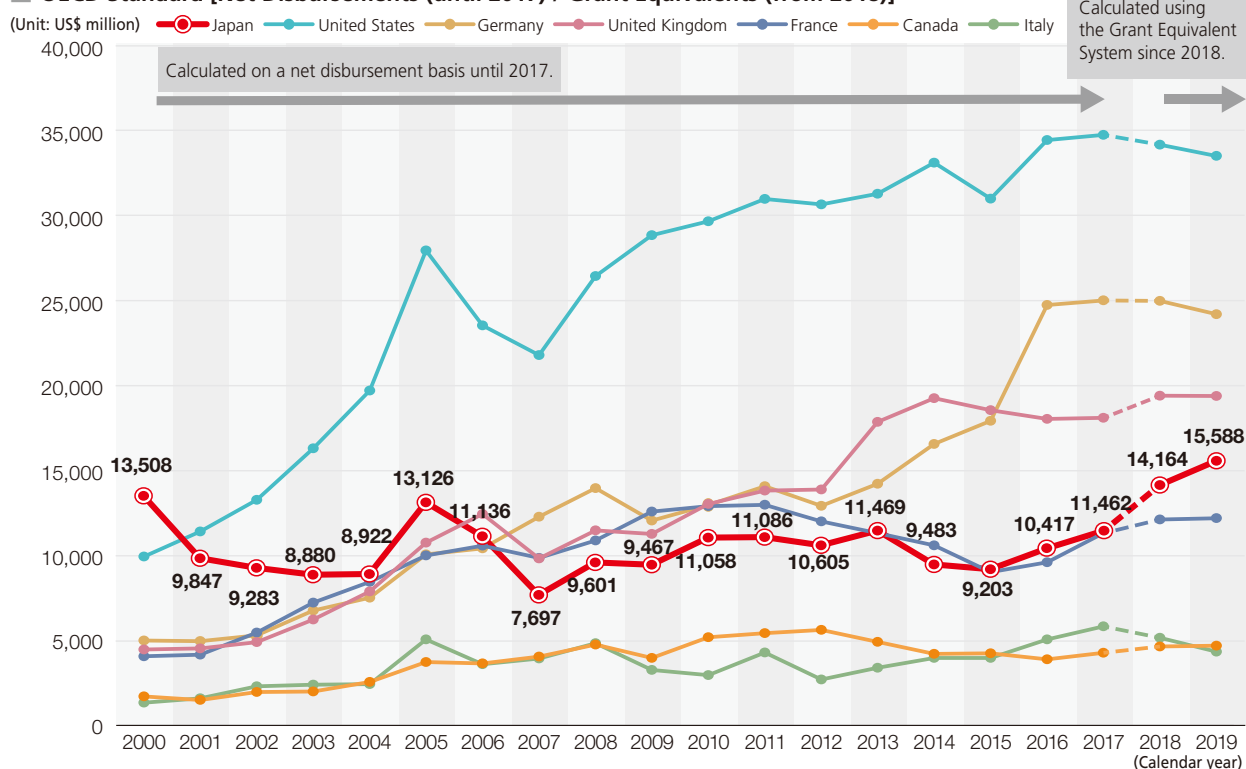
- ODA since 1990 includes aid to graduated countries.

- Assistance encompassing multiple regions includes assistance that cannot be classified by region, such as dispatchment of the survey teams in multiple regions.

Chart I-3

Trends in the ODA of Major DAC Countries

■ OECD Standard [Net Disbursements (until 2017) / Grant Equivalents (from 2018)]



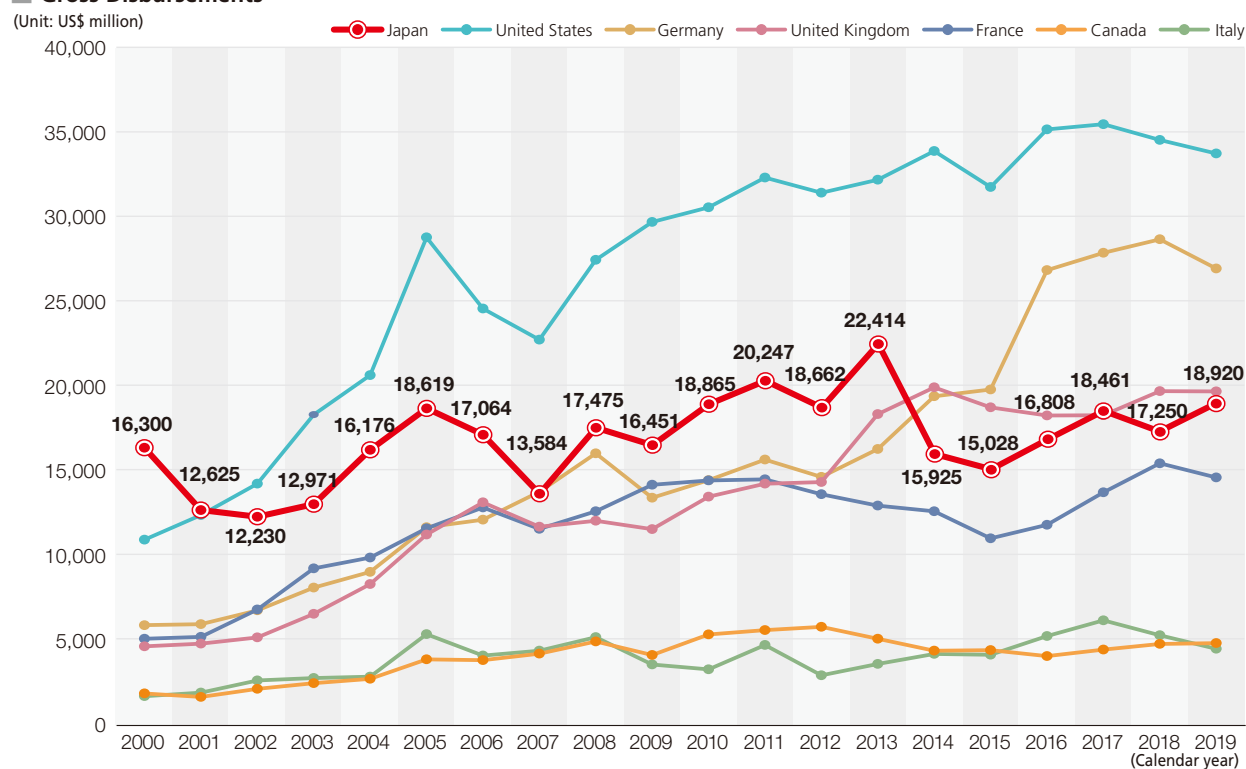
Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

- OECD estimates used for Italy for 2019.

■ Gross Disbursements



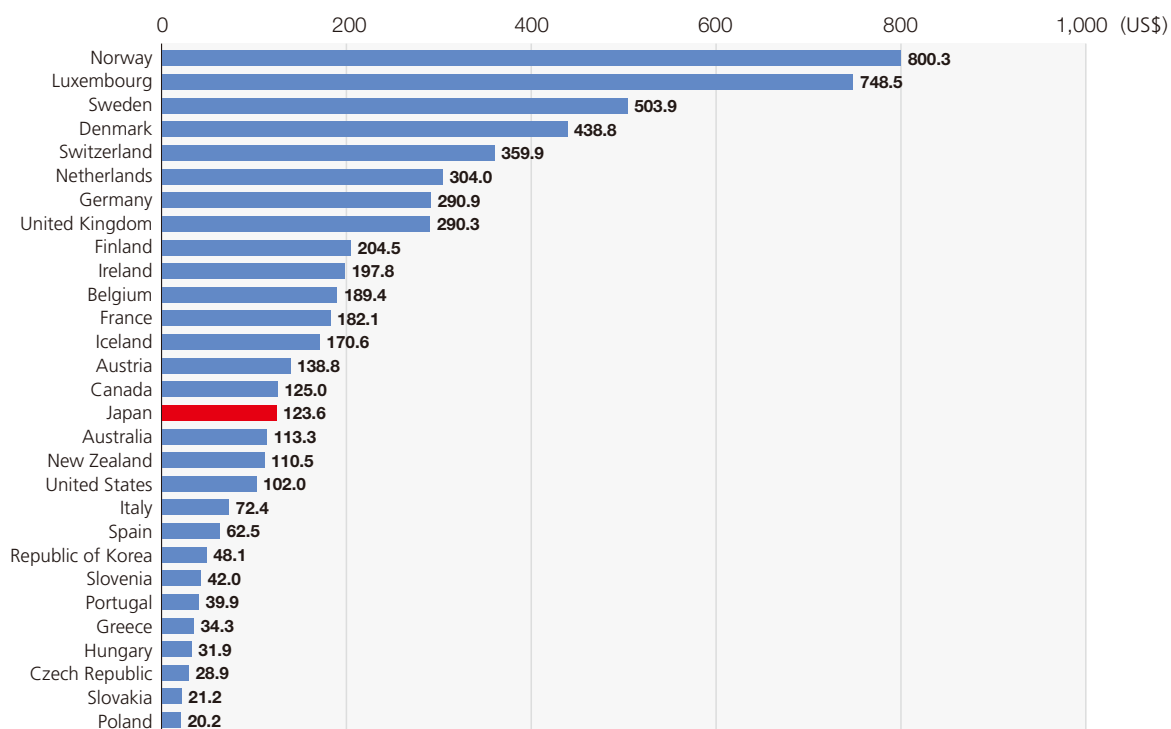
Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

Chart I-4

Per Capita ODA in DAC Countries (2019)



Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

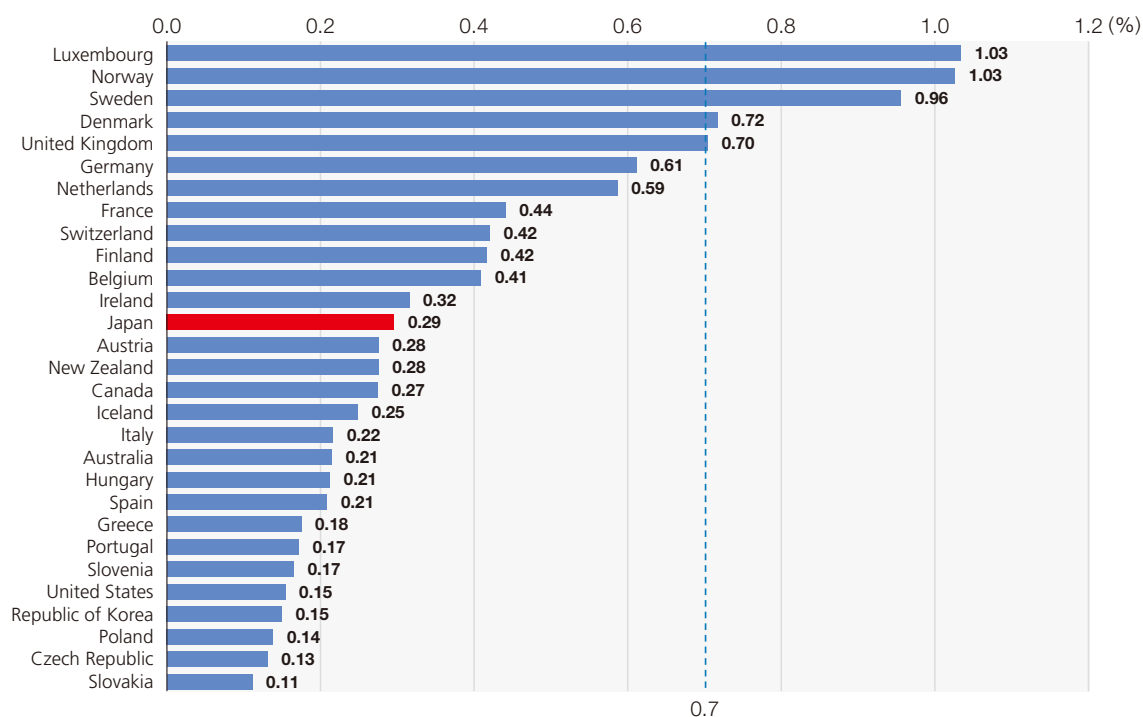
Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.

- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

Chart I-5

Ratio of ODA to GNI in DAC Countries (2019)



Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

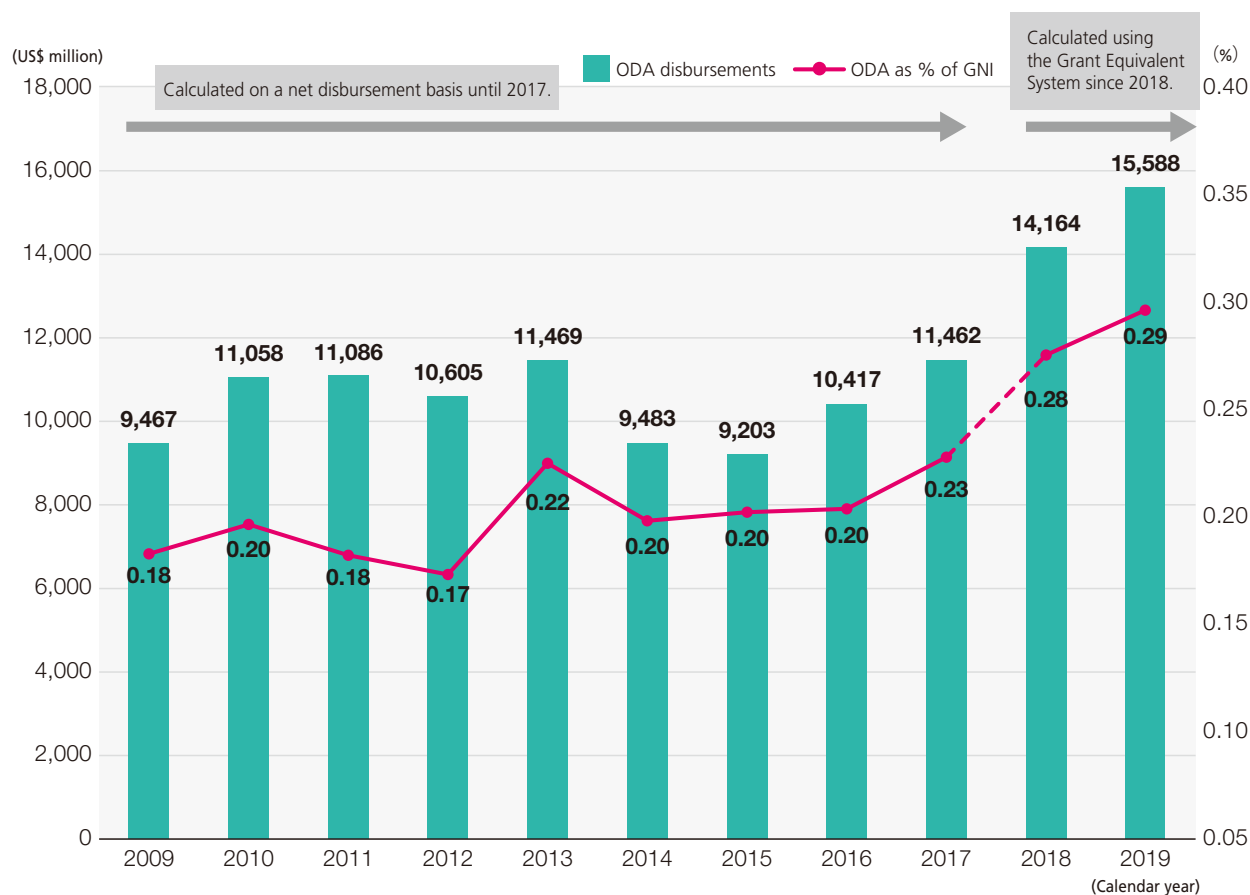
- Grant equivalent basis.

- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

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

Chart I-6

Trends in Japan's ODA and as Percentage of GNI



Notes:

- Disbursements were calculated on a net disbursement basis until 2017, and on a grant equivalent basis since 2018.
- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

(2) Overview of Development Cooperation from Major Donors in Terms of Disbursement

The OECD-DAC has established 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 loan aid, the terms of the loan [e.g., interest rate and repayment period] are set in favor of the recipient country).

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 2019.

*** Aid Disbursements by Major Donors

ODA provided by DAC countries in 2019 (calculated by GE system) amounted to approximately \$151,722 million. By country (GE system, percentage out of total ODA of DAC countries), the United States ranked first (approximately \$33,492 million, 22.1%), Germany second (approximately \$24,198 million, 15.9%), the United Kingdom third (approximately \$19,393 million, 12.8%), Japan fourth (approximately \$15,588 million, 10.3%), France fifth (approximately \$12,211 million, 8.0%), the Netherlands sixth (approximately \$5,292 million, 3.5%), Sweden seventh (approximately \$5,205 million, 3.4%), Canada eighth (approximately \$4,725 million, 3.1%), and Italy ninth (approximately \$4,373 million, 2.9%), with the G7 countries occupying the top spots ⁸.

⁸ Details are available in Development Cooperation Reference Materials 2020, Chart "ODA by DAC Countries (2019)" (in Japanese only).

Chart I-7

Bilateral ODA Distribution of Major DAC Countries by Sector (2019)

(Commitments basis, Unit: %)

Sector \ Country	Japan	United States	United Kingdom	France	Germany	Italy	Canada	DAC Average
Social infrastructure (education, health, water and sewerage, etc.)	13.7	41.5	39.7	38.2	35.8	33.0	45.7	36.5
Economic infrastructure (transport, communications, electric power, etc.)	52.1	4.9	5.2	22.8	18.8	9.1	3.1	16.9
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	4.4	3.1	4.0	3.9	5.8	4.2	6.1	4.5
Manufacturing and other production sectors (mining, environmental protection, etc.)	19.2	3.4	14.8	15.6	12.4	12.1	10.0	11.6
Emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid	3.6	31.3	24.7	1.6	9.1	7.3	17.3	14.9
Program and other assistance (debt relief, administrative costs, etc.)	6.9	15.8	11.6	17.8	18.1	34.4	17.8	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

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

- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.

*** Sectors Aided by Major Donors

Disbursements in 2019 from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, and Germany were concentrated in the social infrastructure sectors, including education, health, and water supply and sewerage. The United States allocated more than 30% of its total ODA to emergency relief such as humanitarian assistance and food aid. On the other hand, in the economic infrastructure sectors, such as roads, bridges, railroads, communications, and electricity, Japan ranked first with 52.1% of its total ODA, followed by France with 22.8%. 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 I-7).

*** Regions Aided by Major Donors

Whereas Japan's ODA is primarily directed at the Asian region (approximately 61.1% of gross disbursements in 2019 [hereinafter the same]), Sub-Saharan Africa was the top recipient of aid from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy (32.1%, 30.8%, 28.1%, and 22.8%, respectively). The Middle East and North Africa was the top recipient of aid from Germany (22.2%)⁹. In terms of percentage out of total aid disbursements from major DAC countries by region, the United States was the largest donor to Sub-Saharan Africa (32.7%), the Middle East and North Africa (28.6%), and Latin America

and the Caribbean (29.0%). Australia provided 48.2% of total ODA to Oceania, while Germany accounted for 27.7% of total ODA to Europe, including the former Yugoslavia and Ukraine. As these figures indicate, the regional priority of each donor is also influenced by factors such as geographic proximity and historical background (Chart I-8).

*** Disbursements by Type of Assistance (2019)

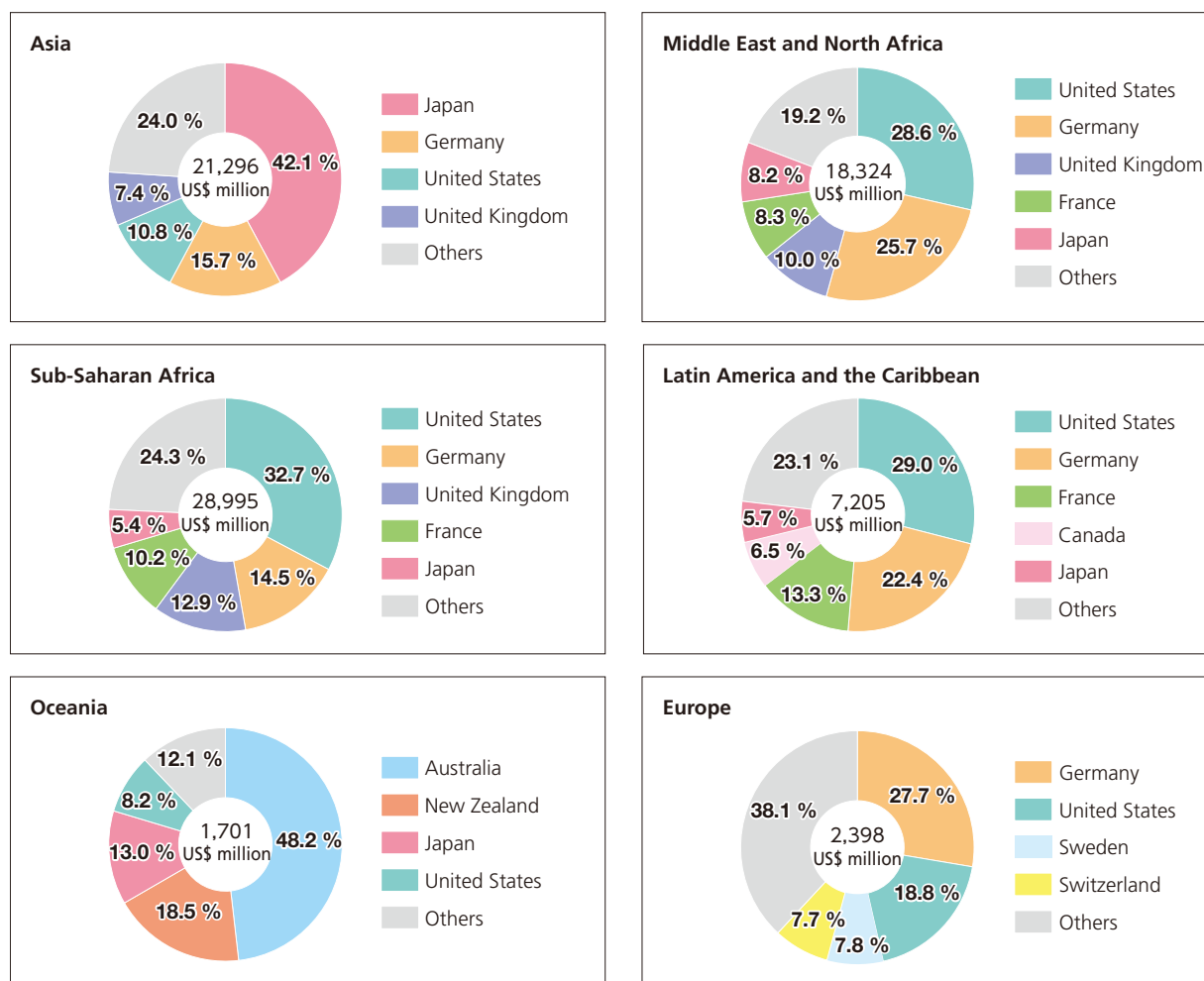
By type of assistance, approximately 87% of ODA provided by all DAC countries in 2019 were grants (bilateral grant aid: approximately 50%; bilateral technical cooperation: approximately 10%; grants to international organizations: approximately 26%), and 13% were loan aid (bilateral: approximately 12%; loans to international organizations: approximately 1%). With the exception of Japan and France, major DAC countries implemented most of their ODA as grants (grant aid and technical cooperation) (Chart I-9).

Loan aid (e.g., ODA loan) accounts 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 granted; rather, it is something developing countries take ownership of. From the viewpoint of developing countries, they carry out projects aimed at their social and economic development with the funds they have borrowed. This in turn encourages the countries to work hard on their projects. Japan's cooperation strives to enable the people of developing countries to sustain and evolve the projects on their own

⁹ Details are available in Development Cooperation Reference Materials 2020, Chapter 3 Economic Cooperation of Other Countries, Section 3 "Overview of Economic Cooperation of Major Donors and Regional Organizations" (in Japanese only).

Chart I-8

Major DAC Donor Countries in ODA by Region (2019)



Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

- Gross disbursements basis.
- Regional classifications are the same as Reference Statistics 2(2): Breakdown of Bilateral ODA by Country and Type (2019) (page 168).
- Excluding assistance to graduated countries.
- The figures in the graphs are the total ODA of DAC countries.

even after Japan's ODA loan projects are completed. This approach is unique to Japan, which places importance on self-help efforts, and its effectiveness was acknowledged in the DAC development cooperation peer review (see page 151 regarding the DAC peer review of Japan's development cooperation).

*** Development Cooperation from Emerging Donors

In addition to the DAC countries that have traditionally provided development cooperation, recent years have seen an increase in aid provided by non-OECD or non-DAC new donors and private foundations. Those new donors consist of developing countries that have achieved economic development, such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, and South Africa. The total amount of aid provided by these new actors in development cooperation, according to DAC Statistics alone, is more than \$16 billion by non-

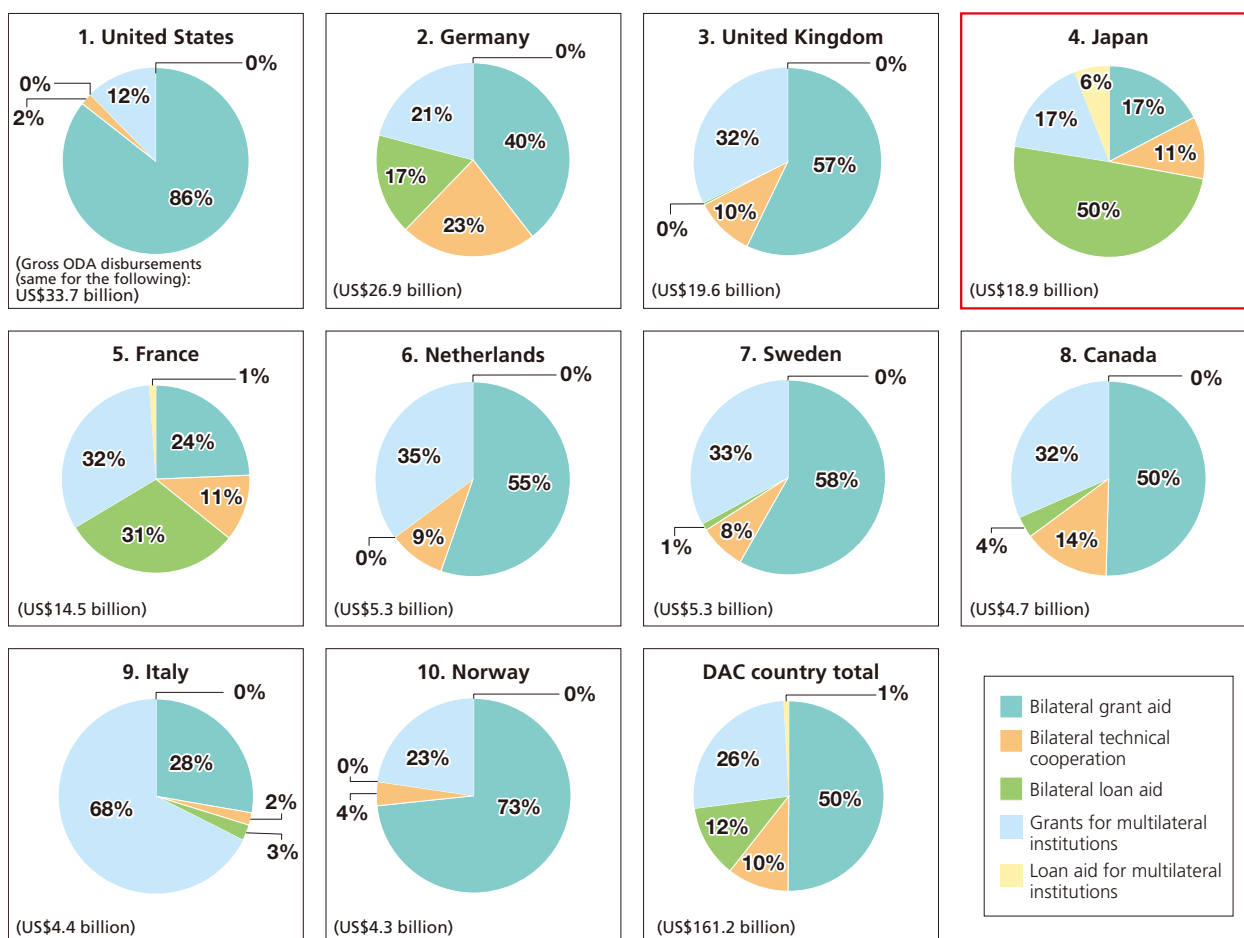
DAC countries (only those countries that have reported to the DAC) and more than \$45 billion by NGOs.

It is essential to accurately grasp the flow of funds to developing countries and to effectively utilize limited development financing 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 provided by non-DAC countries and other donors. It has also been pointed out that some donors are providing development cooperation that does not necessarily conform to the three requirements of ODA, as stipulated by the DAC, and that loans to developing countries in particular are being provided in a non-traditional and non-concessional manner, such as collateralized loans.

Discussions are under way at the OECD and various other international fora to create rules and frameworks for international aid, including aid from these emerging donors and use of private financing. The Communiqué

Chart I-9

ODA of DAC Countries by Aid Scheme (2019)



Source: DAC statistics on OECD.STAT

Notes:

- Top 10 DAC countries by ODA for 2019 based on gross disbursements.

- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

adopted at the OECD-DAC High Level Meeting held in November 2020, through efforts of Japan, included a call for non-DAC providers of development cooperation to adhere more closely to international standards and practices to improve transparency and accountability in development cooperation. Japan will continue to work with the international community to ensure that the development cooperation of emerging donors including China is transparent and consistent with international standards and initiatives (see page 142, “ODA Topics,” regarding the new international statistical system, page 36 regarding efforts to address debt issues, and page 150 regarding cooperation with other countries and international organizations).

Chart I-10

DAC List of ODA Recipients (Countries and Regions)

(Applied to 2018-2019 disbursements)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipient Countries				
Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (47 countries)	Other Low Income Countries (LICs) (per capita GNI ≤ US\$1,005)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (LMICs) (per capita GNI US\$1,006 - 3,955)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (UMICs) (per capita GNI US\$3,956-12,235)	
Afghanistan Angola Bangladesh Benin Bhutan Burkina Faso Burundi Cambodia Central Africa Chad Comoros Democratic Republic of the Congo Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Gambia Guinea Guinea-Bissau Haiti Kiribati Laos Lesotho Liberia Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mozambique Myanmar Nepal Niger	Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Solomon Somalia South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Timor-Leste Togo Tuvalu Uganda Vanuatu Yemen Zambia	Armenia Bolivia Cabo Verde Cameroon Côte d'Ivoire Egypt El Salvador Eswatini Federated States of Micronesia Georgia Ghana Guatemala Honduras India Indonesia Jordan Kenya Kosovo Kyrgyz Republic Moldova Mongolia Morocco Nicaragua Nigeria Pakistan [Palestine] Papua New Guinea Philippines Republic of the Congo Sri Lanka Syria	Albania Algeria Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Azerbaijan Belarus Belize Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil China Colombia Cook Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador Equatorial Guinea Fiji North Macedonia Gabon Grenada Guyana Iran Iraq Jamaica Kazakhstan Lebanon Libya Malaysia Maldives	Marshall Mauritius Mexico Montenegro [Montserrat] Namibia Nauru Niue Palau Panama Paraguay Peru [Saint Helena] Saint Lucia Saint Vincent Samoa Serbia South Africa Suriname Thailand Tonga Turkey Turkmenistan Venezuela [Wallis and Futuna]

Source: DAC documents

Notes:

- GNI values are from 2016.

- Chile, Seychelles, and Uruguay graduated in 2018.

- Square brackets [] denote region names.

Part II

Measures for Each Priority Issue



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) teaching math to students at an elementary school in Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

1	Cooperation Aimed at Achieving "Quality Growth"	28
2	Sharing Universal Values and Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society	44
3	Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and Human Security	60

Part II Measures for Each Priority Issue

In Part II, in relation to Japan's development cooperation ¹ around the world, Japan's recent efforts regarding three key issues will be introduced. These three issues are "1. Cooperation aimed at achieving 'quality growth,'" "2. Sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society," and "3. Promoting efforts to address global issues and human security."

.....

1. Cooperation Aimed at Achieving "Quality Growth"

In order for developing countries to achieve economic growth aimed at self-reliant development, it is essential that the growth is "quality growth." "Quality growth" is "inclusive," wherein the fruits of growth are shared with the society as a whole, leaving no one behind. At the same time, it must be "sustainable" in that growth can be sustained in harmony with society and the environment and "resilient" against economic crises, natural disasters, and other shocks. These are some of the challenges that Japan has tackled in its postwar history. Japan is providing support to enable developing countries to achieve "quality growth" by utilizing its experience, expertise, lessons learned, and technology.

(1) Development of Industrial Infrastructure and Industries and Economic Policy

In order to achieve "quality growth," it is important to improve the socio-economic infrastructure that serves as the foundation for development. Moreover, it is crucial that the private sector plays a key role, and it is indispensable to boost private sector activities, such as the development of industries and the expansion of trade and investment. In developing countries, however, it can sometimes be difficult to develop capacities or set in place an environment for promoting trade and attracting private investment. Thus, support from the international community is required.

Japan's Efforts

Quality Infrastructure

Developing countries continue to have an enormous demand for infrastructure. It is forecasted that the infrastructure supply and demand gap by 2040 is approximately \$15 trillion (source: G20 Global Infrastructure Hub [GIH]). However, it is essential to promote quality infrastructure focusing not only on quantity but also on quality to achieve "quality growth" in developing countries.

Specifically, when investing in infrastructure, it is important that openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, and macro (country)-

level debt sustainability be secured to develop "quality infrastructure" that genuinely contributes to "quality growth." Furthermore, it is crucial that infrastructure is not only safe and resilient against disasters, but is also inclusive, leaving no one behind, and is sustainable with considerations given to social and environmental impacts. Japan develops "quality infrastructure" in line with the economic and development strategies of developing countries and trains human resources to maintain and operate the infrastructure. Japan's strength lies in helping develop infrastructure that is truly contributory to "quality growth" in developing countries, which also includes technology transfer and job creation.



Nhat Tan Bridge in Viet Nam built with Japanese ODA loan (Photo: JICA)

The "G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment," which was agreed on at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, is positioned as the first step toward sharing the recognition on the basic elements of "quality infrastructure investment," or investment for the development of infrastructure that contributes to "quality growth." Furthermore, the importance and various elements of quality infrastructure investment were also agreed upon at the G20 Hangzhou Summit held under China's Presidency. Based on the agreements by the G7 and the G20 thus far, discussions were carried out at G20 meetings under Japan's Presidency toward formulating principles to maximize the positive impacts brought about by infrastructure investment on the economy, environment, society, and development, while

¹ Here, the term "development cooperation" refers to "international cooperation activities conducted by the Government and related organizations for the main purpose of development in developing regions," including ODA and other cooperation conducted in collaboration with public-private financing and activities.

newly incorporating components such as strengthening infrastructure governance, including debt sustainability at the country level. As a result, at the Osaka Summit held in June 2019, the leaders of the G20, including emerging donors, endorsed the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” which incorporated elements such as (i) openness, (ii) transparency, (iii) economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, and (iv) debt sustainability as principles that show the common strategic direction and vision concerning future quality infrastructure investment. In order to promote the G20 Principles, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) prepared the “OECD Compendium of Policy Good Practices for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” a document compiling the matters that should be considered by countries when developing and implementing policies. In November 2020, Japan and the OECD co-organized an event to commemorate the completion of the Compendium, at which Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakanishi delivered remarks regarding the importance of quality infrastructure investment. Since then, the importance of quality infrastructure investment has been confirmed at bilateral meetings and various multilateral conferences.

In this context, at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2020, Japan launched the “Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative” with a focus on quality infrastructure projects worth ¥2 trillion and announced that it would help strengthen land, sea, and air corridor connectivity through infrastructure development together with human resources development of 1,000 individuals in three years.

In order to achieve quality growth globally, the Government of Japan will continue to promote the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment” across the international community. Moreover, Japan will cooperate with countries around the world, including in Asia, as well as international organizations, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the OECD, to make efforts to implement “quality infrastructure investment.”



New car model of Indonesia's Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) that opened in March 2019. The transit system was completed by fully integrating Japanese technology and operating know-how. (Photo: JICA)

Improving the Trade and Investment Environment

Japan utilizes ODA and Other Official Flows (OOF)* to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), transfer of Japan's industrial technology, and formulation of economic policies in developing countries. In addition, Japan supports the development of the trade and investment environment and economic infrastructures in order to enhance the export capabilities and competitiveness of developing countries.

At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama in August 2019, the focus of discussion was business promotion, and the Public-Private Business Dialogue was held as one of the six plenary sessions. It was the first face-to-face dialogue in the history of TICAD between the public and private sectors from both Africa and Japan, positioning private companies as official partners. At the session, concrete suggestions were put forward for expanding trade and investment between Japan and Africa, and strong expectations were expressed toward expansion of Japan's direct investment and support for private-sector development, including human resources development in Africa. In addition, then Prime Minister Abe stated that the Government of Japan would exert every effort to further increase private investment in Africa, which was at a level of \$20 billion over the past three years.

In 2020, business between Japan and Africa temporarily stagnated as overseas travel became difficult due to COVID-19. Although there were initial fears of cases exploding in Africa, the disease spread relatively slowly and the mortality rate remained low, as African countries quickly strengthened their border control measures and restrictions on domestic travel. Under these circumstances, in autumn 2020, regular commercial flights resumed in many countries, and Japanese company employees began to return to their assignments in Africa. Japanese companies operating in the continent are exploring business opportunities during and after COVID-19 while preventing infection. To encourage this trend, the Government of Japan will continue to make every effort to support the expansion of Japanese companies into Africa by promoting industrial human resources development as well as innovation and investment.

In addition, the World Trade Organization (WTO) emphasizes the significance of promoting the development of developing countries through their participation in the multilateral free trading system. Japan has contributed to, for example, the International Trade Centre (ITC), which is an international organization specializing in Aid for Trade (AfT)*, with an aim to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, and to raise their ability to implement the WTO agreements.

India

Project on Champions for Societal Manufacturing Technical Cooperation Project (April 2013 – (ongoing))

The Government of India is focusing on strengthening its manufacturing sector for further economic growth of the country. One of the challenges is the shortage of human resources who can serve as senior managers in the manufacturing sector. In recent years, new social needs such as responses to environmental pollution and resource conservation as well as business development targeted at the poor have emerged, and thus it is important to train senior managers who can respond to these new changes for the sustainable and comprehensive development of the industry.



Training participants presenting their business plans and exchanging opinions for waste management in India based on what they learned during their training in Japan (Photo: JICA)

This project is based on the framework of the Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing (VLFM) Program*, which was established under the “VLFM Project” conducted by Japan from 2007 to 2013. Up until now, leveraging Japan’s manufacturing experience, the project has developed human resources with the skills to lead the manufacturing sector by providing human resource development assistance to more than 1,000 companies and training more than 1,200 senior and middle managers across India.

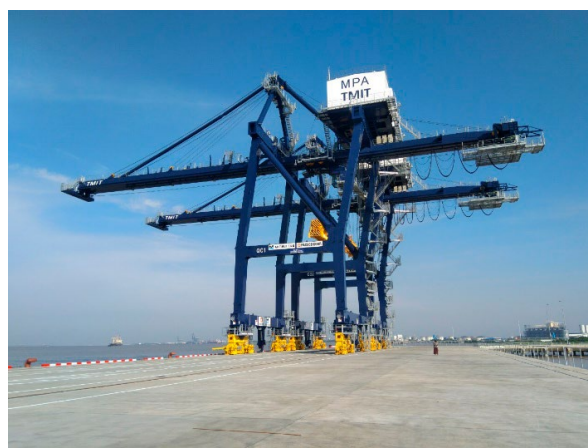
In addition to dispatching experts from Japan to provide technical knowledge and skills regarding how to improve cooperation between vendors of product parts and their subcontractors, there are also training courses that include environmental friendliness and focus on growth where no one will be left behind. Furthermore, the project offers training programs in Japan in order to convey the spirit of Japanese-style manufacturing and management methods and contributes to transforming the awareness of the participating senior management candidates through visits to manufacturing sites and research and presentations on Japanese society and culture.

This project has received extremely high praise from the Government of India, and it is expected to strengthen the foundation for India’s manufacturing sector through promoting Japanese-style management methods.

*The program consists of the Senior Managers Course targeting senior and middle managers, the Middle Managers Course targeting middle manager candidates with manufacturing sector experience (degree-accredited program at graduate schools), and the VSME Course targeting subcontracting SMEs.

With regard to access to the Japanese market, Japan has implemented the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which applies tariff rates that are lower than the general tariff to products originating from developing countries. Furthermore, for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*, Japan applies duty-free quota-free access* by introducing a special preferential treatment. Through these schemes, Japan intends to encourage the import of products from developing countries. Moreover, Japan is actively promoting Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)* and investment agreements, and it is expected that facilitation of business environment through liberalization and protection of trade and investment will encourage Japanese companies to advance into markets in developing countries, and by extension, contribute to economic growth in developing countries.

Discussions regarding AfT have intensified in various international organizations, including the WTO and the OECD, as a means of further promoting support from developed countries, such as that of Japan. Japan is providing funds for the development of transportation networks, including ports, roads, and bridges, as well as for projects to construct facilities such as power plants and power grids, all of which are vital for developing countries to engage in trade. Japan is also implementing technical cooperation in trade-related areas, including



Thilawa Port in Myanmar constructed with Japanese ODA loan. The port serves as a gateway to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developed with Japanese public and private sector involvement. (Photo: JICA)

the training of customs officials and intellectual property rights experts.

Regarding support for customs in developing countries, mainly ASEAN member states, among such technical cooperation, Japan has actively provided support aimed at improving the capacity of customs in developing countries through sharing of Japan’s expertise and skills in customs. Through contributions to the World Customs Organization (WCO), Japan supports capacity

building activities implemented by the WCO and helps to facilitate international trade while securing safety through promoting the introduction and wider adoption of WCO tools and best practices. In addition, Japan dispatches its customs officials as JICA long-term experts to six ASEAN countries ² to provide support tailored to the needs of individual fields. In Africa, under a JICA/WCO joint project, Japan is implementing a program to train instructors who will play leading roles in customs administrations in various countries.



Customs officials from East African countries visiting customs in Thailand and listening to experts under the Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation and Border Control in East Africa (Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, Japan provides assistance to small-scale production groups and small companies in developing countries over the “One Village, One Product Campaign.”* In addition, to attract private sector investment in developing countries, Japan advances support by identifying unique challenges in those countries and by offering recommendations or advice to local governments. Moreover, the implementation of the “Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA),”* which entered into force in February 2017, is expected to improve the challenging situations Japanese companies frequently face at export destinations, such as lack of transparency and arbitrary application of trade procedures, and to boost trade and other economic activities by Japanese companies, which not only export finished goods, but also develop supply chains on a global scale. In addition, its implementation is expected to help developing countries to expand trade and investment by reducing trade transaction costs, prevent illegal exports, and improve the collection of customs duties.

*** Support for Mobilization of Domestic Resources

In order to enable developing countries to achieve quality growth by resolving various development issues

under their ownership, it is critical that developing countries ensure the necessary development funds in the form of tax revenue collection or others with their own capacities. This is known as “domestic resource mobilization.” Its importance has been noted at the discussion fora of the United Nations (UN), OECD, G7, G20, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and multilateral development banks (MDBs)*. This issue is also brought up in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).”

Japan, together with the international organizations and other entities concerned, is contributing to discussions regarding domestic resource mobilization and providing relevant support to developing countries. For example, Japan proactively provides technical cooperation to developing countries for improving their tax administration. In 2020, Japan dispatched National Tax Agency personnel as lecturers on topics including tax audits, base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), and trial work ³ to Myanmar, the Philippines, and Indonesia. In addition to these programs implemented with international organizations, Japan has assisted the development of the “OECD Global Relations Programme” for more than 20 years. This Programme dispatches experts to developing countries in the relevant fields of tax treaties ⁴ and investigation of the taxes of multinational enterprises to conduct seminars and lectures to deepen the understanding of taxation systems and tax enforcement. Japan also provides cooperation on the human resources, expertise, and financing for technical assistance provided by the IMF and ADB in the field of taxation, including domestic resource mobilization, thereby contributing to strengthening capabilities in the field of taxation in developing countries including Asia.

In recent years, public opinion has taken an increasingly critical view toward the involvement of the wealthy class and multinational enterprises in international tax avoidance. The World Bank and ADB, for example, have introduced systems for examining private sector investment projects in this regard. Using such systems, they may cancel project formulation if zones recognized as lacking in tax transparency, such as unclarity of effective tax information, are used as investment transit points. Investment through MDBs is one of the important tools for the growth of developing countries. Hence, support to enhance the transparency of taxes in developing countries is becoming ever more essential from the perspective of financing for development as well.

² The six countries are: Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.

³ Work to evaluate the propriety of fact-finding in the taxation concerned and to examine whether laws, regulations, and notifications are properly applied to the action.

⁴ Bilateral treaties for avoiding double taxation on income, as well as preventing the avoidance or evasion of taxes on income.

Furthermore, the outcomes of the OECD/G20 BEPS Project*, which was launched in 2012 by OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs to prevent aggressive tax planning measures by multinational enterprises, are also important for the sustainable development of developing countries. Cooperation among countries to implement the outcomes of this project will improve the transparency of companies and governments, and appropriate taxation will become possible in places where economic activities take place. Developing countries will be able to respond to the tax avoidance of multinational enterprises appropriately and impose and collect tax properly in their own countries. At the same time, their tax systems and tax administration will be in line with international standards, and a stable, highly predictable, and attractive investment environment will be created for companies and investors. At present, more than 139 countries and regions, including developing countries, are participating in the framework that implements measures recommended under the BEPS Project.

*** Finance

A sound and stable financial system, coupled with smooth financial and capital markets, forms an essential foundation for the sustainable economic development of developing countries. As financial globalization advances, it is pivotal that financial systems in emerging countries are properly established and that assistance is provided for the development of sound financial markets.

Based on this concept, in February 2020, the Financial Services Agency (FSA) invited officials in securities regulatory authorities from developing countries, including from Asia, to a training program conducted by FSA officials and others in Japan. This training program covered areas such as the initiatives as well as the regulatory and supervision systems in Japan's securities sector.

= Glossary

***Other Official Flows (OOF)**

OOF refers to flows of funds to developing countries from governments, which are not considered as ODA because their main purpose is not development, the leniency of their conditions does not reach the standards, and/or other reasons. Examples include export credit, direct investment by governmental financial institutions, and financing to international organizations.

***Aid for Trade (AfT)**

AfT is assistance provided to developing countries to improve trade-related capabilities and to develop infrastructure for the purpose of achieving economic growth and poverty reduction through trade in developing countries under the WTO's multilateral trading system.

***Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**

According to the classification by the UN, LDCs are countries particularly behind in development compared to other developing countries based on their income levels. LDCs meet certain criteria, including gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$1,025 or less on average between 2014 and 2016. As of 2020, there are 46 eligible countries: 7 in Asia, 2 in the Middle East, 33 in Africa, 1 in Latin America, and 3 in Oceania.

***Duty-free quota-free access**

A measure to make products imported from LDCs tariff free and without any import quotas. Japan has been expanding the number of applicable products under this measure, and approximately 98% of all products can be imported under such conditions.

***Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**

EPAs are agreements for strengthening a wide range of economic relations, incorporating not only elements of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that are aimed at reducing and eliminating tariffs on goods and barriers to trade in services between specific countries and regions, but also elements of cooperation in various sectors such as investment, movement of persons, protection of intellectual property, and rulemaking on competition policy. These agreements are expected to further vitalize trade and investment between countries and accelerate economic growth.

***One Village, One Product Campaign**

The One Village, One Product Campaign is an initiative, which was launched in Oita Prefecture, Japan in 1979 and prevails globally, that aims to create jobs and to revitalize local communities through promoting unique products that take advantage of local resources and traditional techniques. In Asia and Africa, this Campaign facilitates expanding exports of developing countries' products by discovering attractive goods, such as handicrafts, textiles, and toys that represent the unique ethnic characteristics of those countries and by reaching out to a wider range of people.

***Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**

The TFA is an agreement that stipulates the simplification and enhanced transparency of customs procedures aimed at trade promotion, and entered into force in February 2017. The TFA is the first newly-created multilateral agreement that has gained the participation of all WTO member states since its founding in 1995. According to the WTO, full implementation of the TFA could reduce the trade costs of member states by an average of 14.3% and increase global export of goods by over \$1 trillion.

***Multilateral development banks (MDBs)**

MDBs is a collective term for international organizations that provide comprehensive support for poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development in developing countries through financial assistance, technical assistance, and intellectual contributions. The term MDBs generally refers to the World Bank Group, which provides support worldwide, and to four regional development financial institutions that provide support to their respective regions, namely, the ADB, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

***OECD/G20 BEPS Project**

Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to the issue of multinational enterprises' aggressive tax planning measures that exploit gaps and loopholes in international tax systems, including tax treaties, in order to intentionally reduce the tax burden for economic activities that should have been taxed. In order to address this issue, the BEPS Project was launched in June 2012 by the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs (led by a Japanese Chair until the end of 2016), with the aim of ensuring fair competition and making international taxation rules conform with the situation of the global economy and company trends, as well as reviewing international taxation rules across the board in order to raise transparency among all governments and global companies. As of February 2021, more than 139 countries and regions are participating in the Inclusive Framework on BEPS. As of December 2020, 93 countries and regions have signed the "Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (Multilateral Instrument: MLI)," and 59 countries and regions including Japan have concluded the Convention.



Japanese Companies Forge Ahead with Palau Airport Project

—An all-Japan initiative contributing to the development of Palau's tourism industry—

In Palau, the tourism industry accounts for over 70% of its GDP, and tourism supports the country's financial and industrial sectors. However, due to a rise in the number of tourists since 2015, the number of passengers using the country's only international airport, Palau International Airport, has been exceeding the capacity of available airport facilities, causing issues such as long lines at immigration and check-in counters at peak times. The expansion of airport facilities and operational improvements are therefore crucial in the continued development of Palau as a tourism-oriented country.

To resolve these issues, Japan has been implementing the "Renovation, Expansion and Management of Palau International Airport Project" in Palau since 2019.

This project is a joint venture between Sojitz Corporation, a company with a wealth of knowledge on the aviation industry and connections with airlines, Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd. (JAT), a company with operational expertise of Haneda Airport's passenger terminals and an excellent reputation internationally, and the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN). The project was launched thanks to a boost from financing under JICA's Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) scheme^{*1}; the first implementation of the PSIF in the Oceania region. Upon embarking on the project, Sojitz and JAT first deepened their investigation via a JICA preliminary survey, and after that, Sojitz, JAT, and JOIN established a local airport operations company called Palau International Airport Corporation (PIAC) with the Government of Palau. Since then, renovation and expansion of the existing terminal at Palau International Airport is being carried out alongside operation and maintenance work, and know-how on airport operation is being passed onto Palau, all through PIAC. The existing terminal, which is currently under renovation, was itself originally constructed in 2003 with Grant Aid from Japan, and it is Japan's consistent support that has led to the development of the present project.

Mr. ASAEDA Masahiro, formerly on secondment to PIAC from Sojitz, talks about the circumstances that led to the project's implementation as follows: "Sojitz and JAT have long had a keen interest in engaging in airport operations both within Japan and overseas. We set our sights on Palau, a country that has a friendly relationship and close ties with Japan, as we would be able to utilize the expertise and networks of each company. I think it was Japan's previous contribution of support to the country that led to the Government of Palau allowing Japanese companies to implement this project."

This is the first overseas project for JAT, which is carrying out improvements and providing guidance on the operations of Palau International Airport. In the field, PIAC, Sojitz, JAT, and JOIN are working hand in hand to make steady progress with the project while also

facing unforeseen circumstances—namely, delays in renovation works due to the spread of COVID-19—and are being mindful of differences in culture and customs between Japan and Palau.

Mr. TAKEI Ryo from JAT says, "JAT has presented



JAT giving guidance on cleaning (Photo: PIAC)



The new terminal under construction (January 2021) (Photo: PIAC)

various proposals that cover the entire scope of operational improvements to Palau International Airport. Specifically, we have enforced thorough cleaning practices, improved the installation locations of informational signs, renovated facilities with a view to making them barrier-free, strengthened the cooperative relationship between the airport and its commercial tenants, and arranged the locations of new commercial facilities following the airport's expansion. We have been sharing our experiences in Japan with PIAC as we progress with the project."

In addition, Mr. NARITA Mitsuru, Vice President of PIAC (on secondment from JAT) engaging in the on-site implementation of the project, said, "At the onset of the project, employees' working hours were not being recorded with timecards, and there was no systematic manual on maintaining or cleaning the facilities. We persevered in changing local people's way of thinking and creating a pleasant working environment to improve operations."

The project is certainly an all-Japan initiative in that the important issues facing Palau are being resolved by cooperation between the Government of Japan and Japanese businesses. As there has not been any precedent for the privatization of infrastructure facilities in Palau, the project is becoming a catalyst for promoting the privatization of key infrastructure in the country. In addition, the project, which is the first public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure project^{*2} in Palau, has become a model case of PPP in the country, as new electrical power projects utilizing renewable energy are now also being considered under a PPP framework with other foreign companies. It is hoped that the project contributes to the economic development of Palau, which largely relies on its tourism industry, by steadily transferring specialist knowledge and technology from Japanese companies to local people, and in turn, increasing the number of passengers using the airport, as well as the number of daily flights. Moreover, it is also hoped that the success of this project will lead to more Japanese companies expanding into Palau.

Japan continues to partner with private companies to overcome the difficulties of COVID-19 and connect the success of this project with further promoting a friendly and trusting relationship between Japan and Palau.

^{*1} See page 139 regarding details on this scheme.

^{*2} See page 136 regarding details on this system.

2

ODA Topics

Promoting Initiatives for the Realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”

The concept of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” advocated by Japan in 2016, is becoming widely shared not only by the United States but also by Australia, India, ASEAN member states, and European countries.

On Prime Minister Suga’s visit to Viet Nam and Indonesia in October 2020, the leaders exchanged views regarding coordination between the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)” and FOIP. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in the following month, the “Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” was issued, confirming that the AOIP and FOIP share fundamental principles. The statement declares that cooperation will be enhanced in line with the priority areas of the AOIP, namely, maritime cooperation, connectivity, the SDGs, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation. The importance of FOIP and full support for the AOIP were reaffirmed at the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2020. During his visit to African countries in December 2020, Foreign Minister Motegi and his counterparts of each country shared the view that they would cooperate toward the realization of FOIP. Japan will continue to work closely with various partners to strengthen the multi-layered cooperative relationship.

The basic approach to realize FOIP is as follows: (i) communicating policy on maritime order and sharing insights on the international law of the sea with the international community; (ii) rule-making to expand a free and fair economic sphere; (iii) achieving connectivity across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific; (iv) enhancing governance through capacity building and other measures; and (v) ensuring maritime security and maritime safety. To this end, Japan will utilize ODA in a strategic manner.

For developing quality infrastructure to promote connectivity across the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, Japan has been implementing projects that contribute to strengthening connectivity of: the Southern Economic



Tsubasa Bridge constructed with Japanese assistance
(Photo: KUNO Shinichi/JICA)

Corridor, which connects megacities such as Ho Chi Minh, Phnom Penh, and Bangkok, known as “Mekong’s aorta,” to the Indian Ocean; and the East-West Economic Corridor, which connects Da Nang in Viet Nam to Laos and inland Thailand and to the Indian Ocean through Myanmar. Specifically, Japan carries out initiatives that help improve the efficiency of logistics and alleviate traffic congestion, such as the construction of Tsubasa Bridge in Cambodia and the improvement of National Road No. 9 in Laos. In addition, Japan supports the construction of a new port in Patimban, West Java Province, Indonesia. In December 2020, a tentative opening ceremony was held to showcase the completion of parts of the facilities after the construction work for areas which are to open ahead of the main site had significantly advanced. Moreover, for enhancing governance through capacity building support and other measures, Japan, for example, dispatches macro-economic policy advisors aiming at strengthening the capacity of partner governments in fiscal policy and public debt management to encourage self-reliant and sustainable growth.

From the perspective of ensuring maritime safety, Japan has been actively providing support for capacity building for maritime law enforcement to countries along Japan’s sea lanes, such as the Philippines and Viet Nam, with the aim of building a free and open international order. Such efforts include providing patrol vessels, coastal monitoring radars, and other equipment, as well as human resources development through the dispatch of experts and trainings. Japan continues to make efforts to ensure peace and stability by eliminating factors such as piracy and terrorism.

The stability and prosperity of Japan and this region cannot be achieved without a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” that is underpinned by transparent rules and active exchanges of people, goods, and wisdom. Japan will continue to utilize various forms of assistance, including ODA, in making efforts to realize FOIP.



Foreign Minister Motegi attending the second Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (October 6, 2020)

(2) Efforts on Debt Issues

Support through public financing can greatly contribute to achieving economic growth when developing countries can effectively use the funds they receive through loans. However, if repayments become difficult due to circumstances unforeseen when taking out the loan and countries become overburdened with excessive debt, it could potentially inhibit sustainable growth for the developing countries. Such issues must essentially be resolved by the indebted countries themselves by putting forward reforms and other efforts. However, should their excessive debt stand in the way of their development path, the international community must respond (see page 6 regarding the response on debt issues for developing countries impacted by the spread of COVID-19).

At the G8 Gleneagles Summit (the United Kingdom) held in 2005, the G8 countries agreed on a proposal called the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) to reduce 100% of the debts that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)* owed to the IMF, the International Development Association (IDA), and the African Development Fund (AfDF). As for the debt issue faced by the poorest countries, 39 countries have become eligible for the Enhanced HIPC Initiative ⁵, which further expands existing international debt relief initiatives for HIPCs and enables complete debt reduction among others. 36 of these countries have received comprehensive debt reduction as a result of having attained a certain level of economic and social reforms as of the end of FY2019.

Furthermore, some low-income and middle-income countries, other than HIPCs, may owe heavy debts, and appropriate measures must be taken to make sure such debts do not prevent their stable medium to long-term development. In 2003, the Paris Club ⁶ adopted a new Paris Club approach to debt restructuring (the Evian Approach), which focuses more on the debt sustainability of recipient countries, especially low-income and middle-income indebted countries other than HIPCs, and takes comprehensive debt relief measures for a country that faces difficulty concerning their repayment capacity due to their large debt volume, as long as the country meets certain criteria.

However, in recent years, there are some cases among low-income countries in which they accumulate official debt again, despite having received debt relief through the Enhanced HIPC Initiative and MDRI. Thus, there are concerns in regards to their debt sustainability. The reasons behind this situation are pointed out to be the increase in loans from emerging donor countries and private creditors, including the provision of untraditional

and non-concessional loans such as secured loans, as well as the fact that indebted countries lack the capabilities to gather and disclose their own debt data and appropriately manage their debt. Given this situation, discussions are being conducted in the G20 toward ensuring enhanced debt transparency and debt sustainability in low-income countries. At the 2019 G20 under Japan's Presidency especially, cooperation from both indebted countries and government and private creditors were called upon, and progress in specific initiatives was confirmed at the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting held in Fukuoka and the G20 Osaka Summit.

In April 2020, in order to respond to the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on low-income countries, the G20 and Paris Club agreed on the "Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)," which temporarily allowed these countries to suspend official debt service payments until the end of 2020. In October 2020, a six-month extension to the DSSI suspension period was agreed upon from the perspective that countermeasures against COVID-19's impact were still necessary. Furthermore, in November 2020, the G20 and Paris Club agreed on the "Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI (Common Framework)" for debt relief for DSSI-eligible countries. In addition to steadily implementing the suspension of debt service based on the DSSI, the G20 and Paris Club will also individually provide debt treatments as needed based on the requests of DSSI-eligible countries under the Common Framework.

One of the factors that can significantly affect debt sustainability of countries, including low-income countries, is infrastructure investment. Infrastructure projects such as ports and roads come at a large cost, and debt repayments can become a significant burden for the borrowing country. When financing infrastructure projects, it is necessary for both the borrowers and lenders to fully consider debt sustainability, and loans without consideration of debt sustainability are criticized as a "debt trap" by the international community. The "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," endorsed by the leaders of each country at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, incorporated the importance of considering macro (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.

⁵ An initiative agreed at the Cologne Summit (Germany) in 1999.

⁶ The Paris Club is an informal group of creditor countries to discuss the rescheduling 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 indebted countries.

Japan's Efforts

In providing ODA loans, Japan makes its decisions based on the careful consideration of the cooperation structure, debt repayment ability, operational capacity, credit protection measures, etc. of the recipient countries. In most cases, the recipient countries do repay their loans, but there are also exceptional cases in which they face serious difficulties in their repayment due to events that could not be foreseen when they received ODA loans. In such cases, based on international agreements such as the aforementioned Enhanced HIPC Initiative and Paris Club agreements, Japan takes debt relief measures such as debt rescheduling ⁷, cancellation, and reduction only when they are absolutely necessary. As of the end of 2019, Japan has cancelled ODA debts worth a total of approximately ¥1.129 trillion toward 33 countries since FY2003. However, in 2020, as well as in 2019, no debt cancellation measures have been taken.

From the perspective of ensuring debt sustainability, an important element of the G20 principles, Japan is engaged in improving 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 trainings and the dispatch of experts by JICA. For example, Japan has dispatched debt management and macroeconomic policy advisors to Ghana, Zambia, and other countries and made new contributions to the trust funds of the IMF and World Bank, supporting the capacity building of indebted countries.

(3) Promotion of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Science, Technology, and Innovation, and Research and Development

The dissemination of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) ⁸ contributes to the upgrading of industry, improvement of productivity, and achievement of sustainable economic growth. It also contributes to solving issues of medical care, education, energy, environment, disaster risk reduction, and other areas in developing countries. Furthermore, the utilization of ICT improves their democratic foundation while encouraging information disclosure by governments and establishing

broadcasting media. Moreover, the importance of Digital Transformation (DX) ⁹ is increasing under the spread of COVID-19. In this way, ICT is extremely important for strengthening civil society through enhanced convenience and improved services as well as for quality growth.



A JICA expert giving a lecture at an online training on digital terrestrial broadcasting and Emergency Warning Broadcast Systems (EWBS) for Latin American and Caribbean countries

Japan's Efforts

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

In 2017, Japan formulated the Playbook for Investment in "Quality ICT Infrastructure" for ICT policymakers and procurement managers of the respective countries and regions in order to promote quality infrastructure investment in the field of ICT, with the aim of eliminating the ICT disparities that exist between countries and regions and helping improve the quality of life of all people.

Moreover, Japan actively offers assistance centered on the establishment of communications and broadcasting equipment and facilities in developing countries, the introduction of the technology and systems they require, and relevant human resources development. Specifically, Japan makes proactive efforts to provide comprehensive support in the areas of maintenance, personnel, and systems for the overseas promotion of Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T)*, which is also an effective means for boosting Japan's economic growth. ISDB-T is being spread in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa, and Angola also decided

⁷ 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 indebted country.

⁸ ICT is an abbreviation for Information and Communications Technology. It is a technology that integrates computers and other information technology with digital communication technology, as represented by the Internet and mobile phones.

⁹ 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.

to adopt it in March 2019. As of December 2019, it has been adopted in a total of 20 countries ¹⁰. A JICA training program is conducted every year for countries adopting or considering ISDB-T to promote the spread and introduction of ISDB-T overseas. In order to increase the adoption of ISDB-T in other countries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) is also promoting assistance that offers ICT solutions to resolve social issues by way of dialogues and joint projects with partner governments.

In the ASEAN region, Japan is providing low-cost, high-speed internet connectivity for remote locations in island countries, focusing on Indonesia and the Philippines. In the Asia-Pacific region, where over two billion people do not have internet access due to factors including fragile infrastructure and the inability to afford it, Japan has provided loans of \$25 million under the Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investments for ASEAN (see also “Project Introduction Column” on page 99) to establish low-cost, high-speed internet connectivity.

Japan also contributes in the field of overseas deployment of ICT for disaster risk reduction. Japan’s ICT for disaster risk reduction makes it possible to collect, analyze, and distribute disaster information in an integrated manner, allowing detailed information to be communicated swiftly and infallibly at the community level. Japan will continue to cooperate in the field of overseas deployment of ICT for disaster risk reduction and thereby aim to contribute to increasing the disaster reduction capabilities of developing countries (see page 86 for more information on disaster risk reduction).

In addition, Japan actively carries out projects in collaboration with international organizations. Japan works with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*, a specialized UN agency that is responsible for telecommunications and ICT, to provide a variety of development assistance in the fields of telecommunications and ICT to developing countries.

In October 2020, under the spread of COVID-19, the MIC and ITU began a joint project to support the drafting of national strategies for strengthening digital infrastructure and improving their usage environments, which contribute to suppressing the spread of the disease, with a primary focus on African countries. Saudi Arabia has also joined the project, and together with MIC and ITU, the three will collaborate in advancing the project.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)*, an international organization specialized in the field of ICT, contributes to the balanced development of the telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the region. The triennial

APT General Assembly was held virtually in 2020 with Japan acting as chair. In addition to deliberating and deciding on the APT’s strategic plans and budgets for 2021 to 2023, elections were also held for the next Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, with Mr. KONDO Masanori elected as the Secretary General.

In order to promote human resources development related to telecommunications, which is one of the main objectives of APT’s activities, Japan finances a number of training programs conducted by APT every year. In FY2019, five training programs regarding issues such as broadband networks and cybersecurity were implemented and attended by approximately 50 people from the member states. During the programs, the trainees studied Japanese technology through classroom learning and facility visits and are now utilizing this experience for the development of their own countries’ ICT. In addition, Japanese companies’ expansion into the Asia-Pacific region is also expected through introducing Japanese technology systems in the region.



A Certified Ethical Hacker training underway through the “Project on Capacity Building for Cyber Security in Vietnam” (Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, in ASEAN, ICT was identified as a key driver in ASEAN’s economic and social transformation under the blueprints adopted at the ASEAN Summit in November 2015 that provide new indicators leading up to 2025. Also, at the ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers (TELMIN) Meeting held in the same month, the “ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020)” that serves as ASEAN’s ICT strategy toward 2020 was formulated. Moreover, with regard to the issues of cyber-attacks that have become key concerns of countries in recent years, Japan and ASEAN have agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in the information security field.

Based on the “Basic Policy to Support Cybersecurity Capacity Building in Developing Countries” reported to the Cybersecurity Strategic Headquarters in 2016, Japan

¹⁰ The 20 countries are Japan, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Paraguay, the Philippines, Bolivia, Uruguay, Botswana, Guatemala, Honduras, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Angola (as of December 2019).

has implemented initiatives including the establishment of the “ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)” (see page 56 for details) through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)* and a training program for cybersecurity in January 2020 based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 57 for details).

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

The Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program*, which links ODA and the science and technology budget, was launched in 2008 as a major program for Japan’s science and technology-related assistance. 157 joint research projects in 52 countries around the world have been adopted by FY2020 (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 149).

Furthermore, based on cooperation for human resources, Japan is developing networks among the next generation by strengthening assistance for overseas engineering universities.

In Asia, Japan provides support to the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT) by purchasing equipment and supplies for education and research as well as developing curriculums. Japan also collaborates with 27 universities and two research organizations in Japan to extend cooperation for establishing curriculums, dispatching Japanese faculty, and other objectives. Furthermore, Japan provides contributions to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) located in Thailand, one of the Asia’s leading graduate schools offering master’s and Ph.D. programs at the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of Environment, Resources and Development, and other faculties. In particular, Japan is providing scholarships to students studying remote



Screening bats captured at night in the “Project for Epidemiology of Zoonotic Virus Infections in Africa” conducted in Zambia under the SATREPS program (Photo: Hokkaido University) (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 149)

sensing (satellite image analysis) in courses taught by Japanese instructors, contributing to the development of the human resources who will constitute the crux of the space industry development in the Asian region.

In Egypt, Japan continues to support the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), a public university based on the concept of providing graduate school, research-centered, pragmatic, and international-standard education for a small number of students, drawing on the features of Japanese-style engineering graduate school education. With the cooperation from universities in Japan, in addition to providing support for the operation of graduate schools and departments, such as the introduction of practical engineering education and Japanese-style research-centric education, Japan also supports the acceptance of exchange students from African countries, contributing to industrial and science and technology human resources development in Africa and the Middle East.

= Glossary



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

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

***Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting – Terrestrial (ISDB-T)**

ISDB-T is a terrestrial digital broadcasting system that was developed in Japan. Its functions, such as emergency alert broadcast, TV reception on mobile terminals, and data broadcasting, give the system advantages in disaster response and the provision of diverse services.

***International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

ITU is a UN specialized agency, which covers the fields of telecommunications and broadcasting (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; 193 member states). 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.

***Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**

APT is an international telecommunication organization established in the Asia-Pacific region in 1979, made up of 38 member states in the 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, wireless communications, and other telecommunication issues.

***Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)**

A fund established in 2006 based on the pledge of then Prime Minister Koizumi at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in December 2005 to contribute a total of ¥7.5 billion (approximately \$70.1 million) to support ASEAN countries' endeavors to advance integration by correcting regional disparities and aiming at the establishment of an ASEAN Community. Later, at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting in 2013, in addition to releasing the "Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation" and its Implementation Plan, then Prime Minister Abe announced a contribution totaling \$100 million to the JAIF 2.0, expected to be used to realize the Vision Statement and its Implementation Plan (revised in 2017) with four main priority areas: (i) maritime cooperation, (ii) cooperation for disaster management, (iii) counter-terrorism and cybercrime, and (iv) strengthening ASEAN connectivity. Japan provided additional contributions in 2019 as well as 2020.

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

→ See also "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 149

Through the collaboration of Japan's advanced science and technology and ODA, SATREPS is an initiative to conduct research to solve global issues relating to the environment and energy, bio-resources, disaster prevention and mitigation, and infectious diseases. Under this program, research institutes both in developing countries and Japan work together to conduct international joint research with the following objectives: (i) strengthening international science and technology cooperation, (ii) acquiring new expertise and technologies that will lead to resolving global issues, and using these to create innovation, and (iii) capacity development ¹¹. 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.

¹¹ Enhancing the independent research and development capacity, building sustainable activity systems which contribute to resolving challenges of developing countries, as well as conducting human resources development and establishing networks between Japan and developing countries for the future through international joint research.

(4) Vocational Training, Industrial Human Resources Development, and Employment Creation

For quality growth, it is essential for people to acquire the necessary vocational skills. In developing countries, however, opportunities to receive quality education and training are limited. Moreover, the ineffective use of human resources tends to stifle opportunities for earning sufficient income. A shortage of appropriate human resources thus poses a major obstacle to industrial development in those countries.

“Work” constitutes a fundamental activity of humankind that shapes society. Increasing income by getting a job (employment) is an important means for improving the living standards of people. Nevertheless, the global employment situation is uncertain, and the number of unemployed people in 2019 was 188 million, an increase of 1.6 million over the previous fiscal year. Moreover, the International Labour Organization (ILO) announced that from April to June 2020, the total global working hours decreased by approximately 17% due to the spread of COVID-19 as compared to before the pandemic, an equivalent to 495 million full-time jobs. In order to create stable employment for a better future of work under these circumstances, each country must urgently prepare for risks by building social safety nets ¹², as well as engage in an international effort to realize decent work, stipulated in Goal 8 of the SDGs.

Japan's Efforts

--- Vocational Training and Industrial Human Resources Development

Based on requests from developing countries to develop human resources who can respond to diverse needs in technology and technical skills, Japan provides support to leading polytechnic and vocational training schools, which will serve as core centers in each country. In implementing this assistance, Japan, in cooperation with the private sector, supports the capacity building of teachers and trainers, the reinforcement of the operational capacity of training schools, and curriculum improvement in order to further strengthen the linkages between education and employment.

In the field of industrial human resources development, Japan implemented 64 comprehensive cooperation projects in 31 countries between 2000 and 2019. The projects drew on Japan's insight and know-how for the development and revision of curriculums and teaching materials, capacity development of trainers, and collaboration with the industrial sector. As a result, Japan provided support for improving facilities and equipment

at 12 schools in six countries, as well as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. Japan also contributed to skill development through 14 projects in eight countries, with the aim of improving the livelihoods of women, persons with disabilities, and demobilized soldiers, as well as refugees and others whose lives have been impacted by conflicts.

The “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative” was announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2015 with the goal of assisting industrial human resource development of 40,000 people over the next three years in Asia. At the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2018, following the achievement of the initiative far exceeding the original goal, Japan announced the “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0,” which aims to support industrial human resource development of approximately 80,000 people in Asia over the next five years, with a view toward the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation in 2023. In this initiative, cooperation for industrial advancement capabilities, including in AI and other digital fields, has been newly listed, in addition to cooperation in practical technology, design and development capabilities, innovation, business administration, planning, and management capabilities, which have been emphasized thus far.

Furthermore, under the “Japan Revitalization Strategy 2016” decided by the Cabinet in 2016, with the aim of contributing to fostering innovation in both Japan and developing countries in Asia, Japan decided to launch a new initiative known as the “Innovative Asia” Initiative for circulation of competent human resources between Japan and Asian countries, aiming to offer study opportunities and internships in Japan for approximately 1,000 talented students from Asia over five years from FY2017. This new initiative was highly welcomed by partner countries on occasions such as summit meetings and aims to lead to the strengthening of diplomatic relations between Japan and Asian countries in the medium to long-term.

In addition, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) conducts trainings both in Japan and targeted countries primarily from Southeast Asia ¹³, with which Japan has been expanding and deepening economically interdependent relationships. The trainings ¹⁴ are designed to transfer the Government and private sector's accumulated know-how on Japan's skills evaluation system (Japan's National Trade Skill Test and Certification), with a view to developing and securing a quality workforce. In FY2019, a total of 123 people from

¹² Mechanisms in which people can live in safety and without difficulties.

¹³ The target countries are Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

¹⁴ There are three types of training in this project: “training for people in charge of the creation of test standards and test problems,” “training for people in charge of tests and marking,” and “training for people in charge of trial certification evaluation.” The number of participants above is the total value for all types of training.

three countries participated in these training programs. The training is expected to develop and improve skills evaluation systems in these countries, which in turn will promote the development of their skilled workers and elevate their social standing through increased employment opportunities.

In addition, in relation to Africa, Japan positioned developing industrial human resources as part of Japan's contributions for Africa announced at TICAD7 held in August 2019 in Yokohama. Japan expressed its intention to train 140,000 people in order to diversify industries and create jobs in areas such as innovation, agriculture, blue economy ¹⁵, and others, through the Kaizen Initiative (see also "Stories from the Field" on page 43) as well



Field training underway with safety first through the architecture department of a vocational training center in Angola, where Japan is providing support for capacity building (Photo: JICA)

as technical assistance by vocational training centers and the AfDB's trust fund. Japan also announced that human resources development for business and industry would be conducted for 3,000 people to promote business between Japan and Africa in six years under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative 3.0)*. The ABE Initiative, driven by industry-academia-government cooperation, has accepted over 1,200 trainees to study at 84 universities (162 graduate courses offered) throughout Japan as of the end of FY2019.

*** Employment, Including Job Creation

Japan also provides support in the area of employment. The question of how to address issues such as response to serious industrial accidents that occur frequently, and protecting the rights of workers and stabilizing employment amidst the expansion of the global supply chain, is a common issue for each country. In light of this, the improvement of the working environment from a global perspective is becoming an increasingly important issue. To cope with these problems, Japan provides technical cooperation for developing countries primarily in Asia, focusing on the enhancement of security and hygienic standards of work, as well as improvement of working environments, through means such as voluntary contributions to the ILO. In addition, Japan is also engaged in realizing decent work, such as providing support in Africa, including employment support for youth and others in Gambia, Mauritania, and Mozambique.

= Glossary



*African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

A program that invites youth in Africa to Japan and provides them with opportunities to gain master's degrees at Japanese universities and participate in internship programs at Japanese enterprises, with the aim of promoting human resources development for business and industry in Africa and fostering "navigators" who will support the business activities of Japanese companies in Africa. At TICAD V held in 2013, it was announced that Japan would receive 1,000 trainees over five years through the ABE Initiative. At TICAD VI in 2016, it was further announced that the Initiative would train 1,500 people including through onsite human resources development over three years. At TICAD7 in 2019, it was announced that these efforts would be continued, training 3,000 people over the course of six years.

¹⁵ The blue economy aims to balance the conservation of ocean resources and economic development through the sustainable use of resources from the oceans, rivers, lakes, and more.

Stories from the Field



Forging a Path to Ethiopia's Future with “KAIZEN” —Utilizing Japan's strengths in combining technical cooperation and grant aid to maximize a synergistic effect—



Mr. Sugimoto, a Japanese expert, discussing with his Ethiopian counterparts and company representatives at a construction materials factory (February 2013)
(Photo: Japan Development Service Co., Ltd.)

In Ethiopia, located in the eastern part of Africa, cooperation through JICA began in 2009, focusing on the “KAIZEN”^{*} method from Japan in order to enhance the competitiveness of Ethiopia's domestic industries, such as the manufacturing industry. The Ethiopian Kaizen Institute (EKI) was established by the efforts of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Japan's cooperation started with EKI as a foothold by promoting technical cooperation initiatives to transfer technical skills and experience through training and “KAIZEN” practice at factories, in order to popularize the “KAIZEN” approach within Ethiopia.

As a result of this cooperation, the concept is currently widely recognized across Ethiopia, and the certification, accreditation and registration system for consultants who provide training and guidance on “KAIZEN” for Ethiopian companies has been introduced. EKI, which started with only nine staff members at the time of its establishment, has increased its staff to approximately 110 consultants, and is spreading “KAIZEN” to many Ethiopian companies. In addition, cooperation is currently underway to ensure that EKI can disseminate “KAIZEN” through its Ethiopian staff even after the Japanese experts return to Japan.

Mr. SUGIMOTO Seiji of Japan Development Service Co., Ltd. (JDS), who led the initiative as a technical cooperation expert and Chief Adviser from 2011 to 2020, says, “It is not uncommon to see an increase in productivity of 30 to 50% in our indicators. Future challenges include disseminating “KAIZEN” to schools and ministries, introducing “KAIZEN” in management strategies

and marketing for businesses, and further spreading the “KAIZEN” method not only to the capital area, but also across the entire country.”

In addition to the manufacturing industry, the Ethiopian government also hopes to disseminate “KAIZEN” to the



Conceptional image of the completed TICAD Human Resource Development Center for Business and Industry (Construction: Fujita Corporation; equipment procurement: Sirius Corporation) (Designed by the Consortium of Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. and Koei Research & Consulting Inc.)

service industry, and is currently providing training by EKI consultants to government-affiliated public corporations from the transportation sector. As a result, a significant outcome is expected in terms of cost reduction of approximately 100 million yen per year by thoroughly implementing 5S and reviewing the combinations of transportation routes and measures.

Since EKI did not previously have its own facilities and its consultants were directly visiting the factories and companies where training was taking place to give guidance on an individual basis, EKI's activities were limited to the area around the capital Addis Ababa. The TICAD Human Resource Development Center for Business and Industry, which is currently in the process of construction and procurement of equipment through grant aid, is designed to resolve this issue and further promote the spread of “KAIZEN” throughout Ethiopia. The center, which is under construction close to the African Union (AU) headquarters, is planned to be equipped with training and accommodation facilities in addition to the EKI head office, where trainees from outside the capital will be able to stay and receive training.

Mr. HOSHIAI Yoshifumi from the Consortium of Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. and Koei Research & Consulting Inc., which is designing and supervising the construction of the center, tells us the following. “After the center is complete, it will be possible to accept up to approximately 12,000 trainees a year. While construction was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, we hope that it will be finished as soon as possible, which will lead to the development of human resources and the development of Ethiopia as a whole.”

The Ethiopian government has set its sights on using the Center not only as a national training facility, but also for spreading “KAIZEN” to neighboring countries. As one of Africa's core bases for human resources development, the center plans to accept trainees from neighboring countries. Japan's consistent cooperation over the last decade has borne fruit, and the Japanese style “KAIZEN” initiatives are steadily taking root in the African continent.



A Japanese expert giving guidance on “KAIZEN” for the manufacturing process on-site at a sewing factory (Photo: Japan Development Service Co., Ltd.)

^{*}An approach in which each worker at a production site comes up with and implements their own ideas on how to eliminate inefficiency in the production process and improve quality and productivity. In Japan, in a period of rapid growth after WWII, this approach was cultivated on-the-job by the manufacturing industry to increase quality and productivity, and is based on 5S: “Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain.”

2. Sharing Universal Values and Realizing a Peaceful and Secure Society

In order to achieve “quality growth” in developing countries, it is necessary that the rights of individuals are guaranteed, people are engaged in socio-economic activities with a sense of safety, and social infrastructure is equitably and stably managed. So as to strengthen such foundations, the sharing of universal values, such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights, and the rule of law, as well as ensuring peace, stability, and security, are of great importance in developing countries.

2-1 Assistance for Realizing an Equitable and Inclusive Society

(1) Assistance for the Development of Legal and Judicial Systems, and Socio-economic Systems

The development of socio-economic infrastructure, coupled with the establishment of the rule of law, realization of good governance, promotion and consolidation of democratization, and respect for basic human rights, are the foundation for the development of developing countries. In this regard, assistance for the promotion of the rule of law is required to develop laws and to train legal and judicial experts, including staff engaged in the correction and rehabilitation of offenders. It is also necessary to assist in the development of economic systems that involve the establishment of tax systems, appropriate collection, management, and execution of taxes, strengthening of audit functions of the public sector, and improving financial systems, including human resources development.

Japan's Efforts

As part of the assistance for the promotion of the rule of law and the development of economic systems, Japan provides assistance, including human resources development, that addresses legal and judicial system reform, local administration, capacity building of government officials, enhancement of internal audits, and the establishment of civil codes, competition law, intellectual property law, tax, internal audit, and public investment systems in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and Uzbekistan. In particular, in Laos, as a result of Japan's continuous support for the promotion of the rule of law for over 20 years, the country's first civil code entered into force in May 2020. In this way, the improvement of the legal and economic systems in developing countries leads to improvements in the business environment for Japanese

companies to be active in these countries. Japan's assistance for the promotion of the rule of law and the improvement of economic systems draws on Japan's “soft power” and promotes and underpins growth in the world, including Asia.



A seminar on the civil code conducted through the technical cooperation “Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Lao P.D.R.” (Photo: JICA)

Every year, Japan holds an international training course (twice a year: a spring session on crime prevention and anticrime measures, and an autumn session on the treatment of offenders) and an international seminar for senior officials (once a year, on a wide range of criminal justice issues) for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries including Asia and Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)*. Each course and seminar has focused on key issues identified among the international community including the UN, and Japan has made efforts to adapt to the changing agenda in the global society.

Japan also conducts international training courses, studies, and seminars in developing countries. These activities are aimed at supporting the drafting of basic laws and regulations, establishing the basis for the operation and execution of legal systems, and strengthening the training of legal professionals in developing countries. Specifically, Japan invited legal practitioners and lawmaking professionals, such as justice ministry officials, judges, and prosecutors, from Asian countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Viet Nam, and held trainings on themes such as the drafting of legislation and the development of legal human resources tailored to the needs of each country. Additionally, Japan dispatched experts from Japan to recipient countries to hold seminars and other activities.

Furthermore, in order to proactively promote assistance that is aligned with the needs of developing countries, Japan works to continuously implement effective assistance by conducting broad and basic studies regarding the legal systems of the countries, and their interpretations and operations.

— Glossary —



*United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)

Established in 1962 based on an agreement between the UN and the Government of Japan. It is operated by the UN Training Cooperation Department of the Research and Training Institute within the Ministry of Justice. It implements international training and other activities for criminal justice practitioners in developing countries, and has produced over 6,000 graduates from 139 countries and regions since its establishment.

(2) Assistance for Governance (Including Anti-Corruption)

The occurrence of corruption, including the bribery of government officials, becomes a factor that impedes sound economic growth in developing countries. Thus, it is necessary for donor countries to provide assistance for good governance, including anti-corruption measures, in order to realize an equitable and stable society in developing countries.

Japan's Efforts

As a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and by providing financial contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the secretariat of the Convention, Japan has been actively engaged in developing legal systems concerning the prevention of corruption and law enforcement operations, as well as providing capacity building assistance to law enforcement agencies in countries vulnerable to corruption. In 2020, following the previous year, Japan contributed to identifying and solving challenges in the global fight against corruption by funding UNODC in order to support the operation of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the UNCAC, which assesses the status of implementation of the Convention and identifies technical assistance needs necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention.

In addition, through UNAFEI, Japan has annually held an international training course on the criminal justice response to corruption for criminal justice practitioners in developing countries in Asia and Africa since 1998. The training course is held every year with themes selected from the key issues of the UNCAC, and contributes to the sound development of the criminal justice system and the strengthening of cooperative relationships for preventing corruption in each country.

Furthermore, Japan has held an annual seminar titled “Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries” since 2007, with the objectives of supporting governance initiatives in Southeast Asian countries and contributing to human resources development in the area of criminal justice and anti-corruption.

(3) Assistance for Democratization

It is a critical component of encouraging medium to long-term stability and development in developing countries to strengthen the foundation for democracy such as by the people’s participation in governance and

development and by protecting and promoting human rights. In particular, it is important to support developing countries, which are taking proactive steps toward democratization, in their efforts to shift to democratic systems through electoral assistance and other means.

Japan's Efforts

In November 2020, Myanmar held its third general election under the current constitution in a peaceful manner. Since holding fair and highly transparent elections is an important issue for the establishment of democracy in the country, Japan implemented the “Project for Electoral Assistance (through UNDP),” a grant aid for Myanmar to distribute indelible ink to all polling stations which was applied to the fingers of all eligible voters to prevent double voting, which contributed to holding a fair and highly transparent election.

With regard to Sri Lanka, in July 2020, Japan provided a grant aid for the training of election observers, public relations, and educational activities to support enhancing democracy, fostering understanding, and building a society where human rights are respected through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project, the “Project for Sustaining Democratization through the Implementation of Free and Fair Election in Sri Lanka.” Under the educational activities, voting guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of voters was also provided.

Furthermore, Japan, having decided on assistance for the implementation of highly transparent and reliable elections in Cote d’Ivoire and the Central African Republic, provided equipment for election management including containers for the safekeeping of election materials and equipment, and conducted capacity building training for those involved in election operations.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto attending the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting (video conference) (October 2020)

2-2 Assistance for Ensuring Peace, Stability, and Security

(1) Support for Peacebuilding and Refugees/Displaced Persons

Regional and internal conflicts arising from various factors, including ethnic, religious, and historical differences, continue to pose challenges for the international community. Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and displaced persons, resulting in humanitarian crises. These conflicts also undermine the progress in development achieved through long-term efforts, and cause massive economic losses. Therefore, it is important for the entire international community to engage in “peacebuilding” for the establishment of foundations for development in order to prevent conflicts, avoid their recurrence, and consolidate sustainable peace.

Japan's Efforts

Within the international community, discussions on consistent support from the resolution of conflicts to recovery, reconstruction, and nation-building have been held in fora such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)*, which was established in 2005. Japan has served as a member of the PBC Organizational Committee since its establishment, and has been actively contributing to it. As of December 2020, Japan has contributed a total of \$55.5 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)*, which was established in 2006, and supports the prevention of conflict recurrence, conflict prevention, and sustaining peace in countries in Africa, Asia, and other areas as the seventh highest major donor. Furthermore, in his statement at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in 2020, Prime Minister Suga pledged to contribute to sustaining peace, including through a role in the PBC, and engaging in international support in the fields of institution and capacity building.

Moreover, Japan provides support for refugees and displaced persons affected by conflict, food assistance, and electoral assistance for political peace processes, etc. In addition, to promote the consolidation of peace after a conflict is resolved, Japan has assisted in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants and the rebuilding of the national security sector to ensure the country's stability and security. Japan also extends support for reconstruction in areas such as the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, and the rebuilding of basic infrastructure (socio-economic infrastructure). Further, in order to consolidate sustainable peace and ensure that conflicts do not reoccur, Japan works to strengthen the administrative, judicial, and policing functions of the target country, while supporting the development of economic infrastructure and institutions, and pursuing efforts in the social sectors

of healthcare and education. In such undertakings, Japan is engaged in promoting the participation of women based on the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which recognizes the importance of the roles of women in peacebuilding. In order to provide such support in a seamless manner, Japan takes an approach that combines assistance through international organizations, grant aid, technical cooperation, and ODA loans.

Furthermore, the Development Cooperation Charter outlines that Japan will strengthen coordination between development cooperation and international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs). In the fields where UN PKOs are deployed, many initiatives are underway which contribute to efforts for protecting refugees/displaced persons, women, and children affected by conflict and developing basic infrastructure. To maximize the effects of such efforts, it remains important for Japan to promote such forms of coordination.

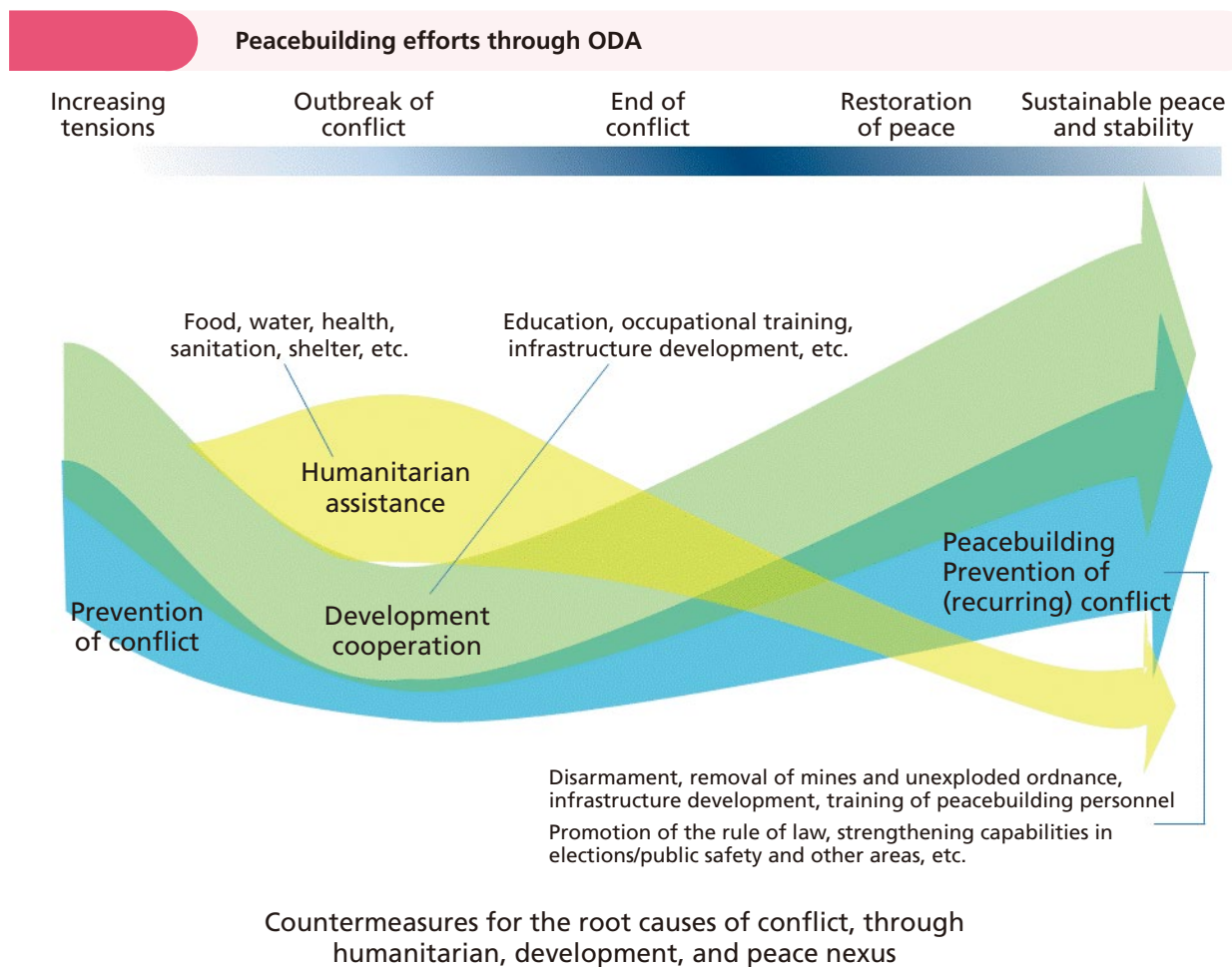
In addition, Japan dispatched 172 instructors from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and other government entities to conduct training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 277 engineering personnel in eight ¹⁶ countries in Africa, under the framework of the UN Triangular Partnership Project, where three parties, namely the UN, Supporting Member States, and Troop Contributing Countries, cooperate to enhance the capacity of uniformed personnel to be dispatched to PKO missions through provision of training and equipment. This project expanded its scope to Asia and its surrounding regions. Japan dispatched 68 JGSDF personnel and government officials to train 56 engineering personnel from nine ¹⁷ Asian countries at the trial training in 2018 and the full trainings in 2019 and 2020 convened in Viet Nam. Furthermore, in the fields where PKOs are deployed, the lives of many personnel are lost within the hour it takes before they are taken



UNHCR staff holding a discussion with refugees at a Cameroonian refugee camp in Benue State, Nigeria (Photo: UNHCR)

¹⁶ The eight countries are Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.

¹⁷ The nine countries are Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Bhutan, and Myanmar.



over by medical workers after injury. In response to this, in October 2019, Japan started life-saving training in the field of medical care.

*** Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Given the situations in Syria, Myanmar, and other countries, the number of forcibly displaced populations including refugees and displaced persons worldwide at the end of 2019 reached its highest level since the end of World War II, and humanitarian situations are becoming increasingly severe. From the viewpoint of human security, Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance, including assistance 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 support the realization of self-reliant development, wherein each person will be able to get back on their own feet.

In particular, Japan works with international organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide refugees, displaced persons, and others around the world with assistance by distributing shelter, food, and basic supplies necessary to live. Furthermore, through cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the

Near East (UNRWA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and other international organizations, Japan has been providing assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others, even in areas with security concerns by utilizing their expertise and delivering capabilities. In 2020, under the spread of COVID-19, Japan provided a total of \$140 million in emergency aid for these international organizations (see Part I for COVID-19 Pandemic and Japan's Efforts).

Upon providing this kind of assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others through international organizations, Japan places importance on visible cooperation through collaboration with Japanese entities such as JICA, Japan's development cooperation implementing agency, as well as NGOs and private companies. For example, in the case of refugee assistance by UNHCR, UNHCR works in collaboration with JICA to implement a program combining emergency and reconstruction assistance. In addition, Japan Platform (JPF), an emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in cooperation with NGOs, the Government, and the business communities, has been providing assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others (see also page 145, "B. Cooperation with Japanese NGOs").

Japan has also been promoting "development cooperation" to help countries to stand on their own from the medium to long-term perspective, in parallel

with urgently required “humanitarian assistance,” from the initial phases after a humanitarian crisis arises (humanitarian-development nexus). This is extremely important for preventing refugees, displaced persons, and others from descending once again into a situation that will require humanitarian support. Furthermore, in preventing the occurrence and recurrence of conflict, which is a root cause of humanitarian crises, it is important to provide support for nation-building and social stabilization through peacetime with a medium to long-term view and support self-reliant development. In order to realize this, Japan places importance on the idea of “humanitarian, development, and peace nexus,” and is seamlessly extending support for peacebuilding and the prevention of the recurrence of conflicts and support for poverty reduction and economic development in countries and regions where humanitarian crises have arisen due to the conflicts.

Going forward, Japan will continue to provide support in order to improve humanitarian situations and to create an environment conducive to the safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation of displaced persons (see “Stories from the Field” on page 121 regarding support for Venezuelan refugees, and page 103 regarding humanitarian assistance for displaced persons from Rakhine State, Myanmar).

*** Protection and Participation of the Socially Vulnerable

Although socially vulnerable people including persons with disabilities caused by conflict or landmines, orphans, widows, ex-combatants including child soldiers, and displaced persons are susceptible to the impact of a conflict, the reality remains that assistance for them is delayed in post-conflict recovery and they have difficulty accessing the benefits of peace and reconstruction.

From this perspective, the Government of Japan supported a project implemented by the Japanese NGO Terra Renaissance to enhance the self-reliance of displaced persons and others and thus promote regional stability and social development through providing job training and equipment to refugees from South Sudan and residents of the host community in Adjumani District, Uganda. Furthermore, for the social reintegration of child soldiers and protection and empowerment of children, who are the most vulnerable in conflict-affected areas, Japan has been providing support through UNICEF. For example, in the Central African Republic, Japan provides support for the social reintegration of former child soldiers and comprehensive humanitarian assistance to children who were victims of sexual violence and internally displaced persons through UNICEF. Additionally, in cooperation with UN Women, Japan supports infrastructure development and provides vocational training to ensure sustainable means of livelihood for women and girls living under conflict and natural disaster in Cameroon and Nigeria.

*** Reconstruction of Social and Human Capital

Japan supports the reconstruction of social capital and restoration of human capital who participate in economic activities in the countries affected by conflict. This support is aimed at preventing new conflicts from emerging and eliminating factors that could cause conflicts in the course of reconstruction or nation-building.

In regards to the reconstruction of social capital, Japan is putting particular effort in the following five areas: (i) development of social infrastructure, (ii) development of transportation, power grids, and telecommunications networks, (iii) improvement of health and medical system functions, (iv) improvement of education system functions, and (v) food security. As for the restoration of human capital, while combining these areas of assistance aimed at medium to long-term economic development as much as possible, Japan seeks to help develop an economic environment as well as improve livelihoods and increase job opportunities with a focus on preventing social instability caused by rising unemployment and other factors.

*** Actions Against Antipersonnel Landmines, Unexploded Ordnance, and Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

In post-conflict countries and regions, antipersonnel landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain, and illicit small arms and light weapons are still widely in circulation. These weapons not only harm civilians indiscriminately and hinder reconstruction and development activities, but may also exacerbate conflict. It is important to continue cooperation to ensure security and stabilize these countries and regions through assistance for the disposal of antipersonnel landmines and UXOs, appropriate management of small arms and light weapons, and support and capacity building for landmine victims.

As a state party 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,” Japan is steadily implementing international cooperation activities through preventive efforts such as risk reduction education, in addition to mine clearance and victim assistance, from the perspective of the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. For example, Japan has supported the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) not only in terms of equipment provision, but also in establishing a curriculum and building the foundations for training in landmine clearance. CMAC staff who have taken the training are engaged in efforts to spread the technical expertise on landmine clearance throughout Cambodia and abroad. Furthermore, this support has resulted in realizing South-South cooperation, in which CMAC has been functioning as a training center for mine-action staff from other countries, such as Colombia, though the activities in 2020 were hindered by the COVID-19



An exercise as part of explosive remnants of war and mine clearance activities in Georgia through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

pandemic.

In Afghanistan, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), a Japanese NGO, has been implementing a project to raise awareness on the risks of landmines, UXOs, and other remnants of conflict, and on the appropriate ways of avoiding them. Since FY2009, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and JPF, AAR Japan has been conducting Mine Risk Education (MRE) in the country including through the development of educational materials and by conducting training seminars while training local residents to conduct MRE by themselves. Through these activities, MRE has been steadily expanding its reach.

Furthermore, in Laos, which has been particularly affected by UXOs, Japan has dispatched UXO experts, provided equipment, and promoted South-South cooperation. Specifically, Japan has supported the capacity building of organizations that dispose of UXOs, including through introducing mechanical bush-cutters needed for UXO disposal, providing other related materials and equipment, and supporting human resources development in the Provinces of Sekong, Salavan, and Champasak, all of which are poor regions in the country that have endured especially great suffering from UXOs.

In addition to providing bilateral support, Japan is proactively engaged in measures against mines and UXOs through international organizations. In 2019, Japan conducted clearance and risk education against landmines and UXOs through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Afghanistan, Iraq,

Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria. Moreover, in collaboration with UNDP, Japan has supported the Center for Humanitarian Demining Training in Benin (CPADD) in strengthening landmine disposal training capacity for Central and West African countries. Likewise, Japan has provided support for mine risk education in Chad, Iraq, Palestine, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, and Yemen via UNICEF since 2015. It is also supporting measures against landmines and UXOs (risk reduction education, etc.) in countries and regions such as Palestine, Syria, and Yemen through ICRC.

Japan also provides support for the collection, disposal, and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, with a view to security improvement, as well as strengthening the import and export management of arms and the enforcement capacity, Japan supports the development of relevant legal systems, capacity building of customs agencies, police forces, and other law enforcement agencies among other initiatives.

*** Human Resources Development for Peacebuilding

Activities required in the field of peace building and qualities needed for those engaged in such activities have become increasingly diversified and complex. In 2007 Japan began the Program for Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding, which aimed at cultivating Japanese and other countries' civilian specialists who could make a significant contribution on the ground. In FY2015, the program was renewed as the Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development ¹⁸, and its content has been expanded to include 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 field offices of international organizations. Many graduates of these courses are currently playing an active role in the fields of peacebuilding and development in regions such as Asia and Africa.

= Glossary



*UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

A UN organization established in March 2005. Based on the recognition that it is extremely important to provide appropriate post-conflict support due to the frequent recurrence of regional conflicts and civil wars after they end, the PBC aims to provide advice regarding consistent support from conflict resolution to recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

*UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

A fund established in October 2006. The fund is used to respond to urgent threats to peace processes, support peace agreements and political dialogue, and strengthen national organizations and national capacity, as well as revitalize economies and establish administrative services, among other purposes.

¹⁸ Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace_b/j_ikusei_shokai.html (in Japanese only)

Response to COVID-19 at the World's Largest Camp for Displaced Persons —UNHCR activities—

In August 2017, an outbreak of violent clashes in Rakhine state, Myanmar forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee within a matter of days to Cox's Bazar in the southeastern part of Bangladesh. In order to protect the lives and livelihoods of displaced persons, who were forced to flee their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been closely collaborating and cooperating with the Government of Bangladesh, partner organizations, and NGOs to develop infrastructure, provide shelter, and deliver emergency relief supplies including food and water.

Three years have passed since the incident in Myanmar, yet the road to repatriation has not been easy for those forcibly displaced. Displaced persons continue to face various challenges each day in settlements across Cox's Bazar, and the global spread of COVID-19 since the beginning of 2020 has further intensified existing hardships.

Approximately 860,000 displaced persons have fled to Cox's Bazar,* currently living in shelters across more than 30 settlements. Cox's Bazar is one of the poorest regions in Bangladesh, and the risk of infection by COVID-19 is heightened by the lack of adequate medical services and sanitation in the densely populated camps.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNHCR has been working on COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures in the camps. As a major donor country, Japan has also contributed greatly, mainly in the following two areas.

The first is in the establishment of health care facilities and provision of medical supplies. With financial contributions from the Government of Japan, UNHCR has provided isolation facilities for treating patients, medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other supplies required in intensive care units (ICU). COVID-19 response mechanisms were established at an early stage through support from Japan and



Displaced children with Ms. Hosoi from UNHCR Bangladesh's Dhaka Office (Photo: UNHCR)

other countries, which contributed to promptly provide appropriate treatment when the first case of COVID-19 infection in Cox's Bazar was confirmed in May.

The second is in the improvement of hygiene and sanitation conditions at the camps. Good sanitation is essential in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. UNHCR has worked to provide improved latrines, shower facilities, and waste management systems to reduce the risk of infection. As a preparation for the impending monsoon rains, these measures have also been effective in preventing water-borne infectious diseases, such as cholera.

However, none of these efforts would be possible without the presence of aid workers dedicated to delivering humanitarian assistance on the ground. Among these aid workers are a large number of Japanese nationals who work for international organizations, such as UNHCR and NGOs. "Unease and fear. That is exactly what we felt at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis," recalls Ms. HOSOI Mai from UNHCR Bangladesh. She says that while UNHCR has worked tirelessly to strengthen health and sanitation infrastructure, volunteers from among the displaced persons have played a vital role in these efforts. "Displaced persons have taken matters into their own hands to protect their own lives, and as volunteers, help raise awareness to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Seeing their self-reliance and resilience despite having been beset by numerous challenges in the camps gives me a great deal of courage," states Ms. Hosoi, adding, "my hope is for the people of Japan to show compassion towards, and recognize the strength of, those forced to flee their homes."



A displaced person washing his hands at a handwashing station, installed to help combat the spread of COVID-19 (Photo: UNHCR)

*Source: UNHCR Bangladesh, Operational Update External, November 2020
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/83629>

(2) Humanitarian Assistance during Natural Disasters

Japan stands ready for the immediate provision of emergency assistance in response to requests from governments of affected countries or international organizations when large-scale disasters occur overseas. There are five types of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams that provide humanitarian assistance: (i) “Search and Rescue Teams” to conduct search and rescue operations, (ii) “Medical Teams” to provide medical assistance, (iii) “Infectious Diseases Response Teams” to provide assistance to minimize the damage from infectious diseases, (iv) “Expert Teams” to give technical advice or guidance on emergency disaster mitigation activities and recovery operations (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 131 regarding dispatch of JDR expert teams to Mauritius), and (v) “Self-Defense Force Units” to undertake medical activities and transportation of aid supplies and personnel when it is deemed particularly necessary in responding to large-scale disasters (see “Stories from the Field” on page 53 for details). These teams are dispatched either individually or in combination.



The Japan Self-Defense Forces members carrying out water pumping and restoration works at primary and middle schools in Djibouti City, which was damaged by torrential rains and floods (Photo: Ministry of Defense) (See also “Stories from the Field” on page 53)

Emergency relief goods are provided as in-kind assistance. Japan stockpiles tents, blankets, and other supplies needed for affected people in the immediate aftermath of a disaster in four overseas warehouses. In 2020, Japan provided emergency relief goods to the Philippines, Australia, Cambodia, Colombia, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Niger, Sudan, and Viet Nam, among other countries.

In addition, to relieve refugees, displaced persons, and others, and those who have been affected by natural disasters and/or conflicts overseas, Japan implements Emergency Grant Aid to the governments of affected countries as well as international organizations providing emergency assistance in affected areas. In many cases,

Japanese NGOs contribute as implementing partners when these international organizations engage in actual emergency assistance.

Moreover, Japanese NGOs also provide various forms of assistance to those affected by disasters with ODA funds. Japan Platform (JPF), an emergency humanitarian aid organization established through the trilateral partnership and cooperation of Japanese NGOs, business communities, and the Government of Japan, provides assistance to refugees, displaced persons, or people affected by conflicts or natural disasters. The NGOs affiliated with JPF provide various forms of support for such people to meet their needs in regions that are often hard for local government aid to reach (see also page 145, “B. Cooperation with Japanese NGOs”).



Emergency relief goods being handed over in Guatemala in response to hurricane damage in November 2020 (Photo: JICA)

Disaster response is a common concern of Japan and ASEAN, which are beset by numerous natural disasters. In order to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), established in 2011, Japan has provided support for the establishment of an Integrated Information and Communication Technology System, capacity development, as well as the establishment and utilization of a Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) to rapidly transport emergency relief items to affected countries.

(3) Assistance for Stability and Security

Through globalization as well as the advancement and spread of high-tech devices, transnational organized crime and acts of terrorism have become a threat to the entire global community. In recent years, transnational organized crime, including the illicit trafficking of drugs and firearms, trafficking in persons (forced labor and sexual services, etc.)¹⁹, cybercrime, and money laundering²⁰, has become increasingly diversified and sophisticated in its methods. Moreover, acts of terrorism

¹⁹ The act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labor or prostitution (Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children).

²⁰ The act of disguising criminal proceeds as legally obtained assets, or the act of hiding such funds. One example is the act in which a drug dealer hides money gained through drug trafficking in a bank account opened under a false name.

by local groups that are affiliated with and influenced by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other international terrorist organizations, as well as homegrown terrorism ²¹ by individuals influenced by violent extremism, also pose a grave threat. In addition, piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden in eastern Africa, the Gulf of Guinea in western Africa, and in the waters of Southeast Asia, are still a concern.

There are limitations for any one nation to effectively deal with transnational organized crime, acts of terrorism, and piracy. Therefore, not only must each nation strengthen its countermeasures, the entire international community must also work together to eliminate legal loopholes through assistance to build capacity in the fields of justice and law enforcement in developing countries.

Japan's Efforts

A. Enhancing the Capabilities of Security Authorities

In the area of capacity building of police agencies that constitute a cornerstone in maintaining domestic security, Japan provides assistance focused on the transfer of knowledge and skills based on the track records and experiences of the Japanese police in international cooperation, while emphasizing human resources development, including enhancement of administrative capabilities and systems.

For example, the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan is dispatching experts and accepting trainees from mainly Asian countries such as Indonesia and sharing how Japan's police are trusted by its people as a democratically controlled police.



A police officer in El Salvador promoting safe community building by teaching local residents hammock building techniques and supporting their self-reliance through the technical cooperation "Project for the Consolidation of the Implementation of the New Police Model Based on the Philosophy of Community Police." The project was implemented via triangular cooperation involving JICA and Brazil. (Photo: MATSUKI Yuichi/JICA) (See page 118 regarding triangular cooperation.)

B. Counter-Terrorism

In 2020, international counter-terrorism measures also entered into a new age due to the spread of COVID-19.

The effects of the pandemic rippled not only through domestic politics, economies, and societies, but all the way through international political and economic order as well as peoples' behaviors, consciousness, and sense of values, greatly changing the environment surrounding terrorism. Terrorists continue their activities across each region, including Asia, adapting to the new social situations impacted by the pandemic, including social divisions caused by weakened governance, poverty, and the manifestation of racial and ethnic issues. Moreover, due to people's increased dependence on information and communication technologies worldwide, there is an urgent need for comprehensive response to the spread of extremist beliefs through the internet and social media and illegal acts in cyberspace that lead to terrorism, such as terrorist financing.

Furthermore, with regard to the issue of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) returning to their home countries or relocating to other countries, following ISIL's loss of territory in Iraq and Syria in 2019, it has become extremely important to adopt measures that include the extradition of the former combatants and their families, appropriate prosecution, deradicalization, rehabilitation, and social reintegration, as well as to conduct grassroots-level enlightenment activities and strengthen communities so that women and youth in particular are not influenced by violent extremism. In addition, there is a need to rapidly respond to imminent issues including the strengthening of maritime security, prevention of violent extremism in prisons, and the treatment of prisoners, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on environments surrounding terrorism in 2020, and as such Japan is conducting various projects through international organizations.

In FY2019, Japan contributed a total of \$2.4 million to community support projects for the empowerment of women and youth implemented by UNDP and UN Women, \$210,000 to a project in Senegal's border regions aimed at peacebuilding through the promotion of community-level dialogue and the training of women and youth peace mediators implemented by UN Women, and approximately \$1.4 million to a project implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to enhance the capacity of staff working in prisons to prevent extremism within prisons and introduce classification techniques based on the risk analysis of inmates.

²¹ Acts of terrorism by those who have grown natively in the country.

Stories from the Field



"Thank you, Japan!"

—Water pumping and restoration works by a Japan Self-Defense Forces unit at primary and middle schools damaged by torrential rains in Djibouti—

On November 21, 2019, torrential rains deluged Djibouti, a country located in the Horn of Africa, causing significant damage. Djibouti is normally a low rainfall country; however, heavy downpours over three days at an amount approximately three times that of the country's average yearly rainfall resulted in about 250,000 people falling victim to flood damage. Consequently, roads in the city were destroyed, electricity supply was partially stopped, and other unforeseen situations arose.

Under these circumstances, a unit of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) deployed in Djibouti for anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden carried out an International Disaster Relief Operation in response to a request from the Government of Djibouti. The activities took place over seven days from November 26.

The JSDF unit mainly worked at primary and middle schools in the capital, Djibouti City. With almost no pumping or drainage facilities available at the schools, the grounds, which were surrounded by concrete walls, were completely submerged, and the buildings were also flooded. This inevitably led to the schools' closure. The JSDF unit undertook water pumping and restoration works after surveying the status of damage at four schools within the city. The work was carried out using drainage pumps, which had originally been equipped for maintaining the facilities of the JSDF base.

Lieutenant (Lt.) NOMURA Tatsuya, who was in command during the water pumping, describes their activities as follows. "We have Djiboutians working with us at the JSDF base, so the unit members participating in the project did so with the hope of repaying the kindness shown by the people of Djibouti, who are always taking care of us. Although we did not have adequate equipment for such heavy rainfall, we sought the best equipment we could onsite under such restrictive conditions while pumping works progressed."

With the goal of removing the trapped water in the school grounds, the JSDF unit worked in shifts of approximately



With local students in front of one of the reopened schools (Photo: Ministry of Defense)

twenty people each day, and pumping was completed at two schools in six days. After the water was removed, the unit members cleaned classrooms by hand, aiming to reopen the schools as soon as possible. A total of about 230 JSDF members was engaged in pumping approximately 1,950 tons of water from the schools. The unit also transported emergency relief goods in their vehicles, distributing approximately 4.3 tons of tents, blankets, and other items provided by the Government of Japan through JICA to victims of the flood.

Lt. Nomura adds, "We carried out the work in collaboration with local waterworks staff, the fire department, police, and other personnel. There were times when the language barrier made communication difficult; however, since everyone shared the same goal of reopening the schools, we all worked our hardest to communicate with each other through body language and gestures until the job was done."

The unit's efforts paid off as the schools were reopened on December 1. The pumping and restoration works were carried out under the watchful eye of the residents of the community, including children, with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior of Djibouti visiting the site and personally expressing their appreciation to the JSDF members working at the time.

When the JSDF members went into town after some weeks since the completion of the emergency disaster relief operations, they received lots of cheers and encouragement, with cries of, "Thank you, Japan!" from residents who recognized the figures of the JSDF from the Japanese national flag. Lt. Nomura reflects on that time. "I realized once again that we were acting as representatives of Japan." He concluded by adding, "It brings me a great sense of pride that we were able to contribute to furthering the friendly relationship between Djibouti and Japan."



The JSDF unit carrying out pumping at the middle school with the cooperation of local Djiboutian authorities (Photo: Ministry of Defense)

C. Measures against Transnational Organized Crime

As globalization advances, the threat of transnational organized crime that is conducted on a large scale and systematically across different countries is becoming more serious. Japan, as a state party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), a legal framework for preventing transnational organized crime including terrorism, is promoting international cooperation that includes mutual legal assistance based on the Convention. Additionally, Japan mainly provides the following international cooperation.

•• Measures against Drug Trafficking

Alongside its active participation in international conferences such as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Japan supports counter-narcotics efforts through financial contributions to the UNODC. Specifically, Japan is making efforts to prevent illicit drug trafficking through support for strengthening enforcement capacity in Afghanistan and the neighboring regions, where the narcotics problem is particularly serious, as well as border-control assistance mainly in the Asia region.

In addition, the NPA of Japan holds discussions in related countries mainly from the Asia-Pacific region about the narcotics situation in each country, investigation methods, and international cooperation in the field, aimed at establishing a framework for mutual cooperation.

•• Measures against Trafficking in Persons

Japan is a state party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, a comprehensive international agreement concerning trafficking in persons (forced labor and sexual services, etc.). Based on the “2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons” drawn up in 2014, Japan is engaged in various efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons, which is a serious violation of human rights and an extremely malicious crime. Under this Action Plan, the Government of Japan has been publishing annual reports on its efforts to combat trafficking in persons since 2014, while also strengthening cooperation with various ministries, agencies, relevant organizations, and NGOs.

With regard to victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan, Japan assists in the safe repatriation of them, as well as provides support for the independence and social rehabilitation of these individuals through means such as education and vocational training through contributions to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Additionally, through its financial contributions to the projects of UN organizations such as UNODC and UN Women, and JICA's technical cooperation, Japan also contributes to taking measures against trafficking in persons and efforts to protect victims mainly in

Southeast Asia. Japan also financially contributes to and participates in the Bali Process, which is an Asia-Pacific regional framework against smuggling and trafficking in persons, and transnational crime.



The Hotline 111 Hanoi Operation Center, supported by the technical cooperation “Project for Strengthening the Operation of Hotline for Counseling and Supporting Trafficked Survivors” in Viet Nam (Photo: JICA/Viet Nam Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Department of Child Affairs)

•• Measures against Money Laundering

There is a high risk for the profits of transnational organized crime to be used to fund further organized crime or acts of terrorism, and thus, eliminating such flows of illicit funds is an important task for the international community. Therefore, 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) established based on the Economic Declaration of the Arch Summit in 1989. Japan also cooperates with UNODC to provide capacity building assistance, including legal technical assistance, to counter terrorist financing mainly in South Asia, including Bangladesh, the Maldives and Pakistan.

D. Capacity Building for Maritime, Outer Space, and Cyberspace Issues

•• The Seas

As a maritime nation, Japan depends largely on maritime transport for the import of much of its energy resources and food, therefore ensuring marine traffic safety, such as by addressing maritime threats, is an issue that directly links to Japan's existence and prosperity as a nation. Moreover, an open and free international order of the seas based on the rule of law is extremely important for realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” promoted by Japan for not only Japan's economic development but also that of the region.

In order to establish and promote the rule of law at sea, Japan is utilizing tools such as ODA to seamlessly support the improvement of law enforcement capacity of maritime security agencies in the Indo-Pacific region through the provision of patrol vessels, technical cooperation, and human resources development, while promoting international cooperation for capacity building in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) among recipient countries. Specifically, Japan is carrying out human resources development through training and the dispatch of experts for maritime countries along sea lanes

including Indonesia and Malaysia, in addition to providing vessels and maritime security-related equipment to Viet Nam, the Philippines, and other countries. Moreover, at the 12th Mekong-Japan Summit held in November 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced that Japan would provide an information-gathering web portal as well as human resources development for MDA capacity building in the Mekong countries as one of the “Five Points of Cooperation” (see “ODA Topics” on page 35 regarding efforts to realize the Free and Open Indo-Pacific).

In addition, in order to promote regional cooperation in countering piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Asia region, Japan led the formulation of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). Each contracting party is advancing cooperation and information sharing related to piracy and armed robbery against ships via the Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP-ISC) established in Singapore based on the agreement, and Japan supports ReCAAP-ISC’s activities through the dispatch of an Executive Director and Assistant Director and financial contributions. Japan has also led co-organizing trainings together with ReCAAP-ISC since 2017 aimed at capacity building related to antipiracy measures for the maritime law enforcement agencies of contracting parties, among others.

In order to counter the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden in Eastern Africa, Japan has been conducting anti-piracy operations since 2009. Moreover, Japan has contributed a total of \$15.53 million to the IMO Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund, which was founded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement the Djibouti Code of Conduct ²². This Trust Fund has been used to establish information-sharing centers for anti-piracy measures and the Djibouti Regional Training Centre, which conducts training programs to improve maritime security capabilities in countries surrounding Somalia. Japan has also contributed a total of \$4.5 million to the International Trust Fund ²³ to support Somalia and its neighboring countries in improving their capabilities in arresting and prosecuting alleged pirates in order to assist the international community in its measures to prosecute pirates, strengthen enforcement, and prevent the recurrence of piracy. Also, in cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard, maritime law enforcement training courses have been carried out with the participation of maritime security officers from the countries surrounding Somalia. Furthermore, with the understanding that the reconstruction and stability of Somalia are essential for a fundamental solution to the piracy issue in the area, since 2007, Japan has disbursed approximately \$500 million for the restoration of basic social services, improvement of policing capability, and revitalization of domestic

industries in Somalia.

Oil spillage from ships that occur on sea lanes 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. To that end, Japan dispatches experts (advisors for improving oil spill management capabilities) to Sri Lanka, which is positioned on sea lanes that connect Asia with the Middle East and Africa, to support the strengthening of its capability to manage oil spills at sea. Furthermore, in response to the oil spill from a bulk carrier off the coast of Mauritius, Japan dispatched Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams three times consecutively at the request of the Mauritian government. The teams conducted surveys on the spillage situation, worked on removing the oil, and also supported activities related to the fields of environment in cooperation with the local government and related countries and institutions. Moreover, Japan provided the Mauritian government with oil removal materials and equipment to be used locally (see also Project Introduction Column on page 131 for details).

Furthermore, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has been conducting a training program in the United Kingdom every year since 2009 with the aim of nurturing nautical chart experts in developing countries. This program is carried out with grant assistance from The Nippon Foundation and the participation of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard in the management of the program. Since its launch, the project has produced 72 graduates from 41 countries. 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 has been under revision through the cooperation of experts around the world, including



Foreign Minister Motegi visiting the “Malabrigo,” a patrol vessel in the Philippines that the Japanese government assisted in the construction of through an ODA loan (January 2020)

²² A regional cooperation framework for Somalia and its neighboring countries.

²³ From December 2012, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) took over the management of funds from UNODC.

the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard. Also, through grant assistance offered by The Nippon Foundation, a human resource training program aimed at fostering personnel who can contribute to the GEBCO project has been conducted at the University of New Hampshire in the United States every year since 2004. To date, this program has produced 96 graduates from 43 countries.

•• Outer Space

Japan contributes to addressing global issues including climate change, disaster risk reduction, marine/ fisheries resource management, forest conservation, and resources/energy through the implementation of development cooperation and capacity building assistance utilizing space technology. Japan has also proactively provided assistance in the field of human resources development for emerging countries and developing countries in their efforts toward the development and utilization of outer space. In particular, initiatives by Japan, such as providing opportunities for space experiments and the development of small satellites that make use of the International Space Station (ISS) /Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo,” have been highly acclaimed in the international community. In April 2020, Guatemala’s first CubeSat was deployed through the “KiboCUBE” program, a cooperative framework between the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) that provides developing countries with the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from “Kibo.” A congratulatory video message sent by the president of Guatemala showed heightened expectations for Japan’s space cooperation in the country. In addition, the Kibo Robot Programming Challenge (Kibo-RPC) was held from June to October, a competition in which students develop programs to operate ISS drones and clear assigned tasks within the “Kibo” module, competing on the time and problem-solving ability, with 1,168 students across 313 teams participating from Japan and seven Asia-Pacific countries and regions.



A commemorative photo of the Universidad del Valle satellite development team and related JAXA personnel prior to launching Guatemala's first extremely small satellite (Photo: JAXA)

In addition to these initiatives, in 2016, Japan formulated basic policies to strategically and effectively offer all-Japan support for capacity building in the field of outer space in developing countries and is providing active support. For example, in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan is conducting forest monitoring utilizing a tropical forest monitoring system (JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics: JJ-FAST) that uses satellite data from “Daichi-2.”

•• Cyberspace

In recent years, it has become a pressing task to take measures against threats to a free, fair, and secure cyberspace, and in order to respond to these issues, it is thus necessary for diverse actors in each country to work together. However, 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. Furthermore, Japanese people traveling overseas and Japanese companies expanding their business to foreign markets depend on the social infrastructure and cyberspace managed and operated by the host countries. Therefore, strengthening cooperation for ensuring the security of cyberspace in countries around the world and providing capacity building support to developing countries not only contribute to the recipient countries, but also benefit Japan and the entire world.

Japan participates in the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue held based on the commitment made at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December 2013. The 3rd ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue was held in Brunei in January 2019, and Japan introduced its initiatives regarding cybercrime countermeasures. Japan also provides contributions to cybersecurity-related capacity building projects in Asian countries implemented by international organizations.

In addition, Japan has held the Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting since 2009 and carried out cooperation toward strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation on cybersecurity policies as well as resolving common issues through the



Discussions on curriculum development being held through the “Project for Human Resources Development for Cyber Security Professionals” in Indonesia (Photo: JICA)

Japan-ASEAN framework. Under this framework, cyber exercises and tabletop exercises have been held with ASEAN member states since FY2013.

Furthermore, Japan has provided assistance through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), which consists of financial contributions from the Government of Japan, to establish the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as to provide the Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER), a practical exercise targeted at cybersecurity personnel of government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries. Through these efforts, Japan promotes cooperation in capacity building in the area of cybersecurity in ASEAN. In 2020, as the first project based on the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement, cyber security training for related personnel from ASEAN member states and

the ASEAN Secretariat was implemented from January through February 2020 (see Project Introduction Column on page 57 for details).

Moreover, since 2017, Japan has been conducting training for staff engaged in combatting cybercrimes at the People's 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.

Furthermore, since FY2018, experts from the Governments of Japan and the United States as well as private companies have been cooperating to implement exercises every fiscal year concerning cybersecurity for industrial control systems in important infrastructure fields such as electricity and gas, targeting the Indo-Pacific region.

ASEAN

Capacity Building in Policy Formation for Enhancement of Measures to Ensure Cybersecurity in ASEAN Region

Technical Cooperation (Knowledge Co-Creation Program) (January 26 – February 7, 2020)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*¹, which has been undergoing remarkable economic growth in recent years, has been promoting regional integration since the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of 2015. However, this has also brought to light some challenges. To further bolster the ASEAN integration process, in May 2019, Japan created a mechanism for human resources development across the entire ASEAN region by signing the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement to provide technical cooperation to ASEAN as a community, in addition to Technical Cooperation Agreements with individual ASEAN member states.

In January 2020, as the first project under the Agreement, training was conducted in Japan to build up capacity to formulate policy to enhance cybersecurity measures in the ASEAN region. A total of 17 officials in charge of cybersecurity policymaking, including officials from ODA graduate countries*² such as Singapore and Brunei participated in this training, with the attendance of officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)*³ for the first time.



The training program (Photo: JICA)



The online seminar (Photo: JICA)

In order to promote the planning and implementation of appropriate cybersecurity policies in ASEAN countries, this training provided an opportunity to learn about Japan's cybersecurity initiatives and information security management in government agencies through lectures and visits to related facilities in Japan. In addition, the participants exchanged information and opinions on the situation in each ASEAN country through active discussions.

Furthermore, as a new attempt for the training program during the COVID-19 pandemic, an online seminar was held in September 2020 for the participants in the training program in Japan. Eleven out of the 17 participants attended the seminar, during which they shared the current situation in their respective countries and engaged in active discussions on topics including the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on cybersecurity.

Through implementing such training programs, Japan will contribute to the regional integration of the ASEAN, and implement beneficial cooperation for both Japan and ASEAN to promote the realization of the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)," which shares fundamental principles with the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" advocated by Japan.

*1 See 1 on page 100 for the ASEAN member states.

*2 Countries that are no longer listed in Annex 1 to the ODA Reporting Directives, that defines ODA recipient countries, due to higher income levels, and have thus "graduated" from ODA recipient countries.

*3 See page 56 for details.

Cheering on Parents and Children around the World through Japanese Culture

In 2020, as COVID-19 spread across the globe, children and their parents were forced to spend long periods of time at home without being able to go out and play. To help support their health and ease their growing anxiety, Hello Kitty, together with Shimajiro, started the “Daisuki na Minna to Issho Project” (“You’ll always have your friends” Project)*¹, through which they published “Exercise with Friends” videos and distributed “Thank You Medal” coloring materials. For his part, PIKOTARO has been raising awareness of the importance of proper handwashing technique in an enjoyable way not only in Japan, but also all over the world, through his video “PPAP-2020-,”*² in which he uses his hands and soap instead of a pen and pineapple, as well as through the free circulation of his how-to-handwash poster. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke to Ms. MAEDA Minami from Sanrio Company, Ltd., Hello Kitty’s corporate home, and members of the PIKOTARO production team at Avex Management Inc., to hear their story.

(1) “You’ll always have your friends, even if we’re apart”

● How did this project come about?

At Sanrio Company, Ltd. (Sanrio), we believed that in order to understand the anxiety of children and their parents around the world and raise their spirits, we needed to go beyond individual company boundaries and have Hello Kitty join forces with various different characters to face this difficult situation together. Around the same time, we had an opportunity to talk with the people in charge of Benesse Corporation’s “Kodomo Challenge,” who were using their characters for activities that could be done even under stay-at-home orders. Together we reached out to other companies in Japan to join us.

● What were the thoughts behind the planning and creation of this project?

Right now, people across the world are spending their days in a state of anxiety. To ease those feelings of anxiety as much as possible, we at Sanrio thought of this project as a way to gather characters from different companies, genres, and backgrounds to encourage children and their parents facing this difficult situation and send the following message: “Even if we can’t be together right now, we’ll always be with you. We’re cheering for you.”

● What exactly does this project look like?

“Exercise with Friends”*³ was developed in response to parents’ and guardians’ concerns that they and their children were feeling stressed from spending more time at home and that their children were not moving around or getting enough exercise. Under the supervision of experts, we designed and published exercise

videos that encourage physical fitness, even inside the home. We also created English and Chinese language versions for overseas viewers. In addition, with the participation of a total of 20 popular Japanese characters, we released “Thank You Medals”*⁴ for free circulation to be given to people who are doing their best under challenging circumstances.



A total of 20 characters teamed up to distribute “Thank You Medals” to be given to people who are doing their best under challenging circumstances

● What aspects of the project called for extra creativity?

Despite the challenges caused by the continuous spread of infection, we progressed from the planning stage to the release of both the “Exercise with Friends” video and “Thank You Medal” materials at a speed not possible under normal circumstances. This was thanks to the cooperation of each participating company. Since we could not gather for the shooting, we created and shared sample images of “Exercise with Friends,” and each company shot their part of the video individually where feasibly possible. Furthermore, for the “Thank You Medal” materials, which many companies participated in, we tried to devise content that would make it easy for the companies to take part, while also maintaining each of their characters’ worldviews as much as possible. As a result, as many as 20 characters took part in the initiative.

● What kind of response have you received?

As of the end of October 2020, “Exercise with Friends” has been played more than 10 million times, and the “Thank You Medal” coloring materials have been downloaded over 26,000 times. Many people around the world have enjoyed them. We have received many delightful comments, such as, “I really felt the message of ‘cheering on parents and children’ through the collaboration,” “I could sense that Kitty and her friends were there for us, children and their parents, and it made me happy,” and “since we can’t go outside freely, and both parents and children tend to feel physically and emotionally unbalanced, it makes me happy to think that our favorite characters are cheering for us.”

● Is there anything you would like to work on in the future?

Since before this project, Hello Kitty has been sending messages out to the world about “getting along” with others by showing compassion*⁵. We have also been promoting and raising awareness of the SDGs in cooperation with the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. This time, by launching a single project that transcends corporate boundaries, I believe we were able to convey those ideas more clearly. We will continue to deliver our message and thoughts to everyone through our characters with projects that make them happy.



“Exercise with Friends” was also featured on the United Nations’ COVID-19 Response website (<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/children-keeping-active-hello-kitty-and-friends>)

(2) "Wash your hands along with PIKOTARO's handwashing video 'PPAP-2020-'! Wash! Wash! Wash!"

● How did this project come about?

It felt like the world was in a state of fear that had never been experienced before because of COVID-19. So, we wondered whether there was anything we could do to overcome the situation using the power of entertainment.

KOSAKA Daimaou, the producer of PIKOTARO, came up with the idea that handwashing was a measure against COVID-19 that anyone could put in place right away. We came to the conclusion that if we conveyed proper handwashing technique in a fun manner, it would help to prevent infection. When "PPAP-2020-" was posted on April 5, 2020, it got more than 10 million views on YouTube within a month of its release and reached over 150 countries around the world. We believe our ideas were well received.

Immediately after getting such a positive response, we received a proposal for the "PIKOWash!" project^{*6}. We started the "PIKOWash!" project because it was about raising awareness of handwashing in a fun and proper manner, and thus, we had a common concept in that regard.

● What were the thoughts behind the planning and creation of this project?

We believe that people's anxiety reached a peak because they could not go outside due to the unknown fear of COVID-19. To alleviate this anxiety, we created the video through a trial-and-error process, wishing to deliver a method of preventing infection to people across the world with a smile.

● What exactly does this project look like?

After discussions with KOSAKA Daimaou, PIKOTARO's producer, we decided to make the project a fun way to spread awareness about preventing infection through proper handwashing. Furthermore, we targeted children around the world because we thought that a video that children would imitate would result in the whole family joining in, and in that way, the video would reach people around the world.

We released the video on YouTube to be shown worldwide, making sure that the music and choreography were easy to understand to overcome language barriers. By covering "PPAP," PIKOTARO's best-known work, we hoped that people would become familiar with the song as soon as possible. We focused on the details, such as the last part of the song, sending the message "Pray for People And Peace," which was the most important message we wanted to deliver to people.



In the video, PIKOTARO shows proper handwashing technique while repeating "wash!" along to the familiar PPAP song and choreography. UNICEF also tweeted, "the handwashing methods are spot on." (<https://twitter.com/unicefinjapan/status/1246993245973827584>)

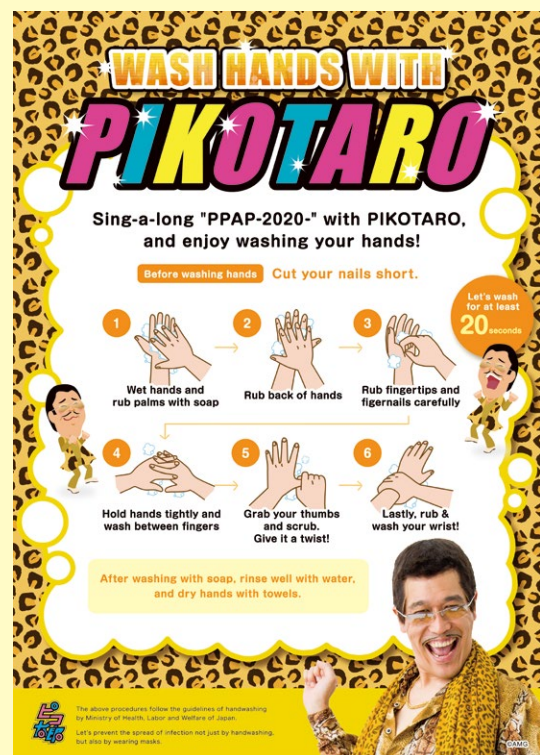
● What kind of response have you received?

The project was covered by many overseas media outlets, as well as by the media in Japan. We were very thankful for the many videos shared on social media in which children in Japan and abroad cheerfully sang, "Wash! Wash!" and danced along. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Tokyo Office also introduced the video on their official Twitter account, commenting that "the handwashing method is spot on, so please try copying it." We have also received great feedback from people around us, such as, "my child is dancing all the time," and "thanks to the video, handwashing has become a habit for my children."

We have also received many requests from schools, boards of education, government bodies, and other organizations to use the materials, and we have even heard that at some educational institutions, including nursery schools, kindergartens, and elementary schools, children are washing their hands along to "PPAP-2020-."

● Is there anything you would like to work on in the future?

World peace is the philosophy behind PIKOTARO's activities. Having served as a Goodwill Ambassador for Promoting the SDGs since 2017, he will continue to work for the sake of a peaceful world where people around the globe can laugh just as much as everyone else. Pray for People And Peace, or PPAP!



How-to-handwash posters, which were distributed free of charge, were created in both Japanese and English

*1 <https://www.anytimewithcharacters.com/>

*2 The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKfoJv6Kx8>

*3 The video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/uHlj646lkyU>

*4 The coloring materials can be downloaded from the "Daisuki na Minna to Issho Project" website.

*5 Hello Kitty is also participating in the "Pause, take care before you share" campaign conducted by the United Nations as part of its COVID-19 countermeasures (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYkC943Do4>).

*6 <https://pikowash-official.com/>

3. Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and Human Security

As globalization advances, the international community has been confronted with various challenges that cross national borders such as disparity and poverty, terrorism, refugees and displaced persons, infectious diseases, disaster risk reduction, climate change, and marine plastic litter. In 2020, the spread of COVID-19 has threatened the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of all people around the world, causing a crisis for human security. In order to resolve such transboundary global issues, it is necessary for the international community to move beyond the conventional concept of developed and developing countries and work together to address the issues (see Part I regarding Japan's efforts against COVID-19 in 2020).

The SDGs, which are important in advancing such efforts, are 17 global goals to be achieved by 2030, agreed upon by all UN Member States at the UN Summit

held in September 2015 as a successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs represent a commitment by the entire international community including developed countries, and therefore could be described as a "compass" providing the direction toward the fundamental resolution of global issues that must be tackled by both developing and developed countries.

The Government of Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, with the Prime Minister as its head and all the Cabinet Ministers as its members, and has actively worked on achieving the SDGs both in Japan and abroad through the formulation of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, which sets the direction for the promotion of the SDGs, and the SDGs Action Plan, which compiles specific policies. This section features Japan's initiatives aimed at achieving the SDGs from the perspective of various fields including health, water and sanitation, education, gender, environment, and climate change (see also "ODA Topics" on pages 106 and 154 for details).

Human Security

The SDGs present a vision of a prosperous and vibrant society where "no one is left behind." This is in concurrence with the concept of "human security" that Japan has been promoting for many years, which seeks to build states and communities by protecting and empowering individuals so that they can live in dignity, free from fear and want. In the Development Cooperation Charter, human security is also positioned as the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan's development cooperation, and in order to promote human security, the Government of Japan undertakes various efforts both to (i) spread the concept and to (ii) put it into practice on the ground.

(i) Spreading the concept

After the unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly of the resolution concerning common understanding of human security led by Japan in 2012, Japan has been continuing to spread the concept centered on the United Nations Human Security Unit. In February 2019, Japan took the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the concept of human security and held the High-level Event "Human Security at 25" with the UNDP, the United Nations Human Security Unit, and related countries at the UN Headquarters in New York.

(ii) Putting the concept into practice on the ground

Japan spearheaded the launch of the "UN Trust Fund for Human Security" in 1999 and has contributed approximately ¥47.8 billion in total by the end of FY2019. The trust fund has supported 257 UN projects to ensure human security in 99 countries and regions by the end of 2019.

OGATA Sadako Memorial Symposium

A memorial symposium commemorating Dr. OGATA Sadako, who spearheaded the refinement and practical implementation of the concept of human security at the front lines, was held by the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development on November 2, 2020. The symposium looked back on Dr. Ogata's achievements in the field of human security, with video messages sent in by UN Secretary-General Guterres and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Grandi. A panel discussion was also held on how the international community should overcome the challenges faced in the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 era under the concept of human security.



Panelists from both Japan and abroad discussing human security at the OGATA Sadako Memorial Symposium (Photo: JICA)

(1) Health and Medical Care

It is said that roughly at least half of the world's population has no access to basic medical care ²⁴. According to UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and others, more than 5.3 million children ²⁵ under the age of five die annually due to infectious diseases, malnutrition, diarrhea, and other preventable causes, even today. Over 295,000 women ²⁶ die during and following pregnancy and childbirth per year, primarily due to the lack of emergency obstetric care provided by skilled health professionals such as obstetricians, gynecologists, and/or midwives. Furthermore, in 2020, the spread of COVID-19 brought grave disruption to the lives and livelihoods of all people on the planet.

SDGs Goal 3 aims to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” In addition, in order to respond to various health issues, which differ across countries and regions, achieving “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)” is positioned as an important international goal to ensure that all people have access to basic health services at an affordable cost when needed.

Japan's Efforts

*** Promotion of UHC

(Japan's Initiatives at International Conferences)

Japan has placed importance on initiatives to improve healthcare that is directly linked to human security for a long time. Japan has been actively leading the promotion of UHC and the provision of basic health services under the “Japan brand” at international meetings including the G7, G20, TICAD, the UN General Assembly, and more.

Facing the global pandemic of COVID-19 in 2020, it was reconfirmed that improving preparedness and response against infectious diseases through efforts for achieving UHC is indispensable for sustainable economic growth and it is important to invest into UHC as part of a growth strategy.

At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, under its Presidency, Japan discussed specific policies toward resolving issues such as achieving UHC, realizing a healthy and active ageing society, and health emergencies including antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In regard to the promotion of UHC, it was agreed in the Leaders' Declaration to enhance human resources for health policy while working on it based on the contexts and priorities of each country. Furthermore, with regard to health financing, the leaders called for greater collaboration between health and finance authorities in accordance with the “G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries” confirmed



Former JICA training participants conducting maintenance on medical equipment in Angola (Photo: JICA)

at the first-ever G20 Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers. In September 2020, under Saudi Arabia's Presidency, the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers Meeting was held again following the 2019 session, and the joint statement reconfirmed the commitment to the “Shared Understanding” from the standpoint of preparedness and response against pandemics. At the G20 Riyadh Summit held in November 2020, Prime Minister Suga remarked that efforts toward UHC based on the principle of human security, including securing sustainable health financing, are indispensable. The G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration confirmed the critical importance of well-functioning, value-based, inclusive, and resilient health systems toward achieving UHC, as well as the importance of sustainable health financing in developing countries.

At TICAD7 in August 2019, the Yokohama Declaration 2019 reaffirmed the commitment to further promotion of UHC in Africa based on the gains of TICAD VI and the G20 Osaka Summit. In addition, the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 specified the further promotion of UHC in Africa through effective policies, including strengthening health systems such as sustainable health financing through bolstering cooperation among health and finance authorities, strengthening capacity development, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition improvement, water and sanitation, and promoting cooperation with the private sector. Furthermore, Japan announced in “TICAD7: Japan's contributions for Africa” that it would expand UHC, launch the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative, and host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit (see page 90 for details regarding the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit).

At the UN, the first United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC was held in September

²⁴ WHO Fact Sheets 2019

²⁵ As of 2018. The previous total was over 5.4 million children.

²⁶ As of 2017. The previous total was over 303,000 women.

2019. During the meeting, then Prime Minister Abe took the stage at the closing ceremony as the only leader of a member state, introduced Japan's contributions to promote other countries' efforts toward achieving UHC at the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7 in 2019, and emphasized the importance of promoting a cross-sectoral approach, combining health development with nutrition, water, and sanitation, and strengthening health financing. At the meeting, UHC Political Declaration was endorsed, which affirmed goals, such as providing basic health services to all people and eliminating impoverishment due to health-related expenses by 2030.

On September 26, 2020, Prime Minister Suga gave his first address at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly since taking office, where he touched upon Japan's international health policy including measures against COVID-19 at the beginning. In his address, he pointed out that the spread of the disease is a crisis for human security and, in advancing countermeasures, it is essential to set the goal of "leaving no one's health behind" and to achieve UHC.

In addition, he announced that Japan would proactively lead international efforts with a focus on the areas of (i) fully supporting the development of therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics and ensuring fair and equitable access for all including those in developing countries, (ii) supporting the strengthening of each country's health and medical systems including through building hospitals, providing equipment, and supporting human resources development, and (iii) taking measures to ensure health security including improvement in conditions for water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, and other environmental factors.

Among these areas, vaccinations are one of the most cost-effective investments, estimated to save the lives of approximately two to three million people each year. To promote these efforts, at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's* third donor pledging conference (the "Global Vaccine Summit") on June 4, 2020, Japan announced that it would provide contributions of \$300 million for the time being (see the Part I on page 12 regarding the Japanese staff working at Gavi). Moreover, through bilateral assistance, Japan contributes to increased vaccination rates by providing support including vaccine production and management as well as operations and maintenance for cold chains ²⁷.

Furthermore, on October 8, 2020, Foreign Minister Motegi co-hosted the Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of UHC with the foreign ministers of Thailand and Georgia who co-chair the group, which aims to further promote awareness of UHC in the international community. The meeting was attended by UN Secretary-

General Guterres, the foreign ministers of Thailand, Georgia, Kenya, and Senegal, the health ministers of Ghana, Uruguay, and India, WHO Director-General Tedros, UNICEF Executive Director Fore, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance CEO Berkley, and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) CEO Hatchett.

Foreign Minister Motegi gave a speech at the beginning in which he explained the specific efforts Japan was spearheading and stated that Japan remains committed to realizing UHC together with the international community, in line with Prime Minister Suga's address at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly. Specifically, he announced that out of the \$300 million of assistance pledged at the Global Vaccine Summit, Japan would contribute over \$130 million to the Advance Market Commitment (AMC)* of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) in order to enable lower income countries to reinforce equitable access to vaccines. Related countries and organizations extended their appreciation to Japan's leading role and initiatives toward achieving UHC including this contribution (see Part 1 on page 6 regarding global efforts for vaccine development and distribution).

Additionally, on December 4, 2020, the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic was held with the aim to evaluate the international community's response to COVID-19 and its impact on social and economic activity and to further strengthen global cooperation for the future response. In a video message, Prime Minister Suga stated the importance of aiming at "leaving no one's health behind" in achieving UHC, guided by the principle of human security, and that Japan would promote efforts to overcome the crisis of the pandemic, strengthen health and medical systems, and generate an environment that is resilient to infectious diseases.

*** Promotion of UHC (Japan's Specific Contributions)

Under the "Basic Design for Peace and Health" enacted in 2015, the Government of Japan provides assistance to achieve UHC that aims to "leave no one behind," utilizing its experience, technology, and expertise.

Primary healthcare* services under UHC comprise all services ranging from nutritional improvement (see "(8) Food Security and Nutrition" on page 87), vaccination, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, infectious disease control, non-communicable disease (NCD) control, and comprehensive community care and long-term care for the elderly.

²⁷ A mechanism to deliver products to their destination while maintaining low temperatures. This allows the quality of medical goods such as vaccines to be preserved.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) explaining hospital infection prevention at a national hospital in Timor-Leste (Photo: JICA)

With regard to maternal and child health in developing countries, there are still significant challenges, despite improvements such as a reduction in the under-five mortality rate and maternal mortality rate, as well as an increase in births attended by skilled health professionals. Japan aims to strengthen sustainable health systems by providing comprehensive, continuous maternal and child care and strengthening the ownership and capabilities of developing countries. In pursuit of these aims, Japan has been supporting many countries including Ghana, Senegal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Laos. Through this assistance, Japan contributes to making necessary services accessible to all women at every stage of pregnancy (including that of adolescence and family planning), as well as for newborns and infants.

Furthermore, Japan is implementing activities utilizing the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook as a means of improving maternal and child health, based on its experience and expertise. The MCH Handbook can contribute to the Continuum of Care (CoC) from pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period ²⁸, the neonatal period, infancy, and to early childhood. It also enables mothers to acquire knowledge about health, which in turn raises awareness and encourages behavior modification. To give an example of the concrete assistance, the MCH Handbook is being widely used throughout the country in Indonesia as a result of Japan's cooperation. Moreover, among the countries promoting the use of the MCH Handbook, including Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, and Kenya, there have been sessions to share their experiences and learn from each other. Furthermore, these countries hold exchanges of opinions with Afghanistan and Tajikistan, which are implementing trial use of the MCH Handbook. In addition, efforts are also being conducted for the utilization of the MCH Handbook in other countries in Africa, including Ghana.

Japanese NGOs have been working in health and medical care using the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme. For example, in Banke District, Nepal, where there is a great need to improve the healthcare environment for newborns and infants, ADRA Japan, a non-profit organization, has been implementing a project to rehabilitate healthcare facilities and provide medical equipment and supplies, while providing training aimed at raising awareness of health-related knowledge among the local residents, district officials, and medical personnel (see also "Project Introduction Column" on page 64).

In addition, Japan works with other development partners, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and the World Bank, to promote maternal and child health that includes sexual and reproductive health services, and thereby improving the health of a greater number of women and children in aid recipient countries (see also "Project Introduction Column" on page 67).

Furthermore, Japan supports policy reforms toward achieving UHC and is also engaged in its promotion from a comprehensive, medium to long-term standpoint, such as by providing health sector policy loans for the achievement of UHC in Senegal and Kenya.

Strengthening Response Capacity, Prevention Measures, and Preparation for Public Health Emergencies

In a globalized world, as infectious diseases easily spread beyond national borders and have a serious impact on the entire international community, it is important to put in place countermeasures for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases ²⁹. The Ebola outbreak in the countries of West Africa from 2014 to 2015 took many lives and resulted in the spread of infection to neighboring countries and the secondary infection of medical personnel, and thus became a major humanitarian, economic, and political challenge for the international community. Moreover, Ebola has been spreading once again in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since August 2018. In addition to financial assistance, Japan has seamlessly provided a variety of assistance to such affected countries and international organizations, including the dispatch of experts and provision of emergency relief goods. Furthermore, Japan is supporting the efforts to overcome the Ebola crisis through public-private cooperation, such as providing medicine and rapid test kits utilizing the technology of Japanese private companies (see "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 149 regarding

²⁸ The period after childbirth in which the woman recovers to a similar condition before pregnancy, usually around one to two months after birth.

²⁹ Emerging diseases are infectious diseases that were not previously known and have been newly recognized in recent years, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), avian influenza, and the Ebola virus disease. Re-emerging diseases are infectious diseases that had spread throughout the world in the past and subsequently saw a decrease in the number of cases, but have been on an increasing trend again in recent years, such as cholera and tuberculosis.

Timor-Leste

Project for Strengthening Primary Health Care Service Delivery through Community Participation (Phase 1 and 2) Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (February 2019 – (ongoing))

"I lost my first child a week after the birth and had a miscarriage with my second baby. It takes me over one hour to walk to the nearest medical facility, and I received prenatal care only once or twice." This is the reality faced by most mothers and their children living in remote areas of Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste. In Dili, there are areas where access to roads, electricity, and primary healthcare services is still limited, putting both the vaccination rate and prenatal care rate at 50% or below, lower than the country's average.

In order to improve this situation, Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE), a Japanese NGO involved in international cooperation, constructed a public health clinic (health post)* and provided a small boat to deliver health and medical services to the people living in Metinaro administrative post, Dili, as well as Atauro Island, a remote island off the coast of the capital. Moreover, SHARE has been working to improve the capacity of local medical personnel and provide health education to local residents.



Mothers and children waiting to be seen at a health post on a remote island, one of the target communities of the project (Photo: SHARE)

Thanks to this project, a total of approximately 1,200 people were able to receive healthcare between November 2019 and October 2020 in Manleuana village, Metinaro administrative post, where there is a population of 2,000

people and no doctor. In addition, on Atauro Island, health center personnel and local residents have been working to conduct mobile health checkups using the small boat provided by this project.



Transporting medicines and vaccines to coastal villages using the small boat provided by the project (Photo: SHARE)

As a result, the overall vaccination rate in Dili improved by nearly 20%. Even in 2020, when the domestic consultation rate declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health center continued to provide healthcare services through a trial-and-error process. Consequently, 2,324 people in the targeted communities have been vaccinated by August, which is 380 more people than the same period in the previous year.

Furthermore, through this project, a total of 97 people, including doctors, midwives, and healthcare volunteers, have received training aimed at improving their healthcare skills and knowledge. They will continue to apply the skills and knowledge that they have acquired in providing healthcare services and health education for local residents.

*In Timor-Leste, there is one health bureau for each of the 13 municipalities to oversee municipality healthcare under the Ministry of Health, and health centers and public health clinics (health posts) have been established in the districts.

SATREP's support in the field of infectious disease in Africa).



Community health volunteers learning about handwashing methods at a health post in Banke District, Nepal (Photo: ADRA Japan)

From the point of view that building a sustainable and resilient health system is crucial to controlling infectious diseases, Japan has been strengthening the capacity of prevention, preparedness, and response to public health crises, particularly in African countries, and aims to realize an Africa in which all people have access to health services. To that end, Japan is swiftly implementing

assistance that contributes to their social and economic recovery, including assistance for the health sector such as capacity building of medical staff and improvement of medical facilities, infrastructure development, and food security enhancement.

Moreover, Japan leads discussions in international fora such as the G7 and TICAD on the establishment of the Global Health Architecture, a framework of the international community for responding to these health crises. On the occasion of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, discussing the WHO's responses to public health emergencies, then Prime Minister Abe announced contributions of \$50 million to the WHO Health Emergencies Programme*, the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)*, and others. These contributions are being used to respond to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease that has continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2018 as well as the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, contributing to the response against health emergencies. Furthermore, utilizing funds such as the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HEPRTF) launched in cooperation between Japan and the World Bank Group in June 2020, Japan is providing assistance for strengthening capacities in preparedness and responses against infectious diseases in developing countries.

*** Responding to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) ³⁰ is a serious threat to public health, and in recent years, more and more countermeasures against AMR have been taken. In order to advance measures against AMR, Japan is promoting the “One Health Approach” for those who are engaged in the field of sanitation concerning people, animals, and the environment to work together on efforts. In the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration in 2019 as well, it was agreed to accelerate efforts based on the “One Health Approach.” At the G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting held in Okayama in October 2019, the Ministers adopted the Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, which mentioned the importance of continuing AMR measures based on the same approach. In addition, in the same month, Japan announced that it would contribute approximately ¥1 billion to the Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP), which promotes research and development for new antibiotics and diagnosis development, and is exerting leadership for AMR measures including through participation in

the AMR leadership group. In 2020, Japan contributed approximately ¥200 million to GARDP.

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

SDGs target 3.3 sets out to end epidemics of the three major infectious diseases by 2030. Japan has been providing support for measures against the three major infectious diseases and strengthening health systems through the “Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund),” an organization whose establishment was agreed upon at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit held in 2000. Since its establishment in 2002 to the end of December 2019, Japan has contributed approximately \$3.46 billion to the Global Fund. Furthermore, Japan provides supplemental bilateral aid to the developing countries receiving support from the Global Fund in order to ensure that measures against these three major infectious diseases are implemented effectively in those countries. Japan also strives to strengthen mutual cooperation on enhancing health

Nigeria

(1) Polio Eradication Project, (2) Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis/Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children (1) ODA Loan, (2) Grant Aid ((1) May 2014 – (ongoing), (2) 2000 - 2013*¹)

Nigeria used to be the last wild poliovirus endemic country in Africa and one of the three countries*² in the world where the cases of wild polio were still being identified. As of 2012, Nigeria accounted for approximately half of the world’s polio cases.

In response to this situation, Japan has provided Nigeria with a wide range of support, from procurement of vaccines to development of human resources, in order to strengthen measures for polio eradication.

For example, through the grant aid “Project for Eradication of Poliomyelitis” and the “Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children” through UNICEF, in addition to procurement of vaccines, Japan worked on the development of cold chains*³, including solar-powered refrigerators that enable the transportation and storage of vaccines to remote areas. Japan also provided assistance to improve the testing technology and related equipment of national polio laboratories in Nigeria and support for human resources development for researchers of polio through JICA training.



Administering an oral polio vaccine to a child
(Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, in 2014, Japan implemented an ODA loan project to

procure polio vaccines. In Nigeria, the vaccines procured through the ODA loan were used to conduct a thorough immunization campaign to eradicate polio. This ODA loan adopted an innovative financing approach (loan conversion mechanism)*⁴, under which the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation agreed to repay the loan debt in place of the Nigerian government on the condition that the predetermined goals were successfully achieved.

Thanks to the contributions by Japan and the international community, Africa was declared polio-free on August 25, 2020*⁵. Mr. ISONO Mitsuo, a JICA senior advisor who has been engaged in the fight against infectious diseases in Nigeria for many years, shared the following thoughts on the polio-free declaration.

“Nigeria is a vast country with many hard-to-reach areas and complex security challenges. I believe that the government’s leadership, as well as the efforts of many staff who have been engaged in the most difficult countermeasures against polio on the front lines, contributed to the eradication of polio.”

Japan will continue to contribute to the prevention and control of the spread of infectious diseases in Africa together with the international community.

*¹ Grant aid was provided every year from 2000 to 2013.

*² The three countries are Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

*³ See 27 on page 62.

*⁴ In December 2017, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation took over the ODA loan obligations after it was recognized that the vaccination rate and other project targets that had been set in advance were achieved.

*⁵ WHO has certified that Nigeria has zero cases of the wild polio (polio-free) for the past three years.

³⁰ Pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses, gaining resistance to antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antiviral drugs, which causes the drugs to lose sufficient efficacy.

systems, community empowerment, and policies for maternal and child health in those countries.



Mothers receiving an explanation on newly created MCH Handbooks under the technical cooperation “Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the Introduction of Combined MCH Record Book” in Ghana (Photo: JICA)

Japan is providing assistance such as spreading knowledge to prevent new infections and promoting awareness raising, testing, and counseling as bilateral assistance for HIV/AIDS countermeasures. JOCVs for Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Control are vigorously engaging in activities especially in Africa. These activities include spreading knowledge on prevention and promoting understanding of it among as many people as possible and providing care and support for people infected by HIV/AIDS.

With regard to tuberculosis, based on the “Stop TB Japan Action Plan”¹⁰ announced in 2008, Japan is engaged in reducing the annual number of deaths from tuberculosis in developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. These efforts aim to achieve a 10% reduction of the number of deaths from tuberculosis worldwide (160,000 people, based on 2006 figures) by making use of Japan’s own experience and technology to take measures against tuberculosis through a public-private partnership.

In addition to these efforts, with regard to malaria, one of the major causes of infant mortality, Japan provides assistance for anti-malaria countermeasures such as initiatives through the strengthening of local communities in Myanmar and Solomon. Moreover, Japan also provides assistance in cooperation with the WHO.

●●● Polio

Although polio is on the brink of being eradicated, Japan has been working mainly in cooperation with UNICEF to provide support for its complete eradication with a focus on countries where cases of infection are still being identified (countries where wild strains of polio are constantly present). In August 2020, Nigeria, the last country with a constant wild polio presence in Africa, was recognized to have had no cases of wild strains of polio for the past three years, and Africa was declared to be polio-free. Japan has continuously supported a wide

range of polio countermeasures for Nigeria from vaccine procurement to human resources development (see also Project Introduction Column on page 65 regarding efforts toward the eradication of polio in Nigeria).

Furthermore, in Pakistan, Japan has provided grant aid amounting to more than ¥11 billion in coordination with UNICEF since 1996 and provided an ODA loan of approximately ¥6.3 billion in 2016. Under the polio-related ODA loan, a new approach (loan conversion) was adopted where the private sector Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will pay the debt owed by the Government of Pakistan when certain targets are achieved.

●●● Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

Parasitic and bacterial infections, such as Chagas disease, Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis, are known as “neglected tropical diseases (NTDs),” and have infected more than 1 billion people worldwide, causing major socio-economic losses to developing countries. Since infectious diseases can have an impact beyond national borders, the international community must work as one to combat them. Thus, Japan also cooperates closely with all the relevant countries and international organizations on countermeasures against NTDs.

Since 2000, Japan has provided support against Filariasis for Pacific island countries through technical cooperation. This long-term support has proved successful, with eight of 14 Oceanian countries (Cook, Marshall, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon, Tonga, and Vanuatu) having eliminated Filariasis. Continuing from this, in October 2019, the WHO declared Kiribati to have eliminated lymphatic Filariasis. Through the dispatch of experts and other means, Japan will continue to support plans for the elimination of Filariasis in Pacific island countries.



A survey of the current situation underway in the “Project for Reinforcement of Infectious Diseases Epidemiological Surveillance System” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Photo: JICA)

= Glossary

***Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership which was established in 2000 with the aim of saving children's lives and protecting people's health by improving immunization rates in developing countries. Governments of 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 822 million children and saved over 14 million lives. Japan has provided a cumulative total of approximately \$250 million in aid since the initial contribution in 2011 through the first Supplementary Budget for FY2020.

***Advance Market Commitment (AMC) of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility)**

COVAX is a comprehensive financing and supply coordination mechanism launched for a limited period of time under Gavi's lead, aimed at promoting the production and supply of COVID-19 vaccines. It is an arrangement to supply vaccines rapidly and at a reasonable price, negotiated by taking advantage of economies of scale by guaranteeing vaccine purchase volumes and market demand. AMC is a mechanism to encourage the development, production, and supply of vaccines for developing countries, through which Gavi guarantees the purchase of a certain amount of vaccine after it is developed and manufactured and ensures a post-development market, as well as encourages the developer companies to expand their production capacities in order to put in place a vaccine production system at scale that meets the demand. AMC supports the spread of vaccines by having donors pledge funding and bear part of the purchase cost for developing countries following the commercialization of the vaccines, which enables developers to have an outlook for recouping their development and production costs and lowers the cost burden for developing countries.

***Primary Health Care (PHC)**

An approach to comprehensively and equally resolve issues by residents of a local community on their own through their proactive participation in order to respond to the most vital needs of people and achieve health for all people by recognizing health as a basic human right. It is composed of three components: (i) comprehensive and equal health and medical services that meet the requirements of people regarding health, (ii) systematic approaches to decisive factors of health, and (iii) giving individuals, families, and communities the right to make their own decisions about their health.

***WHO Health Emergency Programme**

The WHO Health Emergency Programme is a part of the 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 the WHO in 2015 based on its reflection concerning the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014. Decision-making regarding contributions is entrusted to the WHO Director-General, and it is possible to provide funding within 24 hours of the decision being made.

Bolivia

Mother and Child Health Network Improvement Project in Oruro Technical Cooperation Project (February 2016 – February 2020)

The department of Oruro is located in the highlands of the western part of Bolivia at an altitude of approximately 3,700 meters above sea level, and it is home to many indigenous people. Bolivia has the second highest maternal mortality rate*¹ and under-five mortality rate*² in Latin America and the Caribbean after Haiti, which shows the poor condition of maternal and child health.

This project was conducted to improve maternal and child health services as well as the health of pregnant women and children under five years old in Oruro department. In this project, a total of 21 experts from Japan were dispatched to three health districts in Oruro department, encompassing a total of 16 cities, to provide training and other support to healthcare workers, health administration staff, and expectant and nursing mothers. Educational activities were also conducted to raise awareness of the importance of improving lifestyle

habits and other aspects related to maternal and child health.

These efforts have resulted in the improvement of maternal and child health services through community participation. For example, the project increased the percentage of prenatal care in target communities to nearly 70% and doubled the number of educational teams for healthy life that comprise local healthcare workers. In addition, the Guide for Information Analysis on Child Development was developed in the project and approved by the Ministry of Health. The Guide is utilized not only in Oruro department but also throughout Bolivia.

Japan has been cooperating with Bolivia in the field of maternal and child health for approximately 20 years and has always placed importance on providing assistance that gives careful consideration to the situation of the Government of Bolivia. Likewise, this project was carried out while placing emphasis on the concept of the multicultural healthcare system*³ that is promoted by the Government of Bolivia, in which families and communities consider their own health risks and take necessary preventive measures themselves. As a result, maternal and child health in Bolivia has been improved in a way that is in line with the culture and thought of the people in the country.



"Educational team for healthy life," established as part of the project, providing guidance on nutrition improvement to pregnant women in target communities (Photo: JICA)

*1 206 maternal deaths according to the WHO estimate in 2015 (death rate per 100,000 births).

*2 38 under-five deaths according to the WHO estimate in 2015 (number of deaths per 1,000 births).

*3 Different cultures have different ideas about health, and living a healthy life should be emphasized over dealing with illnesses" (see also: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/bolivia/008/outline/index.html> <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/bolivia/008/outline/index.html> (in Japanese only)).

(2) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are vital issues linked to human life. Throughout the world, approximately 2.2 billion people are not provided with safely-managed drinking water, 4.2 billion people cannot use safely-managed sanitary facilities such as toilets, and three billion people live without access to basic hand-washing facilities. Moreover, in developing countries where piped water is not widely available, women and children often bear the role of fetching water and sometimes spend many hours on this work, which deprives children of opportunities for education and women of engaging in society. Furthermore, an unstable supply of water has a negative impact on healthcare and agriculture. From this viewpoint, Goal 6 of the SDGs sets forth the target “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”



A handwashing campaign at the Kule refugee camp in the Gambella region, Ethiopia (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)

Japan's Efforts

Japan has the top cumulative track record in the world in the fields of water and sanitation support since the 1990s. Japan draws on its extensive experience, knowledge, and technology in these fields to provide continuous support for promoting the provision of safe water in developing countries through the means of ODA loan and grant aid, as well as technical cooperation, including the dispatch of experts and accepting trainees from developing countries. Japan also provides support through international organizations such as UNICEF.

In the Asia and Oceania regions, Japan implemented projects for the development and expansion of piped water in Indonesia, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Laos. For example, in October 2019, Japan and Laos signed the Exchange of Notes for a grant aid to improve water supply services, including the construction of new water pipes in Luang Prabang City, which has a World Heritage Site. It is expected that this cooperation will contribute

to the development of a sustainable urban environment by increasing the population covered by the city's water supply from approximately 58,800 people in 2017 to approximately 70,000 people in 2025, three years after the completion of the project. In addition, in March 2020, Japan and Cambodia signed an Exchange of Notes for a grant aid to construct new water supply facilities in Ta Khmau City, where improvements to water supply capacity have become urgent following rapid population growth. This cooperation is expected to contribute to improving the quality of life in Cambodia through enabling access to safe water for approximately 120,000 residents in the region by 2030.

In addition, Japanese NGOs have been implementing water supply sanitation and hygiene improvement projects through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme. For example, World Vision Japan, a non-profit organization, is constructing sanitary facilities and conducting comprehensive, community-led sanitary improvement activities in Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia, where sanitary infrastructure is not well developed. In the first year of the project, three water storage tanks were constructed in three districts in Cambodia.

In parallel with these efforts, Japan is also providing large amounts of assistance in the field of water and sanitation that directly benefit local residents, such as the improvement of wells, water supply, and irrigation facilities, as well as disaster prevention measures through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. For example, Japan provided four wells in Côte d'Ivoire through the Project for the Construction of Wells in Grobiassoumé. Through this project, local residents are able to access safe water, reducing not only waterborne illness but also the manual labor of fetching water for women and children, which contributes to improvements in women's social advancement and children's enrollment rates.

Efforts for the improvement of the water environments in developing countries in cooperation with Japanese and local private companies and organizations are also being carried out around the world. For example, in Southwest Asia, using JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys, a verification survey with the private sector for disseminating Japanese technologies for pre-stressed concrete tanks for water supply and sewage treatment system was conducted in Sri Lanka. This project made it possible to supply 14,650 households with water, and there has been progress such as the establishment of a local field office of the Japanese company involved, which is advancing plans for the construction of new tanks.

In addition, in order to eliminate 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) is implementing

the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA). With the cooperation of the 13 participating countries ³¹ from Asia, WEPA aims to enhance water environment governance in Asia through building human networks, gathering and sharing information, and capacity building. Moreover, to contribute to achieving “halving the proportion of untreated wastewater” that is raised in Target 6.3 of the SDGs, Japan is also encouraging the spread of septic tanks in developing countries through initiatives that introduce the technology of septic tanks, legislative systems, etc. by holding workshops and seminars concerning Japan’s advanced septic tank technology, mainly for Asian regions.



A water treatment facility in Cambodia constructed through grant aid from Japan (Photo: JICA)

(3) Quality Education for All

There are as many as approximately 59 million children who cannot go to elementary school worldwide. When including secondary school, it is estimated that there are approximately 258 million out-of-school children (17% of the total) ³². In particular, the percentage of children who cannot go to school has been increasing since 2000 in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, as the World Bank points out in the World Development Report (2018), the learning crisis has also become a major problem, in which even the children who go to school cannot perform basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Moreover, many children have been impacted by school closures due to the spread of COVID-19. Above all, children with disabilities, children of minority ethnic groups or those in disadvantaged communities, refugee and displaced children, and those living in remote areas are at the greatest risk of being left behind, and there are further concerns surrounding the impact of school closures on malnutrition, early marriage, and gender inequality.

To address this situation, new methods of learning, including remote learning, are being explored around the world, and Japan is also providing support using its own expertise and technology for online learning (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 73). It is necessary to provide opportunities for education and vocational training to young people that respond to social changes and technological innovation, and foster human resources who can create innovation toward resolving global issues.

Goal 4 of the SDGs has been set up to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The international community formulated the “Education 2030 Framework for Action”^{*} in 2015, with the aim of achieving this goal.

In 2019, Japan compiled the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development: Quality Education to Create an Inclusive, Resilient, and Innovative Society, as the G20 Presidency. The G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration reaffirms the commitment to promote quality education that is inclusive and fair for all people through human capital investment. In addition, in his speech to the General Debate of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2019, then Prime Minister Abe mentioned the promotion of inclusive, quality education for all girls and women and emphasized that “the essence of Japan’s international engagement can be found in the fact that we earnestly value education.”

Japan’s Efforts

Japan has traditionally placed importance on assistance in the field of education as an essential area for promoting human security and has been providing developing countries with a broad range of support, including the enhancement of basic education^{*}, higher education, and vocational training.

As one of the G20 Presidency’s initiatives, Japan announced its “Education x Innovation” initiative to support at least approximately nine million children and young people during the three-year period between 2019 and 2021. In order to allow all children to complete quality elementary and secondary education by 2030, it is essential to encourage innovation to accelerate assistance.

³¹ The 13 countries are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Japan.

³² From pages 6 and 354 of the “Global Education Monitoring Report 2020.” <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373718>

Through this initiative, Japan will further strengthen support for education that fosters basic knowledge, STEM education ³³, development of e-learning, and more.

At TICAD7 in August 2019, as initiatives for education and human resources development in Africa, Japan announced its intention to provide quality education to three million children through measures such as science and mathematics education and improvement of the learning environment, as well as develop 5,000 highly-skilled people for STI through assistance for the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)* and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. It was also announced that E-JUST would receive 150 African students, and 28 African students were newly admitted in 2020.



Children learning at a kindergarten in Kampot Province, Cambodia, built through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (Photo: Planète Enfants & Développement)

Also, Japan contributed a total of approximately \$30.58 million from 2008 to 2020 to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)*, an international fund specialized in education. In partner countries that received support through GPE, the number of children supported by the fund between 2015 and 2018 was approximately 25 million, and three out of four have finished elementary education.

Moreover, with a focus on Niger and other West African countries, Japan has been implementing the “School for All” project since 2004, which aims to build relationships of trust between schools, parents and guardians, and local residents, as well as improve the education environment for children. In cooperation with the World Bank, the GPE, and others, Japan is spreading the project throughout the targeted African countries.

In addition, in Egypt, the introduction of Japanese-style education at local schools has been promoted

since February 2017 under the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP) announced in 2016. 41 “Egypt-Japan Schools” that introduced this Japanese-style education were opened by October 2020. In Egypt, the “Tokkatsu-plus” model for Japanese-style education has been introduced, and primary and junior high students at above-mentioned schools are engaged in special activities, such as cleaning, chore duties, and class meetings, as the core for holistic education that aims to build harmonious character, including sensitivity and morality. Japan also cooperates in human resources development in Egypt, providing support related to learning through playing at kindergartens for pre-school children and management needed to conduct special activities for school administrators.

Furthermore, in order to encourage the development of education and improvement of its quality in the Asia-Pacific region, by contributing to a funds-in-trust within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Japan is providing support for organizing the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030) annually, a forum for discussing progress in the achievement of Goal 4 (Education) of the SDGs. Japan also supports initiatives toward the achievement of Goal 4 in the Asia-Pacific region including through the quality improvement of elementary, secondary, and higher education, enrichment of early childhood education, spread of non-formal education, and increasing the teaching capacity of teachers. Moreover, Japan supports human resources development in developing countries by engaging in efforts to strengthen networking among higher education institutions between Japan and ASEAN, collaborating with the industrial sector, participating in joint research projects with neighboring countries, accepting international students to Japanese institutions of higher education and other institutions in accordance with the “300,000 International Students Plan,” and a wide range of other measures.

*** Promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

“Education for Sustainable Development*”: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)” is a new international implementation framework from 2020 to 2030 that began on January 1, 2020 with UNESCO as the leading organization. It was adopted at the 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2019 and the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in December of the same year as the successor program to the “UN Decade of ESD (UNDESD)” program (2005 to 2014) and the “Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD” (2015 to 2019). ESD is education to contribute to the realization of all SDGs by fostering the leadership

³³ STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and refers to these four educational fields.

needed to build a sustainable society, and as an advocate of ESD, Japan continues to engage in the promotion of ESD as well as play a significant role in its global spread and deepening through contributions to the funds-in-trust in UNESCO. In addition, through the funds-in-trust, Japan is actively promoting ESD by implementing the “UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD” together with UNESCO, which awards individuals and organizations that conduct excellent initiatives toward putting ESD into practice, and has been presented to 15 organizations to date (see page 157 for the voices of Japanese personnel working in UNESCO).



A JOCV for Nikkei Communities conducting an activity at the San Juan School (a Nikkei school) in the San Juan settlement, Bolivia (Photo: JICA)

Kyrgyz Republic

Project for Supporting Safe School Programme
Grant Aid (Partnership with UNICEF) (March 2017 – March 2020)

Public nomination

The Kyrgyz Republic, a mountainous landlocked country located in the northeastern part of Central Asia, is prone to various natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides, and the situation has worsened due to climate change in recent years. According to a survey conducted in 2014, approximately 85% of educational facilities were considered to be unsafe and could be affected by natural disasters. Thus, the safety of schools, which is directly linked to safety of children, has been a major issue for people in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In partnership with UNICEF, Japan supported a project to ensure school safety and strengthen disaster risk reduction systems, which would raise awareness of disaster risk reduction among teachers and children. Specifically, a survey was conducted regarding the safety of ten model schools for disaster risk reduction, and alarm systems, emergency exit signs, and anti-fire metal fire doors were installed in schools that had previously been ill-equipped with disaster risk reduction equipment. In addition, evacuation drills and disaster risk reduction education were conducted for 65,000 students



Children in the Kyrgyz Republic presenting drawings on the theme of disaster risk reduction (Photo: UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office)

and 3,000 teachers in 121 schools, as well as for local government officials, to enable them to take actions to save their lives in the event of disasters.

The principal of one of the model

schools said, “We utilize what we have learned to conduct evacuation drills twice a year. Thanks to the support, the children’s awareness of disaster risk reduction has increased.” Moreover, the project has contributed significantly to raising awareness of disaster risk reduction nationwide by creating a training video for teachers on disaster risk reduction in schools, as well as five educational animations on climate change and disaster risk reduction using popular Kyrgyz characters which are widely broadcast on national television.



Children at a model school participating in an evacuation drill assuming an earthquake (Photo: UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office)

In implementing the project, the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office emphasized the importance of utilizing Japan’s knowledge and experience on disaster risk reduction. In addition, through cooperation and collaboration with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, it promoted the use of disaster risk analysis at the local government level and institutionalization of child-sensitive disaster risk reduction initiatives to enhance disaster risk reduction systems in schools. Furthermore, a study tour was conducted in Japan to learn about disaster risk reduction education policies and initiatives for government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction, which contributed to the capacity development of these officials.

= Glossary



***Education 2030 Framework for Action**

The Education 2030 Framework for Action succeeds the EFA Dakar Framework for Action aimed at achieving education for all, adopted at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. It was adopted at the Education 2030 High-Level Meeting, which was held to coincide with the UNESCO General Conference in 2015.

***Basic education**

The educational activities designed to enable individuals to acquire the knowledge, values, and skills necessary to live. It mainly refers to elementary education, lower secondary education (equivalent to Japanese junior high schools), pre-school education, and adult literacy education.

***Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)**

A university that was established based on an agreement (bilateral agreement) between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, concluded in 2009. Based on the agreement, Japan provides technical support, including for improving education and research materials, while cooperating with universities in Japan, in order to enable E-JUST to operate as a university based on the concept of providing graduate school, research-centered, pragmatic, and international-standard education for a small number of students, which is characteristic of Japanese-style engineering education. Japan is currently implementing technical support aimed at establishing E-JUST's foundation as a top-level research university in Egypt in order for E-JUST to produce human resources in the field of industry and science and technology who will contribute to the development of the higher education sector and industries in the Middle East and Africa.

***Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**

GPE refers to an international partnership established under the leadership of the World Bank in 2002, which supports the education sector in developing countries. Its members include developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil society, and private-sector corporations and foundations. It was renamed as GPE from Fast Track Initiative (FTI) in 2011.

***Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

ESD refers to education that fosters builders of sustainable societies. "Sustainable development" means development that "meets the needs of the future generations while also meeting the needs of the present generation." In order to build such a society, it is necessary to perceive a variety of challenges in contemporary society, such as the environment, poverty, human rights, peace, and development, as one's own problems and then to work to find solutions for them. For that purpose, ESD puts importance on creating new values and actions. ESD was affirmed as being the key for achieving all the SDGs in the resolutions of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in 2017. This was also reaffirmed in the "ESD for 2030" from 2020, which was adopted by a resolution of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2019.

MASTER
TECHNIQUES

1

from Japan to the World

Spreading Japanese-style Quality Education by Utilizing an E-learning System

—A user-friendly system for public and private education in Uzbekistan—

Uzbekistan, a landlocked country in Central Asia, has been promoting education, human resources development, and ICT for fostering industrial development, as the enthusiasm among its people for education grows. However, there have been major setbacks due to a shortage of teachers in public schools, challenges associated with teachers' competency, and lack of teaching materials and private educational services.

Under these circumstances, Digital Knowledge Co., Ltd., an e-learning systems developer and operator in Tokyo, implemented "Uzbekistan: SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Learning Management System (LMS) Application to Improve Regional School Teachers' Qualification and Eliminate Educational Disparity" through JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys scheme in order to offer and promote the use of Japan's quality educational contents across Uzbekistan.

This project has introduced the e-learning education system of Digital Knowledge Co., Ltd. to the ICT center, Ministry of Public Education, for enhancement of both public and private education. Specifically, in the public education sector, the company provided online educational programs of leading Japanese educational companies customized for Uzbekistan, such as teaching method programs for school teachers and math materials for elementary and junior high school students. As for private education, it opened after-school classes for elementary and junior high school students, which incorporate the company's educational system, at public school buildings. The programs for teachers in particular have impressed Uzbek teachers who had never participated in any specific training on improving students' understanding and academic performance. Comments were heard like, "I didn't know there is such a way of teaching."

Mr. SAITO Yosuke of Digital Knowledge Co., Ltd. explained as follows: "The after-school classes that we started provide Japanese-style one-on-one tutoring, electronic abacus lessons, and other services. We initially planned to offer about two classes, but we ended up adding more classes in a hurry as word of mouth got



Students in Uzbekistan using the e-learning system (Photo: Digital Knowledge)



Teachers in Uzbekistan intently receiving teaching method training (Photo: Digital Knowledge)

around and applications flooded in. Although our original intention in applying for the scheme was to see if Japanese-style education business would be feasible overseas, we rediscovered the potential of Uzbekistan as a country with great possibilities where people are so enthusiastic about education and the necessary infrastructure is being developed."

"I can feel the great love that the people at Digital Knowledge have for Uzbekistan," said Mr. Kubota, a project formulation advisor in charge of this project at the JICA Uzbekistan Office. He continued as follows: "Normally, it is very difficult for a private company to persuade the Government of Uzbekistan and move a project forward. But Digital Knowledge is speedily advancing this project, based on the firm trust with the Ministry of Public Education. This owes to not only Uzbekistan's high expectations for the services of the company but also the fact that its enthusiasm has been relayed to the Government. It has also helped that the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Education (at the time) has studied at a Japanese graduate school under JICA's Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)* and has tremendous confidence in Japanese education."

When schools across the country closed in response to COVID-19 in March 2020, the Ministry of Public Education requested the cooperation of the company directly. "The company expanded its original plan to provide free online learning programs, and this was highly appreciated by the Government of Uzbekistan," recalled Ms. Ozawa, who was in charge of this project at the Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department of JICA's headquarters.

Built on the trust between a Japanese company and the Government of Uzbekistan, Japan's quality education and ICT are contributing to the development of Uzbekistan, while responding to the desire of its children to learn.

*See page 147 for more information on JDS.

(4) Gender and Inclusive Growth

A. Promotion of Women's Empowerment and Participation

The social norms and systems in developing countries are generally shaped by men's perspectives, which renders women to be put in vulnerable positions in many aspects. Although certain progress has been seen in women's participation in fields such as education, politics, and economy compared to the early 2000s, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established, there are still many countries where it cannot be said that women have the same opportunities as men to participate in decision-making processes, which is not restricted to the public sphere such as high-level government decision-making, but also includes family and other private decision-making.

On the other hand, women are critical actors of development, and their participation will lead not only to the improvement of their own lives but also to more effective development. For example, improving the literacy of women who have had little or no educational opportunities so far, increases their access to correct information on public health and prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. This leads to appropriate family planning and promotes women's social advancement and economic empowerment. Moreover, it contributes to the inclusive economic growth of developing countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) adopted at the United Nations Summit in 2015 strongly and clearly expressed that "Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets." Moreover, Goal 5 of the SDGs seeks to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Gender equality and promoting women's empowerment are essential for realizing "quality growth." For this purpose, it is important for men and women to participate equally in all phases of development cooperation and to reap the benefits equally.

Japan's Efforts

In order to make the 21st century a world with no human rights violations against women, Japan has been advancing its efforts in the international community to promote gender mainstreaming³⁴ and women's empowerment by setting the following three priority fields: (i) promoting women and girls' rights, (ii) improving an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potentials, and (iii) advancing women's leadership in political, economic, and other public fields.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer introducing how to make cocoon crafts to members of a women's self-help group for silk farmers in India (Photo: JICA)

In March 2018, Japan contributed \$50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)*, whose launch was announced at the G20 Hamburg Summit. By assisting women entrepreneurs and women-owned and led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) in developing countries to overcome various obstacles they face (such as access to finance and legal systems and regulations that are disadvantageous to women), this initiative aims to promote the prompt economic independence of women in developing countries and their social and economic participation, and to realize regional stability, reconstruction, and peacebuilding. At present, We-Fi has implemented projects across 39 countries. Moreover, in March 2019, Japan held the Fifth World Assembly for Women (WAW!) at the same time as the meeting of Women 20 (W20), a group led by the private sector that makes proposals to the G20 for enhancing the economic activities of women. During the meeting, then Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan would provide opportunities for quality education and human resources development to at least four million girls and women in three years until 2020 in order to expand opportunities for education among women in developing countries. Furthermore, at the G20 Riyadh Summit in November 2020, Prime Minister Suga welcomed the commencement of activities of "EMPOWER," an initiative of the private sector for the advancement of women in leadership positions, whose launch was agreed at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019.

Japan also provides assistance through UN Women. Japan provided approximately \$18 million in 2019 and approximately \$22 million in 2020 to contribute to initiatives for the political participation and economic empowerment of women, the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, a stronger role for women in the peace and security fields, and the strengthening of gender responsive

³⁴ Integrating gender perspective into all policies, measures, and projects in order to achieve gender equality in all fields. In the field of development, it refers to the process to clarify development challenges, needs, and impacts on both men and women, at all stages of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, of all policies, measures, and project, based on the premise that they have different impacts on men and women.

Zimbabwe

Emergency Grant Aid for Three Countries in Southern Africa Affected by Cyclone Idai (Capacity Building on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Menstrual Hygiene Management in Cyclone Idai Affected Districts in Zimbabwe) Emergency Grant Aid (April – October 2019)

In Manicaland Province in the eastern part of Zimbabwe, a cyclone that hit the area in March 2019 caused landslides and flooding, affecting approximately 270,000 people. While emergency disaster response measures were taken in the region, including the establishment of campsites as temporary shelters, there were concerns over an increased risk of abuse and violence against women and children and the deterioration of the hygienic environment.

In light of these concerns, Japan provided \$600,000 in emergency grant aid to Zimbabwe, of which \$150,000 was allocated to a UNICEF project to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation and improve menstrual hygiene management in cyclone-affected districts.

As part of this project, UNICEF Zimbabwe focused on women's menstrual hygiene management which was often overlooked in past emergency disaster relief efforts, conducted activities for local residents to acquire knowledge and deepen understanding of hygiene management, and distributed 4,000



Students receiving menstrual hygiene management kits distributed in cyclone-affected districts of Manicaland Province (Photo: UNICEF)

menstrual hygiene management kits. Each kit contained three pieces of underwear, one comb, one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste, one kilogram of soap, 30 disposable sanitary napkins, and five reusable sanitary napkins. Educational activities were also conducted to prevent abuse and violence and protect children from these risks.

As 2019 was also the year when the Government of Zimbabwe conducted a nationwide survey on menstrual hygiene management, Japan's contribution came to be widely known to the Government of Zimbabwe, NGOs, and international organizations. In addition, based on the experience of the project, UNICEF Zimbabwe is considering incorporating support for improved women's hygiene management in future emergency assistance projects through distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits and is working with relevant local organizations to enable domestic procurement of the contents of the kits within Zimbabwe.



Students attending a class on menstrual hygiene management (Photo: UNICEF)



Women receiving vocational training through Cash for Work assistance at the Kirkuk refugee camp in Iraq (Photo: UN Women)

policies and budgets, among others. For example, in Iraq, for the empowerment of women at the Kirkuk refugee camp, comprehensive and high-quality health

management and livelihood support were provided for 2,382 women who were victims of ISIL, and through Cash for Work ³⁵ assistance, 80 women were paid wages in exchange for engaging in sewing, food processing, and other labor. Additionally, in 2020, 11,600 masks were made by hand and sold by women in the refugee camp in order to prevent COVID-19 infections. Furthermore, 50 women were trained in necessary skills for leadership and 40 were provided with sewing machines. Moreover, psychosocial support such as counseling and awareness activities regarding legal rights were conducted for 2,302 women and girls, and among them, improvements were seen in awareness of and access to services, as well as recovery from stress of psychological trauma caused by conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan considers that sexual violence in conflict cannot be tolerated. Therefore, Japan places importance on collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

³⁵ A method for supporting the independence of victims or displaced people during times of natural disasters and humanitarian crises by temporarily employing them and paying wages for their labor.

of the UN (OSRSG-SVC) ³⁶. In 2020, Japan provided over \$1 million in assistance to the OSRSG-SVC for projects in Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan, and has been contributing to preventing sexual violence and strengthening response capacity through comprehensive support including improving the judicial system to punish perpetrators and support systems for victims of sexual violence related to conflict.

Furthermore, based on the view that in order to realize a peaceful society more effectively, it is vital to integrate a gender perspective and to secure women's participation in all stages of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding, Japan established its National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and other relevant resolutions in 2015, and has been implementing the Plan. In March 2019, the revised version was formulated. Moreover, under the G7 WPS Partnership Initiative agreed upon at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2018, Japan chose Sri Lanka as its partner country, and from FY2019, Japan, in cooperation with the embassies of each G7 country in Sri Lanka, has been assisting the country with the formulation of its WPS Action Plan and also providing assistance in the field

of health centered on reproductive health and for the financial empowerment of Sri Lankan women, including women who became widows due to the internal conflict over the past 26 years.



A video message by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto being played at the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) held by the Government of Viet Nam and the UN (December 2020)

Through these efforts, Japan will continue to cooperate with other countries for achieving the empowerment of all women and girls, gender equality, and a society and system in which men and women support each other.

--- **Glossary** ---



***Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi)**

An initiative launched by the World Bank with 14 participating countries, aiming to support the economic independence of women in developing countries and to promote their social and economic participation by implementing support to overcome the challenges which women entrepreneurs and women-led SMEs in such countries face including access to finance, legal systems, and others. The types of assistance We-Fi provides include financial access assistance for women entrepreneurs, advisory service for financial institutions to facilitate greater business with women entrepreneurs, and technical assistance to improve the legal and regulatory systems of developing countries. The initiative is aiming to make more than \$1 billion in funds available, with approximately \$350 million from donor countries and additional resources from the private sector and international financial institutions.

B. Reducing Disparities (Assistance for People Who Tend to be in Vulnerable Situations)

Ongoing efforts are being made to implement initiatives toward the achievement of the SDGs. Meanwhile, a number of issues such as the difficulty in identifying where problems lie and addressing them properly from the broader national level are gradually being brought to light. Even when responding to the “increase of disparities,” similar problems exist. Challenges such as poverty, conflicts, infectious diseases, terrorism, and natural disasters have varying impact depending on the situations that individuals are in, including their country and region, or whether they are women and/or children.

The spread of COVID-19 has had a major impact particularly on the survival and livelihoods of all people placed in socially vulnerable positions. Moreover, it has been pointed out that schooling opportunities among the most vulnerable people will be restricted and women will have negative social and economic impacts, and this will lead to further growing disparity and abuse. In order to deal with this situation, it is effective to adopt an approach that takes the standpoint of individual people, which is also indispensable for the realization of a society that fulfills the principle of the SDGs, “no one will be left behind.”

³⁶ Japan's efforts regarding the prevention of sexual violence in conflict can also be found on MOFA's website (https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page23e_000466.html).

For example, as part of its cooperation on measures against COVID-19 in the ASEAN region, Japan signed an investment agreement to provide funds to microfinance institutions (MFIs) through the COVID-19 Emerging & Frontier Markets MSME Support Fund operated by Blue Orchard Finance Ltd. The cooperation aims to improve financial access and maintain employment for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), mainly women-owned businesses affected by COVID-19, and contributes to the empowerment of women, low-income people, and MSMEs (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 99 for details).

Japan's Efforts

*** Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

In order to ensure the social participation and inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in society, especially persons with disabilities, Japan pays due attention to the socially vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, when planning and implementing ODA policies. Policies for persons with disabilities cover a number of different fields, including welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Japan has applied the techniques and experiences it has accumulated in

these fields for measures and policies for persons with disabilities in developing countries through ODA and NGO activities.

For example, Japan carefully carries out its assistance to suit various local needs through incorporating barrier-free design in the planning of railroad and airport construction, developing vocational training centers and rehabilitation facilities, providing minibuses for their transportation, and other measures. Additionally, Japan provides a wide range of technical cooperation through JICA to enhance the capacity of organizations and personnel providing assistance to persons with disabilities. These efforts include the acceptance of trainees from developing countries and dispatch of JOCVs and experts such as physical and occupational therapists and social workers (see below Project Introduction Column regarding JOCVs' activities).

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by Japan in 2014 has a discrete clause which stipulates that state parties would undertake measures for international cooperation and its promotion (Article 32). Japan continues to contribute to improving the rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries through ODA and other means.

Nicaragua, Saint Lucia

Self-reliance Support for Visually Impaired Persons by Other Visually Impaired Persons, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Passing on Correct Oriental Medicine Techniques from Hand to Hand

(1)(2) Senior Volunteers (Nicaragua), (3) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Saint Lucia)
(1) 2010 – 2012, (2) 2013 – 2015, (3) On standby in Japan (3rd batch in 2019)

Mr. TSUNAKAWA Akira, an acupuncture and moxibustion massage practitioner, is a visually impaired person who has taught at a school for visually impaired persons in Japan. Mr. Tsunakawa has been dispatched twice to Managua, the capital of Nicaragua in Central America, as a Senior Volunteer.

Oriental medicine, which does not rely on drugs to treat conditions such as back pain and stiff shoulders, was attracting attention in Nicaragua. However, there was a lack of human resources who could teach correct treatment methods of the medicine. To address this gap, Mr. Tsunakawa has produced 20 Shiatsu (Japanese acupressure therapy) and Anma (Japanese massage therapy) practitioners by giving them a total of approximately 500 hours of lectures of basic medicine, Shiatsu and Anma techniques, as well as clinical practice at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua in Managua, Nicaragua.



Mr. Tsunakawa passing on Shiatsu techniques to his visually impaired students from hand to hand at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua in Managua, Nicaragua

In particular, he taught practical skills to students so that each of them could obtain a job and become self-reliant, while considering factors such as the degree of each student's disability. In addition, he has produced two instructors with

total blindness, acknowledging the importance of Nicaraguan instructors.

“At times, it made me feel sad to know that there were disabled people begging on the streets in between traffic.

However, I was so impressed to see that my students, who had cheerfully walked to the lectures with white canes on roads without manhole covers, eventually became Shiatsu practitioners and were supporting their families and households,” Mr. Tsunakawa said about his activities in Nicaragua.

From his experience in Nicaragua, Mr. Tsunakawa realized that support for visually impaired persons not only gives them hope for the future by demonstrating the goal of self-reliance directly and concretely, but also has a significant impact on raising awareness of people toward issues regarding disabilities. Hoping to utilize his experience and skills again in a new location, he applied for post for a JOCV in Saint Lucia, an island in the Caribbean, and secured it. He is currently preparing for dispatch to the country in Japan.



At a lecture on Anma attended by students who completed the Shiatsu course at the University of Oriental Medicine Japan-Nicaragua



Transporting a person with a physical disability to a rehabilitation center in a car donated by Japan in Ecuador

*** Assistance for Children

Generally, children tend to be in vulnerable situations, and today, there are many children around the world that have been placed in harsh environments due to the impact of COVID-19 in addition to conflicts, natural disasters, etc. Also, the number of refugee and internally displaced children is rapidly increasing, and Japan is providing a variety of humanitarian and development assistance bilaterally and through international organizations. In 2020, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan assisted by providing supplies to prevent COVID-19 infections and technical cooperation for health workers, implementing awareness activities on infection risks, and through other support for 66 countries in the Asia, Middle East, and Africa regions.

Additionally, through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects ³⁷, Japan provides cooperation that directly benefits residents at the grassroots level. Under this scheme, Japan is implementing projects which contribute to improving the living conditions of children, such as the construction and refurbishment of elementary and junior high schools, provision of medical equipment to hospitals, and development of wells and water supply facilities.

For example, in Thoung Ninh Commune, Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam, Japan is cooperating in the construction of a new school building that is resilient to natural disasters at Thuong Ninh Elementary School, which has many ethnic minority children. It is expected that this assistance will improve the learning environment for 443 children who could not take sufficient classes due to classroom shortages and will also contribute to creating an educational environment resilient to natural disasters. In addition, in Colombia, Japan provided assistance to the municipality of Toluviejo in Sucre Department for the construction of a new municipality-run children's library building. This is expected to improve the reading and literacy education environment for the approximately 22,000 people, including approximately

5,000 children, in the municipality.

In Malawi, although the number of school children rapidly increased after the government made primary education free in 1994, the construction of school facilities to meet the sudden rise in school children all over the country has been significantly delayed. Under such circumstances, Japan has supported the Kapalamula Primary School in Dedza District in constructing three buildings with six classrooms, refurbishing the floors of four existing classrooms, and installing 300 two-person desks, which is expected to improve the learning environment for 2,096 children and the classroom management environment for 40 teachers.

Japan also signed an Exchange of Notes with Cambodia concerning the grant aid "Project for the Prevention of and Response to Violence against Children in Cambodia (through UNICEF)" in January 2019. Under this project, Japan is strengthening the communication skills of social workers and medical professionals, who actually come face-to-face with the children, as well as conducting training that is recognized worldwide for the eradication of violence for the government officials of Cambodia. As of 2020, approximately 1,200 government officials, social workers, and medical professionals have undertaken the training, which is expected to lead to a reduction in physical violence in educational settings, etc. and to improvement of the environment in which children who have suffered physical violence can easily consult with counselors.

Additionally, with regard to the Kyrgyz Republic, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes concerning the grant aid "Project for Enhancing the Resilience of Children to Climate and Disaster Risks (through UNICEF)" in March 2020. Through this project, Japan is installing equipment for disaster risk reduction at approximately 600 schools in the country, as well as creating and distributing disaster risk reduction manuals and conducting evacuation drills for approximately 1,800 schools. As a result, it is expected



Children in class at an early childhood education facility in El Pozo, the Dominican Republic, which was built through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

³⁷ Details of the program and past achievements can be found on MOFA's website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/000071826.pdf>).

to mitigate natural disaster risks for approximately 900,000 children and improve disaster risk reduction capacities with schools serving as base.

Furthermore, in Afghanistan, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes regarding the grant aid “Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children” in November 2020. This cooperation enables vaccinations for approximately 1.43 million babies under the age of one, approximately 3.19 million women in the reproductive age group, and approximately 10 million children under the age of five through support for the provision of vaccines for routine immunizations scheduled in 2021 as well as a polio vaccination campaign aimed at infants. Furthermore, it is also expected that the steady implementation of these campaigns for routine immunizations and the polio vaccine will contribute to preventing infections and deaths from preventable diseases and improve the health of children and women in the reproductive age group across all of Afghanistan (see also “Polio” on page 66 and “Project Introduction Column” on page 65 for details on support for polio prevention and eradication).

(5) Culture and Sports

Cultural heritage that symbolizes a country is a source of pride for people, and, as tourism resources, can be effectively utilized to improve the livelihoods of the residents in the surrounding areas. On the other hand, a number of cultural heritage sites are in danger due to the lack of funds, equipment, and technology among others, and assistance to protect such cultural heritages is required. In addition, the preservation and promotion of culture, such as invaluable cultural heritages that are shared by all humankind, are an issue that should be addressed not only by the countries with cultural heritage in danger, but also by the entire international community.

Moreover, sports can not only enhance the quality of people’s lives, as they cultivate a sense of respect for others, a spirit of mutual understanding, and awareness of norms, but also help maintain and improve health. The influence and positive power of sports play the role of “catalyzer” for the development and growth of developing countries.

Japan's Efforts

Japan has provided assistance for the promotion of culture and higher education as well as the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of sports in developing countries through the Cultural Grant Assistance* since 1975. Specifically, Japan has constructed or rehabilitated facilities for sports and culture or higher education and research institutions and provided equipment for those facilities in developing countries. Japan has also

constructed facilities and provided equipment for the restoration, preservation, and utilization of cultural heritage and property. Such facilities built in developing countries also serve as hubs for spreading information about Japan and holding cultural exchanges with Japan, as well as deepening understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity toward Japan.

In 2020, Japan approved 19 projects to provide support in the fields of education, including Japanese language education, preservation of cultural heritage, and sports under the Cultural Grant Assistance. Furthermore, Japan provided sports assistance using ODA and “Projects for Sports Diplomacy Enhancement” to advance “Sport for Tomorrow,”³⁸ a program launched for the purpose of international contribution through sports. Under the program, Japan aimed to spread the value of sports and the Olympic and Paralympic movement as the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, which had been postponed until 2021³⁹. In addition, Japan has dispatched 142 JOCVs in the field of sports.



A scene from the international friendly practice match between youth rugby teams from India and Sri Lanka, and JOCVs dispatched to each country's rugby association instructing each team. The match was held to promote friendship and goodwill among players of both countries, improve their skill of rugby, popularize it in these countries, and realize the healthy development of youth through international cooperation. (Photo: JICA)

Moreover, Japan provides support for the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, including equipment provision and preliminary studies and surveys, through the “Japanese Funds-in-Trust” established in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Japan contributed approximately ¥1 billion in FY2020 and has implemented multiple projects in the field of cultural heritage through the fund. Placing a particular emphasis on human resources development in developing countries, so as to enable people to protect the cultural heritage of their own country by themselves in the future, Japan also endeavors to dispatch international experts, mainly Japanese experts, as well as hold workshops in order to transfer the techniques and

³⁸ Sport for Tomorrow Consortium (<https://www.sport4tomorrow.jpnsport.go.jp/>)

³⁹ MOFA's efforts regarding the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games (https://www.mofa.go.jp/p_pd/ep/page23e_000467.html)

expertise to developing countries. In addition to tangible cultural heritage, Japan also supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage such as traditional dances, music, handcraft techniques, and oral lore (oral traditions) by implementing successor training, records conservation, the creation of safeguard mechanisms, and other activities through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Furthermore, Japan is also conducting training programs with the aim of improving capabilities for the protection of cultural heritage by inviting young experts

involved in cultural heritage protection from the Asia-Pacific region to Japan 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.” In addition to conducting biennial training on maintenance and repair methods for wooden buildings and survey records of archeological remains, training on the effective utilization and management of cultural heritage for experts in Bhutan and other activities were conducted virtually in 2020.

Glossary



***Cultural Grant Assistance**

Cultural Grant Assistance is a grant aid to procure equipment and supplies and to construct and rehabilitate facilities for the promotion of culture and higher education in developing countries. It is intended to encourage cultural and educational advancements in developing countries as well as cultural exchanges between Japan and these countries with an aim of promoting friendly relationships and mutual understanding. It includes Cultural Grant Assistance, which provides assistance to governmental organizations of developing countries, and Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects, which provides assistance to NGOs and local public entities for small-scale projects.

(6) Environment and Climate Change Actions

The importance of initiatives to address environmental and climate change issues is recognized globally, as such issues have been repeatedly taken up as one of the main topics at the G7 and G20 Summits and are also mentioned in the SDGs adopted at the UN Summit in 2015. Japan has been vigorously working on addressing these issues and has also been providing assistance to developing countries through the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, a financing mechanism for major international environmental treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as the world's top donor. Japan will continue to actively participate in discussions in the international community.

Japan's Efforts

***** Conservation of the Marine Environment**

Marine plastic litter is a pressing issue that can have an adverse impact on the marine ecosystem, tourism, fisheries, and human health. In recent years, measures to address this issue have become increasingly important. At the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019, under Japan's leadership as the G20 Presidency, the member countries shared the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 and has now been shared by 86 countries and regions as of December 2020. In order to achieve the Vision, Japan announced that it would support capacity building, infrastructure development for waste management in developing countries, and launched the MARINE Initiative that focuses on (i) MANagement of wastes, (ii) Recovery of marine litter, (iii) INnovation, and (iv) Empowerment, to encourage effective marine plastic litter measures worldwide. Under the Initiative, Japan continues to support capacity building in developing

countries to promote waste management, collection of marine waste, and innovation through specific measures.

In 2018 and 2019, Japan contributed approximately ¥2.84 billion in support through international organizations including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in order to build scientific knowledge and develop capacities for measures against marine plastic litter in the Asia region. The CounterMEASURE I and II projects by UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific have conducted awareness activities for local people and developed a method for monitoring the flow of plastic into the ocean in the lower Mekong River basin on the Indochinese Peninsula as well as the Southwest Asia region. In developing the method, the technology of Japanese companies that detects areas of plastic pollution was used to identify 886 “hotspots” with high risks for plastic leakage. Through the project, approximately 1,692 kg of plastic have been collected, approximately 823 kg of plastic have been analyzed for research, and the number of participants in awareness and cleanup activities has climbed to approximately 4,690 up until now.

Furthermore, based on the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter adopted at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in 2019, Japan has assisted in compiling the “G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework” at the 2020 G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting and under Saudi Arabia's initiative.

Moreover, as part of expanding assistance for ASEAN concerning marine plastic litter that was announced at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2018, Japan is providing trainings in Japan on survey and analysis methods on marine plastic litter, including

microplastics. The training was conducted virtually in January 2021 with a total of 17 attendees, including five from Indonesia and four each from Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

In addition, Japan is conducting human resources development as well as awareness and public relation activities for environmental conservation centered on reducing marine plastic litter in ASEAN countries. For example, with contributions to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and through various organizations such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, NHK International, Inc., and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan is providing assistance for the formulation of national action plans for ASEAN member states, regional collaborative research and capacity building for the monitoring and reduction of marine debris from fisheries in Southeast Asia, documentary video production on marine plastic waste, and the implementation of the 2019 Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris. Furthermore, at the Eighth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in December 2019, Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea affirmed that they would support and promote joint efforts to handle issues of common interest including marine plastic litter.



An online training to learn research and analytical methods on marine plastic litter, including microplastics

*** Conservation of Ocean Resources

Japan backs sustainable fishing and the sustainable development of fishing communities within the ASEAN region, and hence is conducting trainings and workshops on countermeasures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing through JICA and with the cooperation of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Curbing the impact on fish ecosystems by IUU fishing that exceeds regulatory thresholds will lead to enhanced sustainability of the fishing industry, one of the core industries for ASEAN countries.

*** Climate Change

Climate change is a global issue that requires a cross-border approach, and strengthening concerted efforts by the international community including both developed and developing countries is needed. Given the fact that the Kyoto Protocol adopted in 1997 imposed the obligations of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions only on developed countries, the Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), held in Paris in 2015, as a new framework under which all countries would work toward GHG emission reductions. The Paris Agreement entered into force in 2016. Although COP26, which had been scheduled to be held in Glasgow, the UK in November 2020, was postponed to November 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19, discussions have continued on topics such as the adoption of implementation guidelines for market mechanisms.

In March 2020, Japan submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ⁴⁰ to the UN and announced that reviews of the reduction targets in the NDC would be carried out consistently with revisions of the energy mix, aiming at aspiring figures to reflect further ambitious efforts.

Additionally, in his policy speech to the Diet in October 2020, Prime Minister Suga declared that by 2050, Japan will aim to reduce greenhouse emissions to net-zero, that is, to realize a carbon-neutral, decarbonized society to devote itself to the greatest possible extent to bring about a green society, while focusing on a virtuous cycle of the economy and the environment as a pillar of Japan's growth strategy. He also noted that addressing climate change is no longer a constraint on economic growth and paradigm shift is needed to a mindset that proactive climate change measures bring transformation of industrial structures as well as the economy and society, leading to dynamic economic growth. In addition to a sincere welcome and appreciation for this courageous decision expressed by UN Secretary-General Guterres, the policy was met with high acclaim by the international community, including Chile, COP25 President, and the UK, COP26 President.

On December 12, 2020, the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was co-hosted by the UK, France, and the UN in partnership with Chile and Italy as a summit-level event. This summit aimed to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement and to call for the international community's further efforts against climate change. Leaders from 75 countries and regions, international organizations, global companies, NGOs,

⁴⁰ Parties set their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and formulate measures to achieve them, which are submitted as their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat.



A video message by Prime Minister Suga played at the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 (December 2020)

and youth groups participated, with Prime Minister Suga attending from Japan. In his video message, Prime Minister Suga spoke of Japan's efforts in aiming to achieve a carbon-neutral society by 2050.

Moreover, Japan is actively supporting climate change actions in developing countries. In 2015, Japan announced the provision of approximately ¥1.3 trillion in 2020 in aid from public and private funds in order to support developing countries in addressing climate change, and is steadily working toward reaching that goal.

As a specific example of bilateral aid, Japan supported the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa to which Japan is dispatching experts on climate change countermeasures. Through the Centre, Japan is striving to develop human resources in the

Pacific island countries vulnerable to climate change. Additionally, in Tonga, Japan assisted in installing a wind power generation system with tiltable wind turbines and other machinery to support electricity supply that is resilient to natural disaster, promoting the introduction of renewable energy and contributing to its stable energy supply in the country.

As part of its assistance for measures against climate change in developing countries, Japan is promoting the "Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM),"* which facilitates the global application of advanced low-carbon and decarbonized technologies to the world including to developing countries. This will contribute to GHG emission reductions in developing countries and enable the bilateral sharing of the results. In 2013, Japan signed the first bilateral document pertaining to the JCM implementation with Mongolia, and to date, it has established the JCM with 17 countries. As of the end of 2020, the JCM credits have been issued from 37 energy-saving and renewable energy projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Maldives, Mongolia, Palau, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These JCM projects are contributing to GHG emission reductions worldwide.

With regard to export support for coal-fired power generation projects, in 2020, Japan tightened its export policy for assistance for newly planned projects from the perspective of engaging responsibly in the world's effective decarbonization. Japan will deepen its involvement in

Solomon

Project for Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resource Management in Solomon Islands

Technical Cooperation Project (September 2017 – August 2022)

Approximately 90% of the national land of Solomon is covered by forest (as of 2020). The forestry industry is one of the major industries, and revenues from the export of timber (mainly logs) account for approximately 65% of foreign currency earnings. In recent years, export volume has also been increasing in response to growing demand for timber in the Asian region.

This has raised concerns about the depletion of forest resources and forest degradation caused by large-scale commercial logging. For example, in the 10 years from 2000 to 2010, it is said that the canopy cover, which is the area of branches and leaves of the upper parts of trees, decreased by more than 20% on approximately 160,000 hectares of forests. In addition, since the majority of the forests are privately owned, it is important to promote the sustainable use of forest resources and raise the awareness of local residents about the danger of forest degradation.



A project meeting led by officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Research (Photo: JICA)

Under these circumstances, this project is supporting the strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Forestry and Research for sustainable forestry.

Project experts are working closely with the Ministry of Forestry and

Research to provide technical support for forest policy and forestry information management promoted by the ministry, as well as support to improve the coordination and leadership capabilities of the ministry's officials. In addition, through pilot activities with the participation of local residents, their awareness and ownership regarding the sustainable use of forests and forest lands have improved, and as a result, a way of life that is not too dependent on forest resources is gradually being realized.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry and Research, the project is playing a central role in coordinating with supporting organizations working in the forest sector by operating the Secretariat of the Forest Sector Technical Working Group. In this way, Japan's cooperation is contributing to the forestry policy in Solomon and is having significant inputs on the sustainable use of forest resources.



As a part of the pilot activities, a JICA expert instructing a local resident on community boundary demarcation (Photo: JICA)



The Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, which serves as base for the work of Pacific island countries against climate change (Photo: JICA)

the partner country's energy and climate change policy, leading the realization of a decarbonized society.

Furthermore, Japan supports developing countries through its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)*, the world's largest multilateral climate fund. Japan has pledged up to \$3 billion to the fund, putting effort into its support for countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as the fund's second largest donor country. In the GCF, a total of 159 projects have been approved by December 2020, with a large number of them entering the implementation phase, which in total are expected to reduce GHG emissions by 1.2 billion tons and benefit 410 million people through support for adaptation measures. Additionally, from Japan, JICA and MUFG Bank have been approved as "Accredited Entities" that are entitled to develop GCF projects, and to date, two projects by MUFG Bank have been adopted (construction of solar power and pumped-storage hydroelectricity facilities in Chile (July 2019) and support for sustainable private forestry projects in seven countries in Sub-Saharan and South American region (March 2020)).

*** Biodiversity

Expansion in the types, scope, and scale of human activities has given rise to serious concerns about further degradation of habitats and the destruction of the ecosystem in recent years. Japan places importance on biodiversity initiatives, such as hosting the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (COP10) in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture in October 2010. With the aim of providing support for measures such as the capacity development of developing countries toward the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, Japan contributes to the "Japan Biodiversity Fund,"* through which the Secretariat of the Convention organizes workshops to support the implementation of the National Biodiversity

Strategies and Action Plans. In addition, as part of the process of formulating the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including the next global goals that will replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Open-ended Working Group and other meetings have been held, during which Japan also participated in and contributed to the discussions.

In recent years, illegal trade in wildlife has become an increasingly serious issue. It is also drawing the attention of the international community as one of the sources of funding for international terrorist organizations. Along with actively participating in the discussions at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Japan works on resolving these issues in cooperation with the international community through contributing to projects implemented by the CITES Secretariat. Specifically, Japan has supported the construction of facilities for implementing elephant poaching countermeasures among other initiatives.

*** Environmental Pollution Control Measures

In developing countries, regulatory controls on hazardous chemical materials are often not in place, and sometimes lead to environmental pollution and damage to health. Japan has accumulated abundant knowledge, experience, and technology related to environmental pollution control measures and has been utilizing them to solve environmental pollution problems in developing countries. Japan has also been conducting technical cooperation in the chemical industry, such as dispatching experts to developing countries and accepting trainees from them, including in the areas of environmental management techniques, analysis techniques and risk evaluation for environmentally hazardous substances, and trace chemical analysis techniques.

At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury held in Japan in 2013, Japan took the lead in the adoption of the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" as the President, and this Convention entered into force in August 2017. Japan is exercising continuous leadership in promoting the management of global mercury pollution by proactively transferring to the world its technology and know-how on preventing adverse effects caused by mercury, accumulated through its experience with the Minamata disease ⁴¹. In December 2020, Japan, among other things, held an online training regarding the management of mercury for ten countries with UNEP-ROAP as the implementing institution in order to provide support for developing countries.

Moreover, in the field of waste management, based

⁴¹ Minamata disease is a toxic nervous disorder caused by ingesting fish and shellfish contaminated with methylmercury compounds discharged from chemical plants. The disease was officially acknowledged in May 1956 in and around Minamata Bay area in Kumamoto Prefecture, and in May 1965 in the Agano River basin of Niigata Prefecture.

on the “MARINE Initiative,” in addition to providing training for 10,000 officials engaging in waste management around the world by 2025 Japan held the 10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific jointly with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) as a webinar series over six sessions from November to December 2020. During the Forum, various countries shared information on systematic and technological aspects useful for the promotion of 3R ⁴² and the circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region, and as the outcome document, the “State of Plastics Waste in Asia and the -Pacific- Issues, Challenges and Circular Economic Opportunities” report summarizing the overview of waste issues in the Asia-Pacific region was adopted.

In November 2020, Japan also signed an Exchange of Notes with Cambodia on the “Project for Combating Marine Plastic Litter.” In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the project will promote 4R (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and carry out operations to raise awareness of waste

disposal among residents and corporations. By aiming to improve the environments of urban areas and to reduce the amount of plastic waste discharged into the ocean through the Mekong River, the project is expected to improve the urban living environments for Cambodia’s citizens and contribute to Goal 14 of the SDGs, “Life Below Water.”

Moreover, as a model project for waste management support in Africa under the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)*, Japan has provided support for the Hulene final waste dumping site in Mozambique. Following an accident in which a waste pile collapsed due to heavy rains, Japan has supported the prevention of further collapse and future safety measures by applying the “Fukuoka method” at the dumping site through pilot construction utilizing counterpart funds and on-site guidance by experts. This “Fukuoka” method was developed by Japan and is being introduced in waste dumping sites around the world, such as Asia and Africa. The first construction for safety measures, which began in 2019, was completed in October 2020.

--- **= Glossary** ---



***Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

A multilateral funding mechanism providing primarily grant-based financing for projects that contribute to global environmental conservation in developing countries. Established in 1991, 183 countries including Japan participate (as of June 2020). The World Bank acts as trustee. Through 18 implementing organizations including MDBs (World Bank, ADB, etc.) and UN organizations (UNDP, UNEP, etc.), it assists in the five areas of biodiversity conservation, measures against climate change, pollution prevention in international waters, measures against land degradation, and measures against chemicals and waste.

It is designated as the financing mechanism to five international conventions: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Minamata Convention on Mercury.

***Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)**

A mechanism to evaluate contributions by Japan for GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner through the provision of advanced decarbonized technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure to developing countries and through the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction projects, and to utilize the achieved reductions as “credit” to achieve Japan’s emission reduction target.

***Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

A multilateral climate fund established by the decision of the Cancun Agreements adopted at COP16 in 2010, in order to support developing countries in reducing/sequestering their greenhouse gases (mitigation) and enhancing their ability to respond to climate change (adaptation).

***Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

A convention adopted in 1992 to advance efforts to address biodiversity issues on a global scale. The objectives of the CBD are the following: (i) conservation of biological diversity, (ii) sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (utilizing living things, etc. for resources into the future while maintaining diversity at the levels of ecosystems, species, and genes), and (iii) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from 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.

***Aichi Biodiversity Targets (The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020)**

Aichi Biodiversity Targets were set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 of the CBD adopted at COP10 in 2010. It sets a goal to realize “Living in Harmony with Nature” by 2050 and established 20 individual short-term targets called the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” in order to implement actions to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020.

***Japan Biodiversity Fund**

A fund established in the Secretariat of the CBD by Japan during its COP10 Presidency with the aim of cultivating capacities in developing countries for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Japan contributed a total of ¥5 billion in FY2010 and FY2011.

***African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)**

Established in April 2017 by the Ministry of the Environment together with JICA, the City of Yokohama, UNEP, and the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) aiming to share knowledge on waste management and promote the achievement of the SDGs in Africa. 65 cities in 37 countries in Africa have joined, holding plenary sessions, creating various guidelines and educational materials, planning study tours, and more.

⁴² A term referring to the first letter of Reduce (reduce waste), Reuse, and Recycle.



Dr. MATSUFUJI Yasushi, Professor Emeritus at Fukuoka University and developer of the “Fukuoka method,” providing on-site guidance in a project supporting urban waste management (through UN-HABITAT) in Ethiopia, one of the ACCP’s initiatives

(7) Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction, Measures of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Post-Disaster Recovery and Creating Sustainable Cities

In developing countries that are vulnerable to disasters, the poor are more likely to be affected significantly and displaced by disasters. In addition, protracted secondary damage, such as the deterioration of sanitary conditions and food shortages, can increase the severity of the issue and have a significant impact on the entire society and economy in developing countries. Therefore, it is necessary to build a disaster-resilient and flexible society to protect human lives from disasters. At the

same time, efforts aimed at sustainable development are needed. Among them, it is important to promote the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction” that introduces the perspective of disaster risk reduction in all the development policies and plans.

Moreover, in recent years, attention has been focused on the various issues relating to the management of cities, which serve as primary settlement areas of humans and are the focal points of economic, social, and political activities. For example, such issues include measures to handle the disposal of the substantial amount of waste emitted in urban areas and suburbs, prevention of air, water, and other pollution, development of infrastructure facilities including sewage and waste treatment systems, and responses to rapid population increases and the consequent rapid pace of urbanization. Addressing these issues and engaging in efforts to realize sustainable cities have become priorities for development cooperation.

Thus, among the SDGs, Goal 11 sets forth the following task: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” Likewise, there is growing international interest in resolving the issues of human settlements, including realizing sustainable cities.

Nepal

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strengthening Project in Chitwan District (Phase 1 and 2)

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (November 2017 – November 2019)

Public nomination

In Madi, Chitwan District, located on the plains of southern Nepal, there are several large and small rivers flowing from south to north that would frequently overflow every year during the rainy season, causing flood damage to fields and houses. In response, SHAPLA NEER = Citizens’ Committee in Japan for Overseas Support, a Japanese non-profit organization, implemented a project to reduce the disaster risk of entire rivers based on the concept of “One River One Community,” broad-area watershed management that works on flood countermeasures spanning from upstream to downstream. Started as a self-funded project in 2016 covering eight villages near the Bandarmudhe River in Madi, SHAPLA NEER has been implementing the disaster risk reduction project for three years from 2017 through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects.

As a direct measure to reduce flood risk, infrastructure construction works were carried out based on surveys and technical guidance by Japanese experts in landslide and flood prevention techniques, such as widening the river to build earthen embankments and constructing revetments with gabions, boxes, or cages filled with rocks, in dangerous areas with flood risk. In addition, in the Bandarmudhe River Basin, the project encouraged local people to form community disaster risk reduction committees, and through regular meetings of these committees, developed disaster risk reduction maps (hazard maps) for each village. Moreover, the project worked to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction among local residents by providing them with hand crank sirens to warn their communities in case of heavy rain.

As a result, no floods have been reported in the target area even after three rainy seasons since the project started. In addition, local residents are now able to act in advance to prevent disasters, for instance by using sirens to warn downstream communities of danger from upstream communities. Prior to this, they used to evacuate just before or even after the river had overflowed. Furthermore, Madi City Council highly praised these initiatives and allocated a budget for flood prevention measures. This shows that the SHAPLA NEER initiative has become sustainable, promoting self-reliant growth in line with the basic principle of Japan’s ODA.



Local residents drawing a map on the ground to identify flood-prone areas and safe areas in the community in order to make a hazard map (Photo: SHAPLA NEER = Citizens’ Committee in Japan for Overseas Support)

*** Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan utilizes its enriched knowledge and technology acquired through its past experiences with natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, to provide proactive support for disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery measures, alongside emergency assistance. In 2015, as a result of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was adopted. The Sendai Framework incorporated ideas proposed by Japan, such as the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction,” the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, the commitments of diverse stakeholders, the concept of “Build Back Better,” and the importance of women’s leadership.

Furthermore, then Prime Minister Abe announced the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2 in 2019 as a new support initiative that would become Japan’s future basic policy for cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. Japan demonstrated its attitude to further contribute to the international community by utilizing its advanced expertise and technology in the field of disaster risk reduction. Specifically, in addition to providing support for at least five million people over the four-year period from 2019 to 2022 for flood countermeasures and other measures, Japan also announced human resources development for a total of 48,000 officials and local leaders and disaster risk reduction education for a total of 37,000 children who will create the next generation. Such efforts by Japan enhanced not only the quality of building structures and improvement of disaster monitoring facilities in each country, but also the development of human resources in fields such as laws and plans enactment related to disaster risk reduction, formulation of disaster risk reduction policies, and disaster monitoring. Consequently, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction is progressing in each country.



A disaster risk reduction training by a JICA expert in Honduras (Photo: JICA)

In addition, at then Prime Minister Abe’s encouragement at the UN General Assembly in December 2015, a resolution was adopted to establish November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day in order to raise

awareness of tsunamis. Accordingly, the “High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2019 in Hokkaido” was held in Sapporo in September 2019 and the “Third World Tsunami Museum Conference” was held online in November 2020.

Moreover, Japan is providing disaster risk reduction cooperation through international organizations. For example, in close cooperation with UNDP, Japan is implementing projects including the formulation of tsunami evacuation plans and tsunami evacuation drills for countries at high tsunami risk in the Asia-Pacific region. Based on World Tsunami Awareness Day, phase I of the project provided support from a practical local perspective for raising awareness on tsunami disaster risk reduction and strengthening disaster risk reduction capabilities and systems in each country. The project was implemented from June 2017 to November 2018 aimed at helping community residents including children in areas vulnerable to tsunamis to learn how to prepare for tsunamis and how to act when a natural disaster occurs. Under the project, tsunami disaster management plans were formulated and updated, and programs for tsunami education were implemented at a total of 115 schools across 18 target countries with 61,175 people participating in evacuation drills. The Regional Guide for Schools to Prepare for Tsunamis was also developed and used. Under phase II ⁴³ of the project, which began in December 2018 based on this experience and with a target period through July 2020, the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction has been promoted in Palau, with a Presidential Proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness Month. Also, teacher and other staff trainings were conducted at 136 schools, and the formulation and revision of tsunami disaster management plans as well as programs for tsunami education were implemented at 202 schools across 11 countries, with 88,841 students, teachers, and other school personnel participating in tsunami evacuation drills.

Additionally, Japan also cooperates with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Every year since 2016, the UNITAR Hiroshima Office has implemented a human resources development project (lectures, study tours to domestic disaster-affected areas, etc.) related to women’s roles and leadership during times of natural disasters, particularly in the event of tsunamis, targeting female government officials and others in developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters, with the aim to spread and raise awareness of World Tsunami Awareness Day. Through this project, 123 people have participated from 18 Pacific and Indian Ocean island countries by the end of 2019.

*** Realizing Sustainable Cities

Based on the Development Cooperation Charter,

⁴³ Targeting 18 countries in the Asia-Pacific region (5 of which are newly added).

Japan implements initiatives to resolve global issues directly related to human settlements, including efforts for promoting disaster risk reduction, recovery from natural disasters, and a sound water cycle. In particular, drawing on its know-how and experience, Japan develops infrastructure, including water and sewage, waste, and energy facilities. In addition, Japan carries out disaster risk reduction programs, human resources development, etc. based on the concept of “Build Back Better,” striving to build cities that are more resilient to natural disasters after rebuilding. Furthermore, Japan implements initiatives through providing assistance to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which promotes sustainable urban development. One example can be seen in Japan’s collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), based in Fukuoka, to introduce the environmental technology of private-sector companies and local governments in Japan to their overseas counterparts.

(8) Food Security ⁴⁴ and Nutrition

The number of chronically undernourished people in the world is estimated at 687.8 million (approximately one in 11 people in the world) in 2019, according to the “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report 2020” jointly prepared and published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Although the number of chronically undernourished people had been on a declining trend for more than 10 years until 2014, it has risen by over 60 million people since the trend was reversed in 2015. In order to achieve Goal 2 of the SDGs, “End hunger, achieve food security and nutrition improvement, and promote sustainable agriculture,” it is vital to put in greater effort. Furthermore, although a provisional estimate, the possibility of a further 80 million to 130 million people falling into malnutrition has been pointed out as a result of the economic decline caused by the spread of COVID-19. Hence, there are calls around the world to accelerate and expand action toward strengthening resilience and adaptability against this grave food crisis.

In order to ensure food security, there is a need for multifaceted measures based on international coordination. These measures include not only a sustainable increase in the production of food, but also improvement of nutrition, establishment of a social safety net, provision of necessary food assistance, and implementation of countermeasures against pests and infectious diseases among livestock. Improving the nutritional status during the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to the child’s second birthday is said to be particularly important as it has a significant impact on the

child’s long-term growth thereafter.

Moreover, since many of the poor in developing countries live in the rural area and the majority depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, it is also important to tackle the development of agriculture and farming communities. Furthermore, many farmers in developing countries are unable to sell their agricultural products at a high price, and this, among other factors, makes it difficult for them to get out of poverty. Thus, one of the proposed solutions for this is to build a food value chain. This is an initiative in which many stakeholders, including the farmers, suppliers of the necessary farming implements such as seeds, fertilizers, and farming machinery, processing companies of agricultural produce, transportation and distribution companies, and retailers, cooperate to create a chain that can enhance the added value of agricultural produce from the stages of production, to manufacturing and processing, distribution, and consumption. Specifically, the added value of agricultural produce includes improving the quality of products, developing attractive new products, reducing transportation costs, increasing sales opportunities by expanding the sales network, and other activities.

Japan’s Efforts

Japan proactively addresses food-related problems as a global issue, giving priority to cooperation for the promotion of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, including the development of food value chains. In the short term, Japan provides food assistance to developing countries to avert food shortages, and in the medium to long-term, it aims to help increase and improve agricultural production and productivity in developing countries in order to prevent and eliminate the causes of food-related problems including hunger. As its medium to long-term support, specifically, Japan uses its knowledge and experience to strengthen research and technology development along with capacity building in disseminating this technology in a way that is suited to the cultivation environment, promote the sustainable use of fishery resources, strengthen organizations of farmers, and assist in policymaking, as well as to improve infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, farm roads, and fishing ports.



Local extension workers for vegetable farming and processing giving technical instruction to farmers in Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh, India (Photo: JICA)

⁴⁴ A state where all people, at all times, can access sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

Promoting Acceptance of Foreign Human Resources Gives Boost to Farmers in Laos and Japan!

—Agricultural promotion through cooperation with Lao Government, Farmers Cooperative Association in Kagawa Prefecture, and JICA—

The province of Xieng Khouang in northern Laos is located in a mountainous area which is lagging behind in agricultural and infrastructure development. It is a poverty area where hill tribes, such as the Hmong, make their living mainly through slash-and-burn agriculture and collecting natural fruits. Although the Government of Laos is taking measures to encourage hill tribes to switch to settled agriculture, this has not yet led to solving the poverty issue.

The Farmers Cooperative Association in Kagawa Prefecture (the Farmers' Co-op) has been accepting technical intern trainees from Asia since 2008 and learned about the situation of Xieng Khouang, the province from which their Lao trainees had come. In 2017, the Farmers' Co-op began a project for developing agricultural production areas in Xieng Khouang to enable vulnerable farmers in the province to settle there, grow and harvest crops, and earn a stable income.

Mr. KONDO Takashi, Representative Director of the Farmers' Co-op, explains as follows: "We started experimenting with garlic seeds cultivated in Kagawa Prefecture because the climate in the cool highland province of Xieng Khouang is suitable for the cultivation of temperate vegetables and fruit trees. We established an agricultural production corporation in Laos and started growing seedlings. One of our goals for the future is to grow kiwifruit pollen for pollination. We are working with local staff to provide technical guidance and supplies to farmers that are appropriate for the local climate and conditions." Mr. MORIKAWA Takeshi of INFINI Co., Ltd., one of the Farmers' Co-op members participating in the project, shares his ambitions. "We selected fruit tree seedlings that may be suitable for local conditions and exported them from Japan to Laos. In the future, we hope to process and commercialize the crops, promote sales of superior varieties as products of Laos, and export them to neighboring countries."

The Farmers' Co-op has been making use of the Technical Intern Training Program to generate benefits for both farming communities in developing countries sending technical intern trainees to Japan, and communities in Japan receiving them. The Farmers' Co-

op currently hosts approximately 200 trainees from four countries, including Laos. The trainees learn agricultural methods while working at the member farms of the Farmers' Co-op for six years at most as of December 2020. With regard to Laos, there is a growing trend in which the agricultural production corporation is offering work to trainees after they return home, and some of them who studied in Kagawa Prefecture are playing

an active role in providing agricultural supports in the areas where hill tribes live. This program helps Lao farmers by increasing their incomes and creating opportunities for farming and employment.

At the same time, for the farmers in Kagawa Prefecture it secures a stable workforce and, in the future, enables them to obtain high-quality seeds and pollen from Laos, thus leading to a win-win relationship for both sides.

In order to further expand these activities of the Farmers' Co-op, the "Xieng Khouang-Kagawa-JICA Cooperation Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development" was launched in October 2019. This program aims to improve the livelihood of vulnerable farmers in Xieng Khouang province by supporting production and sale of vegetables and fruit trees through the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos, the Farmers' Co-op, and JICA. JICA coordinates with the Government of Laos, facilitates administrative procedures, provides guidance to agricultural extension workers, and conducts market research related to the distribution of agricultural products. JICA Volunteers and experts also will be dispatched to support the activities of farmers and agricultural corporations. Kagawa Prefecture, for its part, is promoting new initiatives such as improvement of the environment for receiving technical intern trainees through an "All-Kagawa" approach with the support of private companies and related organizations. "The Xieng Khouang-Kagawa-JICA Cooperation Program is a good example that meets the needs of both Laos and Kagawa Prefecture through collaboration between ODA and the Technical Intern Training Program," says Mr. SHINOZAKI Yusuke of JICA's Economic Development Department.

"Rather than simply exporting Japanese techniques, it is important to provide guidance and advice on adapting them to local conditions," pointed out Mr. SUEZAWA Katsuhiko of NPO Active Chain Agriculture, a participant in this project. Representative Director Kondo describes the achievements of the project and future goals as follows. "Even after technical intern trainees returned to their countries, we continued to provide support so that they can apply the skills they learned in Japan in their home countries. As a result, highly motivated and talented people now apply for Technical Intern Training. We hope to continue this positive cycle and make sure that it leads to paving the way to the future."

It is expected that the success of the production area development project, which is based on the acceptance of foreign human resources, will continue to help promote agriculture in both developing countries and Japan.



A rural landscape in the province of Xieng Khouang, Laos (Photo: the Farmers' Co-op)



Technical intern trainees from Laos engaging in garlic shipment work (Photo: the Farmers' Co-op)

Efforts to Provide Food Assistance and Improve Nutrition

Japan is providing food assistance based on requests from developing countries confronting food shortages. In FY2019, Japan contributed a total of ¥4.05 billion as bilateral food aid in 13 countries and provided approximately 680,000 tons of grains (rice and wheat), which mainly included Japanese government rice.

Moreover, in cooperation with WFP, Japan provided ¥352 million in grant aid to the Nuwakot District in Nepal for the construction of facilities to provide school meals by adopting a “local production for local consumption” system for ingredients, capacity building for spreading school meals, and nutrition education trainings for local residents.

In addition to bilateral support, Japan, in cooperation with international organizations, is also engaged in efforts to provide food assistance from the perspective of preventing the occurrence and recurrence of conflicts, which is a cause of starvation. For example, through WFP, Japan implements measures such as emergency food assistance and school feeding programs to improve access to education, as well as food assistance to support the self-reliance of local communities by

encouraging people, through the distribution of food, to participate in the development of agricultural land and social infrastructure. In 2019, WFP conducted activities including the distribution of approximately 4.2 million tons of food to approximately 97.1 million people in 83 countries around the world. In 2019, Japan contributed a total of \$156.93 million to WFP projects.

As for initiatives for nutritional improvement as well, in addition to bilateral assistance for the promotion of breastfeeding and the training of health professionals, Japan also provides assistance through multilateral cooperation by contributing to organizations such as UNICEF and WFP. Japan also participates in the international nutritional improvement initiative, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), as a donor country. In recent years, Japan is also putting effort into promoting nutritional improvement programs in collaboration with private companies and launched the Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NJPPP) in 2016. Through this platform, in cooperation with partners from private companies, civil society, and academic research institutions, Japan contributes to nutrition improvement specifically by creating an environment that can boost initiatives of Japanese food-related enterprises, etc. for nutritional

Viet Nam

Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for National Nutritionist Qualification System JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys*¹ (Collaboration with the “Vietnam Nutrition System Establishment Project (VINEP)” by Ajinomoto Co., Inc.) (April 2014 – June 2016)

Public nomination

While Viet Nam has experienced remarkable growth in recent years and is becoming more affluent, health problems such as overnutrition (obesity, etc.) and a rapid increase in non-communicable diseases are beginning to appear. For this reason, there is a growing need to train dietitians who can provide accurate nutritional knowledge to the public.

In response to this situation, in 2011, Ajinomoto Co., Inc. launched the “Vietnam Nutrition System Establishment Project”^{*2} with the National Institute of Nutrition of Viet Nam, and a four-year dietitians training course was started at Hanoi Medical University in 2013. The Japan Dietetic Association, Jomonji University, Kanagawa University of Human Services, and others cooperated in the project, and the first 43 dietitians were fostered in Viet Nam in 2017.

In addition, through JICA's SDG Business Supporting Surveys, the company invited officials from the government, universities, and hospitals involved in systems related to nutrition, as well as dietitian training course instructors and students, to Japan for training. Moreover, based on the knowledge learned in Japan and what they experienced during site visits, the participants held a



Vietnamese dietitians as interns learning from dietitians at Kyoto University Hospital (Photo: The Ajinomoto Foundation)

“Nutrition Symposium” in Viet Nam to convey the importance of nutrition management and national nutrition policy. Thanks to such efforts,

dietitians were legally recognized as a civil service profession in 2015, laying the groundwork for a system to further develop the discipline.

The company continued to support the project, providing internship programs and local workshops in the field of clinical nutrition^{*3}. Furthermore, the Ajinomoto Foundation has been continuing this project since 2017, and the number of universities training dietitians has now been increased to nine. The Minister of Health of Viet Nam mentioned at the workshop that “500 dietitians in five years” would be trained, and various forms of support are being provided to achieve this goal.

In order for the newly fostered dietitians to play an active role in improving the health of people in Viet Nam, the education system still needs to be improved. The Ajinomoto Foundation is supporting the creation of a sustainable education system that will enable dietitians to play an active role.



Healthcare workers studying nutrition and project experts at the Nutrition Training Center of the National Institute of Nutrition of Viet Nam (Photo: The Ajinomoto Foundation)

*1 Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for the Social and Economic Development (currently: SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector (SDGs Business Support Type))

*2 Vietnam Nutrition system Establishment Project (VINEP)

*3 Projects of Global Extension of Medical Technologies (2015, 2017)

Awarding of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to World Food Programme (WFP)

On October 9, 2020, WFP was awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. WFP is a UN organization established in 1961 to implement emergency food assistance, etc.

Prime Minister Suga and Foreign Minister Motegi each sent out messages expressing their congratulations for the award. In the messages, along with showing their profound respect for the WFP staff responding to the COVID-19 pandemic day in and day out while the world faces such an unprecedented crisis, they expressed their high appreciation for WFP's abundant experience in addressing humanitarian crises as the sole UN agency delivering food assistance, as well as their intent to continue to strongly support WFP's efforts (see also "Japanese Personnel Playing Active Roles in International Organizations across the World" in Part I regarding the activities of Japanese WFP staff).



Prime Minister Suga receiving a courtesy call and report of winning the Nobel Peace Prize from the WFP Japan Relations Office, the Japan Association for the WFP, and the WFP Parliamentary League (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

improvement in developing countries.

Additionally, at TICAD VI, Japan launched the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) with the aim of accelerating nutrition improvement in Africa, and announced Japan would extend IFNA's experience and knowledge throughout the African continent to improve the nutrition of 200 million children under the age of five in Africa at the TICAD7. In this way, efforts led by Japan have been getting underway in earnest to improve nutrition.

*** Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021

Positioning nutrition as an important basic area for achieving UHC, Japan as the host country of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will hold the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 in December 2021. Through this summit, Japan aims to promote global initiatives for improving nutrition.

At the Summit, discussions on various topics related to nutrition will be conducted with a large number of stakeholders in order to resolve challenges. Specifically, the following five themes are planned to be discussed: integrating nutrition to UHC, building healthy and sustainable food systems, addressing malnutrition in fragile and conflict affected contexts, promoting data-driven accountability, and securing financial resources for improving nutrition (see pages 61 to 63 for details on UHC).

*** Establishment of Food Value Chains and Promotion of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Japan is promoting the establishment of food value chains for developing countries through public-private partnership. In December 2019, Japan formulated the "Plan to Promote the Establishment of Global Food Value Chain," which stipulates priority initiatives for building food value chains in countries and regions throughout the world, and in FY2020, organized bilateral policy dialogues based on the plan with Viet Nam, Thailand, and other countries.

Moreover, with the aim of realizing food security and eradicating poverty in Africa, Japan places emphasis on agriculture as an industry that plays an important role in Africa's economic growth, and contributes to its development. For instance, Japan supports the research of NERICA (New Rice for Africa)*, a cross-breed between Asian rice and African rice, and the spread of its production techniques, as well as support for increasing rice production based on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Furthermore, at TICAD7 in 2019, Japan announced the launch of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)* 2nd phase in order to achieve a goal of further doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa (from the 2018 goal of 28 million tons to 56 million tons by 2030). Under CARD 2nd phase, efforts are strengthened toward doubling rice production by increasing the number of

Morocco

Dispatch of JICA Expert on Development of Maritime Fisheries Individual Expert (May 2017 – January 2020)

Japan and Morocco have a long history of cooperation in the development of the fisheries sector, dating back 40 years. Japan has provided multifaceted support including the development of fisheries infrastructure, promotion of coastal fisheries, fisheries education, and research on fisheries resources. Today, Morocco's fisheries sector has come to boast one of the largest catches in Africa, with fisheries products accounting for about 10% of the country's total export value. The sector, including related industries, also provides employment to as many as approximately 660,000 people. On the other hand, there are still many small-scale fishers who are in a socially and economically vulnerable position.

In response to this, JICA expert Mr. SUGIYAMA Shunji was dispatched as a fisheries development expert to the Moroccan Department of Marine Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests in May 2017.

In order to understand the reality of small-scale fisheries, Mr. Sugiyama and his colleagues from the Department spent several months visiting approximately 23 fishing villages scattered along the coast. They listened to the fish workers explaining their severe conditions and held on-site discussions with them on various possibilities such as the development of local products, cooperation



Mr. Sugiyama visiting a fishing village to observe their situation through conversations with fish workers (Photo: JICA)

between the tourism and fishery sectors, and the participation of women's groups. They compiled the results into a proposal and submitted it to the Government of Morocco. The proposal included plans to improve income opportunities for small-scale fishers through the

production of bottled sardines or cultivation of mussels, as well as initiatives for the cooperation among the fishing ports, fisheries cooperative-run restaurants, direct sales stands for fisheries products, etc., in order to attract tourists from Western countries. They also

provided technical training for direct sale of fisheries products.

In addition, Morocco is utilizing the experience in developing fisheries infrastructure, etc., learned from Japan to advance South-South cooperation*¹ with Sub-Saharan African countries. Mr. Sugiyama is also encouraging such activities in Morocco to promote cooperation for the development of the fisheries sector across the entire Africa region.

The proposal was compiled as a framework for the concrete implementation of a "Blue Economy (BE)"*² designed for the sustainable development of Morocco's fisheries sector, and through this project, Japan gained an experience in providing support in the new field of the BE. In this way, Japan and Morocco are steadily advancing a new initiative that is beneficial to both countries.

*1 See the glossary on page 118.

*2 The blue economy aims both for the conservation of marine resources and economic development through the sustainable use of resources in the sea, rivers, lakes, and other water areas. This concept involves diverse stakeholders in the goal of economic development through the effective use of local marine and fishery resources. It has come into the spotlight in recent years, and there are high hopes for the initiative not only in Morocco but in other African countries. Japan's experience in fisheries product processing and product development can be utilized.



Mr. Sugiyama exchanging ideas about local products with a women's union (Photo: JICA)

eligible recipient countries from 23 to 32 and adopting the RICE (Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, Empowerment) approach* including efforts for enhancing the quality of locally-produced rice.

Moreover, in order to promote the transition from self-sufficient agriculture to income generating agricultural activities, Japan has provided training for 18,013 technical instructors and 183,042 smallholders from 29 countries, including non-African countries, toward the promotion of market-oriented agriculture through the



A Japanese expert giving an explanation on a fanning mill during a training on the post-harvest processing of upland rice in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach* by the end of 2019.

In addition, in response to requests from African countries at TICAD VI for greater cooperation in the agricultural sector, Japan has launched a platform that connects African countries and Japan. Through this platform, Japan dispatched seven experienced experts from 2019 to 2020 to carry out the transfer of outstanding agricultural technology and advance human resources development as well as to promote excellent projects in the agricultural sector.

*** Food Security through a Multilateral Cooperation Approach

Under the Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)* initiative, the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (PRAI) were formulated by FAO, IFAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the World Bank, while the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) were adopted at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2014. Japan, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, promotes efforts

for conducting research to facilitate RAI and initiatives to share good practices in order to raise awareness and promote understanding at the regional level.

The G7 also announced the “G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition” at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016. In response to the G7 Vision for Action, Japan works on the following priority areas to achieve the target by 2030: empowering women, improving nutrition through a people-centered approach, and ensuring sustainability and resilience within agriculture and food systems.

Furthermore, Japan has been involved in initiatives such as providing assistance to the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in the G20, which aims to enhance the transparency of the international agricultural market. It is an inter-organizational platform launched in 2011 by the G20 as a measure to counter the wild fluctuations of food prices, and the G20 member countries, major importing and exporting countries, corporations, and international organizations utilize it to share information on the agricultural and food market (such as production volumes and prices) in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner. Japan has provided project costs to AMIS, while sharing information about Japan, to contribute to the enhancement of food security.

Japan also provides assistance in the agricultural sector

to enable developing countries to strengthen their own foundations for food production through international organizations such as FAO, IFAD, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and WFP, while also making contributions to the enhancement of animal hygiene through the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO. For example, Japan has provided assistance in technical cooperation for the agricultural and rural development of developing countries, the establishment of international standards and norms in the food and agriculture fields, and the development of statistics, etc. through FAO. In addition, Japan provides support for research on the variety development conducted by CGIAR, which is comprised of 15 agricultural research institutions, and promotes collaboration with CGIAR through exchanges among researchers. Concerning transboundary zoonotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and African Swine Fever (ASF), Japan is contributing to enhancing animal hygiene in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with the OIE and FAO, through active contributions to the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), which was established by those two organizations (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 149).

= Glossary



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

NERICA is a general term for rice developed in 1994 by the Africa Rice Center (formerly West Africa Rice Development Association [WARDA]) through the hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with African rice, which is resistant to weeds, diseases, and insect pests. In order for NERICA to suit the natural conditions of each region in Africa, they are characterized by (i) a higher yield, (ii) a shorter growth period, (iii) higher resistance to dryness (drought), and (iv) higher resistance to diseases and insect pests than conventional rice. Since 1997, Japan has partnered with international organizations and NGOs to provide support for research and development related to new types of NERICA, test cultivation, and increased production and popularization of seeds. In addition, Japan has dispatched agricultural experts and JOCVs to offer cultivation training and has also accepted trainees from Africa for training in Japan.

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

CARD is a consultative group composed of donor countries, African regional organizations, and international organizations, partnered with rice-producing countries in Africa that are interested in rice production and development. It was proposed and launched by Japan at the TICAD IV in 2008 to support self-help efforts toward the expansion of rice production in Africa.

***Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, Empowerment (RICE) approach**

An initiative adopted under CARD 2nd phase to realize the goal of doubling rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa. Specific efforts include stabilizing production through adaption to climate change and population growth, industrial formation in local areas in cooperation with the private sector, enhancing the quality of home-grown rice so that it can compete with imported rice, and the establishment of agricultural management systems for improving the household incomes and livelihoods of farmers.

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

The SHEP approach refers to an effort to assist smallholder farmers producing fruits, vegetables, and other produce and was started by Japan in Kenya in 2006, aimed at increasing their income by causing a mindset shift from “selling after growing” to “growing to sell” and through improvements to farm management and cultivation skills. Japan is supporting the adoption of SHEP around the world with a focus on Africa, pledging its wide expansion to African countries and human resources development (1,000 technical instructors and 50,000 smallholder organization members) at the TICAD V in 2013.

***Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)**

RAI is an initiative that aims to maximize the interest of local residents and communities including farmers and investors, as well as minimize the risks to both sides, by balancing between the responses to the need to increase agricultural investment for reducing severe poverty in rural areas of developing countries and the responses to the unintentional negative impact of agricultural investment, such as a threat to food security and various rights including land ownership of the local people based on the need for increased global food production and sharp rises in international food prices. It was proposed by Japan at the G8 L'Aquila Summit (Italy) in 2009.

(9) Securing Access to Resources and Energy

The number of people without access to electricity is estimated at approximately 790 million in the world and more than approximately one in two people in Sub-Saharan Africa as of 2018. In 2030, it is estimated that approximately 2.3 billion people globally will not have access to clean cooking fuels and technology (electricity, LPG, natural gas, etc.), and the accompanying indoor air pollution is one of the factors of premature death. The lack of electricity, gas, and other energy supplies also leads to many issues, such as the delay in industrial development, a loss of employment opportunities, and a further increase in poverty. Stable energy supply and appropriate consideration to the environment are essential since the global energy demand is expected to increase further, mainly in emerging and developing countries, particularly in Asia.

Japan's Efforts

In order to realize sustainable development in developing countries, Japan works on the provision of services which enable modern energy supply and the stable supply of electricity for industrial

development. In addition, Japan provides support for the establishment of an environmentally friendly infrastructure (socio-economic infrastructure), such as the construction of energy-saving equipment and power generation facilities that utilize renewable energy (hydropower, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind power, geothermal power, etc.). For example, Japan is providing assistance for the construction and rehabilitation of geothermal power plants in the Olkaria geothermal field in Kenya, utilizing ODA loans for clean and stable power supply regardless of weather, which contributes to a total of approximately 400 MW of power generation. Moreover, in Pacific Island countries with limited and scattered land, which are vulnerable to the influence of climate change, Japan, under the “hybrid island concept,” is providing assistance to mainstream grid-connected type renewable energy from the perspective of energy security and the realization of a low-carbon or decarbonized society. At the Pacific Climate Change Center built through Japan’s assistance in Samoa, Japan is also focusing on developing human resources in the area of climate change countermeasures in the Pacific Island region.

Azerbaijan

(1) Severnaya* Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant Project, (2) Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant Project (Second Unit) Loan Aid (ODA Loan) ((1) February 1998 – October 2003, (2) May 2005 – September 2019)

Azerbaijan, which faces the Caspian Sea, is blessed with abundant natural resources such as oil and natural gas. However, after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the surge in demand for electricity for general household use as well as industrial use by the country’s rapid economic growth meant that the deteriorating power generation facilities constructed in the Soviet era could not meet electricity demand. In particular, aging power generation facilities and power lines that had been in continuous use since the 1980s were a serious problem.

To overcome this situation, through the implementation of this project, Japan has supported the construction of first and second generator units at the Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant in the eastern region of Azerbaijan, where electricity demand is concentrated. The combined output of these two units accounts for approximately 10% of Azerbaijan’s power generation capacity. By introducing the country’s first advanced power generation facilities with high thermal efficiency, this project has made a significant contribution to alleviating power shortages and achieving sustainable economic growth. In addition, it has also been contributing to the sustained and stable supply of electricity across the country’s entire power network.



The Shimal Gas Combined Cycle Power Plant’s second unit (Photo: JICA)

The completion of these two power

generation facilities was made possible by the dedicated efforts of Mr. SATO Mitsuyuki of Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd., who worked on the project from design to completion for over 25 years. Although it was uncertain at times as to whether the project would be completed due to financial difficulties and other problems on the Azerbaijani side, Mr. Sato worked hard to complete the project, negotiating with the staff of the implementing organization and discussing ways on how to proceed with the construction. As a result, it was possible to hold the opening ceremony for the second unit in September 2019. Mr. Sato’s achievements were highly praised by the Government of Azerbaijan, and in December 2019, he was awarded the Progress Medal by the President of the country, which is presented to those who have made distinguished contributions in the energy sector.

The effort and dedication shown by the Japanese staff, including Mr. Sato, exemplify the significant contribution that Japan has made to Azerbaijan’s development, as well as to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Azerbaijan.



Mr. Sato, who was awarded the Progress Medal by the President of Azerbaijan (Photo: JICA)

*The power plant is currently called “Shimal” in Azerbaijani, not “Severnaya.”



Personnel from a Japanese company giving an explanation to local elementary school students about the construction of a combined cycle (gas-fired) power plant facility at the Rades power plant in Tunisia

Japan also supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which is a multinational cooperative framework to increase the transparency of the money flow in the development of oil, gas, mineral, and other resources. Under this framework, extracting corporations report the amount of payment to the governments of resource-producing countries, and the governments of resource-producing countries also report the amount of the revenue from extracting corporations to the EITI. In addition to 47 resource-producing countries and many supporting countries including Japan, extracting companies and NGOs are participating in the EITI, and by ensuring transparency of the money flow, are working together to prevent corruption and conflict, as well as to encourage responsible resource development that leads to growth and poverty reduction.

(10) Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for SDGs

In the world today, progress in science and technology, as represented by artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, leads to social changes and underpins economic growth through utilization of information technology and information and communication technology (ICT) ⁴⁵ in diverse industries, including not only the manufacturing industry and the service industry but also agriculture and construction.

Based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Paragraph 70), the UN has established the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (UN-IATT) and promotes STI for the SDGs on a global scale, with cooperation by various countries. In addition, the United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) has been held annually since 2016. Furthermore, the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit adopted in September 2019 mentions the commitment to harnessing STI with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development. As can be seen from these efforts, there are increasing international expectations for STI as a key to contribute to realizing the SDGs by fully utilizing limited resources.

Georgia

Project for Establishment of Bio-Briquettes Workshop Facility for Two Villages in Tsalka Municipality

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (February 2019 – February 2020)

Tsalka Municipality in Georgia is located approximately 100 kilometers west of the capital of Tbilisi. This municipality is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country, where Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Greek ethnic groups live, including people forced to migrate from the mountainous part of western Georgia due to natural disasters and internally displaced persons due to conflicts. It is also known for its harsh, cold winters, and is sometimes called the “Siberia of Georgia”. Since only a limited variety of crops can be produced in the area, many of the people there are living in poverty.

In Tsalka Municipality, firewood stoves are still used because gas supply is not widely available. It is said that a single household



The bio-briquette production facility constructed through this project

uses as much as approximately 1 to 1.5 tons of firewood per year in order to survive the long and harsh winter. However, many poor households in the municipality cannot afford the cost of firewood, and

illegal cases of logging have been reported. Concerns have also been raised about the negative impact of logging on disaster prevention, as the trees in the area were originally planted as windbreak forests.



Producing bio-briquettes

In response to this situation, Japan supported the construction of facilities to produce processed firewood, called bio-briquettes, in two villages in the municipality through the local NGO “BRIDGE – Innovation and Development”. Bio-briquettes are cheaper than firewood because they are made from existing scrap wood residue from local peoples’ living spaces, such as chips from forest thinning and sawdust. These facilities will enable approximately 200 households (approximately 1,000 people) to use bio-briquettes, which is expected to curb logging by the local people and protect the environment in surrounding areas.

⁴⁵ See page 37, 8.

4

ODA Topics

Formulation of the Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025

The Government of Japan, in order to achieve economic growth through infrastructure exports, formulated “the Infrastructure System Export Strategy” in 2013 and has been promoting the strategy toward the infrastructure system sales target of approximately ¥30 trillion per year by 2020.

At the 49th Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation*¹ held in December 2020, the “Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025” was formulated in light of changes in the international environment, including the recent intensification of international competition over infrastructure exports and the rapid progress of digitalization, as well as the impact of the spread of COVID-19. As a five-year target starting in 2021, the new strategy sets a new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of ¥34 trillion in infrastructure system sales in 2025.

In addition to the original objective of “achieving economic growth” by improving industry competitiveness, the new strategy also sets brand-new policies: “responding to diplomatic issues such as the realization of a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)’ through the promotion of quality infrastructure overseas” and “contributing to solving social issues and achieving SDGs in partner countries.” Concerning FOIP, the strategy mentions the formulation of projects related to the establishment of quality infrastructure that will contribute to strengthening connectivity, one of its key initiatives, as well as the promotion of a model that allows Japan to think, develop, and enjoy prosperity together with partner countries and regions in the post-COVID-19 international environment. As for SDGs, the strategy clearly states that there is an urgent need to address critical global issues such as the environment and climate change, infectious diseases, and disaster prevention, and that Japan will make efforts to formulate and participate in infrastructure projects that contribute to solving these issues. With regard to climate change,



Passengers boarding a domestic ferry docked at a ferry terminal that was newly constructed with Japan's cooperation at the Port of Dili, Timor-Leste's only international port (Photo: JICA)

it is also clearly stated that Japan will promote efforts toward realizing carbon neutrality, that is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero, by 2050, and contribute



A trial run of an electric tricycle equipped with a lithium-ion battery at the Indian Institute of Technology. ITSEV, a private company in Toyama City, conducted a formulation survey on a project to improve urban air quality by using lithium-ion batteries suitable for high-temperature climates. (Photo: JICA)

to global decarbonization.

In addition, public-private partnerships have been positioned as one of the pillars of the specific policies of the new strategy. Japan intends to enhance its efforts in infrastructure development, operation and maintenance (O&M), legal system development, human resource development, and other areas by combining various schemes of cooperation, including ODA loans, Private Sector Investment Finance, grant aid, and technical cooperation. As an impressive package that combines the advantages of public funds, including Japan's ODA, with the technological and financial capabilities of Japanese companies, this will enable Japan to make the most effective and strategic use of development cooperation that contributes to both the overseas expansion of Japanese companies and the socio-economic development of partner countries.

In order to realize the policies set forth in the new strategy while strategically utilizing public funds including ODA, Japan intends to provide developing countries with quality infrastructure that incorporates Japan's advanced technologies and know-how and promote the overseas expansion of infrastructure in a way that meets the needs of the partner countries (See “ODA Topics” on page 35 for information on efforts to realize FOIP; for SDGs, see Part II-3. “Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and Human Security”).

*1 Chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary, this meeting is held to discuss important matters concerning Japan's economic cooperation and to ensure that it is implemented strategically and effectively.

Japan's Efforts

In the process of its economic development so far, Japan has overcome its own challenges in fields such as health and medical care, environment, and disaster risk reduction while fully utilizing STI. Based on these experiences, Japan has been engaging in cooperation of science and technology to resolve challenges faced by developing countries through the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) and others in recent years (see “Glossary” on page 40 for details on SATREPS). The promotion of the use of geothermal power, which contributes to the realization of a low-carbon society, through the development of geothermal exploration technology in Indonesia and the identification of lead contamination mechanisms and the development of technologies for prevention/environmental remediation in Zambia are good examples of problem-solving through SATREPS (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 149 for details on specific initiatives of SATREPS).

In December 2015, as a part of the Science and Technology Diplomacy Advisory Network utilized in the process of planning and formulating various diplomatic policies including Japan's diplomacy and international conferences, the Advisory Board for Promoting Science and Technology Diplomacy was established and composed of academic experts in fields related to science and technology diplomacy. In May 2017, the Advisory Board released the Recommendation for the Future (STI as a Bridging Force to Provide Solutions for Global Issues) regarding specific science and technology diplomacy initiatives on implementing the SDGs, and in May 2018, released the Recommendation on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Roadmap for the achievement of the SDGs.



A Japan-India joint research project (the Project for Smart Cities for Emerging Countries based on Sensing, Network and Big Data Analysis of Multimodal Regional Transport System) carried out at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (Photo: JICA)

Based on these two recommendations, at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, the importance of STI was recognized, as well as the need for effective participation by various stakeholders, including governments,

academia, research institutions, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations in harnessing the potential of STI. As a result, the Guiding Principles for the Development of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmaps, formulated by the G20 Development Working Group, were endorsed as an Annex of the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration.

Alongside this, in order to encourage countries around the world to consider formulating roadmaps, the UN-IATT began an initiative known as the Global Pilot Programme and chose five countries – Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, India, and Serbia – to be the first pilot countries. In order to support these five countries, in cooperation with the European Union (EU) and international organizations, Japan has begun assisting particularly Kenya and India in formulating and implementing roadmaps starting from FY2020.

In addition, at TICAD7, based on the content of the Recommendations towards TICAD7: Achieving an Innovation Ecosystem together with Africa, submitted by the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, Japan contributed to discussions for promoting practical implementation of the results of international joint research and R&D with cooperation of international organizations toward STI for the SDGs. Moreover, the Yokohama Declaration 2019, adopted as the outcome document of TICAD7, also recognizes the important role of STI.

Furthermore, Japan is advancing efforts toward the establishment of the “STI for SDGs Platform,” a platform to promote the use of Japan's advanced science and technology that can contribute to helping developing countries and others achieve the SDGs.

Japan will continue to make use of the high potential of STI and actively participate in initiatives of the international community toward resolving the extensive global issues raised by the SDGs, including climate change, changes in marine environments, reduction of biodiversity, issues with food and water resources, infectious diseases, and disasters.

Part III

Assistance for Each Region



A JICA expert instructing local staff on how to conduct rice growth surveys through the “Project for Functional Enhancement of the National Rice Research and Training Centre” in Ethiopia (Photo: JICA)

1	East Asia	99
2	Southwest Asia	107
3	Oceania	112
4	Latin America and the Caribbean	116
5	Europe	122
6	Central Asia and Caucasus	124
7	Middle East and North Africa	126
8	Africa	130

Part III Assistance for Each Region

Based on the economic and social backgrounds of the problems faced by each region, Japan strives to support solving the problems in developing countries through providing more prioritized support and development cooperation in a strategic, effective, and flexible manner while coping flexibly and responding to rapidly changing situations. Part III will introduce such assistance for each region.

Chart III-1 Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region (2019)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Region	Type	Bilateral ODA										
	Grants				Loan aid			Net disbursement		Grants		
	Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)	Total	Change from the previous year (%)	Total	Percentage of total (%)	Change from the previous year (%)
	Grants provided through multilateral institutions											
Asia	738.15	160.26	653.65	1,391.81	7,580.34	5,989.93	1,590.40	2,982.21	99.8	8,972.14	61.1	19.5
East Asia	425.02	64.25	418.52	843.54	2,957.58	4,352.63	-1,395.05	-551.50	59.6	3,801.12	25.9	22.9
Northeast Asia	37.31	—	24.82	62.13	56.41	896.06	-839.65	-777.52	10.6	118.54	0.8	27.0
Southeast Asia	386.16	63.06	388.57	774.73	2,901.17	3,456.56	-555.39	219.34	143.8	3,675.90	25.0	22.9
Southwest Asia	217.67	64.08	202.11	419.78	4,076.16	1,494.14	2,582.02	3,001.80	17.5	4,495.94	30.6	12.5
Central Asia and the Caucasus	63.29	1.22	26.85	90.14	426.00	130.66	295.33	385.47	70.9	516.13	3.5	54.2
Multiple countries in Asia	32.17	30.71	6.18	38.35	120.60	12.50	108.10	146.44	90.5	158.94	1.1	85.3
Middle East and North Africa	445.46	384.64	89.33	534.79	976.49	730.40	246.08	780.88	-16.4	1,511.28	10.3	-10.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	675.71	220.22	310.50	986.22	567.24	187.93	379.31	1,365.53	12.4	1,553.46	10.6	16.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	120.50	15.03	118.03	238.53	174.30	252.29	-77.99	160.54	-15.8	412.83	2.8	-8.8
Oceania	139.62	6.35	39.97	179.59	41.45	14.89	26.56	206.16	3.1	221.04	1.5	0.8
Europe	13.12	3.43	13.97	27.09	49.93	72.68	-22.75	4.34	-48.4	77.02	0.5	-4.5
Assistance encompassing multiple regions	424.88	370.86	1,500.79	1,925.66	9.17	—	9.17	1,934.83	-4.2	1,934.83	13.2	-4.2
Total	2,557.44	1,160.78	2,726.24	5,283.68	9,398.92	7,248.12	2,150.80	7,434.48	22.7	14,682.60	100.0	10.4

Notes:

- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Including assistance to graduated countries.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Assistance encompassing multiple regions includes items that cannot be regionally classified such as dispatchment of survey teams in multiple regions.
- 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.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

1. East Asia

East Asia consists of a variety of nations, which include countries such as the Republic of Korea and Singapore, which have already attained high economic growth and transitioned from the category of aid recipients to that of donors; least developed countries (LDCs) such as Cambodia and Laos; countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, which still show large income disparities domestically despite dramatic economic growth; and countries, such as Viet Nam, which are shifting to a market-driven economy. Japan has close relationships with these countries in all aspects of politics, economy, and culture, and the stability and development of the region also significantly impacts the security and prosperity of Japan as well. From this perspective, Japan is engaging in development cooperation that responds to the diverse socio-economic circumstances of East Asian countries and to the changes in the type of development cooperation required.

In 2020, many countries in East Asia were dealt great societal and economic blows by the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and the restrictions on movement of people and goods on a global scale. For this reason, Japan has provided a total of approximately ¥23 billion

worth of health and medical equipment and technical cooperation for 10 East and Southeast Asian countries, and further granted a total of approximately ¥295 billion in financial assistance loans for five countries based on the economic impact. Moreover, through the “Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN” (see the Project Introduction Column below for details), loans and investments for private sectors regarding areas such as quality infrastructure and support for small and medium-sized businesses were expanded, contributing to the economic revitalization of ASEAN countries.

In addition, Japan will fully support the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases in order to strengthen ASEAN’s capabilities to respond to infectious diseases by dispatching experts and providing trainings through JICA’s technical cooperation. Through the support to the Centre, Japan will contribute to strengthening ASEAN’s capabilities to respond to public health emergencies and prepare, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases (see “ODA Topics” on page 14 for details). Additionally, Japan has contributed a further \$1 million to the “COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund,” which aims to develop vaccines and procure medical supplies, on top

ASEAN

Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investment for ASEAN Private-Sector Investment Finance (2020 – 2022)

In order to meet the enormous demand for development funds in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*¹ region, “a center of growth open to the world,” it is becoming increasingly important to mobilize private sector funds in addition to public funds such as grants and loans from donors and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). In this context, Japan launched the “Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investment for ASEAN” at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in November 2019.

Under the Initiative, Japan has announced that JICA is ready to provide \$1.2 billion through Private Sector Investment Finance in three fields, namely quality infrastructure, improving financial access and empowering women, and facilitating green investment*², in collaboration with other MDBs and private financial institutions, with the aim of mobilizing a total of \$3 billion from public and private sectors over the three-year period from 2020 to 2022.

As a specific effort of the Initiative, in November 2020, JICA decided to invest up to \$35 million in a fund established by Blue Orchard Finance Ltd.*³, which is working to improve financial access for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) mainly in ASEAN countries. While the spread of COVID-19 has dealt a severe economic blow to ASEAN countries, this support is expected to meet the pressing financial needs of women-owned businesses and MSMEs, improve their financial standing, and ultimately contribute to the economic development of ASEAN countries.

The Initiative is an effective framework for promoting Japan-ASEAN cooperation in a concrete manner in line with the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).” Going forward, Japan will continue to contribute to sustainable development



A female business owner supported by the investment in Blue Orchard Finance Ltd. (Photo: JICA)

in the ASEAN region and promote the realization of the AOIP, which shares fundamental principles with the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” while making use of the Initiative and other tools for mobilizing private sector funds.

*1 See 1 on page 100 for the ASEAN member states.

*2 Investing in solar and hydroelectric power generation, energy conservation projects, and other initiatives, as a part of climate change measures.

*3 A Swiss fund management company with expertise in managing funds that invest in and provide loans to microfinance institutions.

of its contribution through the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Fund.

Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to the remarkable economic growth of East Asia by implementing development cooperation that combines ODA with trade and investment, including the development of socio-economic foundations through quality infrastructure investment, support for the development of institutions and human resources, promotion of trade, and revitalization of private investment. In recent years, Japan aims to further enhance open regional cooperation and integration while sharing basic values, to promote mutual understanding, and to maintain consistent regional stability. Therefore, Japan strives to proactively provide assistance in areas such as disaster risk reduction, the environment and climate change, health and medical care, the rule of law, and maritime safety, in parallel with the assistance for developing infrastructure. Japan is also working to promote mutual understanding through large-scale youth exchanges, cultural exchanges, and projects to spread the Japanese language.

In order for Japan and other East Asian countries to achieve further prosperity, it is important to assist Asia to become “a center of growth open to the world.” Accordingly, Japan is providing assistance to strengthen Asia’s growth and to expand domestic demand in each country.



Students in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, waiting for a city bus with a sticker of the Japanese flag donated through the grant aid “the Project for Improvement of Transportation Capacity of Public Bus in Phnom Penh” (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 103 for details) (Photo: Mr. ISHIKAWA Masayori, JICA Cambodia Office)

*** Support for Southeast Asia

The countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ¹ are located on Japan’s sea lanes and have strong economic ties with Japan, as approximately 13,000 Japanese companies (business establishments) have been operating in the region as of October 2018.

The ASEAN region is of great importance for Japan both on the political and economic fronts. ASEAN declared the establishment of the ASEAN Community comprised of the “Political-Security Community,” “Economic Community,” and “Socio-Cultural Community” in 2015 and has made efforts to strengthen connectivity and narrow the development gaps within the region. Moreover, the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)”^{*} announced by ASEAN in June 2019 advocates the basic principles of the rule of law, openness, and freedom, sharing many fundamental principles with the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” promoted by Japan. In his ASEAN policy speech on a visit to Indonesia in January 2020, Foreign Minister Motegi expressed Japan’s full support for the AOIP and announced further cooperation. On Prime Minister Suga’s visits to Viet Nam and Indonesia in October 2020 and at the ASEAN Summit Meeting in November of that year, it was agreed to bring Japan-ASEAN cooperation into shape in the areas outlined in the AOIP (see also “ODA Topics” on page 35).

In light of ASEAN’s efforts, Japan has provided assistance through ODA in a range of areas such as infrastructure development, the rule of law, maritime safety, disaster risk reduction, health and medical care, and peacebuilding, based on the pillars of strengthening connectivity and narrowing the development gaps. To date, Japan’s ODA for ASEAN countries has amounted to a total of approximately ¥18.5536 trillion. Additionally, based on the increasing importance of utilizing the financial power of private funds and Multilateral Development Banks in the area of development, the “Initiative on Overseas Loans and Investment for ASEAN” was launched at the 22nd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2019. Furthermore, in December of that year, Foreign Minister Motegi announced that the Initiative aimed to mobilize \$3 billion from the public and private sectors over three years in the fields of quality infrastructure investment, access to finance and support for women, and green investment, including through a total of \$1.2 billion in overseas loans and investment by JICA (see “Project Introduction Column” on page 99 for details on the Initiative). As of December 2020, nine projects have been adopted, with loans and investment totaling ¥29.07 billion.

With regard to strengthening connectivity, Japan does not only develop physical infrastructure but also aims to realize “vibrant and effective connectivity,” which maximizes infrastructure productivity through institutional reform and technology transfer to local people. At the ASEAN Summit Meetings held in 2016, the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025”^{*} was adopted, succeeding the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity,” which aimed to strengthen “physical

¹ The 10 ASEAN member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam (however, Singapore and Brunei are not ODA recipients).



Foreign Minister Motegi giving a speech at the ASEAN Secretariat on Japan's policy toward ASEAN (January 2020)

connectivity," "institutional connectivity," and "people-to-people connectivity" in the region. Based on the new Master Plan, Japan is supporting the strengthening of ASEAN connectivity, and in May 2019, Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement to encourage the strengthening of ASEAN unity and centrality. In addition to implementing cyber security training in January 2020 (see "Project Introduction Column" on page 57 for details) as the first project based on the Technical Cooperation Agreement, Japan also implemented trainings related to port management, logistics, and marine plastic waste management during FY2020. Moreover, at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2020, Japan announced the "Japan-ASEAN Connectivity Initiative," declaring tangible support for the strengthening of ASEAN connectivity centered around ¥2 trillion worth of ongoing land, air, and sea corridor connectivity infrastructure projects, as well as intangible support in the form of human resource development for 1,000 people contributing to strengthened connectivity over the next three years.

In terms of infrastructure development, Japan is working to promote "quality infrastructure investment" that is in conformity with international standards, based on its past experiences of assisting Southeast Asian countries, in accordance with the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" adopted at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019. One such example is the "Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 Rehabilitation Project" being conducted in the Philippines. The line, opened in 2000, was originally managed and maintained by Japanese corporations and had been operating stably. However, since 2012, when non-Japanese companies assumed the duty of maintaining and managing services for MRT-3, services were not properly conducted, partly due to budget shortages. As a result, the tracks and rolling stocks deteriorated and consequently operation troubles frequently occurred. In light of this, at the request of the

Government of the Philippines, rehabilitation began on the MRT-3 using Japanese technology, which have seen advances in operating speeds and reductions in operating intervals. With the help of Japan's latest technology, the project aims to enhance safety and comfort, thereby achieving wider ridership and alleviating serious traffic congestions in the National Capital Region.

Moreover, in regard to the field of disaster risk reduction and disaster health management, Japan began the Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH) in 2016 as a way of creating a framework to realize the ASEAN Declaration on "One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One" adopted at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management held in 2014. The ASEAN Leader's Declaration (ALD) on Disaster Health Management was adopted in 2017 which clearly incorporated the need for the activities engaged in through ARCH. In this context, ARCH has made many achievements, including holding regional coordination drills for disaster health management teams from ASEAN countries and developing standard operation procedures relating to disaster health management. Through co-hosted trainings with the World Health Organization (WHO), Japan is also working together to strengthen coordination capacities in the field of disaster health management in the ASEAN region in accordance with global standards for disaster health management teams, not limited to the standards within the region.

Furthermore, with regard to area of human resources development, Japan announced, at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in November 2018, that it would newly train human resources of approximately 80,000 people with a view to the next five years, including in the digital sector such as AI, under the "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0." Japan will also provide support to Thailand to establish Kosen schools (Colleges of Technology) unique to the Japanese education system in Thailand and implement cooperation to provide Kosen education that meets the same standards as those of Japan in order to develop industrial human resources in the ASEAN region. In addition, Japan has been implementing 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 to FY2021, Japan has been accepting people from all across Asia under this project. Going forward, Japan will continue to actively support the development of industrial human resources in Asia.



A lecture in the new building at the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology of the National University of Timor-Leste, constructed through a grant aid from Japan (Photo: JICA)

With regard to the Mekong region ², which has distinct, great potential for development among the ASEAN countries, the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting is held annually. Around once every three years, it is held in Japan, where the leaders adopt an aid policy framework toward the region. In October 2018, the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo, during which the Tokyo Strategy 2018 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation was adopted. This Strategy sets out the direction for future cooperation between the Mekong region and Japan and establishes the following three pillars for advancing cooperation: (i) vibrant and effective connectivity, (ii) people-centered society, and (iii) realization of a Green Mekong. Additionally, the “Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030” was announced at the 11th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2019. This Initiative will make use of quality infrastructure investment in line with international standards so as to draw out the Mekong region’s potential in an optimal manner, while focusing its efforts on the three priority areas of (i) environmental and urban issues, (ii) sustainable natural resource management and utilization, and (iii) inclusive growth (see “ODA Topics” on page 106 for details). As a concrete effort based on the Initiative, Foreign Minister Motegi announced the “KUSANONE Mekong SDGs Initiative” at the 13th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July 2020, declaring support for the realization of the SDGs and socioeconomic development deeply rooted in the communities of the Mekong region countries. As part of this Initiative, Japan provided at least ¥1 billion through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects in FY2020 to the five countries in the Mekong region, and will continue to carry on with this initiative.

Furthermore, at the 12th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in November that year, as Mekong region countries were dealt economic blows by COVID-19, which caused a lack of development financing, Japan announced the “Five Points of Cooperation,” including

the “Mekong SDGs Investment Partnership,” in order to support the implementation of development projects by private companies and others: (i) promotion of loans and investment for the private sector, (ii) Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects that pervades through small communities, (iii) cooperation concerning the rule of law, (iv) cooperation concerning the ocean, and (v) cooperation concerning strengthening supply chains. Through the “Mekong SDGs Investment Partnership,” Japan will promote the formation of overseas loan and investment projects in the Mekong region. Moreover, Japan’s efforts focus on the strengthened connectivity critical for economic growth in the region, steadily implementing projects for this purpose under the Tokyo Strategy 2018, such as the development of the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia, functional improvements for the Vientiane International Airport in Laos, development of the East-West Economic Corridor Highway in Myanmar, construction of the Ho Chi Minh urban railway in Viet Nam, and construction of the Bangkok MRT (Red Line) in Thailand. In 2021, the 13th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting is to be held in Japan, where Mekong-Japan cooperation is expected to deepen further.



Prime Minister Suga attended the 12th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting, held virtually, and co-chaired together with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam (November 2020) (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

With regard to Myanmar, which was particularly engaged in its advance toward democratization in the Mekong region, Japan provided a wide range of assistance to the country in order to back up the rapid process of its reform efforts based on the following three pillars: (i) improve the living standards of the people of Myanmar including ethnic minorities, (ii) support legal and judicial systems development and human resources development, and (iii) develop infrastructure. In particular, Japan was providing cooperation in both the public and private sectors to develop the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located in the suburbs of Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city, while the Government of Japan contributed to the development of the

² A region including the five countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Cambodia

Project for Improvement of Public Bus Operation in Phnom Penh Technical Cooperation Project (January 2017 – February 2022)

Public
nomination

In Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, recent economic development and rapid urbanization have resulted in the serious deterioration of the urban environment, which is mainly caused by worsening traffic congestion. There are growing concerns among citizens in Phnom Penh about the increasing number of private vehicles due to population and income growth, as well as the growing number of fatalities due to traffic accidents. Therefore, in order to provide an alternative means of transportation for citizens to private cars, the Phnom Penh Capital Administration established the City Bus Authority in September 2014. However, when the bus service was first launched, ridership remained stagnant due to lack of public recognition and low user satisfaction as there were no timetables or bus stops. In addition, bus crews did not have sufficient driving skills or safety training, and all routes were operated by second-hand buses, resulting in frequent vehicle breakdowns and accidents.



COVID-19 prevention training. A Japanese expert is remotely instructing the bus crew on how to disinfect and clean the interior of a bus. (Photo: International Development Center of Japan)

In order to improve the situation, this project was launched in January 2017. A team of experts from a joint venture led by the International Development Center of Japan set out to improve the operations of the City Bus Authority.

They first worked on improving the bus service. Activities were implemented to lead to improve service, such as creating route maps, developing bus location applications and providing real time location information, improving bus stop design, and pilot testing bus priority



A public awareness poster inside a bus. This was created based on COVID-19 prevention posters used in public transportation in Japan and is now displayed in all buses in Phnom Penh. (Photo: International Development Center of Japan)

signals. The expert team also provided driving skills training and safety education to drivers, and inspection and maintenance guidance to mechanics. Furthermore, Japan provided 80 new buses through grant aid, and the City Bus Authority has now expanded its service to 181 buses covering 13 service routes. With this improved operational service, bus ridership has increased from 6,000 passengers to 30,000 passengers per day in the two years since July 2017.

As of December 2020, the bus service has been suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, the expert team is working remotely from Japan to provide guidance on regular cleaning and disinfection of bus vehicles and equipment and thorough infection prevention measures for the bus crew in order to resume operations. In Phnom Penh, it is a hope that this safe and reliable means of transportation for citizens will be available again as soon as possible.

surrounding infrastructure through ODA. As of October 2020, 113 companies from around the world (of which 56 were Japanese companies) entered the SEZ, while 93 companies (of which 50 were Japanese companies) started their operations. This was a successful example which showed how Japan's "quality infrastructure investment" earns trust from the world (the content of this paragraph is based on the information at the time of writing).

Furthermore, in order to promote peace with ethnic minorities, Japan has been providing support for reconstruction and development in the southeastern part of Myanmar, where a ceasefire has been achieved. This includes the development of housing and basic infrastructure, as well as technical cooperation on agriculture. In the Rakhine State located in the western part of Myanmar, from which more than 700,000 people have been displaced since 2017, Japan has been providing humanitarian aid such as food, nutrition, healthcare, water and hygiene, and education for internally displaced persons and residents of nearby communities. In the northern part of the state, Japan

has focused on supporting small-scale infrastructure and vocational training as a means of facilitating an environment which enables the displaced persons to return to their home. Japan has been also working on development assistance such as the improvement and maintenance of roads, strengthening electric power, and building schools across the whole state.

•• Relations with China

ODA to China has played a significant role in strengthening Japan and China relations in recent years as well as in the past. During then Prime Minister Abe's visit to China in October 2018, the Government of Japan announced the termination of Japan's provision of new ODA to China and the promotion of a new stage of bilateral cooperation, such as holding dialogues and personnel exchanges in the area of development. This has been announced under the recognition that it is time for Japan and China to work shoulder to shoulder for contributing to the region and international community's prosperity as equal partners. With this announcement, the adoption of new ODA to China has ended in FY2018,

and all ongoing multi-year projects that have already been adopted will be concluded by the end of FY2021.

In 2019, a series of events were held in China to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Japan's ODA to China, reflecting on and summarizing its path up until then. These included a commemorative reception and a development cooperation press tour, with visits to places such as the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, which was established through Japan's cooperation.

In recent years, ODA to China has been limited to areas with genuine needs for cooperation, such as cross-border pollution and food safety, which directly affect the lives of the Japanese people. The assistance was carried out as technical cooperation (disbursements of ¥358 million in FY2019) ³ and Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (completed in FY2018) ⁴.

With regard to technical cooperation, for example, Japan is implementing projects to tackle environmental

problems focused on air pollution including PM2.5, which has raised concerns about its impact on Japan, and projects to support the drafting and revision of civil laws, civil and administrative procedure laws, etc. in China that contribute to facilitating the business activities of Japanese companies operating in China. Furthermore, as a new form of cooperation that takes into account the economic development of China, Japan has recently been providing cooperation in which its costs are borne by China. For example, China bears the costs related to support such as the "China-Japan Project for Improvement of the Diagnosis of Asbestos-related Cancer," which began in 2018, and the promotion of disaster mitigation education in the areas afflicted by the Lushan earthquake which occurred in Sichuan Province in 2013 ("the Project for Promotion and Capacity Development of Disaster Mitigation Education in Sichuan Province").

Glossary



***ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**

An initiative to create a vision of even 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. It shares many fundamental commonalities with the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" promoted by Japan.

***Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025)**

This is the action plan for strengthening ASEAN connectivity that was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in 2016 as the successor document to the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity" which set 2015 as its goal year (adopted in 2010). It is positioned as a part of "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together," which was adopted in 2015. The document stipulates the five strategic objectives of "sustainable infrastructure," "digital innovation," "seamless logistics," "regulatory excellence," and "people mobility," and presents priority initiatives under each of the strategies.

³ Track records of technical cooperation in recent years are as follows: ¥3.296 billion (FY2011), ¥2.527 billion (FY2012), ¥2.018 billion (FY2013), ¥1.436 billion (FY2014), ¥806 million (FY2015), ¥500 million (FY2016), ¥404 million (FY2017), ¥400 million (FY2018), ¥358 million (FY2019)

⁴ Track records of Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects in recent years are as follows: ¥843 million (FY2011), ¥288 million (FY2012), ¥284 million (FY2013), ¥85 million (FY2014), ¥107 million (FY2015), ¥29 million (FY2016), ¥9.95 million (FY2017), ¥23 million (FY2018)

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in East Asia

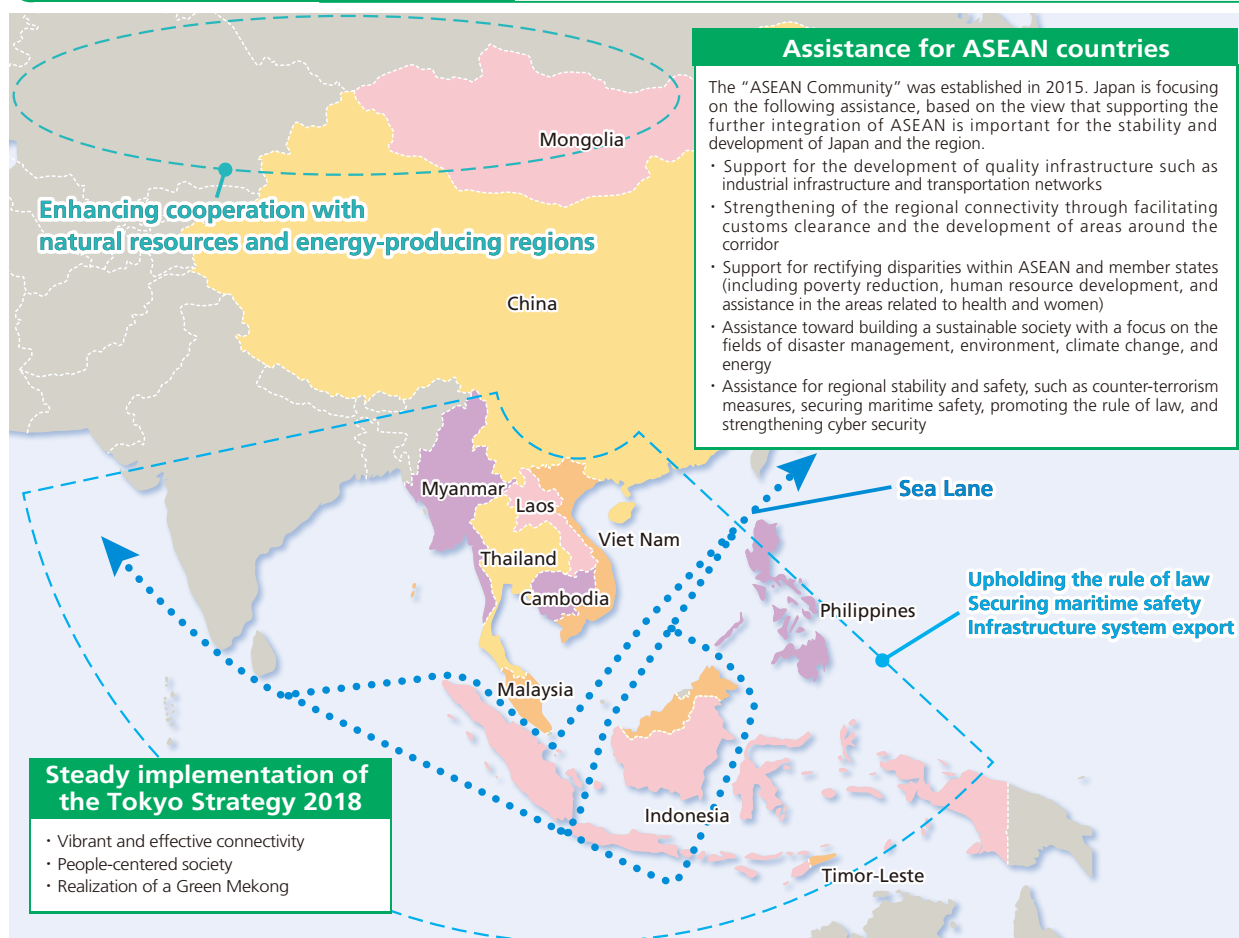


Chart III-2

Japan's Assistance in East Asia

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants			Total	Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants provided through multilateral institutions	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
1	Philippines	26.27	4.82	93.83	120.10	880.29	501.93	378.37	498.47	1,000.40
2	Myanmar	179.85	44.52	80.51	260.36	496.57	—	496.57	756.93	756.93
3	Indonesia	26.75	1.80	59.17	85.92	578.42	1,547.35	-968.94	-883.02	664.34
4	Viet Nam	16.44	0.73	56.76	73.20	577.38	501.94	75.43	148.63	650.57
5	Thailand	1.78	0.14	27.73	29.51	229.87	764.39	-534.51	-505.01	259.38
6	Cambodia	60.29	0.75	31.49	91.79	84.64	21.54	63.11	154.89	176.43
7	Mongolia	37.10	—	21.37	58.48	56.41	29.08	27.32	85.80	114.88
8	Laos	44.48	7.79	21.80	66.28	10.32	5.49	4.83	71.11	76.60
9	Timor-Leste	29.83	2.08	7.79	37.62	11.49	—	11.49	49.10	49.10
10	Malaysia	0.04	—	9.45	9.49	32.19	113.93	-81.74	-72.24	41.68
11	China	0.21	—	3.39	3.60	—	866.98	-866.98	-863.38	3.60
	Multiple countries in East Asia	1.55	1.18	5.13	6.68	—	—	—	6.68	6.68
East Asia region total		425.02	64.25	418.52	843.54	2,957.58	4,352.63	-1,395.05	-551.50	3,801.12
(ASEAN total)		356.33	60.98	380.78	737.11	2,889.69	3,456.56	-566.88	170.23	3,626.80

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.

- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- 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.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030

The five countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam are located along the Mekong River basin on the Indochinese Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Even among fast-growing Asian countries, these five countries have an especially high potential for economic growth and a large labor force, and their further development is greatly anticipated. The Mekong region is bordered by China to the north and the South China Sea to the east and south, and connected to India via the Indian Ocean to the west, making it a strategic point at the center of Asian transportation routes by both land and sea.

Japan has close economic and trade relations with the Mekong countries, therefore strengthening these relations with the region is very important diplomatically. In order to steadily advance Mekong–Japan cooperation, Japan has been holding the Mekong–Japan Summit Meeting every year since 2009, and so far, the meeting has been held in Tokyo every three years.

The title of this column, “The Mekong–Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030,” is a framework for cooperation between Japan and the Mekong countries that was adopted at the 11th Mekong–Japan Summit Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2019. Its goal is to draw out the Mekong region’s potential in an optimal manner for the region to achieve the SDGs. The initiative supports the sustainable development of the Mekong region, and at the same time, symbolizes the “strategic partnership” between Japan and the Mekong countries.

While making use of quality infrastructure investment in accordance with international standards, the initiative will address the following three fields as areas of priority: (i) environmental and urban issues; (ii) sustainable natural resource management and utilization; and (iii) inclusive growth. Through efforts in each of the three areas, the initiative aims to contribute to: (a) reinforcing the resilience of the region and society; (b) maintaining and strengthening the region’s growth capability; and (c) ensuring that social development leads to improving the standard of life of everyone.

With regard to (i) environmental and urban issues, Japan has shared its “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” with the Mekong countries, which was adopted at the G20 Summit in Osaka in 2019. Both Japan and the Mekong countries aim to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 (see also page 80, Environment and Climate Change Actions). For example, in Cambodia, Japan is working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reduce plastic litter discharged into the ocean via the Mekong River, through the implementation of activities such as the promotion of the 4Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and raising awareness of waste separation among individuals and the private sector.



Well construction in Laos



Industrial Human Resources Development Project (Photo: JICA)

Regarding (ii) sustainable natural resource management and utilization, climate change and other factors have led to changes in the water levels of the Mekong River, requiring more complex flood and drought countermeasures than ever before. Against this backdrop, Japan is strengthening its coordination with the Mekong River Commission (MRC)*, recognizing the importance of managing the water resources of the Mekong River under an open framework. In March 2020, Japan and the MRC signed an Exchange of Notes for grant aid with flood and drought management of the Mekong River basin in mind. This was to improve the capabilities of MRC personnel and enhance its facilities and functions so as to increase the accuracy of rainfall and water level observations at the Mekong River basin.

As regards to (iii) inclusive growth, Japan is engaged in education and human resources development efforts for the realization of inclusive growth under the “G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development” and the “Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0” (see also page 69, Quality Education for All, and page 101, Assistance for East Asia). Under these initiatives, in Thailand, Japan established its unique educational system KOSEN (College of Technology) to develop industrial human resources in the Mekong region, and is providing cooperation to realize the same level of KOSEN education as that in Japan (see page 101 and page 147 for details).

In addition, from the perspective of promoting further cooperation in these three areas, Foreign Minister Motegi announced the “KUSANONE Mekong SDGs initiative” at the Mekong–Japan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July 2020, noting that Japan would support the realization of the SDGs and social and economic development of the five Mekong countries that catered to local needs. Japan provided Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects amounting to at least ¥1 billion to the Mekong region countries in FY2020, and it intends to continue this effort.

Furthermore, the Green Mekong Forum, which has been jointly held by the public and private sectors six times since 2011, was upgraded to the Mekong–Japan SDGs Forum, and will follow up on the medium to long-term implementation of “The Mekong–Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030.”

Japan will work hard to build a partnership that will mutually elevate each party, supporting the Mekong countries’ own initiatives while being mindful of the people in the Mekong countries and their societies.

*The MRC was established in 1995 under the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin concluded by the four lower Mekong countries (Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Laos). In addition to flood and drought control, the MRC conducts river management of the Mekong River in a wide range of fields, including fisheries resource management, dam development, and environmental issues.

2. Southwest Asia

The Southwest Asian region holds huge markets, including that of India, and has enormous economic potential, as its future economic growth and increasing demand for infrastructure is expected. It is also a strategically important region for realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” because of its location on land routes and sea lanes that connect East Asia with the Middle East. In addition, this region plays a large role in international efforts against terrorism and violent extremism.

At the same time, the Southwest Asian region still faces many issues that must be addressed. These issues include a lack of infrastructure such as roads, railroads, ports, and water and sewer systems, as well as growing populations, response against natural disasters, inadequate primary education, healthcare and medical systems, and unconsolidated rule of law. In particular, poverty reduction is a major challenge, with approximately one-third of the world's poor said to be living in this region⁵. Japan provides wide-ranging assistance in order to harness the economic potential of Southwest Asia as well as to address the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

Japan's Efforts

In 2020, in the wake of the global spread of COVID-19, Japan has provided a combination of assistance including the utilization of emergency support loans, provision of equipment through grant aid, support through international organizations, and technical cooperation for Southwest Asian countries aimed at the region's self-sustaining financial, economic, and social improvement over the medium to long-term. For instance, Japan began providing the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan to India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives, in order to contribute to recovery, stability, and sustainable development of their societies and economies, alongside suppressing the spread of the disease. Additionally, Japan decided on grant aid for the provision of medical equipment for the Southwest Asian countries based on the needs of each country and will continue such efforts.

In India, a major country in the Southwest Asian region, the number of COVID-19 infections has spiked rapidly. Responding to the spread of infections in India, in August 2020, Japan exchanged notes with India on ¥50 billion for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan as budgetary support in the health sector and ¥1 billion in grant aid for the provision of medical equipment. Furthermore, by August 2020, Japan had exchanged notes with Bangladesh as well on ¥35 billion in budgetary support in the health sector through the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan and ¥1 billion in grant aid for the provision of medical

equipment.

Japan also exchanged notes with the Maldives on ¥5 billion for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan and ¥600 million in grant aid for the provision of medical equipment. Japan decided to provide similar grant aid for Sri Lanka and Pakistan as well, exchanging notes for ¥800 million and ¥1 billion in grant aid respectively. Furthermore, grant aid worth a total of ¥300 million is also being provided for provision of medical equipment in both Nepal and Bhutan respectively. In addition to such support, Japan is also providing assistance through international organizations for countries in the Southwest Asian region.

Regarding India, a key player in Southwest Asia, the leaders of Japan and India make mutual visits to each other's country, and Japan promotes cooperation in a wide range of fields based on the “Special Strategic and Global Partnership.” These include economic cooperation as well as cooperation in a wide range of fields such as politics and security, economy, and academic exchanges. In recent years, India has been the largest recipient of Japan's ODA loans, and Japan has provided assistance to India for the development of economic and social infrastructure, including in the fields of electric power and transport, which will contribute to enhancing connectivity and strengthening industrial competitiveness. In addition to this, as part of supporting its sustainable and inclusive growth, Japan is providing support to the forestry sector, which is instrumental in improving livelihoods, and support that helps to improve health and hygiene environments.



Officials of the Ministry of Railways and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited visiting the Railway Technical Research Institute through a training program in Japan under the technical cooperation “Project for Capacity Development on Railway Safety” for India

In March 2020, notes were exchanged to provide a total of nine ODA loans, including for metro construction in Ahmedabad and Mumbai and forestry sector projects engaged in global issues such as the conservation of biodiversity and climate change.

⁵ Source: World Bank website (note that Afghanistan is included in South Asia).
<https://www.worldbank.org/ja/country/japan/brief/south-asia> (Japanese only)
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/09/19/decline-of-global-extreme-poverty-continues-but-has-slowed-world-bank>

Furthermore, during a summit telephone talk in September 2020, Japan and India confirmed they would steadily proceed with the development plan for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) and continue to collaborate closely. If the project is realized, it is expected to shorten the travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, which is currently at least seven hours by express train, to two hours, and the train fare is expected to be roughly half of that of the corresponding airfare.

In this way, Japan's ODA plays a significant role in the growth of India, through assistance in a variety of fields, including health and medical care improvements, infrastructure development, measures to combat poverty, development of the investment environment, and human resources development, among others.

With regard to Bangladesh, where there has been remarkable growth and an increase in the number of Japanese companies operating business in recent years, Japan seeks to further advance the Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership and promote development cooperation under the "Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)" initiative. The three pillars of the initiative are: (i) development of economic infrastructure, (ii) improvement of the investment environment, and (iii) enhancing connectivity. In May 2019, when Prime Minister Hasina of Bangladesh visited Japan, then Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan would continue to support Bangladesh in its efforts to achieve the

SDGs and realize its vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2021. Former Prime Minister Abe also expressed his expectations for the advancement of the BIG-B initiative, as well as for the expansion of the exchanges of people and the further promotion of trade and investment between the two countries, reconfirming this direction during a summit telephone talk in August 2020. Based on these agreements between the two leaders, in August 2020, Japan and Bangladesh signed and exchanged notes concerning the provision of ODA loans for a total of seven projects: "Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (IV)," "Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 5 Northern Route) (I)," "Jamuna Railway Bridge Construction Project (II)," "Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (II)," "Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway Improvement Project (E/S)," "Food Value Chain Improvement Project," and "Urban Development and City Governance Project," which are to contribute to enhanced connectivity within Bangladesh and the region as well as the development of economic infrastructure.

Furthermore, in 2020, Japan provided assistance to Bangladesh aimed at supporting the displaced persons flowing into the country from Rakhine State in Myanmar following the deterioration of public safety since the attacks in August 2017, as well as their host communities bearing this heavy burden, with approximately ¥2.828 billion in areas such as water and sanitation, nutrition, health and medical care, women's protection,

Bangladesh

Project for Construction of the Primary Health Care Clinic in the Camp of Displaced People from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (March 2019 – March 2020)

In August 2017, a large-scale armed attack broke out in the northern part of Rakhine State in Myanmar. At that time, many displaced people moved across the border into Bangladesh, and approximately 850,000 people* are currently still living in the Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh.

One of the camps for displaced persons located in the Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar frequently experienced floods during the rainy season and cyclones due to its topography, and the steep sloping area to the north of the camp was at high risk of landslides. The damage from these floods degraded the sanitary conditions in the camp and increased the risk of diseases such as cholera and dengue fever.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society conducted simple surgical operations, prenatal care including mental healthcare,



Healthcare staff members working at the newly constructed primary health care clinic (Photo: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society)

and awareness-raising activities to promote good health in the camps. However, each healthcare service, such as treatment and surgery, was offered in a different tent, so patients were forced to move from one tent to another in the

middle of treatment, which placed a heavy physical burden on them. In addition, parts of the facilities became unusable when it rained and soil flowed in.

In order to improve this situation, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

constructed a new primary health care clinic that is resistant to floods through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. This has not only made it possible to provide healthcare services in one centralized location, but has also improved the safety of the healthcare facilities, enabling as many as 2,600 patients per month to receive proper healthcare when necessary.

Japan will continue to provide small-scale, yet community-based humanitarian assistance to promote human security.



The primary health care clinic constructed through this project

*Source: UNHCR (October 2020)
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/myanmar_refugees

education, and vocational training through international organizations (see also “Stories from the Field” on page 50). Additionally, Japan has been providing support through the Japan Platform (JPF) for Japanese NGOs to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance including distributing food and non-food items to survive, improving hygiene and sanitation, providing medical treatment, and protecting women and children.



A displaced person engaging in informational activities on the prevention of COVID-19 after having received training as a volunteer at a camp for displaced persons in Bangladesh (Photo: UNHCR) (see also “Stories from the Field” on page 50)

Sri Lanka, which is located in a strategic position along sea lanes connecting Asia with the Middle East and Africa, has traditionally been a country that is friendly toward Japan. Japan is working on strengthening cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of enhancing connectivity and maritime matters, toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” In addition, Japan continues to provide support in the field of infrastructure development, including airports, roads, and electric power, which contributes to quality development in Sri Lanka as well as to improvements in the business environment for Japanese companies operating in the country. Moreover, considering Sri Lanka’s history of conflict and the current situation of increased disparity, Japan also continues to carry out assistance to cope with natural disasters and provides cooperation including for livelihood improvement as well as industrial and human resources development with a focus on the agricultural sector for regions that are lagging behind in development. In July 2020, Japan and Sri Lanka exchanged notes regarding ¥200 million in grant aid for the provision of equipment for anti-illegal drug measures and ¥300 million in grant aid for the provision of food aid (approximately 388 tons of canned fish produced in areas affected by the Great East Japan earthquake) in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Maldives, same as Sri Lanka, is located in a strategic position along the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and holds geopolitical importance for Japan. Then Foreign Minister Kono visited the Maldives in January 2018, and President

Solih and Foreign Minister Shahid of the Maldives visited Japan together in October 2019, holding a summit meeting and a Foreign Ministers Meeting where they agreed that both countries would cooperate toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” Based on this policy, in 2020, it was decided to extend grant aid of ¥500 million for the provision of related equipment to build capacity in counter-terrorism and public safety measures (police vehicles, liquid inspection apparatus, portable x-ray devices for the detection of suspicious items, etc.), and ¥800 million for the provision of marine safety equipment to improve marine rescue and relief capabilities (telecommunications and diving-related equipment, etc.). Moreover, Japan also supported the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship that provided the tuition and other expenses necessary for young government officials from the Maldives to obtain degrees in Japan.

Pakistan plays a vital role in the international community’s efforts to eradicate terrorism. In Pakistan, Japan has thus far been implementing improvements for its capabilities of security at airports and seaports, provisions of equipment and products in the fields of peacebuilding and counter-terrorism, the strengthening of border control capacity with respect to illegal drug trafficking and international organized crime, and support for the people that were internally displaced as a result of military operations to eliminate terrorists. Furthermore, Japan also provides support in the field of healthcare, such as the procurement of vaccines needed to eradicate polio in Pakistan. Additionally, Japan is continuously supporting the area of education, and in October 2020, notes on ¥471 million in grant aid were exchanged for the strengthening of disaster risk reduction measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in collaboration with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including the earthquake proofing of schools and disaster risk reduction education.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs KOKUBA Konosuke after holding a luncheon and exchange of opinions with the Ambassadors of Nepal, Pakistan, and the Maldives (December 2020)

In the aftermath of the major earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015, Japan implemented Emergency Grant Aid

amounting to \$14 million (¥1.68 billion) through eight international organizations. Moreover, to assist Nepal's medium to long-term reconstruction process, Japan is providing support on a scale totaling approximately \$260 million (over ¥32 billion) to rebuild houses (approximately 90,000 in total) and schools (approximately 280 in total). Furthermore, to build a resilient Nepal and overcome its vulnerabilities to disaster, Japan is also providing a range of technical support related to strengthening the government's disaster risk reduction capabilities and the widespread adoption of buildings in line with construction standards. In 2020, to support Nepal's efforts in consolidating and developing its democracy through the new Constitution, Japan is providing support to improve the governance capacity of the central and local governments. In addition, Japan has provided support to the Government of Nepal's "School Sector Development Programme" in order to narrow educational gaps. Japan also provided support for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by covering the tuition and other expenses required for young government officials from Nepal to obtain degrees in Japan. Furthermore, in collaboration with the WFP, Japan also decided on ¥352 million in grant aid related to the improvement of facilities to provide school meals using a local production for local consumption ⁶ system and capacity building for the spread of school meals in Nuwakot District.



School children of Nepal running around cheerfully in the schoolyard in front of a new earthquake-resilient school building

Furthermore, Japan has built cordial relations with Bhutan since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1986 and celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2016. In January 2020, the ODA research mission of the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan for FY2019 was dispatched to the country,

during which the mission inspected the current state of assistance in the areas of agriculture and health, had an audience with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, and held an exchange of opinions with Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Tandi Dorji, and Chairperson of the National Council Hon. Tashi Dorji, among others. Japan's development cooperation toward Bhutan serves as the foundation for friendly relations between the two countries. As such, Japan has been providing support while respecting Bhutan's National Development Plan that focuses on the country's fundamental philosophy of maximizing Gross National Happiness (GNH). This support has achieved steady results, especially in fields such as the improvement of agricultural productivity, development of economic infrastructure such as road networks and bridges, and human resources development. In March 2020, Japan and Bhutan signed the Exchange of Notes for two grant aid projects: "the Project for Improvement of Farm Machinery for Hiring Services of Tillage (Phase 2)" for the improvement of farmers' access to agricultural machinery and "the Project for Improving Solid Waste Management" for the installation of equipment for solid waste collection and transport as well as the operation of final disposal sites, supporting Bhutan's self-reliant and sustainable nation-building. Furthermore, in May, Japan and Bhutan signed the Exchange of Notes on "the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship," which is a grant aid project that covers the tuition and other expense required for young government officials of Bhutan to obtain masters or doctoral degrees in Japan. This assistance not only contributes to the development of Bhutan, but also to the nurturing of human resources for strengthening friendly relations between Japan and Bhutan.



A JICA expert providing instruction on pruning kiwi vines at a model fruit farm through the "Integrated Horticulture Promotion Project in the West Central Region" in Bhutan (Photo: JICA)

⁶ An effort to consume domestic agriculture, forestry, and fishery products in the regions they were produced.

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in Southwest Asia

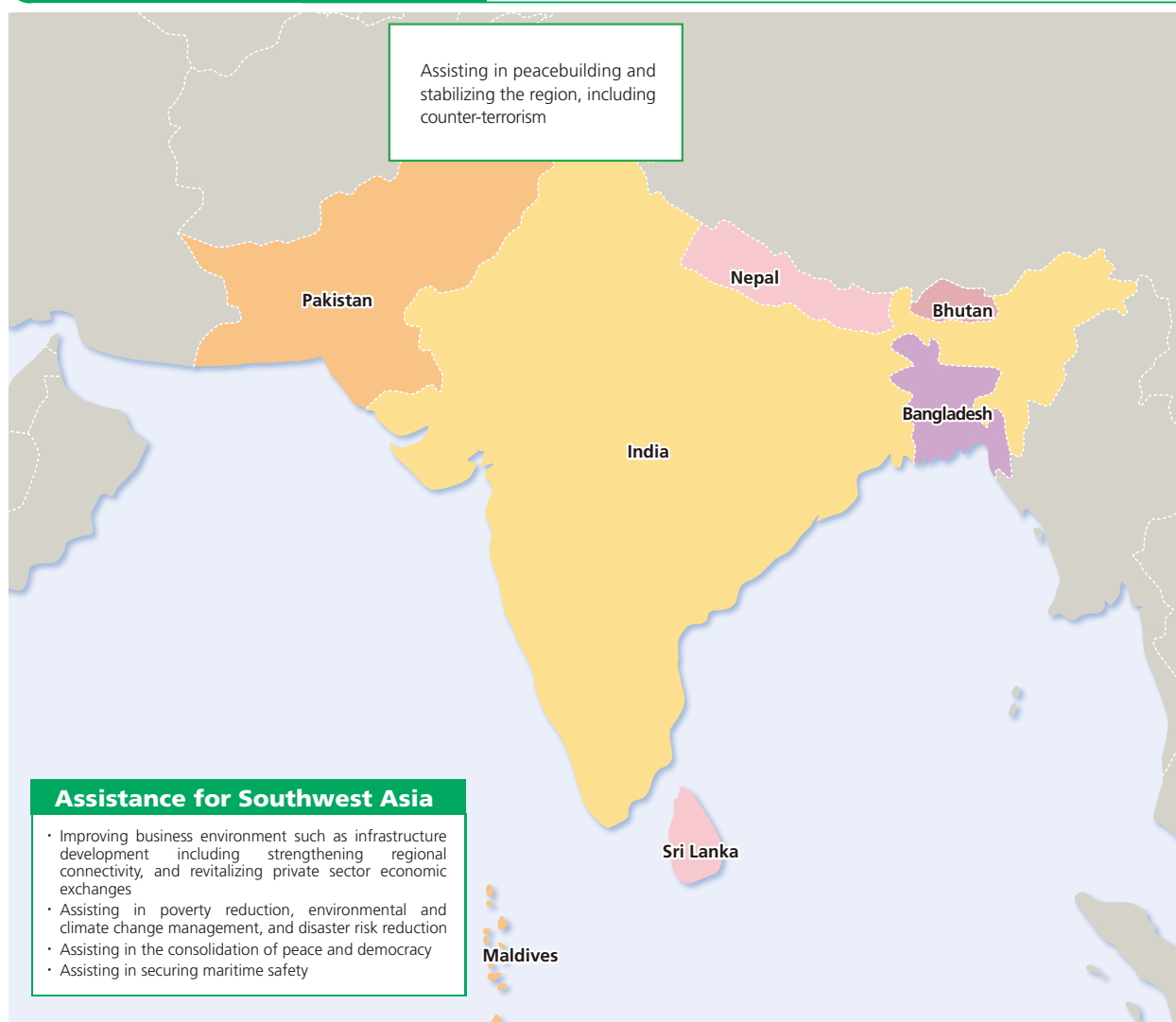


Chart III-3

Japan's Assistance in Southwest Asia

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	India	7.48	—	106.15	113.63	2,586.31	905.17	1,681.14	1,794.77	2,699.94
2	Bangladesh	55.15	37.70	37.98	93.13	1,162.46	116.41	1,046.06	1,139.18	1,255.59
3	Sri Lanka	18.16	5.27	11.71	29.86	195.99	193.17	2.81	32.68	225.85
4	Nepal	48.62	—	17.59	66.21	71.02	10.71	60.31	126.52	137.23
5	Pakistan	57.75	21.11	16.71	74.46	57.65	266.60	-208.95	-134.49	132.11
6	Bhutan	17.99	—	9.50	27.49	2.73	0.97	1.76	29.25	30.22
7	Maldives	12.53	—	2.15	14.68	—	1.10	-1.10	13.58	14.68
	Multiple countries in Southwest Asia	—	—	0.32	0.32	—	—	—	0.32	0.32
Southwest Asia region total		217.67	64.08	202.11	419.78	4,076.16	1,494.14	2,582.02	3,001.80	4,495.94

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of the survey teams in multiple countries within a region.

- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Figures under "Multiple countries in Southwest Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

3. Oceania

The Pacific Island countries are not only Japan's "neighbors" bound by the Pacific Ocean, but also share deep historical ties with Japan. Also, in possessing vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ, maritime zones where a sovereign nation has certain economic rights), these countries are key to maritime transport activity and provide essential fishing grounds for bonito and tuna fisheries. As a result, the stability and prosperity of Pacific Island countries are very important to Japan.

Meanwhile, many Pacific Island countries are relatively new independent states with the urgent task of becoming economically independent. In addition, they face common challenges particular to small island countries, such as small-scale economies dependent on primary industry, territories geographically scattered over the vast area of the sea, difficulty in accessing international markets, and vulnerability to natural hazards. Based on this situation, as a good partner with Pacific Island countries, Japan provides assistance to support their self-reliant and sustainable development.

Japan's Efforts

In order for Pacific Island countries to achieve political stability and self-reliant economic development, it is crucial not only to support each country in overcoming their socio-economic vulnerabilities, but also to provide comprehensive assistance for the region. In addition to promoting cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)⁷, a framework for regional cooperation composed of Pacific Island countries, Japan has hosted the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM), a summit meeting between Japan and Pacific Island countries every three years since 1997. Furthermore, the PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting has been held approximately 18 months after each PALM since 2010.

In May 2018, the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting



Training under the ongoing technical cooperation "Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific" in Samoa (Photo: JICA)

(PALM8) was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture. With the pillars of "(i) free, open, and sustainable oceans; (ii) strengthening the basis for resilient and sustainable development; and (iii) Connecting Pacific Citizens" and based on the achievements so far, Japan announced plans to continue the steady implementation of development assistance as before, as well as further strengthen human resource development and exchanges (over 5,000 people in three years), which are the foundation for growth and prosperity.

In May 2019, the Interagency Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries determined the basic policy of reinforcing and concentrating resources for Pacific Island countries and strengthening initiatives with all-Japan efforts. Based on the basic policy, Japan implements bilateral cooperation, including the development of basic infrastructure such as ports and airports, as well as technical cooperation targeting multiple Pacific Island countries.

Under the first pillar of PALM8, "free, open, and sustainable oceans," Japan conducted training on the prevention of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing for officials from Pacific Island countries. Under the second pillar of "strengthening the basis for resilient and sustainable development," Japan provides comprehensive assistance through "mainstreaming disaster risk reduction," which includes training meteorological agency personnel and developing rapid evacuation systems, as well as strengthening human resources and systems related to waste management. For example, as part of the "MARINE Initiative" (see page 80 for details) launched by Japan in order to achieve the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" shared at the G20 Osaka Summit, Japan provides support for strengthening human resources development as well as organizational and systematic foundations for sustainable waste management in the Oceania region. Through this Initiative, training was provided for approximately 300 people in FY2019, with indirect benefits reaching approximately 50,000 people. Furthermore, to support Pacific Island countries' efforts addressing climate change, Japan has collaborated with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), a regional international organization based in Samoa, in fostering human resources engaged in formulating countermeasures against climate change. Finally, under the third pillar of "Connecting Pacific Citizens," Japan provides support for master's education programs in Japanese graduate institutions and implements internship programs in Japanese ministries and agencies for young government officials.

⁷ The 16 PIF member countries and two member regions are Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon, Vanuatu, Tonga, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall, Palau, Cook, Niue, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia.



Activities at a waste disposal site in Papua New Guinea as part of the Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (Photo: JICA)

Furthermore, in response to the global spread of COVID-19, Japan has provided health and medical equipment worth approximately ¥4 billion in total and technical cooperation for 14 countries in the Oceania region in 2020. Additionally, Japan has decided to provide a total of ¥42.5 billion in financial assistance loans for Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Solomon to support economic recovery.

Japan will continue to support Pacific Island countries in strengthening health care systems and recovering the economies impacted by COVID-19 in collaboration with the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and other partners. Through such efforts, Japan will work hand in hand with them in building a stable, resilient, and prosperous Oceania region in the post-COVID-19 era.

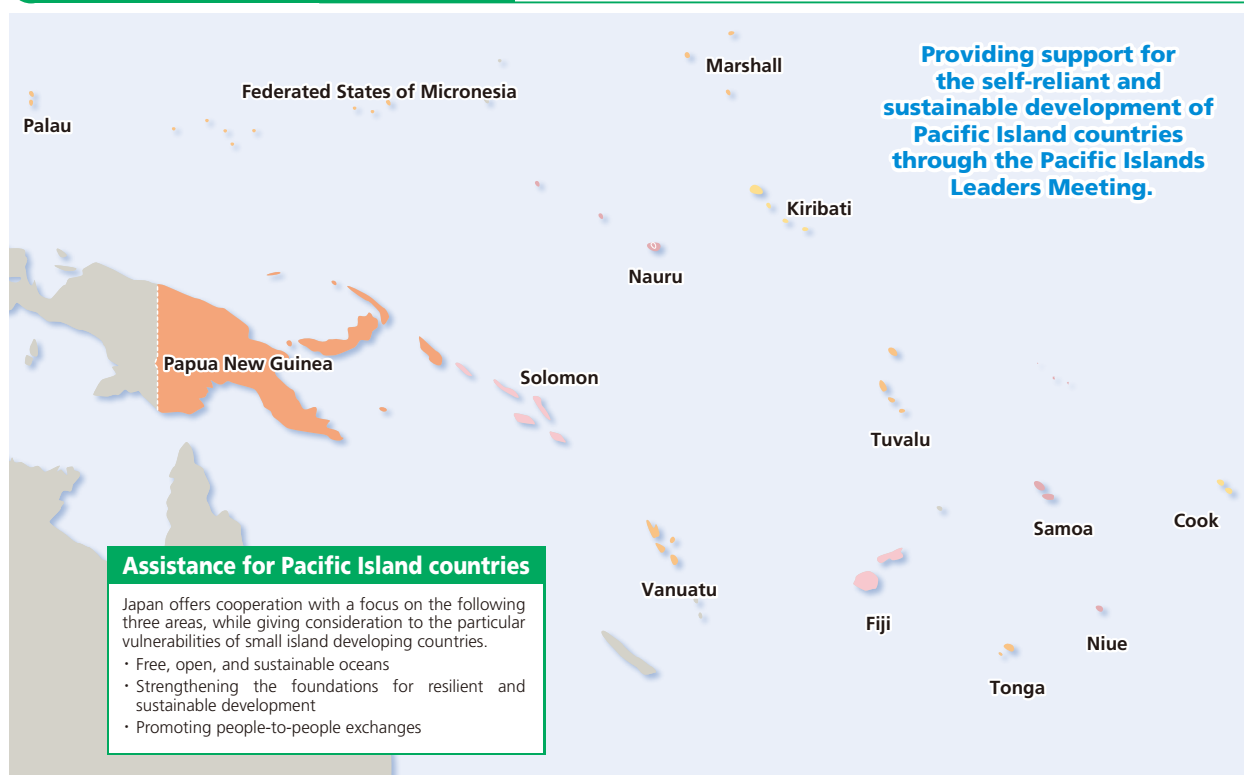


Chart III-4

Japan's Assistance in Oceania

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Papua New Guinea	20.92	—	7.91	28.82	36.12	11.95	24.17	52.99	64.94
2	Samoa	34.12	—	3.15	37.26	—	1.83	-1.83	35.44	37.26
3	Palau	11.84	—	2.34	14.18	4.22	—	4.22	18.40	18.40
4	Tonga	15.23	—	1.55	16.78	—	—	—	16.78	16.78
5	Fiji	4.42	0.10	7.19	11.61	—	1.11	-1.11	10.49	11.61
6	Kiribati	10.81	—	0.76	11.56	—	—	—	11.56	11.56
7	Federated States of Micronesia	9.29	—	2.12	11.41	—	—	—	11.41	11.41
8	Marshall	9.38	—	1.03	10.41	—	—	—	10.41	10.41
9	Nauru	8.33	—	0.06	8.39	—	—	—	8.39	8.39
10	Solomon	1.84	—	6.31	8.15	—	—	—	8.15	8.15
11	Vanuatu	2.66	—	3.32	5.98	1.12	—	1.12	7.10	7.10
12	Tuvalu	3.38	—	0.12	3.50	—	—	—	3.50	3.50
13	Cook	0.39	—	0.07	0.46	—	—	—	0.46	0.46
14	Niue	0.16	—	0.10	0.26	—	—	—	0.26	0.26
15	[Tokelau]	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
	Multiple countries in Oceania	6.87	6.25	3.95	10.81	—	—	—	10.81	10.81
Oceania region total		139.62	6.35	39.97	179.59	41.45	14.89	26.56	206.16	221.04

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
- Square brackets [] denote region names.

Stories from the Field



Papua New Guinea's First National Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals Completed!

—Japan's know-how of developing textbooks is contributing to locally tailored learning for children—

Papua New Guinea, with a large number of primary and secondary schools scattered far from the city, has faced a major challenge in the quality of teachers in remote areas that are difficult to access. For example, some teachers have to conduct classes without sufficient subject knowledge. An advanced Outcomes-Based Education was introduced in 2001 as part of a curriculum reform, but no nationally standardized textbooks or teacher's manuals were developed, and the teachers, left largely to their own discretion, conducted classes relying on their own teaching skills using reference materials produced by various overseas publishers. As a result, the quality of education could not be ensured and teachers were unable to provide adequate instruction for the children, and it has drawn mounting criticisms that children's academic abilities had declined.

Thus, the Papua New Guinean National Department of Education decided to discontinue the Outcomes-Based Education in 2014, replacing it with a newly introduced Standards-Based Curriculum and developing national textbooks. However, as the country had never developed national textbooks before, there was a lack of sufficient knowledge and experience.

Under these circumstances, the National Department of Education requested cooperation from Japan, which had been providing support in the field of science and mathematics education in the country since 2005. In 2016, the "Project for Improving the Quality of Mathematics and Science Education" was launched to develop national textbooks and teacher's manuals for third to sixth grade primary school students and teachers across the country.

Teachers and curriculum development staff appointed by Papua New Guinea and Japanese experts gathered together and collaborated to develop the first national textbooks for approximately four years. Incorporating Japan's lesson study methods (mock lessons) and know-how provided by the Japanese textbook publishing company GAKKOTOSHO Co., Ltd., they devised various ways to make the content easy to understand for the children and teachers in Papua New Guinea by including plenty of photographs and illustrations and introducing the country's nature and culture. When setting math questions,



Papua New Guinean children learning with the newly developed textbooks (Photo: JICA)

as units of money and other familiar items differ from those in Japan, they consulted with the Papua New Guinean teachers on each and every aspect to adjust the content to reflect their local situation.

"The experience of being entrusted with developing national textbooks, which are at the foundation of nation-building and human resources development, was an extremely precious opportunity. From the second year, the teachers' mock lessons to verify the contents of the textbooks were held in a training camp style, and between classes, verification, and preparations for the next class, they worked barely without rest," said Mr. ITO Akinori, a JICA Expert involved in the textbook development looking back on that time.

"Most amazing of all, the passion of the Papua New Guinean teachers to improve the level of education in their country could be seen. It was a great honor for us to be able to witness the starting point of the future of education in Papua New Guinea," said Mr. SERIZAWA Katsuaki and Mr. KOMAZAWA Susumu of GAKKOTOSHO Co., Ltd., who participated in the project. They continued as follows: "Japanese textbooks are excellent because the learning contents are exceptionally systematic. For example, after learning multiplication, students learn to calculate area. They are devised so that each unit teaches new items based on the content completed in previous ones. In this way, each unit is completed step by step. Students can properly acquire all of the necessary knowledge in just six years. We received jubilant comments from Papua New Guinean teachers about the Japanese textbooks, saying, 'I really learned a lot,' and 'Now for the first time I understand what kind of learning content is needed.'"

The science and mathematics textbooks and teacher's manuals, which took approximately four years to complete, have been in use since the new school term in February 2020. Unlike Japan, where the textbooks are distributed to each and every child for their own use, in Papua New Guinea, teachers collect them at the end of lesson. These new textbooks that made use of Japanese know-how are used over and over again in places of learning, and are contributing greatly to improving the quality of education in Papua New Guinea.



Japanese experts and their Papua New Guinean counterparts developing textbooks and teacher's manuals suited to the local situation (Photo: JICA)

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin American and Caribbean region is an enormous market with a population of approximately 640 million and a regional GDP of approximately \$5.5 trillion as of 2019 and is also a region of strategic importance for trade. This region has also consistently enhanced its presence in the international community through its rooted democracy and supply of mineral and energy resources as well as food resources. Although the average income level in the region is relatively high among ODA recipient countries, the region is characterized by significant disparities between the rich and the poor, as well as a large number of people who continue to suffer from poverty. Furthermore, this region has a traditionally strong personal and historical bond with Japan due to the community of Japanese immigrants and descendants (the Nikkei community) numbering more than two million. Japan has thus maintained stable and friendly relations with this region for a long period.



Foreign Minister Motegi attending the signing ceremony with Foreign Minister Araújo for the “Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Technologies Related to the Production and Use of Niobium and Graphene” and “Tomé-Açu Memorandum of Cooperation on the Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of the Amazon” during his visit to Brazil (January 2021)

Japan's Efforts

●● Efforts Toward Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Issues

While it is a region with a rich natural environment such as the tropical rainforests of the Amazon, the Latin American and Caribbean region is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Therefore, Japan's assistance for this region, utilizing Japan's knowledge and experience in the field of disaster risk reduction, is of great importance.

Japan has provided a cumulative total of more than \$320 million for recovery and reconstruction support to Haiti, which suffered catastrophic damage from the huge earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 that occurred in 2010, as well as assistance that utilizes Japan's expertise in the disaster risk reduction field to Caribbean countries and countries facing the Pacific Ocean including Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, where earthquakes frequently strike. Japan has also provided emergency relief goods to Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, which had suffered damage from hurricanes in November 2020.

Furthermore, the Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America named “BOSAI,” which aims to share knowledge on disaster risk reduction and reduce disaster risks at the local community

level, has achieved significant results in the region. Moreover, for the Caribbean countries, Japan provides support from perspectives other than those based on per capita income, to overcome the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing states against climate change and natural disasters. In addition to developing disaster-resilient bridges and emergency communications systems and supplying equipment that contributes to strengthening the ability to cope with disasters, Japan also dispatches flood control and soil erosion control experts and provides technical cooperation and support for climate change measures in a wide area of eight Caribbean countries.

Moreover, Japan has been providing cooperation on a wide range of environmental issues in the region, including assistance for scientific and technological research on climate phenomena, conservation of biodiversity, conservation of the Amazon rainforest using remote sensing, and construction of waste disposal facilities. In the area of renewable energy, which has been receiving wider attention in recent years, Japan provides support for introducing solar power generation in many countries, as well as for constructing geothermal power plants in Bolivia, Costa Rica, and elsewhere. In addition, in Jamaica, Japan has been implementing a project to promote the introduction of energy-saving measures through a dollar-denominated ODA loan to the country in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Also, for the Caribbean countries, Japan contributes to promoting the sustainable use of limited marine resources by restoring fisheries facilities damaged by hurricanes, dispatching fisheries experts, and providing equipment in the fisheries field. In 2020, Japan decided to provide grant aid to Antigua and Barbuda as well as Grenada to remove sargassum seaweed, which is causing severe negative impacts in the Caribbean region.

●● Economic and Social Infrastructure Development

Latin America and the Caribbean have also been drawing attention in recent years as a production base and market for industries, attracting many Japanese corporations into the region. From the perspective of developing a foundation for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries, Japan is also actively engaged in developing water supply and sewerage infrastructure in metropolitan regions and the countryside. In August 2020, Japan and Paraguay exchanged notes on the provision of an ODA loan amounting to ¥9.13 billion, which will improve living conditions through providing safe and efficient water supply and sewerage services.

In addition, Japan has also worked on spreading Japan's terrestrial digital broadcasting system (ISDB-T format) through public-private collaboration, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean countries. As of December 2020, 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Japanese system. Toward these countries, Japan provides support for technology transfer to enable the smooth introduction of the system, and also carries out human resources development to this effect.



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki receiving a courtesy call from Mr. Raúl Florentín Antola, Ambassador of Paraguay to Japan (November 2020)

◆◆ Initiatives in the Areas of Medical Care and Sanitation, Education, and Others

Japan also provides various kinds of cooperation for Latin American and Caribbean countries in the fields of medical care and sanitation. In this region, 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. Furthermore, due to the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, establishing a medical system for rapid and accurate diagnosis and treatment is required.

Under these circumstances, Japan signed and exchanged notes on grant aid totaling ¥7.9 billion with 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2020, based on the requests of each government for the provision of health and medical equipment to support the response to COVID-19. In addition, Japan provided a total of approximately ¥200 million in health and medical equipment to 17 countries in the region through existing technical cooperation and grant aid. Furthermore, as for El Salvador, through the Stand-by Loan for Natural Disaster Recovery, which was signed in 2015, ¥5 billion was disbursed to support the response to COVID-19. In addition to bilateral cooperation, Japan has contributed ¥300 million to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and also provided assistance for capacity building and supplies through the Japanese Trust Funds at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Furthermore, in El Salvador, Japan is engaged in a joint research for identifying virulent factors and developing therapeutic drugs for Chagas disease, which is a parasitic disease considered to be a serious tropical disease next to malaria in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the area of sanitation, Japan has conducted numerous projects to assist in the development of water and sewerage systems in order to ensure the supply of safe drinking water and the recycling of domestic water.

Nikkei communities have formed in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Japan has continued its efforts to support these communities such as providing support for the welfare facilities of the Nikkei communities, accepting trainees, and dispatching Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs).

Moreover, assistance in the field of education is extremely important for Latin American and Caribbean countries, due to the existence of poverty and insufficiencies in their educational budget. Japan has provided support for building basic educational facilities including through the grant aid “Project for Construction of Basic Schools in Centre and Artibonite Departments” to Haiti. Japan also implemented technical cooperation projects and dispatched volunteers to improve the capacity of teachers. Such efforts are highly appreciated by the local communities.

◆◆ South-South Cooperation and Cooperation with Regional Organizations

Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina have achieved results in South-South cooperation*, and Japan has signed partnership programs with these countries. Based on such partnerships, Japan is collaborating with Argentina, for example, to provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America, as well as in Africa. In Chile, Japan is conducting human resources development programs through triangular cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction and has succeeded in training 5,169 people, exceeding the initial target of 4,000. In Brazil, with many years of cooperation from Japan, the Japanese-style community policing system has become widespread. Utilizing this experience regarding the community policing system, and based on the framework of triangular cooperation, Brazilian experts in the field of community policing are currently dispatched to Central American countries to conduct technology transfers. Activities are also underway in Mexico to share the achievements of Japan’s cooperation to date with other Latin American and Caribbean countries, mainly in the fields of health and medical care.

Furthermore, Japan is also cooperating with the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other regional organizations to formulate projects that cover the entire region, in order to achieve a more effective and efficient development cooperation related to development issues that are shared throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region.

◆◆ Assistance for Central American Migrants and Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

Central America faces the issues of migrant caravans



A JICA expert giving guidance to local residents in volcanic foothill areas of Guatemala in their disaster risk reduction activities (Photo: JICA)

aiming to immigrate to the United States and Mexico, fleeing poverty and insecurity. In 2020, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WFP, Japan provided assistance to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras for the promotion of voluntary repatriation of migrants, prevention of outflow of migrants, and social reintegration of returned migrants in Central America.

Moreover, due to the recent deterioration of the economic and social conditions in Venezuela, approximately 5.4 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants have flowed mainly to neighboring countries as of December 2020. This has caused the deterioration of the living conditions of local residents in the areas that received refugees and migrants and instability of the region. The fact that the situation has not been dealt with sufficiently has become a challenge. In March 2020, with regard to Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, which have been receiving displaced Venezuelan people, Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM for protection for vulnerable people, food assistance, and social integration support such as vocational training. Furthermore, in May 2020, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki attended the International Donor's Conference in Solidarity with

Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants and exchanged views on the efforts of each country on Venezuelan refugees and migrants, which has become a serious issue in the neighboring countries as well as the region. In December 2020, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan decided to provide assistance for vaccinations for children and expectant and nursing mothers, including returned migrants and internally displaced people, as well as the capacity building of medical care workers in Venezuela (see "Stories from the Field" on page 121 for details).



Students learning at the Dr. Marco Aurelio Soto Center for Basic Education in Siguatepeque, Comayagua department, Honduras, which was expanded and renovated to improve the learning environment through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects

Glossary



***South-South cooperation (Triangular cooperation)**

South-South cooperation refers to cooperation provided by relatively advanced developing countries to other developing countries, utilizing their own development experiences, human resources, skills, funds, and knowledge. In many cases, the cooperation, primarily technical cooperation, is conducted in countries that have similar natural environments, linguistic, cultural, and economic circumstances, and/or are facing similar development processes. When supported by donors or international organizations, such South-South cooperation between developing countries is referred to as "triangular cooperation."

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in Latin America and the Caribbean

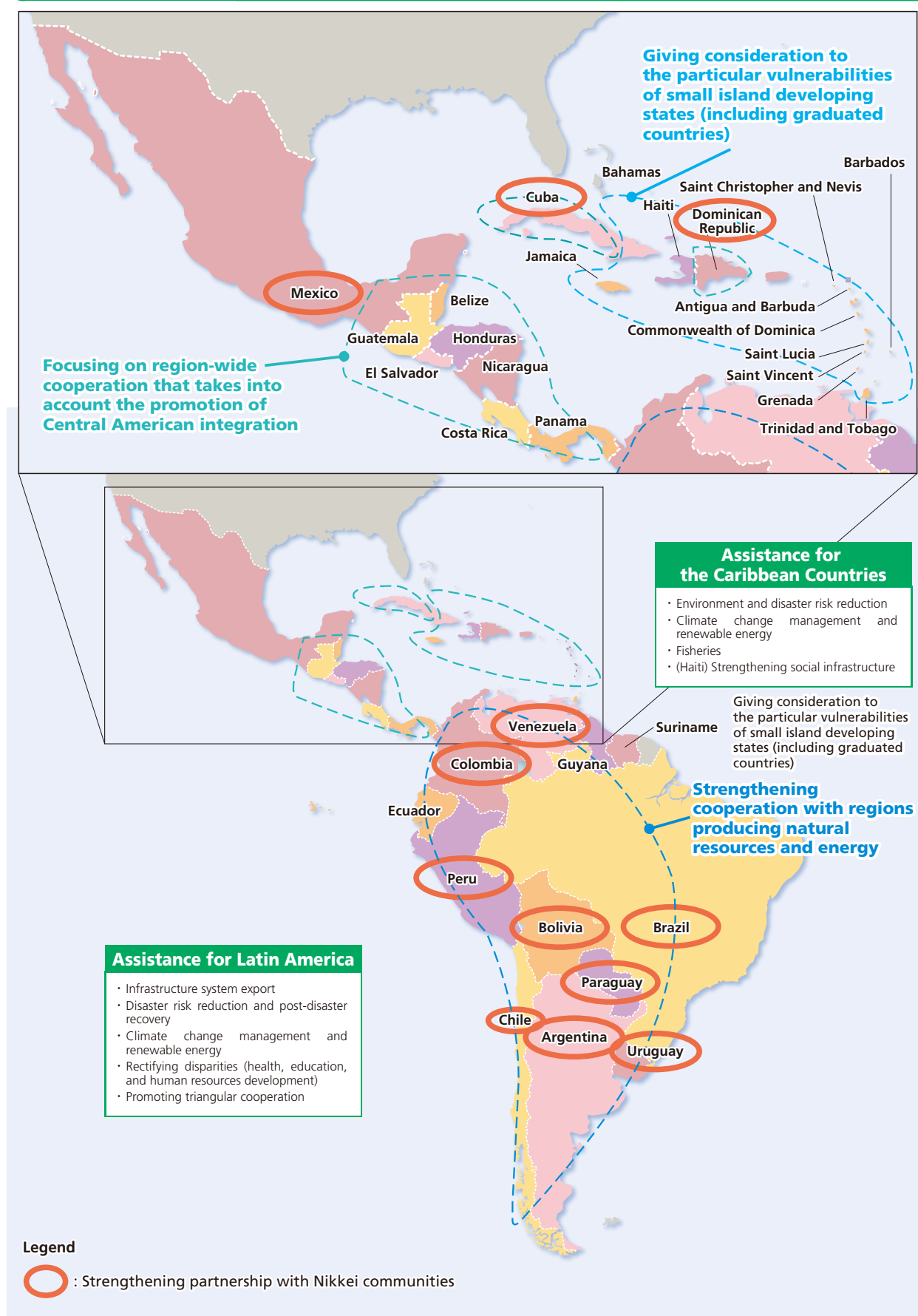


Chart III-5

Japan's Assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Brazil	5.04	3.82	12.57	17.61	44.18	90.66	-46.48	-28.88	61.78
2	Paraguay	6.03	—	6.77	12.80	43.20	29.29	13.91	26.71	56.00
3	Costa Rica	0.52	—	3.24	3.76	31.40	16.47	14.93	18.69	35.16
4	Peru	1.31	—	8.20	9.52	22.98	45.99	-23.01	-13.49	32.50
5	Honduras	19.50	—	4.21	23.71	0.53	—	0.53	24.24	24.24
6	Guatemala	1.39	0.47	4.85	6.24	17.08	13.02	4.06	10.31	23.33
7	Haiti	21.99	2.08	0.82	22.81	—	—	—	22.81	22.81
8	Bolivia	13.68	—	7.85	21.53	0.76	—	0.76	22.29	22.29
9	Ecuador	7.85	3.21	10.95	18.80	—	4.54	-4.54	14.26	18.80
10	Nicaragua	5.72	—	5.93	11.65	4.67	—	4.67	16.33	16.33
11	Cuba	10.72	0.75	3.50	14.22	—	—	—	14.22	14.22
12	El Salvador	1.74	—	6.99	8.73	4.27	16.62	-12.35	-3.62	13.00
13	Colombia	6.56	4.62	4.87	11.43	—	—	—	11.43	11.43
14	Mexico	0.07	0.07	8.65	8.72	—	—	—	8.72	8.72
15	Dominican Republic	1.11	—	4.63	5.75	—	3.95	-3.95	1.80	5.75
16	Argentina	0.31	—	4.26	4.56	—	16.19	-16.19	-11.62	4.56
17	Saint Vincent	3.70	—	0.33	4.03	—	—	—	4.03	4.03
18	Suriname	3.75	—	0.00	3.76	—	—	—	3.76	3.76
19	Saint Lucia	1.83	—	1.70	3.53	—	—	—	3.53	3.53
20	Panama	0.80	—	2.53	3.33	—	9.60	-9.60	-6.27	3.33
21	Jamaica	0.48	—	2.11	2.59	0.47	4.65	-4.18	-1.59	3.06
22	Guyana	2.70	—	0.13	2.83	—	—	—	2.83	2.83
23	Antigua and Barbuda	1.91	—	0.02	1.93	—	—	—	1.93	1.93
24	Belize	0.40	—	0.78	1.18	—	—	—	1.18	1.18
25	Dominica	0.06	—	0.48	0.54	—	—	—	0.54	0.54
26	Venezuela	0.25	—	0.23	0.49	—	—	—	0.49	0.49
27	Grenada	0.07	—	0.05	0.12	—	—	—	0.12	0.12
	Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	—	—	8.38	8.38	4.76	0.40	4.36	12.74	13.14
Latin America and the Caribbean region total		120.50	15.03	118.03	238.53	174.30	252.29	-77.99	160.54	412.83

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

Stories from the Field



Toward a Society Where All People Can Live in Peace —Supporting Venezuelan refugees and migrants in cooperation with the Government of Japan—

In Venezuela, a country in South America, more than 5.5 million of its people have been displaced due to the country's deteriorating socio-economic situation, evacuating to neighboring countries in one of the largest displacement crises in the world. Approximately 1.8 million Venezuelans have fled to Colombia, the country where I live.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides protection and assistance called R4V (Response for Venezuelans), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to Venezuelans who have had no option but to leave their homes. I have been working at the UNHCR Cúcuta office, located in the border area with Venezuela in the eastern part of Colombia, since June 2018. My role includes protecting Venezuelan refugees arriving at Norte de Santander Department, including Cúcuta City and its neighboring department, coordinating humanitarian assistance programs provided by more than 50 agencies through the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), information management, and public relations activities.

COVID-19 began spreading across Colombia in March 2020, and from then until the day of writing (November 2020), the border with Venezuela has been closed. However, before its closure, as many as 3,000 to 5,000 refugees and migrants were flooding into the country daily, and even after its closure, many Venezuelans have been entering Colombia across unofficial borders, such as mountainous areas and rivers, in search of a guarantee of their fundamental human rights including physical safety, food, and access to health care and education. However, the presence of human trafficking organizations and armed groups in these border areas pose a security risk to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as local residents. In addition, the spread of infection and strict restrictions on economic activities have left many Venezuelan people displaced in Colombia without their livelihoods, and they are now in a difficult situation where they face severe food shortages and eviction from their place of evacuation.

In response to these circumstances, the UNHCR Colombia office provides support in collaboration with partners including the Governments of Colombia and Japan. In July 2019, the Government of Japan extended 302 million yen in grant aid through an international organization for the Project for Humanitarian Assistance to Venezuelan Refugees, Colombian Returnees and Host Communities in Colombia. Following this, in March 2020, the Government of Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid totaling 1.43 billion yen (of which 396 million yen was provided



An internally displaced Colombian family who fled to Norte de Santander Department due to the country's civil conflict, together with Associate Protection Officer Hatori and her colleague at UNHCR. The family is supporting displaced Venezuelans who arrived in their community. (Photo: UNHCR)

to Colombia) to support displaced people in countries neighboring Venezuela (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru). Thanks to this aid, we provided the following assistance during the ten-month period between July 2019 and May 2020: providing legal assistance, livelihood and resettlement support, and counseling to over 40,000 people, including both Venezuelans and Colombian returnees; institutional strengthening for protection of refugees by offering relevant legal and technical advice to government organizations, their officials, and other personnel; assisting more than 70,000 people in acquiring Colombian citizenship; improving surveys on the movement, needs, and situation of refugees; and providing temporary shelters for approximately 10,000 refugees.

Moreover, the UNHCR Colombia office conducts training on the human rights of refugees and access to basic services aimed at Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities, in addition to supporting their livelihoods. With the aim of integrating Venezuelan people into Colombian society, the office is also working on the “Somos Panas Colombia”^{*} campaign, which promotes understanding of and support for Venezuelans in Colombia who have been forced to leave their home country. The campaign aims to create a society in which all residents in Colombia live in harmony by sharing values such as solidarity, empathy, and tolerance towards displaced Venezuelans in Colombia.

Governments of neighboring countries, donor countries including Japan, international organizations, private companies, civil society organizations, and local residents are already working together in their response to the Venezuela Situation. However, due to the tremendous scale of the crisis, assistance has not reached all those who need it, and more efforts to mobilize assistance are necessary. As a member of UNHCR, I would like to continue to work toward ensuring that necessary assistance reaches as many people as possible.

HATORI Atsuko
Associate Protection Officer,
Cúcuta Office, UNHCR Colombia
(Dispatched under the JPO Programme)



Refugees traveling on foot across Norte de Santander Department in Colombia and talking with Associate Protection Officer Hatori (Photo: UNHCR)

^{*} “Somos panas” means ‘we are friends’ in Spanish (<https://somospanascolombia.com/> (in Spanish only))

5. Europe

Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe and of the former Soviet Union that were once under communist regimes are currently pursuing economic development based on market economies. Japan provides assistance for efforts such as the reconstruction of economic infrastructure and addressing environmental issues, with the aim to further strengthen relations with these countries which share fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, market economy, and the rule of law, as well as to contribute to the further stability and development of Europe as a whole.

Japan's Efforts

The reform of the Western Balkan countries ⁸ once slowed due to the outbreak of conflicts in the 1990s. However, as a result of reconstruction assistance from various countries and international organizations, as well as reform efforts by the countries themselves, they have graduated from the reconstruction assistance phase and are currently in need of assistance for sustainable economic development.

Japan, in support of a unified Europe, provides development cooperation based on the three main pillars of "consolidation of peace," "economic development," and "regional cooperation" as its priority areas, which were confirmed at the joint Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans, held by Japan and the EU in 2004. In 2018, then Prime Minister Abe announced the "Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative" aimed at encouraging socio-economic reforms of the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession and promoting reconciliation and cooperation amongst the ethnic groups. Japan provides assistance for the "promotion of sustainable economic growth" as its prioritized policy in the Western Balkan countries.

Ukraine and Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union, are geopolitically important since they are located between Russia and the EU, and hence the stability and sustainable development of these countries are indispensable for the stability of Europe as a whole.

In order to encourage independent and sustainable economic growth in Ukraine, Japan has been providing

support in a wide range of areas such as health and medical care, finance, and basic economic infrastructure. As for Eastern Ukraine, where the situation still continues to worsen, Japan steadily provides assistance for displaced persons such as improving water supply and sanitation, providing shelters, and repairing housing. In addition to financing, Japan is also providing assistance for fiscal reforms, public service improvement, the media, and most recently capacity development for waste management, through technical cooperation.

In regard to Moldova, Japan provides assistance that contributes to the sustainable economic development of the country and the improvement in living standards for its people.

In 2020, in assistance for the region as a response to COVID-19, Japan signed and exchanged notes with Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia concerning a total of ¥400 million in grant aid for the provision of health and medical equipment based on the requests from each country.



Researchers using laboratory equipment provided by Japan at the Ukrainian Research Institute for Agricultural Radiology

Furthermore, in light of disparities in economic development in Europe, Japan will gradually reduce assistance for EU member countries, regarding them as ODA graduate countries, and will encourage those countries to be donors in order to provide development cooperation more actively for developing countries in Europe.

⁸ The six countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in Europe

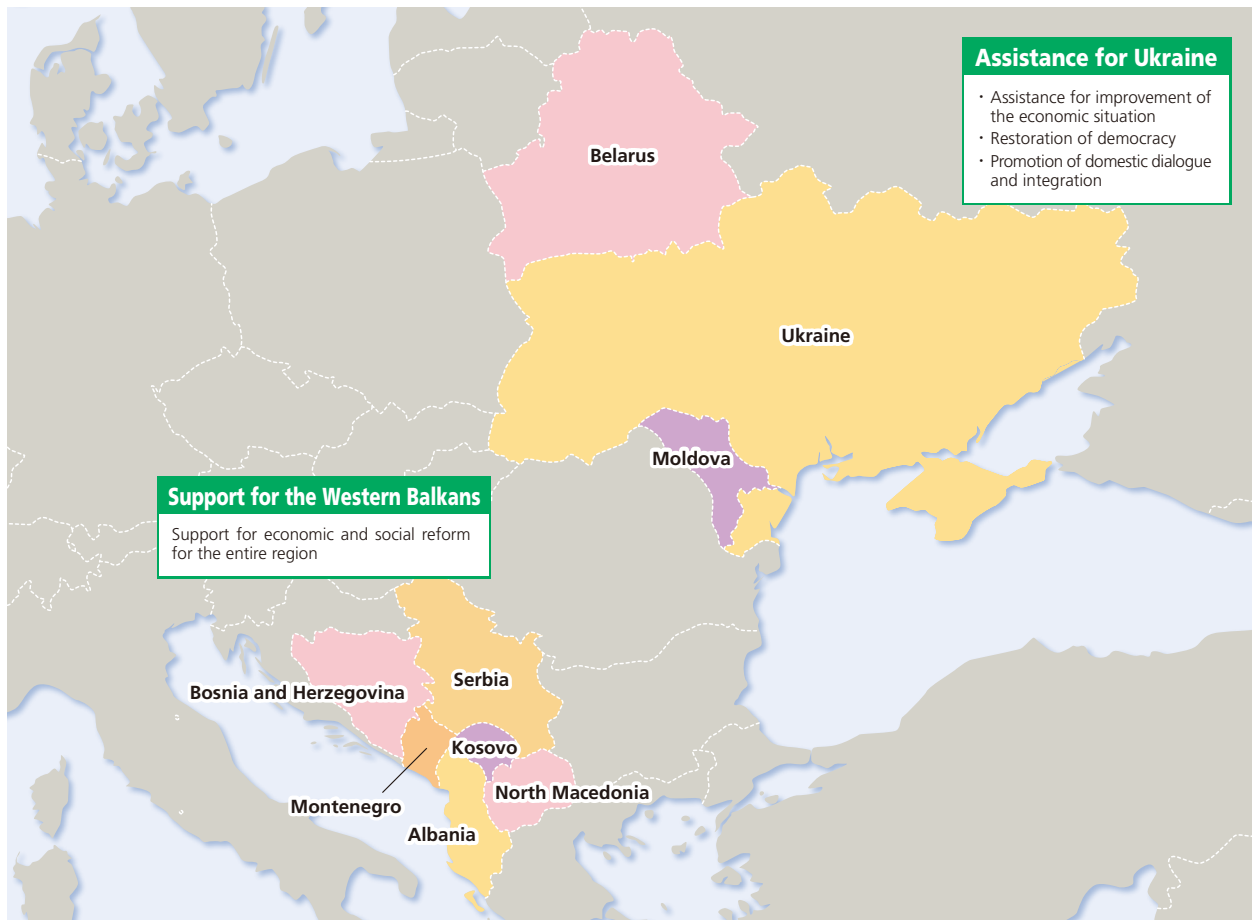


Chart III-6

Japan's Assistance in Europe

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Serbia	0.41	—	2.58	2.99	25.32	1.22	24.10	27.09	28.31
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.04	—	0.79	1.83	22.18	4.06	18.12	19.96	24.02
3	Ukraine	5.65	2.82	2.32	7.98	1.14	8.54	-7.40	0.58	9.12
4	Albania	0.63	—	3.41	4.04	1.29	6.46	-5.17	-1.13	5.33
5	Kosovo	2.74	0.09	1.42	4.16	—	—	—	4.16	4.16
6	North Macedonia	0.84	—	2.65	3.50	—	4.80	-4.80	-1.30	3.50
7	Moldova	0.76	—	0.20	0.96	—	—	—	0.96	0.96
8	Belarus	0.34	—	0.04	0.39	—	—	—	0.39	0.39
9	Montenegro	0.18	—	0.05	0.24	—	—	—	0.24	0.24
	Multiple countries in Europe	0.51	0.51	0.12	0.63	—	—	—	0.63	0.63
Europe region total		13.12	3.43	13.97	27.09	49.93	72.68	-22.75	4.34	77.02

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.

- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Figures under "Multiple countries in Europe" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Turkey.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

6. Central Asia and Caucasus

The stability and development of the Central Asia and Caucasus region, surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, bear a great significance for those of the Eurasian region as a whole. Also, this region is strategically important since it holds an abundance of natural resources such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and rare metals. From this point of view, Japan has been supporting the promotion of fundamental values in the countries of the region, such as human rights, democracy, market economy, and the rule of law. Japan has also been supporting nation-building efforts for long-term stability and sustainable development in this region, while taking into consideration a broader regional perspective which covers Afghanistan, Iran, and other neighboring regions surrounding Central Asia.

Japan's Efforts

Japan has been providing assistance for the Central Asia and Caucasus countries, which became independent following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, in diverse areas such as improvement of aging infrastructure, human resources development for the transition to a market economy, and the rebuilding of social systems including health and medical care, in order to support the efforts of each country toward the transition to market economy systems and economic development.

With regard to Japan's relationship with the Central Asian countries, based on the idea that it is important for countries in the region to work together to resolve common challenges in the "open, stable, and self-sustained development" of the region, Japan launched the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue framework in 2004 and has continued to strive to fulfill its role as a "catalyst" for regional cooperation. In recent years, Japan has been promoting more practical cooperation in addition to a variety of dialogues.

In August 2020, the Foreign Ministers' Special Video Conference of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue was held with Foreign Minister Motegi as a chair. At the conference, Foreign Minister Motegi and the foreign ministers of five Central Asian countries held discussion on (i) regional cooperation in Central Asia and cooperation between Central Asian countries and Japan amid the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and (ii) way forward for cooperation toward the upcoming 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan in 2022, particularly on the direction of the discussions towards the 8th Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Chairperson's Statement was issued after the Conference. Furthermore, in order to support each country's efforts on the response to COVID-19, Foreign Minister Motegi stated that Japan is: (i) providing grant aid for health and medical equipment; (ii) providing technical assistance as well as health and medical supplies through international organizations; (iii) extending grant

aid for the provision of Avigan tablets to countries which requested the medicine; and (iv) actively engaging in sharing information, lessons learned, and experiences on addressing infectious diseases, including exchanges of opinions among medical experts. In response to this, the foreign ministers of the Central Asian countries expressed their appreciation for Japan's cooperation. Along with stating that Japan's basic policy toward Central Asia which has been built up until now remains steadfast even under the COVID-19 pandemic, Foreign Minister Motegi noted the unchanging importance of a free and open international order, to which the foreign ministers of the Central Asian countries expressed their assent.

With regard to Japan's bilateral relations with Uzbekistan in particular amongst the Central Asian countries, President Mirziyoyev and then Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting during his visit to Japan in December 2019 and agreed on economic cooperation projects, including a total of approximately ¥190 billion in ODA loans in the fields of electric power and agriculture. Furthermore, Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Umurzakov visited Japan in December 2020 and held meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Aso, Foreign Minister Motegi, and others. During the meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi, Deputy Prime-Minister Umurzakov expressed his appreciation for Japan's assistance, including that for COVID-19 response. Both countries shared the view to steadily implement the economic cooperation projects agreed upon during the President's visit to Japan in December 2019.

As for Japan's relationship with the Caucasus countries, Japan announced the "Caucasus Initiative," during then Foreign Minister Kono's visit to Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan in September 2018, based on the promotion of cooperation for self-sustained development of the Caucasus region, which plays an important role as a gateway linking Asia and Europe. The basic policy of the Initiative consists of two pillars, namely (i) assistance for human resources development of architects for state building (human resources development) and (ii)



Children in a school in Uzbekistan learning arithmetic using e-learning materials which also contribute to efforts against COVID-19 (Photo: JICA)

assistance for paving the way to “Appealing Caucasus” (infrastructure development and business environment improvement).

Japan has accepted 11,447 trainees from Central Asia and Caucasus countries and dispatched 3,209 experts to those countries by 2019 as part of its support for human resources development. Moreover, Japan has been providing support in the development of human resources necessary for new nation-building efforts, including the implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship, which is a study-in-

Japan program for young government officials, and the development of human resources for business through the Japan Center for Human Resources Development.

Furthermore, as part of its assistance for COVID-19 response, Japan and six Central Asia and Caucasus countries signed and exchanged notes on a total of ¥2.5 billion in grant aid for the provision of health and medical equipment. In addition to this, Japan has provided a total ¥190 million in health and medical equipment for five Central Asian countries through technical cooperation and grant aid projects.

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in Central Asia and Caucasus

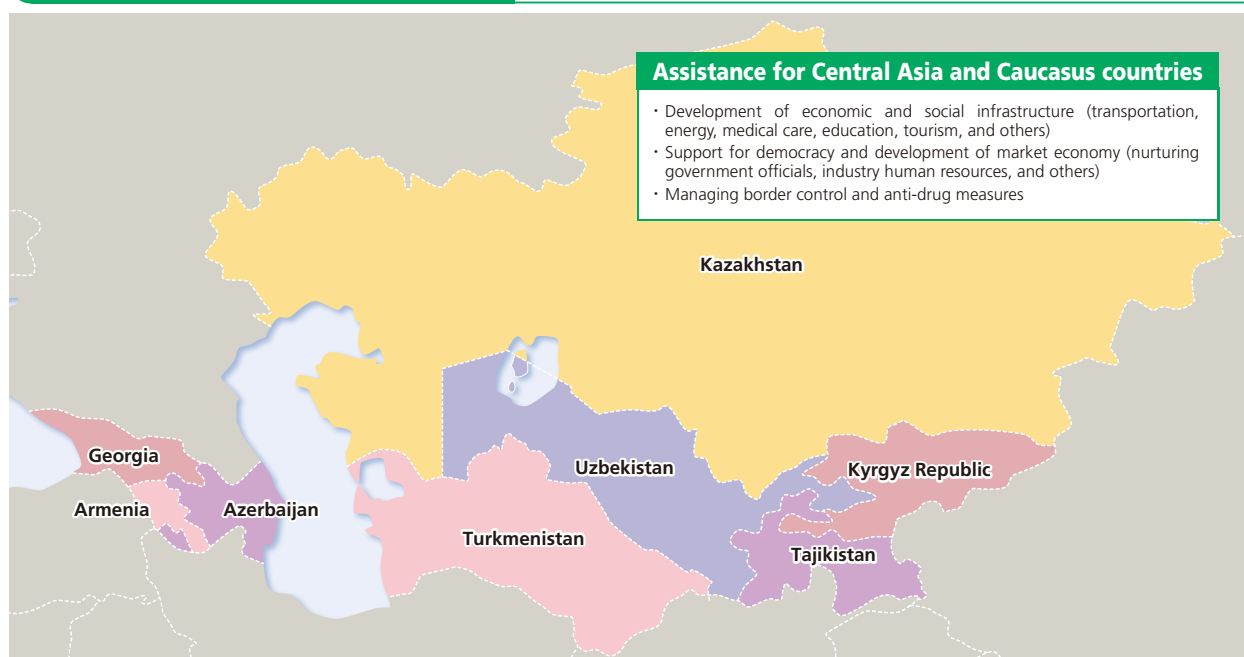


Chart III-7

Japan's Assistance in Central Asia and Caucasus

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants				Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Uzbekistan	11.24	—	6.09	17.33	395.36	28.53	366.83	384.16	412.69
2	Azerbaijan	1.63	—	0.36	1.99	29.54	33.19	-3.65	-1.66	31.53
3	Kyrgyz Republic	16.88	—	10.47	27.35	0.56	9.58	-9.02	18.33	27.91
4	Tajikistan	16.74	—	5.60	22.35	—	—	—	22.35	22.35
5	Armenia	15.47	1.07	1.09	16.56	—	10.29	-10.29	6.27	16.56
6	Georgia	0.98	0.15	0.41	1.39	0.54	5.29	-4.75	-3.36	1.93
7	Turkmenistan	—	—	1.52	1.52	—	2.00	-2.00	-0.48	1.52
8	Kazakhstan	0.35	—	1.05	1.40	—	41.78	-41.78	-40.38	1.40
	Multiple countries in Central Asia and Caucasus	—	—	0.25	0.25	—	—	—	0.25	0.25
Central Asia and Caucasus region total		63.29	1.22	26.85	90.14	426.00	130.66	295.33	385.47	516.13

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.

- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

7. Middle East and North Africa

Japan depends on the Middle East and North Africa region for approximately 90% of its crude oil imports, and the region, as a key point for global distribution, is critically important from the perspective of Japan's economy and energy security. It is also a region with high potential and expectations for future growth due to its high rate of population increase, resulting in the expansion of the youth population.

At the same time, the region is facing wide-ranging issues such as Middle East peace, a historical issue dating back to the foundation of Israel in 1948, political turmoil in various areas since "the Arab Spring" that began in 2011, and heightened tensions surrounding Iran. In particular, conflict in Syria has been continuing and brought about a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, seriously affecting the stability of the neighboring countries and the entire region at large. Furthermore, the risk of proliferation of violent extremism such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) still remains in various areas. On the other hand, some changes to the current situation were seen in 2020. In the context of Middle East peace, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco have agreed to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel.

Realizing peace and stability in this region is extremely important for Japan as well as the international community as a whole, as it has significant impacts on both regional and global stability and prosperity. Thus, there is a need to provide support through such means as economic assistance and human resources development to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the region.

In 2020, Japan provided various assistance in response to COVID-19 based on the perspective of increasing medium to long-term resilience against infectious diseases and ensuring human security. Japan signed and exchanged notes with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia for a total of ¥2.4 billion in grant aid for the provision of health and medical equipment. For Iran, where the spread of COVID-19 struck first in the Middle East, Japan provided approximately \$27.5 million in emergency aid through international organizations for the response against COVID-19 in the country. Furthermore, since March 2020, Japan has provided approximately \$8.91 million in emergency aid for Iraq through international organizations for support against COVID-19, including the provision of medical devices to refugee camps in Iraq and awareness-raising activities on infectious diseases prevention. For the response against COVID-19 in Lebanon, approximately \$7.6 million in emergency aid was provided through international organizations, and Japan also assisted Lebanon through technical cooperation. Furthermore, cooperation projects conducted up until now across various Middle Eastern countries have seen results in assisting with countermeasures against COVID-19. In the Middle East, where instability due to conflict and other issues prevails,

Japan will provide support in cooperation with the international community so that no one is left behind, based on the principle of human security.



Then Prime Minister Abe holding a summit meeting with King Salman during his visit to Saudi Arabia (January 2020) (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

Japan's Efforts

•• Support for Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and the neighboring countries

With regard to the Syria issue, which is a pressing concern for the international community, Japan announced the provision of assistance at the fourth Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region (Brussels Conference) held virtually in July 2020, and swiftly carried out the assistance totaling approximately \$189 million. This assistance includes humanitarian aid and support for social stabilization for Syria and its surrounding countries. Furthermore, in March 2020, Japan decided to provide assistance of \$4.75 million as support for shelter, blankets, and food supply for displaced persons and their host communities in northwest Syria where conflicts have intensified. In addition, in December 2020, Japan decided to provide a total of \$7.2 million in humanitarian aid in the areas of water and sanitation and health, as well as the provision of food, clothing, and housing repair materials for winter mainly for the northwest area in response against the rapid spread of COVID-19 and abrupt deterioration of Syria's social and economic situation.

As for Iraq, in addition to assistance via ODA loans for improvement of basic services such as water and electricity and human resources development through training programs, Japan has continued to provide grant aid through international organizations aimed at the early return and the resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as the restoration of areas liberated from the control of ISIL in order to encourage the Iraqi government's efforts toward reconstruction. In 2020, approximately \$40 million in such aid was provided through international organizations.

With regard to Lebanon, Japan has provided over \$220 million in humanitarian aid since 2012 to support refugees and their host communities. Furthermore, following the large-scale explosion at a port facility in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, in August 2020, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as tents and blankets and \$5 million in Emergency Grand Aid including for the repairs of damaged medical facilities. In addition, Japan provided approximately \$1.2 million in grassroots-level emergency humanitarian aid through Japanese NGOs.

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, Japan's assistance to Syria, Iraq, and the neighboring countries has reached over approximately \$2.9 billion. In these ways, Japan provides timely and effective assistance to the region despite the ever-changing humanitarian landscape (see also page 46, (1) Support for Peacebuilding and Refugees/Displaced Persons).



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Washio issuing a video message at the "International Conference in Support of the Lebanese People" held virtually (December 2020)

Japan also provides support for human resources development and self-reliance of refugees. At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in 2016, Japan announced that it would provide comprehensive assistance totaling approximately \$6 billion for the Middle East in the three years between 2016 and 2018, including human resources development programs for approximately 20,000 people, in order to build a "tolerant and stable society" in the region, and has steadily implemented this assistance. As a part of this support, Japan decided to accept up to 150 Syrian students over five years to provide opportunities of education and foster human resources to contribute to Syria's recovery in the future. In 2019, Japan accepted 22 Syrian students.

*** Assistance to Yemen

Japan has provided assistance to Yemen as a major donor country and provided a total of approximately \$256 million in support through international organizations over the five years from 2015 to 2019. In addition to funding assistance focused on humanitarian aid, Japan has also supported human resources development in order to back up Yemen's self-reliant

stabilization by accepting Yemeni students through Japanese government scholarship, conducting Japanese language training program for Yemeni diplomats and public officials as well as inviting Yemeni experts to Japan through JICA's program.

*** Assistance to Afghanistan

Japan has consistently contributed to Afghanistan's reconstruction process since 2001, reaching a total of approximately \$6.8 billion in assistance. As one of the major donor countries to Afghanistan, Japan has been endeavoring to coordinate its assistance with the Government of Afghanistan and other donors such as the G7, UN organizations, and the World Bank. In order to support Afghanistan's efforts toward self-reliance and stability, Japan prioritizes capacity building of the police force in the security field, as well as agricultural and infrastructure development in the development field. Moreover, Japan also places particular importance on the areas of human resources development centered on government officials as well as health and education.

In 2012, Japan and Afghanistan jointly held the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan to clarify the mutual commitment between Afghanistan and the international community for the sustainable development of the country. Japan, together with the international community, established the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) to regularly monitor and review the commitment. This framework has been succeeded under different names, and the Afghanistan Partnership Framework (APF) was adopted at the Afghanistan Conference in Geneva held virtually in November 2020. Foreign Minister Motegi issued a video message at the conference, stating that Japan will work on providing assistance from 2021 to 2024, maintaining an amount comparable to the past four years, which was \$180 million annually, and is ready to consider additional support if progress is seen in the peace process.

*** Middle East Peace (Assistance to Palestine)

Japan has positioned its assistance to Palestine as one of the important pillars of its measures to contribute to Middle East peace and has provided more than \$2.09 billion in assistance since the 1993 Oslo Accords. Specifically, Japan provides various types of humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs to improve the severe living conditions of the socially vulnerable people in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, people affected by conflicts in the Gaza Strip, and others. Japan is also engaged in efforts aimed at preparing for the Palestinian nation-building in the future and for a self-sustained Palestinian economy, in order to stabilize and improve the people's lives, strengthen the financial foundation, enhance the administrative and financial capacity, and promote economic self-reliance.

Since 2006, Japan has launched the initiative of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" as its unique medium

to long-term initiative that aims to promote socio-economic development in the Jordan Valley area through regional cooperation among Japan, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan, and is implementing the development of the Jericho Agro Industrial Park (JAIP) as the flagship project of the initiative. In May 2018, then Prime Minister Abe visited the JAIP during his visit to Palestine and received a briefing on the current conditions at the time from then Prime Minister Hamdallah of Palestine. At the same time, he also toured the exhibition booths set up by tenants operating in JAIP (as of October 2020, out of the 33 companies that have concluded tenancy contracts, 16 were in operation).

Furthermore, in 2013, Japan launched a new initiative called the “Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)” to help Palestine achieve economic independence by drawing on Asia’s experience on human resources development and corporate economic development. To date, meetings have been held on triangular cooperation for human resources development (see page 118, “South-South cooperation” under glossary) and on trade and investment expansion. Moreover, through these meetings, Japan plays an important role, such as by encouraging more countries to provide support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which is responsible for assisting Palestinian refugees. In July 2019, with Palestine, Japan co-hosted the Senior Officials Meeting of the CEAPAD in Ramallah, Palestine, and the importance of incorporating the private sector’s vitality into the development of Palestine was reaffirmed. In addition, in September 2019, Foreign Minister Motegi attended the

Ministerial Meeting on UNRWA held in New York and stated that Japan would provide a total of approximately \$11 million in grant aid to support UNRWA for its assistance in education, sewage treatment, and food supply. Furthermore, due to the spread of COVID-19, ministerial conferences were held virtually three times in 2020 regarding support for UNRWA, which is responsible for providing basic services including health and medical care to approximately 5.6 million Palestinian refugees. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto attended the Ministerial Strategic Dialogue in October and he contributed to the discussion on financial stabilization as one of the major donor countries.

Japan has steadily implemented such assistance and, in cooperation with the international community, will continue to provide support for social stabilization and inclusive growth, not only from the perspective of humanitarian assistance, but also a medium to long-term view. This includes assistance in human resources development that leverages on Japan’s strengths.



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer engaging in activities at the Nabeul branch of the Tunisian Association for Aid to the Deaf (Photo: JICA)

Japan's development cooperation policy

Priority areas in the Middle East and North Africa

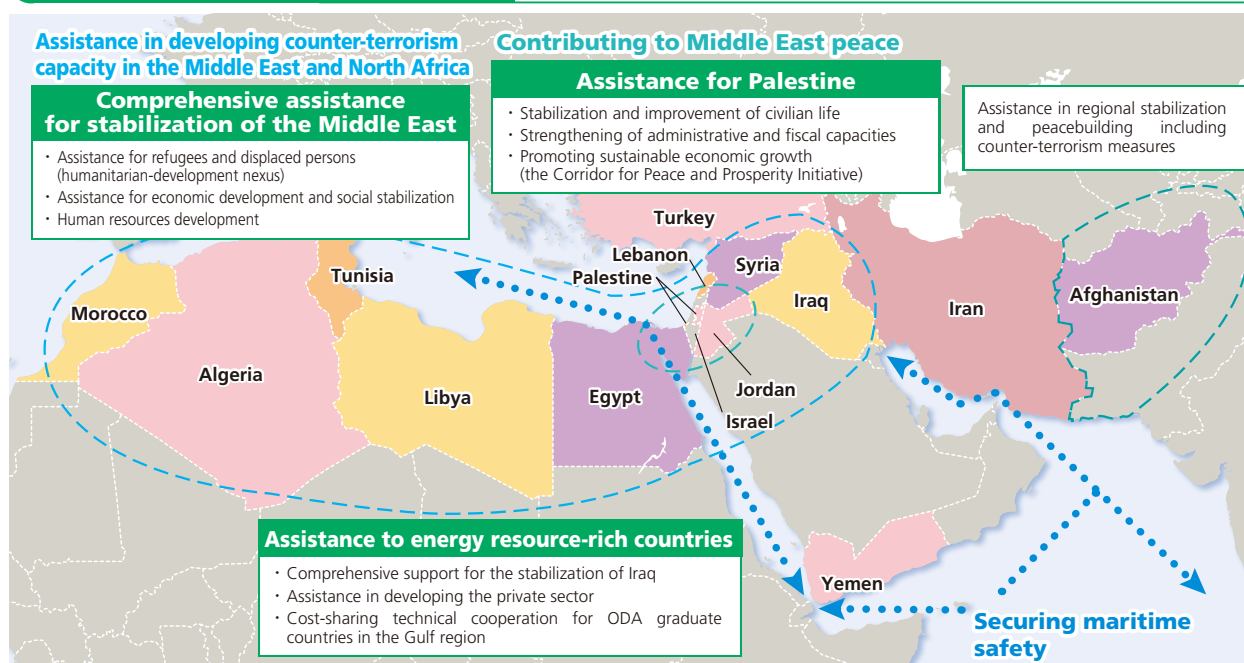


Chart III-8

Japan's Assistance in the Middle East and North Africa

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants			Total	Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants provided through multilateral institutions	Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
1	Egypt	13.99	1.16	24.77	38.76	319.12	196.75	122.37	161.13	357.89
2	Iraq	51.10	50.60	7.11	58.20	246.20	91.97	154.22	212.43	304.40
3	Tunisia	0.71	0.36	4.89	5.60	173.97	77.38	96.59	102.19	179.57
4	Jordan	30.43	15.99	6.54	36.97	133.75	85.11	48.64	85.60	170.72
5	Afghanistan	116.46	110.80	14.98	131.44	—	—	—	131.44	131.44
6	Turkey	9.56	8.95	1.62	11.19	76.23	171.91	-95.68	-84.49	87.42
7	Syria	65.33	65.33	3.74	69.07	—	—	—	69.07	69.07
8	Yemen	59.97	59.97	0.45	60.42	—	—	—	60.42	60.42
9	[Palestine]	44.05	35.69	7.95	52.00	—	—	—	52.00	52.00
10	Morocco	1.38	0.78	4.80	6.18	26.53	91.94	-65.40	-59.22	32.71
11	Iran	6.37	5.81	11.14	17.51	—	4.81	-4.81	12.70	17.51
12	Lebanon	11.09	9.59	0.39	11.48	—	6.39	-6.39	5.09	11.48
13	Libya	3.21	3.21	0.02	3.24	—	—	—	3.24	3.24
14	Algeria	0.23	0.18	0.23	0.46	—	0.74	-0.74	-0.28	0.46
	Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa	31.57	16.21	0.10	31.67	0.69	3.40	-2.71	28.95	32.35
Middle East and North Africa region total		445.46	384.64	89.33	534.79	976.49	730.40	246.08	780.88	1,511.28

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to multiple countries refer to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.

- Country or region shows DAC recipients but including graduated countries in total.
- 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, Turkey, and countries that cut across North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
- Square brackets [] denote region names.

8. Africa

Africa has immense potential owing to its rich natural resources and large population of approximately 1.3 billion. However, it is also facing various challenges including poverty, fragile health systems, and emerging terrorism and violent extremism. In order to tackle these challenges, Agenda 2063, Africa's own new development initiative, was 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 adopted.

In 2020, while Africa reported a relatively low number of COVID-19 cases and deaths compared to other regions of the world, the pandemic severely affected the economic and social situation in Africa. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and address its economic and social impacts, Japan is actively providing various support to African countries, including provision of health and medical equipment both bilaterally and through international organizations.

It was against this backdrop that Foreign Minister Motegi visited Tunisia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Mauritius from December 8 to 14, 2020, as well as Senegal and Kenya from January 11 to 13, 2021. It was the first time that a Japanese foreign minister visited a total of six African countries within the space of two months. Seizing the occasion of these visits, Foreign Minister Motegi delivered a strong message reaffirming Japan's continued support of African-led efforts especially in the face of adversity of the COVID-19 pandemic, looking ahead to the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) to be held in Tunisia in 2022.

Japan's Efforts

Since 1993, Japan has been leading the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) co-hosted by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). TICAD is a forum for African development to realize the principles of African ownership and international partnership.

Through TICAD, which has over a quarter century of history, Japan has been focusing on the promotion of the health sector as one of the priority areas and supporting the health and medical systems in Africa. At TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2016, Japan committed to strengthening the response to public health emergencies as well as the prevention of and preparedness for health crises and to promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa. At TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August 2019, Japan announced that it would further expand UHC, including countermeasures against infectious diseases

and public-private partnerships. Japan will continue to play a leading role in strengthening international collaboration in the health sector in Africa based on its longstanding efforts in this area.

In addition to health, participants at TICAD7 held discussions on wide-ranging key issues related to African development under the theme of "Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation" on three main pillars, Economy, Society, and Peace and Stability. Japan carries out the following initiatives under each of these three pillars in accordance with the "TICAD7: Japan's contributions for Africa" announced at TICAD7, and will steadily proceed with its efforts, taking into account the impacts of COVID-19. Looking ahead to TICAD8, Japan will actively engage in various development issues in Africa that have been brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Foreign Minister Motegi together with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Macamo during a visit to Mozambique, holding a handover ceremony for food assistance through the WFP and emergency grant aid for supply assistance in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Cabo Delgado Province and its neighboring regions (December 2020)

With regard to the first pillar, Economy, Japan develops industrial human resources who will contribute to the promotion of business in Africa, including through the ABE Initiative 3.0. Under the initiative, Japan has received over approximately 1,400 trainees from Africa thus far through JICA since TICAD V. Moreover, Japan also promotes quality infrastructure investment centered on the three priority areas ⁹ toward enhancing connectivity.

As for the second pillar, Society, Japan will further promote measures toward the expansion of UHC, and is engaged in efforts to build resilient health systems by improving access to basic healthcare and hygiene environments for three million people and promoting the health insurance system. Currently, Japan is contributing to the promotion of UHC including through the "Health Sector Policy Loan for Attainment of the UHC (Phase 2)" in Kenya and the "Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the Introduction

⁹ Three areas spanning the East Africa Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor, and the West Africa Growth Ring.

of Combined Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Record Book” in Ghana. Such assistance Japan has provided thus far in the area of health is now demonstrating its true value in the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Japan is proceeding with efforts to provide quality education to three million children through the expansion of math and science education and improvement of learning environments.

Regarding the third pillar, Peace and Stability, under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)* advocated by Japan at TICAD7, Japan has been providing support for Africa-led efforts for conflict resolution, as well as assistance for institution building to address the root causes of issues such as conflict and terrorism (see also “Stories from the Field” on page 157 for details). As a part of this initiative, Japan has provided support of over \$100 million since 2008 to contribute to peace and stability in Africa through the TICAD process, which includes projects that have benefitted peacekeeping

training centers in 15 African countries. Japan has also dispatched approximately 60 Japanese lecturers to strengthen training capabilities of the facilities and provide training at the facilities.

In the areas of Peace and Stability, Japan is also cooperating in the following African countries and regions.

In the Sahel region, as announced at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region held on the occasion of TICAD7, Japan is contributing to the peace and stability of the region under the banner of NAPSA by providing equipment for strengthened capacity of maintaining security, training for people engaging in institution building, vocational training and education opportunities for the youth, as well as support for human resources development for peacekeeping operations, placing a focus on the administrative vulnerabilities of Sahel countries. Japan is also continuing its assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in the region.

Mauritius

Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Teams in Response to the Oil Leakage Incident off the Coast of Mauritius (1st to 3rd Batches) and JICA Data Collection Survey Missions

(1) JDR Expert Teams, (2) JICA survey mission ((1) August 12-21, 2020 (first batch), August 21 – September 11, 2020 (second batch), September 14-18, 2020 (third batch), (2) October 24 – December 22, 2020 (environment and fisheries) and November 22 – December 21, 2020 / January – February 2021 (oil spill response and maritime safety))

On July 25, 2020, a bulk carrier “WAKASHIO” got stranded off the southeastern coast of Mauritius, causing an oil spill beginning on August 6. Upon the request of the Government of Mauritius, the Government of Japan immediately decided to dispatch a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Team to Mauritius, sending a total of three teams from August to September.

The first JDR Expert Team worked with the Government of Mauritius and relevant countries and organizations to survey the sea and coastline around the stranded ship and provided guidance and advice on oil spill response, including offering training to the National Coast Guard of Mauritius. Subsequent second and third teams conducted ecological surveys on the coral reefs around the incident site, inspection of mangrove forests growth and remaining oil, as well as review of the impact on birds.

The activities of JDR Expert Teams resulted in a wide range of positive achievements. In particular, their support to develop a long-term monitoring system to survey the impact of oil pollution on the coral reef and mangroves was highly appreciated by the country’s government officials and others. In addition, the experts’ recommendations on methods for removing oil from mangrove forests were not only recognized as useful, but were also adopted by



An offshore survey conducted in cooperation with the Government of Mauritius (August 13, 2020) (Photo: JICA)

those involved in the clean-up operations in the field, thereby contributing significantly to the conservation of the mangrove forests.

On September 7, Foreign Minister Motegi held a telephone talk with Prime Minister Jugnauth of Mauritius. Minister Motegi explained that the

Government of Japan took the accident very seriously and would carry out cooperation of an unprecedented scale. In response, Prime Minister Jugnauth expressed his appreciation for the immediate dispatch of the JDR Expert Teams and the proposal of future cooperation, as well as his expectation to receive continuous support from Japan.

Furthermore, JICA survey missions were sent in October and November to collect information needed to formulate concrete future assistance plans based on the results of the JDR Expert Teams’ activities. The missions focused on recovering the environment/restoring the livelihoods of the people engaged in fishery, and oil spill response/maritime safety, respectively.

On December 13, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Mauritius to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Jugnauth and held a Japan-Mauritius Foreign Ministers’ meeting with Foreign Minister Bodha, where he presented the progress of Japan’s cooperation. In the afternoon of the same day, Foreign Minister Motegi inspected the extent of damages from the oil spill and the status of recovery while receiving a briefing from Mr. Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius.

Japan will continue to closely cooperate with the Government of Mauritius as well as relevant countries and organizations towards the restoration of the natural environment in the affected area and the recovery of economic activities of Mauritius from medium to long-term perspectives in a swift manner.



Work towards the implementation of long-term monitoring of corals (September 14, 2020) (Photo: JICA)

In Mozambique, in addition to humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons and their host communities due to the deteriorating security conditions in Cabo Delgado Province, Foreign Minister Motegi signed and exchanged notes on grant aid related to the provision of rescue equipment for maritime accidents on his visit to the country in December 2020.

Since the independence of South Sudan in 2011, Japan has been supporting its nation-building through JICA and international organizations in areas such as infrastructure development, development of alternative industries, assistance for basic human needs, and enhancement of good governance. After the deterioration of the security situation in South Sudan in 2013, Japan has been cooperating with the international community to provide support for the consolidation of peace in the country through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional organization of East Africa.

Furthermore, Japan is also providing support for the National Dialogue process, which is South Sudan's own initiative for peacebuilding. Together with the assistance for human resources development in the areas of public finance management, strengthening capacities of police force and capacity building for customs personnel, as well as humanitarian assistance including food assistance, the support for the National Dialogue plays an important role in the restoration of peace and stability in South Sudan. In addition, although the activities of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) engineering unit deployed to the

United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) came to a close in May 2017, Japan continues its contributions to the UNMISS activities by dispatching staff personnel to the Mission Headquarters (from 2011 onwards, still in progress as of December 2020).

Moreover, Japan has been supporting the National Unity Day sports event, which is held annually by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of South Sudan, since it began in 2016 in order to promote the reconciliation, friendship, and unity of its citizens. It is important that the international community continues to cooperate and support the consolidation of peace in South Sudan in order for the population to realize peace and to avoid the recurrence of conflict.



UNDP staff together with a returnee mother and child receiving agricultural materials distributed in Bazza Community in Adamawa, Nigeria (Photo: UNDP)

Glossary



*** New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)**

The new approach advocated by Japan at TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August 2019, under which Japan is supporting African-led conflict prevention, mediation, and intervention efforts by the African Union (AU) and regional economic communities (RECs); institution building and strengthening of governance; and prevention of youth radicalization and strengthening resilience of local community, based on the principles of respecting Africa's ownership and taking measures against root causes of conflict and terrorism.

TICAD7: Japan's contributions to Africa (August 2019)

1. Economy: To achieve over \$20 billion private investment, Japan will contribute to the improvement of the business environment in Africa as well as bolster economic transformation in Africa through the promotion of Japanese companies' business expansion to Africa and innovation.
2. Society: Japan will contribute to building a resilient and sustainable society to realize human security and the SDGs, which are the foundation of improving people's livelihood and economic growth.
3. Peace and Stability: Japan will support Africa's forward-looking initiatives toward peace and stability which are the preconditions for economic growth and investment as well as improving people's livelihood, through the implementation of NAPSA, which supports African-led mediation and conflict resolution by the AU and others as well as institution building. Japan will also provide its own unique support, particularly persistent and long-term human resources development.

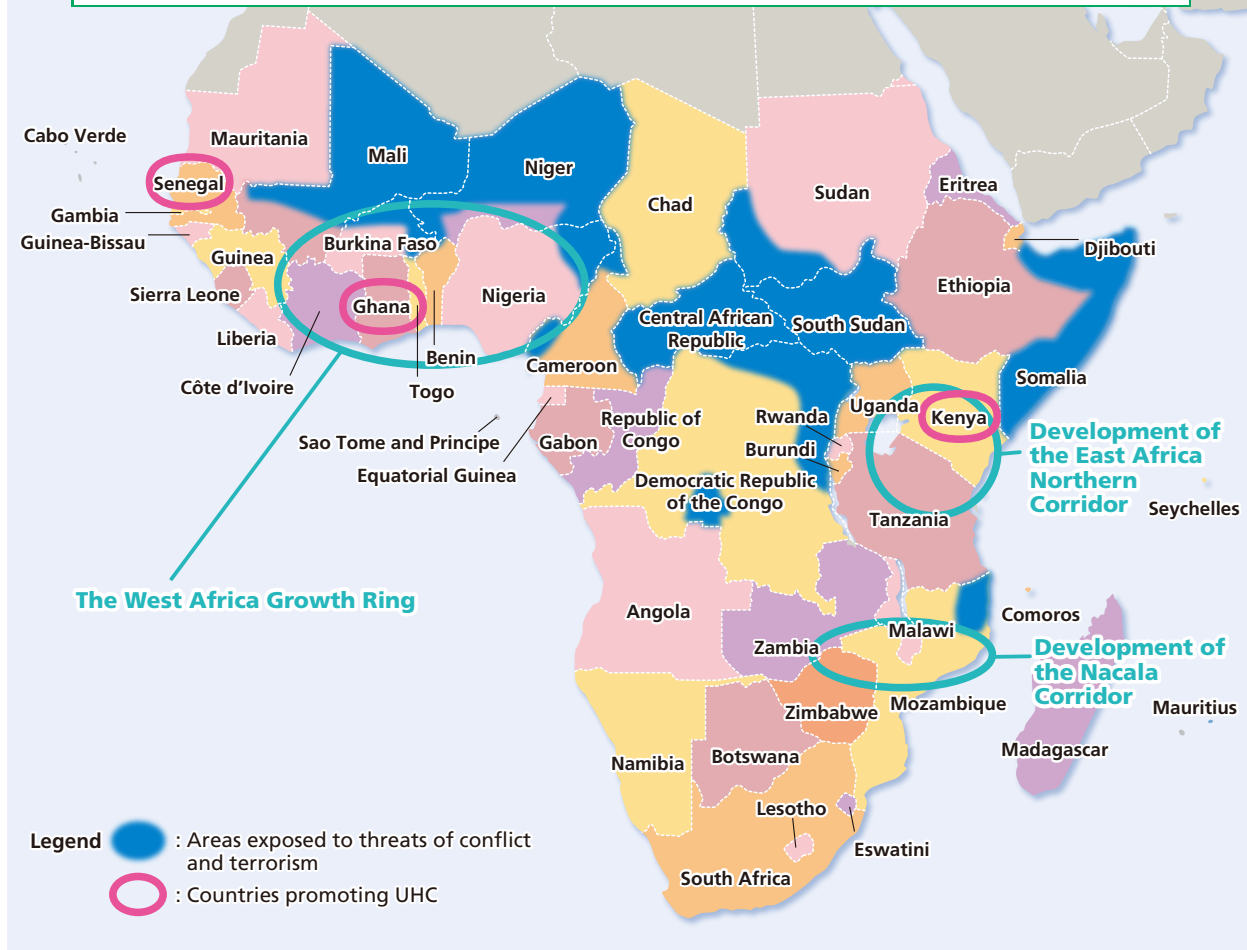


Chart III-9

Japan's Assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa

Calendar year: 2019

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Country or region	Grants			Total	Loan aid			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation		Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
1	Kenya	19.02	8.07	28.71	47.73	242.35	76.17	166.17	213.90	290.08
2	Mozambique	19.51	3.86	18.47	37.98	54.74	0.94	53.80	91.79	92.72
3	Rwanda	13.52	2.27	9.91	23.43	55.26	—	55.26	78.69	78.69
4	Uganda	31.48	9.88	13.68	45.15	20.73	0.75	19.99	65.14	65.89
5	Ethiopia	31.24	13.78	19.05	50.30	14.15	—	14.15	64.45	64.45
6	Tanzania	15.07	0.86	20.03	35.11	23.98	4.17	19.82	54.92	59.09
7	Côte d'Ivoire	25.55	2.21	13.08	38.63	14.22	—	14.22	52.85	52.85
8	Malawi	40.21	0.97	10.63	50.84	—	—	—	50.84	50.84
9	Ghana	30.24	0.80	17.85	48.09	—	—	—	48.09	48.09
10	Zambia	24.50	1.80	13.68	38.18	8.56	1.66	6.90	45.08	46.74
11	Djibouti	37.81	1.77	6.53	44.33	—	—	—	44.33	44.33
12	South Sudan	35.97	20.08	6.77	42.74	—	—	—	42.74	42.74
13	Cameroon	8.02	7.65	8.99	17.01	18.11	1.24	16.87	33.88	35.12
14	Madagascar	10.53	2.60	8.62	19.16	13.39	—	13.39	32.55	32.55
15	Senegal	11.18	—	16.13	27.31	1.47	0.28	1.19	28.50	28.78
16	Sudan	20.14	10.10	7.99	28.13	—	—	—	28.13	28.13
17	Democratic Republic of the Congo	20.64	7.65	6.66	27.29	—	—	—	27.29	27.29
18	Burkina Faso	20.78	5.70	6.01	26.78	—	—	—	26.78	26.78
19	Liberia	23.76	1.50	1.83	25.59	—	—	—	25.59	25.59
20	Zimbabwe	21.97	4.97	1.72	23.69	—	—	—	23.69	23.69
21	Sierra Leone	11.69	9.62	6.94	18.63	—	—	—	18.63	18.63
22	Togo	17.52	0.30	0.80	18.31	—	—	—	18.31	18.31
23	Guinea	14.30	3.00	2.04	16.34	—	—	—	16.34	16.34
24	Nigeria	6.97	5.52	8.20	15.17	—	—	—	15.17	15.17
25	Somalia	13.19	13.10	1.18	14.38	—	—	—	14.38	14.38
26	Niger	11.51	4.08	1.88	13.39	—	—	—	13.39	13.39
27	Burundi	10.83	3.83	0.77	11.60	—	—	—	11.60	11.60
28	South Africa	2.69	1.85	8.20	10.89	—	0.86	-0.86	10.03	10.89
29	Benin	5.11	0.50	5.27	10.39	—	—	—	10.39	10.39
30	Cabo Verde	6.25	—	0.10	6.35	3.42	1.25	2.17	8.53	9.77
31	Botswana	0.72	0.50	3.32	4.04	5.37	6.65	-1.28	2.76	9.41
32	Mauritania	8.47	3.86	0.65	9.12	—	—	—	9.12	9.12
33	Angola	5.90	0.80	2.81	8.71	—	—	—	8.71	8.71
34	Mali	7.09	4.00	1.50	8.59	—	—	—	8.59	8.59
35	Eritrea	6.25	3.49	0.94	7.18	—	—	—	7.18	7.18
36	Eswatini	6.10	0.50	0.50	6.61	—	1.85	-1.85	4.76	6.61
37	Central Africa	5.71	5.71	0.10	5.81	—	—	—	5.81	5.81
38	Chad	5.55	5.55	0.21	5.76	—	—	—	5.76	5.76
39	Gabon	1.81	1.34	3.77	5.58	—	0.49	-0.49	5.08	5.58
40	Guinea-Bissau	4.95	4.95	0.19	5.14	—	—	—	5.14	5.14
41	Lesotho	4.01	3.71	0.58	4.59	—	—	—	4.59	4.59
42	Gambia	3.28	1.00	0.96	4.24	—	—	—	4.24	4.24
43	Mauritius	3.84	—	0.20	4.04	0.07	3.04	-2.97	1.07	4.10
44	Namibia	1.73	1.00	2.05	3.78	—	8.61	-8.61	-4.82	3.78
45	Comoros	3.36	—	0.21	3.57	—	—	—	3.57	3.57
46	Republic of the Congo	2.24	2.15	0.90	3.14	—	—	—	3.14	3.14
47	Sao Tome and Principe	1.93	—	0.17	2.10	—	—	—	2.10	2.10
48	Equatorial Guinea	—	—	0.11	0.11	—	—	—	0.11	0.11
	Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa	41.54	33.32	19.55	61.09	91.42	79.98	11.44	72.53	152.51
Sub-Saharan Africa region total		675.71	220.22	310.50	986.22	567.24	187.93	379.31	1,365.53	1,553.46

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Grant aid includes aid provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to multiple countries refers to the aid, such as seminars dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.

- Country or region shows DAC recipients but include graduated countries in total.
- 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 North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.

Part IV

Strengthening Partnership with Diverse Actors and Disseminating Information on Development Cooperation



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) conducting a seminar for kindergarten teachers in Cameroon to enhance social and emotional education (Photo: JICA)

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3	Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation	158

Part **IV** Strengthening Partnership with Diverse Actors and Disseminating Information on Development Cooperation

In order to implement Japan's development cooperation, besides ODA and other support provided by the Government and JICA, diverse actors such as large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, local governments, universities, civil society including NGOs, and international organizations need to work together, leveraging their respective strengths. The Government of Japan is utilizing ODA to support the overseas business expansion of Japanese companies so that they can contribute globally. Furthermore, Japan is assisting diverse actors in performing their roles in the field of development cooperation worldwide, as well as mobilizing the power of NGOs and civil society.

At the same time, the Government of Japan will continue to strive to ensure that Japan's development cooperation is appropriate so that the country's ODA is implemented efficiently and in a lean way, and to make efforts to strengthen public relations and information dissemination in order to foster a further understanding of Japan's development cooperation domestically and internationally.

In addition, international organizations, such as the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), also promote inclusive businesses* by Japanese companies, utilizing the organizations' extensive experience and expertise in developing countries.

1. Efforts for Strengthening Partnerships with Diverse Actors

(1) Partnership with Private Companies

In the area of development cooperation, applying private companies' advanced technologies, know-how, and ideas is expected to provide better support. The Government of Japan will strive to utilize Japan's excellent technologies and know-how in its grant aid, ODA loan, and other ODA projects, so that the collective strengths of Japanese companies can be further demonstrated in ODA projects by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA. In addition, Japan will aim to achieve development outcomes by sharing roles between the public and private sectors, promoting partnerships with private sector investment projects, and utilizing private sector technology, knowledge, experience, and funds to carry out projects more efficiently and effectively. For example, private sector knowledge and know-how can be incorporated from the stage of ODA project formation, or basic infrastructure can be covered by ODA while investments, operation, maintenance, and management are carried out by the private sector.

A. Grant Aid

The Government of Japan provides grant aid (including provision of equipment using small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs') products) to support the overseas expansion of Japanese SMEs and other entities by providing their products to developing countries based

on the requests and development needs of developing country governments. This framework not only supports the socio-economic development of developing countries, but also raises the profile of the SMEs' products provided, thereby creating sustained demand for them.

Furthermore, the Government of Japan has introduced grant aid for business/management rights since FY2014. This grant aid aims to facilitate the acquisition of business and management rights by Japanese companies and utilize Japan's advanced technologies and know-how for the development of developing countries by providing grant aid to public work projects that comprehensively carry out a continuum of activities from facility construction to operation, maintenance, and management with the participation of private sector. In FY2019, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes for a grant aid under this scheme to expand water supply facilities in Cambodia.

B. Improving Japan's ODA loans

Up until now, the Government of Japan has introduced the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme to promote "Visible Japanese Development Cooperation" through the utilization and transfer of Japan's advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries, and has subsequently taken actions such as improving the aid scheme by expanding the scope of application and lowering interest rates. The Government of Japan has also taken additional measures, such as the establishment of the Stand-by Emergency Credit for Urgent Recovery (SECURE) ¹. Furthermore, it has also introduced the

¹ The system allows developing countries that have a high chance of encountering natural disasters to quickly accommodate funds for post-disaster recovery activities, by having the ODA loan signed in advance.

MASTER
TECHNIQUES

3

from Japan to the World

Overcoming COVID-19 with Japanese Technology and Know-how!

—Improving Myanmar's medical system through high-quality, safe medical oxygen supply system—

In Myanmar, there is an urgent need to improve the level of medical care, enhance the training of medical personnel, and strengthen the healthcare system. One of the major challenges is ensuring a safe and stable supply of medical oxygen that is essential for treatment.

In response to this situation, Kitajima Sanso Co., Ltd., a Japanese company headquartered in Tokushima Prefecture, through JICA's Framework SDGs Business Supporting Survey with the Private Sector*1, conducted the "Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for establishing supply chain-management system for safe, high quality and hygienic medical oxygen in Myanmar," in five hospitals in Yangon and its suburbs from 2017 to 2020.

"The biggest issue in providing medical oxygen in Myanmar was the lack of domestic laws and rules on medical oxygen. Therefore, accidents related to medical oxygen occurred frequently in Myanmar, while in Japan it hardly occurs," Mr. Bradley Shelley, Managing Director of Kitajima Sanso, tells us about the situation at the time.

In Myanmar, there were no rules on the quality and safety of medical oxygen. As a result, the concentration of the produced oxygen was not consistent, and oxygen cylinders were transported in the same way as ordinary shipments. As hospitals also had no inventory management systems, they sometimes ran out of stock of medical oxygen because of delays in ordering by hospital staff.

In order to improve this situation, Kitajima Sanso made it a top priority to promote the concept of medical oxygen in Myanmar. Through implementing the KITAJIMA ROC (Responsible Oxygen Cycle) System, the company dedicated itself to giving instructions on every operation from the production of medical oxygen to the management of medical oxygen supply in hospitals.

The KITAJIMA ROC System is a stable supply system of medical oxygen to comprehensively deal with the production, quality control, safe delivery, and stable supply of high-quality

medical oxygen, and is highly evaluated in Japan. During the survey, Kitajima Sanso employees made numerous visits to Myanmar and provided full guidance to oxygen cylinder transporters about truck load management, safety-conscious transport methods, 5S*2, and safety and hygiene, and to hospital staff about the management and use of cylinders.



A Kitajima Sanso employee giving guidance on safe delivery methods to a local medical oxygen delivery staff member (Photo: Kitajima Sanso)



Guidance being given on safe use of medical oxygen at a national hospital in Yangon (Photo: Kitajima Sanso)

"Just teaching the correct know-how would only increase troublesome work for Myanmar people. Therefore, we made an effort to carefully explain why we should perform the task in every task. Myanmar people are very talented and sincere, so they will do the work properly once they understand the reason. When I realized this, I felt a great sense of fulfillment." Mr. KONISHI Yusuke, working in the International Business Division of Kitajima Sanso, said.

Thanks to the cooperation that focused on changing awareness, when Kitajima Sanso staff visited the local hospitals that were beneficiaries of the project half a year after the survey ended, they saw that Myanmar people had developed ROC systems on their own by using local equipment and the hospitals were providing guidance to manufacturing companies, and they noticed that the situation had changed considerably compared to before the project.

Kitajima Sanso's medical oxygen is now widely recognized in Myanmar and is also used in response to COVID-19. When a new hospital specializing in the treatment of COVID-19 was established in a hurry in Yangon, the Government of Myanmar directly requested the company's cooperation, and Kitajima Sanso's medical oxygen was supplied in the new hospital in coordination with a Japanese equipment manufacturer, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar.

In this way, initiative taken by a Japanese company through transferring excellent Japanese medical technology and sharing knowledge is making a significant contribution to strengthening the overall national health and medical system in Myanmar.

*1 Formerly "Verification Survey."

*2 Widespread adoption of five steps: Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain (5S).

Equity Back Finance (EBF) loan ² and the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan ³. These instruments are designed to promote the steady formulation and implementation of infrastructure development projects utilizing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and to support the recipient governments in the improvement and application of various measures depending on their needs.

In addition, as follow-up measures for “Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure,”^{*} the Government of Japan has been making efforts to improve its ODA loan and Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) by speeding up Japan’s ODA loan procedures and creating new ODA loan options. For example, it has reduced the period necessary for Government-related procedures for Japan’s ODA loans that normally require three years to approximately one and a half years for important projects. It has also introduced ODA loans with currency conversion option to middle- to upper-middle-income countries on the condition that JICA’s financial grounds are ensured, and established dollar-denominated ODA loans and Japan’s ODA loans with Preferential Terms for High Specification ⁴. Furthermore, in the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure,”^{*} Japan announced that it would further accelerate ODA loan procedures, decided to reduce the period between the initiation of the feasibility study (F/S)^{*} and commencement of the construction work to one and a half years at the fastest, and increased “the visibility” of the project period. Japan will strive to improve the ODA loan so that projects can be formulated and developed in an expeditious manner.

C. Proposal-based Public-Private Partnership Support Schemes

In order to actively utilize opinions and proposals from private companies, the Government of Japan and JICA are also promoting public-private partnership support schemes based on private sector proposals, such as SDGs Business Supporting Surveys and Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance.

■ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys is a program that aims to solve problems in the field through business and to promote collaboration with a wide range of partners by incorporating ideas from private companies based on their creativity and originality.

The program, which is based on proposals from private companies, assists in matching the needs of developing countries with the advanced products

and technologies, etc., possessed by private-sector companies, and supports the development of businesses that contribute to solving problems in these countries. It is implemented as commissioned surveys, and is utilized for necessary information collection and business model development (Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey, and SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector) and for the development of business plans based on the verification activities of proposed products or technologies (SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector). The program has two categories: SME Support Type and SDGs Business Support Type. The former not only supports the expansion of SMEs’ businesses abroad, but is also expected to invigorate the Japanese economy and local communities.

In FY2019, a total of 173 projects were adopted in 47 countries under this program (See also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 73 and 139. For more information about the program’s framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website ⁵.)



Picture book author Ms. SHINJU Mariko (author of the best-selling picture book *Mottainai Grandma*, which teaches the spirit of “mottainai”: recognizing the value of things and not wasting them) showing children how she creates illustrations at a book fair in Delhi, India / SDGs Business Supporting Survey for the Project for Contributing to Environment and Sanitation Improvement by Reading Japanese Picture Books

■ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance

In recent years, there has been a growing trend to improve infrastructure through public-private partnership aiming at further enhancing effectiveness and efficiency not only in the construction phase, but also in post-construction operation and maintenance in emerging and developing countries. For such infrastructure projects, it is important for public and private sectors to

- ² EBF (Equity Back Finance) loan provides a yen loan to the developing country’s part of the investment of the Special Purpose Company (SPC), which takes the lead in public projects in the developing country. It is restricted to PPP infrastructure projects, wherein the recipient country governments or their nationally-owned companies and others make the investment, and the Japanese companies participate as a business operating body.
- ³ Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan is the loan against VGF which the developing country provides to the SPC in order to secure profitability expected by SPC when Japanese companies invest in the PPP infrastructure projects by the developing country in principle.
- ⁴ Concessional loans provided to projects recognized as contributing to the promotion of “Quality Infrastructure” based on the “G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment” compiled at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016.
- ⁵ SDGs Business Supporting Surveys: https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html (in Japanese only)

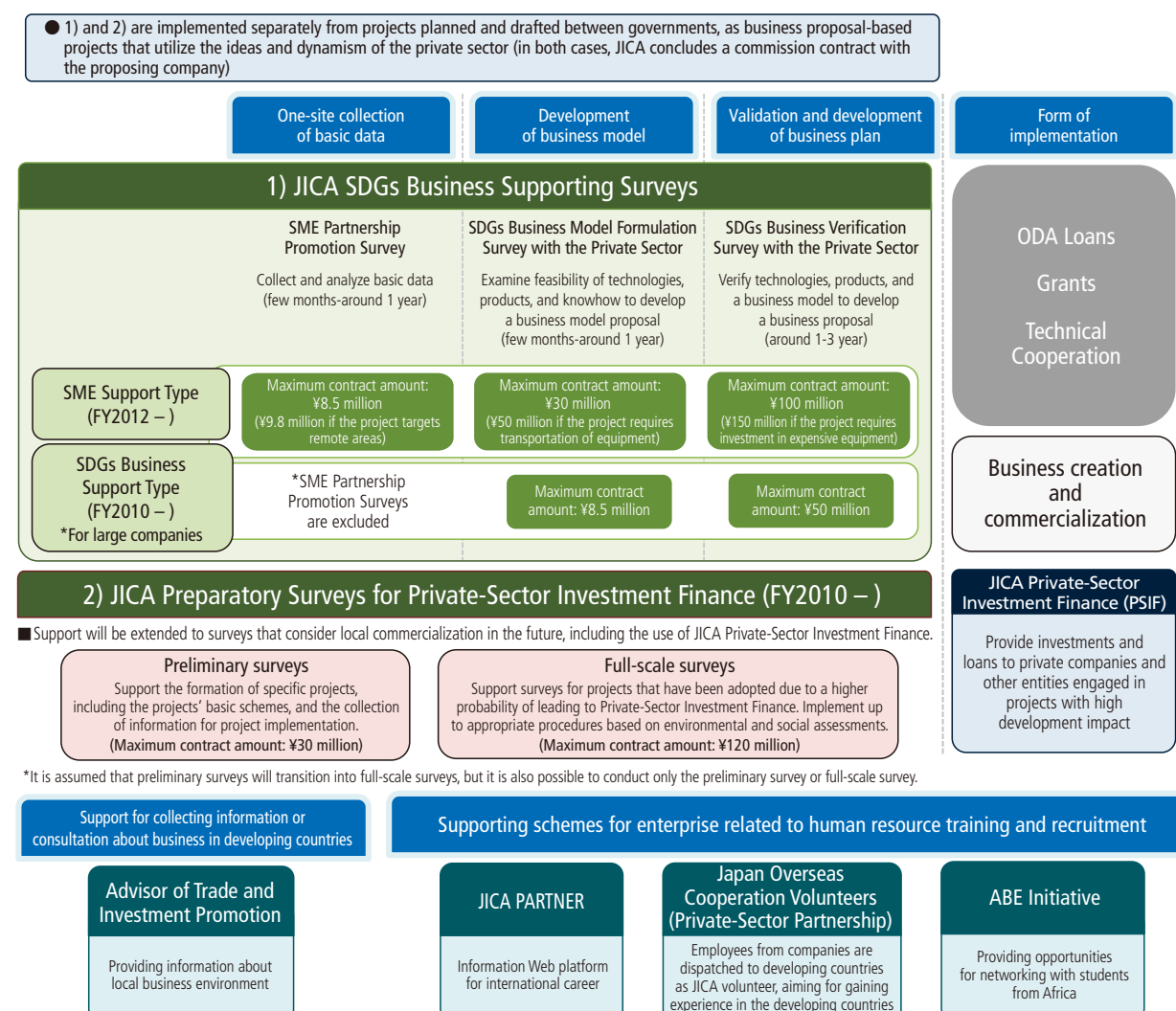
collaborate and engage with each other from the initial stages of project formulation in order to appropriately divide roles between the public and private sectors. In addition to infrastructure, there has also been a growing trend to promote economic and social development in developing countries through private sector projects. For this reason, as part of its Preparatory Survey proposal-based program, JICA supports feasibility surveys (F/S) for the formulation of business plans by calling for proposals widely from private companies that are planning to participate in projects in developing countries and aiming to utilize Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) (for more information about the program's framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website) ⁶. In FY2019, seven projects were adopted in

Asia and Africa.

■ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)

In addition, in order to assist in developing the global human resources required by Japanese SMEs, the Government of Japan established the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)* in 2012. Employees from companies are dispatched to developing countries as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) under the scheme while keeping their affiliation with their companies. Japan proactively supports overseas expansion of Japanese companies through the scheme.

Public-Private Partnership Support Schemes Using ODA



D. Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

The financial needs for the development of developing countries has increased with the globalization of

the economy, and the inflow of private finance into developing countries currently exceeds the global total amount of ODA. In light of the growing role of private

⁶ Preparatory Survey for Private-Sector Investment Finance (formerly Preparatory Survey for PPP Infrastructure Project): https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psifis/index.html (in Japanese only)

sector finance in development cooperation, it is becoming increasingly important to promote partnerships utilizing private finance (see also “ODA Topics” on pages 142 and 143).

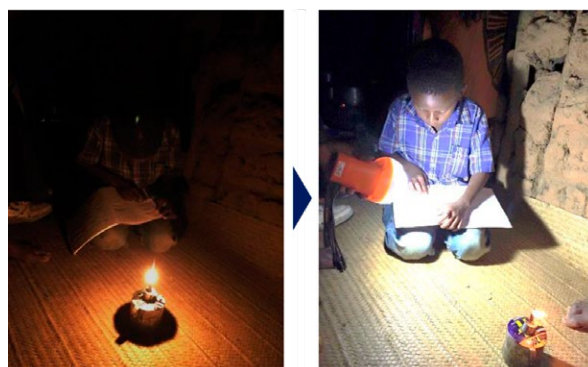
PSIF refers to a type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA, and is provided to private companies carrying out projects in developing countries as investments and loans for their necessary funds. Although such projects create jobs and revitalize the economy of hosting countries, they entail various risks and high return cannot often be expected. Thus, existing financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient loans. PSIF provides investments and loans for projects that are considered highly effective from a development perspective, but may be difficult to be sufficiently funded by existing financial institutions only. PSIF assists in the following fields for funding: (i) infrastructure development and accelerating growth, (ii) SDGs and poverty reduction, and (iii) measures against climate change. JICA has signed 36 investment and loan contracts in total by the end of FY2019 (for more information about the program’s framework, target areas, conditions, and other details, see the JICA website) ⁷.

Also, in order to reduce the exchange rate risk of Japanese companies participating in infrastructure projects overseas, the Government of Japan announced in succession the introduction of local currency-denominated PSIF (2014) and U.S. dollar-denominated PSIF (2015) to supplement the existing yen-denominated PSIF. In 2015, it announced the acceleration of PSIF, expansion of the targets of PSIF, and strengthening collaboration between JICA and other organizations as follow-up measures for the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure.” Specifically, initiatives were set out that JICA would start its appraisal process, in principle, within one month after an application is filed by private companies or others. These measures also enabled JICA to co-finance with private financial institutions. Other measures include reviewing the interpretation of the “no-precedent policy” requirement and allowing loans to be provided in cases where non-concessional loans by existing Japanese private financial institutions are impossible, even if loans were provided for similar

projects in the past.

In 2016, the Government of Japan decided to examine the possibility of more flexible operation of JICA’s PSIF by relaxing the upper limit of investment ratio from 25% to 50% (but less than the percentage that would make JICA the largest shareholder) and by introducing PSIF in euros in the “Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure.” Subsequent studies concluded that these are operable and can be introduced.

In November 2020, in order to respond promptly with transparency and predictability to the needs of companies applying to carry out projects, the Government of Japan reviewed the operation of the PSIF appraisal process and revised the “Guidelines for Selecting JICA Private-Sector Investment Finance Projects” for the first time.



A child studying before and after a kerosene lamp has been replaced with a solar-powered LED lantern. Through the “Off-Grid Solar Power Project in Sub-Saharan Africa,” which was the first PSIF project in Sub-Saharan Africa after the Preparatory Survey for BOP Business Promotion (currently the SDGs Business Supporting Survey), JICA helped to improve access to power for people living in off-grid areas of Tanzania by financing a project by Digital Grid Corporation (Photo: JICA)

Japan’s development cooperation is carried out in partnership with diverse actors. When implementing development cooperation, it is important for the Government to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling official funds 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), and the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan’s ICT and Postal Services (JICT) as well as to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including the private sector.

⁷ Overview of PSIF: https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html (in Japanese only)

= Glossary



*Inclusive business

Inclusive business is a generic term for a business model advocated by the UN and the World Bank Group as an effective way to achieve inclusive market growth and development. It includes sustainable Base of the Economic Pyramid (BOP) businesses that resolve social challenges.

*Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure

The Expanded Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure was announced by then Prime Minister Abe at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in May 2016. It includes Japan's commitment to provide approximately USD 200 billion funds in the following five years for infrastructure projects in the world including Asia. At the same time, it includes further system reforms, strengthening the structure of related institutions including JICA, as well as securing financial foundation.

*Partnership for Quality Infrastructure

Announced by the then Prime Minister Abe in May 2015, the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure has the following pillars: (i) expansion and acceleration of assistance through the full mobilization of Japan's economic cooperation tools, (ii) collaboration between Japan and ADB, (iii) expansion of the supply of funding for projects with relatively high risk profiles by such means as enhancement of the function of JBIC, and (iv) promoting "Quality Infrastructure Investment" as an international standard.

*Feasibility survey (Feasibility study)

Feasibility survey verifies whether a proposed project is viable for execution (realization), and plans and formulates a project that is most appropriate for implementation. The survey also investigates a project's potential, its appropriateness, and investment effects.

*Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private-Sector Partnership)

Under the program (formerly known as the Private-Sector Partnership Volunteers), employees of private companies and other entities are dispatched to developing countries as JOCVs, which contributes to fostering global human resources and overseas business expansion of companies. Dispatch destinations, categories, and periods of dispatch are determined through consultation based on the requests from companies. Employees are dispatched to countries and regions in which their companies are considering business expansion. It is expected that the employees will gain language skills, understand the culture, the commercial practices, the technical level, and other matters of the respective destination countries, and acquire communication skills, problem solving, and negotiation abilities through their activities. It is anticipated that these acquired abilities will be brought back into corporate activities upon their return (for details about the scheme and its results, see Chapter 2.11 of Development Cooperation Reference Materials 2019 published on the MOFA website (in Japanese only)).

Government Aid Alone Is Not Enough? Mobilization and Utilization of Non-ODA Development Finance

● ODA and Private Finance

The White Papers on Development Cooperation have been describing many Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects. However, did you know that ODA actually accounts for only approximately 15% of the total flow of funds from developed to developing countries? Global ODA flows were approximately \$190 billion in 2017. Meanwhile, private direct investment in developing countries was approximately \$540 billion and overseas remittances by individuals approximately \$430 billion, far exceeding the ODA amount*1.

According to estimates of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), \$3.9 trillion is needed annually to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, but currently an annual shortfall of \$2.5 trillion is being projected. With countries facing severe financial situations, the question is how to utilize abundant private funding for sustainable development.

● Coordination with Private Finance

Japan uses ODA to bring the most out of the private sector through such frameworks as JICA's Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) and SDGs Business Supporting Surveys (see pages 136 to 140 for details on Public-Private Partnership initiatives).

An example is Sunrise Japan Hospital in Cambodia. JICA provided PSIF loans when JGC Corporation, Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (now INCJ, Ltd.), and Kitahara Medical Strategies International Co., Ltd. decided on investment in a private hospital development project and on establishment and operation of the hospital. Through this assistance, a hospital that offers the latest Japanese-style medical service has been established in Cambodia. In addition, Japan not only provided medical equipment through grant aid, but also invited 60 Cambodian physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers to Japan before the opening of the hospital, to equip them with medical skills and know-how through technical cooperation. Such assistance combining several schemes is unique to Japanese development cooperation. As a result of these efforts,

Sunrise Japan Hospital was able to realize reliable Japanese-style healthcare services with medical staff providing medical care with consideration for the feelings of patients and their families in Cambodia, where quality medical services were called for.

In addition to the realization of business expansion of Japanese companies, another major achievement is that the hospital established by this project has become a valuable place where young Japanese physicians who want to hone their skills overseas can gain experience. The hospital initially had approximately 1,300 outpatients per month when it opened in 2016 but it has tripled to approximately 4,500 by 2018, making a significant contribution to improving the health of the Cambodian people. Japan's assistance in this project has generated a win-win effect for all parties involved.

Furthermore, under the SDGs Business Supporting Surveys, JICA helps match the outstanding products and technologies of private companies with the development needs of developing countries based on proposals from the companies, and provides support to establish businesses that contribute to solving problems in developing countries.

For example, SuRaLa Net Co., Ltd. conducted a preparatory survey in Sri Lanka on e-learning materials that use animation to teach math in a game-like manner, taking advantage of the Preparatory Survey on BOP Business (now the SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector). As an outcome of this survey, an e-learning system was introduced in Sri Lanka, while women from impoverished areas were trained as "facilitators" to give guidance to children. This project contributes to the improvement of the academic ability of local students and employment creation for women.

In response to the prolonged closure of schools in Sri Lanka due to the spread of COVID-19, SuRaLa Net also began providing online e-learning for free soon after the schools were closed. From March to August 2020, the company provided math learning support that can be accessed at home for approximately 660 children. Such support makes use of the innovation, knowledge, experience, and speediness of the private sector and cannot be



Japanese and Cambodian staff providing medical care at Sunrise Japan Hospital (Photo: Sunrise Japan Hospital)



achieved by the government alone.

● International Discourse on Mobilization of Private Finance and Japan's Efforts

The need to mobilize private finance for the development of developing countries to achieve the SDGs has gained growing recognition in the international community. For example, in 2017, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) announced the Blended Finance (BF)^{*2} Principles and is encouraging the active mobilization of private finance.

Japan, as the 2019 presidency of the G20 Summit in Osaka, confirmed the important role of innovative financing mechanisms, including BF, in upscaling collective efforts with G20 countries in the leaders' declaration. In the same year, Japan also organized the Meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and led the discussion on this topic. Additionally, an advisory panel to consider new funding mechanisms for SDGs was established for discussing innovative financing methods and areas in which resources should be used to secure financial resources necessary to achieve the SDGs. In July 2020, the advisory panel submitted to Foreign Minister Motegi a report (summary of final discussion) containing recommendations for promoting the mobilization of private finance, such as impact investment and BF.

● New International Statistical System

The importance of mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries is indisputable. On the other hand, there is not necessarily a framework for tracking the overall flows of development finance beyond traditional ODA globally. In response to this need, a new statistical system is currently under consideration, led by the OECD-DAC, called the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD).

This system, under a full-fledged discussion since the DAC High Level Meeting in 2014, aims to track a wide range of official financial flows that contribute to sustainable development. If TOSSD comes into fruition, it will enable the monitoring of development finance from non-DAC members that are new actors in development cooperation, such as China, India, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. It will also capture financial resources that do not necessarily have development as their main objective and even private finance mobilized by the involvement of official funds, as long as they contribute to sustainable development.

TOSSD is a grand attempt to broadly capture and make visible the flow of development resources from all donors to developing countries. Japan has many development financial resources that cannot be measured by traditional ODA, and this system will allow Japan to further demonstrate its contribution to sustainable development to the international community.

Since 2017, the International TOSSD Task Force, which includes emerging donors and developing countries, has been addressing technical matters, including the scope of resources to be monitored and calculation methodologies. Japan will continue to actively participate in these processes. While the reporting of TOSSD data has only recently begun, it is hoped that reporting of TOSSD becomes more widespread among non-DAC donors in the future.

With the globalization of the economy, flows of private resources to developing countries now far exceed the total amount of ODA. In this context, ODA must serve as "a catalyst for mobilizing a wide range of resources, including the private sector" (Development Cooperation Charter). Japan will continue to actively contribute to the creation of international rules for broader and more efficient mobilization of sustainable development funds, including non-ODA official funds and even private resources.



Children learning math using the e-learning system of SuRaLa Net (Photo: SuRaLa Net)



Award ceremony for women facilitators and children who studied through the e-learning system (Top left: SuRaLa Net employee who attended the award ceremony) (Photo: SuRaLa Net)

*1 OECD Resource flows beyond ODA in DAC statistics (<http://www.oecd.org/development/beyond-oda.htm>)

*2 Blended finance (BF), according to the OECD definition, is a new way of strategically using finance for development purposes and mobilizing for-profit commercial finance for sustainable development. The BF Principles are: (i) anchor BF use to a development rationale; (ii) design BF to increase the mobilization of commercial finance; (iii) tailor BF to local context; (iv) focus on effective partnering for BF; and (v) monitor BF for transparency and results.

(2) Partnerships for Civil Participation with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, NGOs, and Other Partners

A. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program)

The JICA Volunteer Program, including the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), started in 1965 and has been delivering results for more than half a century. More than 50,000 volunteers have been dispatched to 98 developing countries and regions in total, contributing to the development of these countries and regions and embodying the “visibility of Japanese development cooperation.” The program entails public participation. Volunteers receive 70 days of training. Then they are dispatched to developing countries in principle for two years to assist economic and social development in the countries, while living and working with the local communities.

The JICA Volunteer Program is highly regarded both domestically and internationally. The program contributes not only to the economic and social development of developing countries and regions, but also to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries and regions through the deepening of local people’s affinity for Japan. Moreover, the program is drawing attention in the respect that ex-volunteers utilize their experiences and knowledge to give back to Japanese society. For example, ex-volunteers who have obtained global views through the program are contributing to local revitalization in Japan and the business expansion of Japanese private companies to

developing countries (see the glossary on page 141 for details on “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Private Sector Partnership)”).

In order to promote these initiatives, the Government of Japan has been striving to make it easier for more people to join the program through supporting ex-volunteers in developing their careers, as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the program while retaining one’s job.

Both the spring selection process and the autumn recruitment in FY2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recruitment for FY2021 will be held depending on the infection situation (see Part I for COVID-19 Pandemic and Japan’s Efforts).



A JOCV teaching clothes-making to students in Ondangwa, Namibia (Photo: JICA)

The JICA Volunteer Program was revised to classify

Honduras

Project for Promoting Home Gardening toward Nutrition Improvement in the Municipality of Vado Ancho in the department of El Paraíso JICA Partnership Program (JPP) (Partner Type) (August 2017 – December 2019)

The Municipality of Vado Ancho in the department of El Paraíso, located in the arid zone of Honduras, is one of the poorest municipalities in the country. Most local people make a living by growing corn and beans. However, since 2014, droughts have been getting longer year after year, resulting in crop failure. This then led to local people being provided with food aid from the government and international organizations. In addition, because of the limited variety of vegetables available for purchase, the local people have been living on a nutritionally unbalanced diet.

In order to resolve these problems, JICA and AMDA Multisectoral



An AMDA-MINDS project coordinator checking the vegetables grown by a local resident in a home garden (Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS), a Japanese NGO, promoted home gardening in the Municipality of Vado Ancho through the JICA Partnership Program, which aimed to increase food production that considers the nutritional value of the foods consumed by local people. Specifically, they

worked with local NGOs to provide the local people with hands-on training and technical education on home gardening using as little chemical fertilizer as possible, as well as cooking classes using the harvested crops.



A cooking class using vegetables harvested from home gardens (Photo: AMDA-MINDS)

As a result of these efforts, 182 households are now practicing home gardening, which is higher than the original target of 120 households, and the number of crop varieties grown by each household has increased by 24 on average compared to when the project started. Furthermore, other results, such as holding open-air markets to sell harvested crops locally, have been seen. The number of home gardens are still growing, even after the completion of the project.

volunteers not by the age category (youth/senior), but by whether or not the contents of the work require a certain level of experience and skills. These changes have been introduced starting with the autumn recruitment in 2018.

B. Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement high-quality development cooperation activities in various fields in developing countries and regions. Even in sites affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, they have been providing prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. NGOs are attuned to different local situations in developing countries and are capable of carefully tailoring responses to the needs of the local people. Accordingly, NGOs can provide assistance even at the grassroots level, which can be hard-to-reach through the support of the government and international organizations. The MOFA positions Japanese NGOs that carry out activities, which represent the “visibility of development cooperation,” as indispensable partners in development cooperation. It also promotes collaboration with them through the three pillars of assistance, including financial cooperation (see below), support for the creation of an enabling environment for their activities, and dialogues with them (page 146).

In addition, under the Development Cooperation Charter, MOFA and NGOs jointly developed a plan outlining the direction of their collaboration for the next five years and announced it in 2015. Furthermore, MOFA has been following up on this plan, releasing an annual progress report on the joint plan together with NGOs.

*** Funding Assistance for NGOs

The Government of Japan has been cooperating in various ways to enable Japanese NGOs to smoothly and effectively implement development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance projects in developing countries and regions.

■ Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects

MOFA provides financial support for the socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. There is a wide range of fields in which the projects are implemented, such as health and medical care, education and human resources development, vocational training, rural development, water resource development, and human resources development for landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal. In FY2019, 62 Japanese NGOs utilized this scheme to implement 113 projects in 32 countries and 1 region, amounting to approximately ¥5.59 billion (see also the columns on pages 10, 64, and 85).

Based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA, which held a total of four sessions in 2018, MOFA raised the ratio of general administrative expenses in April 2019 from what was formerly 5% of

local project expenses to a maximum of 15% within the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. This enabled NGOs to allocate their own funds, which were previously used to cover the funding gap in implementing ODA projects, to strengthen their organization through activities in such fields as public relations and fundraising. It is expected that this will strengthen the financial foundation and organizational capacity of NGOs and increase their recognition as a key player in implementing ODA projects both within Japan and abroad.



Completion of a health sub-center in Tatkon Township, Myanmar (Photo: People's Hope Japan)

■ Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform (JPF), an emergency humanitarian aid organization, was established in 2000 through a partnership among NGOs, the government, and the business community. As of October 2020, JPF has 44 member NGOs. JPF utilizes ODA funds provided by MOFA, as well as donations from companies and citizens to carry out emergency humanitarian assistance, including through the distribution of food/non-food items and livelihood recovery support, when a large-scale natural disaster occurs or a vast number of refugees flee from conflicts. In FY2019, JPF implemented 106 projects under 12 programs, including assistance for the humanitarian crises that occurred in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, and Syria, humanitarian assistance in Gaza Strip in Palestine, emergency assistance for refugees from South Sudan, humanitarian assistance for displaced persons from Myanmar, assistance for people affected by floods and landslides in Nepal, assistance for people affected by cyclones in Southern African countries, and assistance for displaced persons from Venezuela (see also Part I for response to the COVID-19 pandemic through JPF and page 47 for assistance for refugees and displaced persons).

■ NGO Project Subsidies

In FY2019, MOFA provided NGO project subsidies to six Japanese NGOs conducting such activities as project identification and formulation, post-project evaluations, and seminars and workshops in Japan and overseas for development cooperation projects.

■ JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is a joint project outsourced by JICA to Japanese NGOs/CSOs, local

governments, universities, private enterprises, and other organizations willing to engage in international cooperation. Proposals are submitted to JICA for international cooperation activities based on their accumulated knowledge and experience and implemented by these partners in collaboration with JICA (see the JICA website ⁸ for information on program details and application procedures among others). Through the JICA Partnership Program, approximately 200 projects are implemented in approximately 90 countries every year.

*** Support for Establishing a Better Environment for NGOs Activities

In response to the growing importance of non-government actors and the use of private funding other than ODA 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 (15 organizations in FY2019) to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, how to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education.

■ NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program and NGO Study Program with the objective of strengthening the organization through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program aims to develop human resources to enable young people to play an active role in Japanese NGOs for international cooperation in the future. A total of nine interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2019.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career personnel from Japanese NGOs for international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training and widely share the fruits of their training within their organization and with other NGOs, with the aim of contributing to enhancing the capabilities of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2019, nine people received training through this program.

■ NGO Study Groups

NGO study groups aim to strengthen NGOs and their capacities by conducting joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and other activities regarding common issues faced by NGOs and reporting and recommending specific measures for improvement.

In FY2019, NGO study groups were held on the following three themes: (i) "Survey on the Status of Organizations and Activities of NGOs and CSOs in Japan," (ii) "Strengthening the Capabilities of Japanese NGOs Engaged in International Cooperation: Lessons Learnt from Disaster Prevention and Relief Activities within the Japanese Borders," and (iii) "Recommendations for Promoting Safeguarding and Development of its Guidelines for Japanese NGOs in the International Cooperation Sector." The reports and outcomes of these activities are available on the ODA website of MOFA.

*** Dialogue with NGO (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings, NGO-Embassies ODA Consultation Meeting, and NGO-JICA 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 FY1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. In FY2019, in addition to the General Meeting, two subcommittees, the "ODA Policy Council" and the "Partnership Promotion Committee," convened meetings twice respectively (see the MOFA website ⁹ for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

In addition, since 2002, in order to promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation with Japanese NGOs in Japan and abroad, embassy officials, JICA, and NGO personnel involved in ODA have been exchanging views at the NGO-Embassies ODA Consultation Meeting with the aim of promoting "visibility of development cooperation" through an all-Japan approach toward the effective and efficient implementation of ODA.

Based on equal partnership with NGOs, JICA holds meetings including the NGO-JICA Consultation Meeting and NGO-JICA Study Sessions to promote the realization of more effective international cooperation, as well as public understanding and participation in international cooperation.

(3) Collaboration with Local Governments

As rapid economic development progresses in developing countries with continued urbanization, there is an escalating need for solutions to urban problems concerning water, energy, waste disposal, urban transportation, anti-pollution, and others. These various problems are not limited to large cities, but are increasing in regional cities as well. Under such circumstances, it would be extremely beneficial for the development of developing countries if local governments in Japan with accumulated expertise in water, energy, waste disposal,

⁸ https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/citizen/partner.html

⁹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html (in Japanese only)

disaster prevention, and other fields could respond to the needs of those countries in a highly detailed and attentive manner. For this reason, the Government of Japan has promoted the participation of local governments in ODA. Moreover, Japanese local governments are also actively promoting the overseas expansion of their initiatives, including their local industries, in order to stimulate the revitalization and globalization of the local regions of Japan ¹⁰ (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 88 for specific examples).

JICA established the “Special Category of Local Government Type” under the JPP in FY2013. Aiming at striking a balance between local governments’ overseas expansions initiated by themselves, leveraging their expertise, experience, and skills and solving developmental issues in developing countries, this new measure is expected to create a win-win relationship, which contributes not only to developing countries but also to the revitalization of local economies in Japan.

(4) Partnership with Universities and Educational Institutions

Some of the roles that universities can play in development cooperation are: to contribute to the development of developing countries, to develop human resources that will be responsible for international cooperation, and to organize and disseminate the philosophy and theories of Japan’s assistance. Taking these roles of universities into account, the Government of Japan is striving to cooperate with universities in terms of broad intellectual cooperation, regarding all aspects of the cycle of assistance from organizing the theories of assistance to putting them into practice and giving back to the Japanese people through education. Japan is indeed promoting projects including technical cooperation, ODA loan, and the JICA Partnership Program (JPP) in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, with the objective of developing advanced human resources who will become the core of socioeconomic development in developing countries, the Government of Japan utilizes the JICA Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) to accept young officials from developing countries as international students in a cumulative total of 36 universities in Japan. So far, the scholarship has brought over 4,600 international students to Japan, including

those in master’s and doctoral programs. Moreover, Japan provides support to Thailand to establish and operate Kosen schools (Colleges of Technology), which are unique to the Japanese education system, in Thailand, and cooperates in the provision of Kosen education that meets the same standards as those in Japan in order to develop industrial human resources in Thailand. Furthermore, Japan has implemented the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project*, as a JICA technical cooperation project, in which Japan is working to strengthen the network among Japanese and ASEAN universities, collaborating with the industrial sector, and engaging in joint research with neighboring countries.

In addition, further scientific and technological advancement is needed to solve global issues such as global warming and infectious diseases, which have been rapidly becoming more acute in recent years. Research and development in developing countries vulnerable to the impacts of these issues must be conducted according to their regional needs. Expectation for advanced science and technology from Japan is increasing especially in these countries. At the same time, universities and research institutions in developing countries urgently need to improve their self-sustainable research and development capacities and build frameworks for sustainable activities. MOFA and JICA have been implementing Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) ¹¹ since 2008, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) under these circumstances. International joint studies between universities and research institutions of Japan and those of developing countries are being conducted through SATREPS (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 149 for specific examples).

Above-mentioned partnerships with universities have contributed to the advancement of the academic capabilities of developing countries for solving issues, as well as the globalization of Japanese universities through accepting trainees who study in Japan (see “ODA Topics” on page 148 for Japan’s globalization through development cooperation).

= Glossary =



*ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)

AUN/SEED-Net was launched in 2001 as a university network comprising 26 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries, and 14 partner universities from Japan. It implements various research and education activities to produce advanced human resources in the engineering sector, with the aim of realizing sustainable development in Southeast Asia and Japan. This initiative is implemented with mainly the support from the Government of Japan through JICA, in cooperation with the governments and universities of Southeast Asia and Japan.

¹⁰ Support for overseas development of local governments through ODA: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/page23_000707.html (in Japanese only)

¹¹ See the glossary on page 40. Science and technology cooperation: <https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/science/index.html> (in Japanese only)

Revitalizing Japan through Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation is supported by a diverse range of actors, including companies, local governments, universities, and the civil society. The involvement of these actors is essential for the effective implementation of Japan's development cooperation. However, did you know that their involvement also contributes to the revitalization and internationalization of Japanese society?

One of the cases in which such effects are seen is the regional revitalization in Japan through interactions with overseas talent. Although there is a temporary decrease due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of foreigners visiting Japan has been increasing in recent years. There were 2.93 million foreign nationals residing in Japan as of the end of 2019 and 1.66 million foreigners working in Japan as of the end of October 2019, both of which were record highs. For the purpose of leveraging this increase in overseas human resources for revitalization of Japanese regional communities, it has become important to create an enabling environment for hosting overseas talent smoothly and appropriately and realize a symbiotic society.

In 2019, the "Xieng Khouang-Kagawa Prefecture-JICA Cooperation Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development" was launched under the collaboration of JICA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos, and the Kagawa Prefecture Farmers' Co-op. Through this program, JICA, in collaboration with relevant people of Kagawa Prefecture, provides technical cooperation in Xieng Khouang Province in Laos aiming at increasing production of agricultural products to improve the livelihood of farmers and promote agricultural development in Xieng Khouang Province. In addition, Kagawa Prefecture, a participant in this program, is expected to benefit from smoother hosting of talented

technical intern trainees from Laos, promotion of business expansion in Laos, and deepening of cross-cultural understanding via interacting with foreign talent (see "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 88 for details).

In Miyazaki City, the Bangladesh-Japan ICT Engineers' Training Program (B-JET) has been established with the collaboration of JICA, Miyazaki City, University of Miyazaki, and local IT companies. The program is designed to support the development of ICT professionals who underpin growth in Bangladesh. ICT professionals from Bangladesh such as graduates of Bangladesh universities of engineering come to Japan after learning the Japanese language and business manners and then intern at IT companies in Miyazaki City while continuing their Japanese language studies at University of Miyazaki. Some of the ICT professionals trained by this initiative found employment in Miyazaki City, which in turn contributes to the internationalization of the city and the revitalization of its ICT industry.

Similar impacts are also witnessed at universities. The JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP) was launched in 2018 to provide international students coming to Japan on ODA programs with an opportunity to systematically learn about Japan's experiences with its own modernization and development and experiences as a donor, and to train the students into future leaders of developing countries. Some of the programs offered at JICA-DSP are not only for international students funded by ODA but are also open to other international and Japanese students. It is expected that having talented people come to Japan from developing countries and learn with other students in English about the Japanese experience will contribute to making Japanese university education as a whole more dynamic and international.



Bangladeshi students participating in B-JET in Japan after training in Bangladesh for internships in Miyazaki



International students participating in "Understanding the Japanese Development Experience" as part of JICA-DSP (Photo: Nagaoka City Museum of Local History)

MASTER
TECHNIQUES

4

from Japan to the World

Preparing for Unknown Infectious Diseases in Africa!

—Joint research on zoonotic virus infections between Hokkaido University and the University of Zambia—

Zoonoses caused by viruses that infect both humans and animals, such as COVID-19 and Ebola virus disease, have become a global threat in recent years. Outbreaks of viral zoonoses have also been confirmed in Zambia. It has become a priority for the country to control them. Furthermore, it is highly possible that yet unidentified viruses exist in Africa, and research projects on such novel viruses are now attracting attention not only in Africa, but also on a global scale.

Under those circumstances, the “Project for Surveillance of Viral Zoonosis in Africa” was carried out in Zambia from 2013 as a joint research by Hokkaido University and School of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Zambia (UNZA-SVM) under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)* program. Additionally, a succeeding project, the “Project for Epidemiology of Zoonotic Virus Infections in Africa,” is being implemented since 2019.

The first step in these two projects was the construction of a virology laboratory with an animal facility to improve the research environment at UNZA-SVM, which had almost no infrastructure for education and research on viral zoonoses. Additionally, diagnostic methods for viral zoonoses such as viral hemorrhagic fever were introduced to the researchers of UNZA-SVM.

Dr. TAKADA Ayato at the Research Center for Zoonosis Control (CZC), Hokkaido University, explained as follows. “This project began thanks to the long-standing close ties between Hokkaido University and UNZA. A school of veterinary medicine was established at UNZA with the cooperation of Japan about 30 years ago. Then, Hokkaido University’s faculty members visited Zambia to train people from scratch and help UNZA to establish a veterinary school. This was the beginning of the exchange between the two universities. Later, our cooperative relationship was further strengthened, as CZC was established at Hokkaido University and a joint



Dr. Takada and UNZA-SVM researchers collecting blood from a bat in the field (Photo: Hokkaido University)

project with UNZA was launched.” Dr. TAKADA is acting as a central figure in this project.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia’s neighboring country, has also joined in the succeeding project which started in 2019, handling not only samples of animals such as arthropods, but also those of humans. The project is intended to strengthen the epidemiological research capacity of the research institutions in the two countries and improve their diagnostic capabilities. This project and the preceding project from 2013 have already discovered various viruses in Zambia. In the DRC, it is expected that the project might contribute to early detection and enhancement of measures against Ebola virus disease, of which there have been several outbreaks in the country since 2017.

Hokkaido University has been accepting students from Zambia and the DRC. The University has been carrying out programs for training them to create experts on zoonosis control. UNZA-SVM has conducted more than 60,000 specimen tests in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who studied at Hokkaido University and came back to their countries are active as core personnel in combatting COVID-19.

Dr. KAJIHARA Masahiro, a faculty member working with Dr. Takada at CZC, expressed his hope for Zambia as follows. “It was hard to train veterinarians in Zambia before; however, they are doing it now. Zambia is even accepting graduate students from other African countries and is becoming a center for veterinary research in Africa.”

Longstanding academic cooperation between Japan and Africa is about to bring about great strides in measures against infectious diseases, a transborder issue, with a view to preparing for infectious diseases in the future.



Checking the presence of a virus (Photo: Hokkaido University)

*See the Glossary on page 40.

(5) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

A. Partnership with other countries

Japan promotes coordination with other donors on a wide range of development issues. In 2020, Japan conducted dialogues and exchanged views with the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, the EU, and others. In addition, among these major donors, based on the commitment at the summit level, specific cooperation and collaboration are promoted in third countries in the Indo-Pacific and other regions including Africa in various fields, such as infrastructure development to strengthen connectivity, maritime security, and disaster risk reduction, and ODA is an important part of this. Furthermore, with the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, responding to issues in the field of health has become an urgent matter around the world. Addressing global development issues, including the environment and climate change, also remains important. In order to effectively utilize Japan's ODA and work on development issues with the international community as a whole under these circumstances, cooperation and collaboration with other donors is critical, and Japan will actively promote these efforts (see also Part I for international collaboration related to the response to COVID-19).

Members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the so-called traditional donor countries, have been taking a leading role in carrying out development cooperation thus far. Nonetheless, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa have also provided assistance for developing countries and have come to gain significant influence on the development issues in recent years. Japan, having experienced the transition from an aid recipient to an aid provider, has been striving to promote the effectiveness of emerging countries' development cooperation to developing countries (South-South cooperation) by providing assistance to emerging countries, in collaboration with those and other countries, particularly by means of Triangular Cooperation.

Particularly in regard to China, in October 2018, the Government of Japan announced the termination of Japan's provision of new ODA to China while also announcing that Japan and China will promote a new dimension of cooperation as equal partners. In response to this, the Japan-China International Development Cooperation Policy Consultation was held in May 2019, and there was an exchange of information concerning matters such as each country's international development cooperation policies, organizational structure, supervision and evaluation, and experiences of cooperation with other countries and international organizations. Japan will continue to work with the international community to ensure that China's development cooperation is transparent and consistent with international standards and initiatives.

B. Partnership for the G7 and G20 development issues

The G7 has been holding the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting as a forum to discuss how to address various issues in the field of development. In recent years, the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting was held in Whistler, Canada from May 31 to June 2, 2018, and the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting and the G7 Joint Education and International Development Ministerial Meeting were held in Paris, France on July 4 and 5, 2019.

Although there was no G7 Development Ministers' Meeting in 2020, meetings of the Development Ministers' Contact Group on COVID-19 have been held to discuss support for developing countries from May onward, co-chaired by Canada and the United Kingdom (with the participation of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden, in addition to the G7). Representing Japan, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki attended the meetings three times and made statements on such issues as strengthening global health systems, ensuring equitable access to vaccines, providing timely and appropriate information on food supply and demand and ensuring its distribution, and Japan's efforts to reopen schools.

The G20 has been discussing development issues in the G20 Development Working Group, which has been held since the G20 Toronto Summit (Canada) in 2010. In 2020, under the Saudi Arabian Presidency, the G20 Development Working Group discussed the five priorities of (i) the G20 Support to COVID-19 Response and Recovery, (ii) Quality Infrastructure for Regional Connectivity, (iii) Financing for Sustainable Development, (iv) the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), and (v) Accountability, and adopted each outcome document.

C. Partnership with International Organizations

In recent years, partnership with international organizations has been essential for the international community to make unified efforts to address global issues, such as poverty, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and health issues.



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki conducting a teleconference with UNDP Administrator Steiner



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakanishi attending the sixth High Level Meeting of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre (held as a teleconference) (October 6, 2020)



In order to address various development issues and facilitate assistance through partnerships with international organizations, Japan holds dialogues with major international organizations such as UNDP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, and the World Food Programme (WFP). In addition to these dialogues, in 2020, Japan also exchanged views on the emergency response to the spread of COVID-19. For instance, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki confirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation in teleconferences with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Maurer in April and with UNDP Administrator Steiner in May (see Part I for Japan's support for COVID-19 countermeasures through international organizations, and Part II and III for Japan's partnerships with international organizations in each field and region).

With a view to bringing development cooperation up to date taking into account the 2030 Agenda, the DAC

implements various initiatives including strengthening collaboration with diverse actors such as emerging countries and the private sector (see also "ODA Topics" on pages 142 and 143 for the mobilization and utilization of private sector funding other than ODA).

In addition, the DAC Development Co-operation Peer Review of Japan was conducted from 2019 to 2020.

With Japan's support, the OECD Development Centre is working to disseminate the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," which were endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, among the international community. The sixth High Level Meeting of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre held in October 2020 was attended by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakanishi from Japan, who pointed out the importance of quality infrastructure and expressed Japan's intention to cooperate closely with the Centre.

DAC Development Co-operation Peer Review of Japan ¹²

DAC peer reviews are conducted every five to six years by DAC members to assess each other's development cooperation policies and implementation. Through this process, donor countries share their policies, experiences, and recommendations with each other, aiming for more effective cooperation. The peer review of Japan was the first in six years since 2014, and the EU and Italy were the reviewers.

As a result of the review, in the report released by the OECD on October 12, 2020, the Government of Japan was highly assessed overall for having partially or fully implemented 95% of the recommendations that Japan received in the previous review. Among other things, the report praised Japan's whole-of-society approach to achieving sustainable development through a combination of diplomatic, peace, and development efforts, its emphasis on the self-reliant development of developing countries, and its global leadership in the efforts of disaster prevention and risk reduction. The report also mentions Japan's philosophy of equal partnership and self-reliance that underpins its provision of loans (ODA loans) to developing countries, and acknowledges its effectiveness.

¹² For details, see the ODA email newsletter (No. 432) issued on November 27, 2020: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/mail/bn_432.html (in Japanese only)

2. Efforts for Spreading Awareness of Development Cooperation

(1) Efforts for Information Disclosure and Promoting Public Understanding and Support

In order to deepen the public understanding and support for development cooperation, the Government of Japan is proactively engaged in encouraging discussion and dialogue on development cooperation, promoting development education, and disclosing and disseminating information regarding the current status of development cooperation. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has strengthened its efforts as follows, based on one of the aforementioned recommendations of the Advisory Board for ODA, “Improve Japanese citizens’ understanding and recognition of ODA.”

A. Strengthening public relations, information disclosure, and information dissemination

MOFA and JICA are striving to release and disseminate accurate information by linking to each other’s ODA-related websites ¹³. MOFA also publishes an ODA email newsletter ¹⁴, which introduces experiences and episodes from the field of development cooperation by staff members of Japan’s overseas diplomatic missions, JICA, NGOs, international organizations, private companies, and others. MOFA also conducts public relations activities using social media such as Twitter. Moreover, in 2020, MOFA continued to distribute animated video contents, including the series of “Go! ODA-Man” and a simulation game “You can also be ‘ODA-Man!’” using the ODA PR character “ODA-Man” featured in the popular anime “Eagle Talon.” These video contents introduce the role and purpose of ODA as well as development cooperation projects that are currently carried out around the world in an easy-to-understand manner.

Furthermore, one of Japan’s largest international cooperation events called “Global Festa JAPAN” is held every year around the time of International Cooperation Day (October 6), jointly hosted by MOFA, JICA and the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC). Although the event was cancelled in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in its place, they co-hosted the joint international cooperation campaign “EARTH CAMP” online ¹⁵ in 2020, which was well received.



Official ODA PR character “ODA-Man”

In order for MOFA to promote a deeper understanding of Japan’s proactive international contribution through ODA, Japanese diplomatic missions disseminate information in each country such as by issuing press releases on the occasion of signing and handover ceremonies of ODA projects. The diplomatic missions also organize site-visit tours of Japan’s development cooperation projects for the local media in order to provide opportunities for them to report on Japan’s development cooperation initiatives. In addition, the diplomatic missions distribute materials such as PR pamphlets and the English version of the White Paper on Development Cooperation to leading government figures, the local media, experts, and others to introduce Japan’s development cooperation, as well as disseminate information in English or local languages via social media, websites, and other sources of information.

B. Information disclosure on implementation and evaluation of ODA

In 2010, the “ODA Mieru-ka Site” ¹⁶ (a website for visualization of ODA) was launched in the JICA website to clearly show the overview and outcome of ODA projects and further enhance public understanding and support for ODA. JICA posts photographs, ex-ante/ex-post evaluations, and other related information about ODA loan, grant aid, and technical cooperation projects out of all projects in the world on the website, and is making efforts to disseminate further ODA-related information.

Likewise, the MOFA website publishes a list of summaries of the specific achievements and lessons from the past projects funded by Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects and Cultural Grant Assistance Projects, including projects which proved to be deficient, in order to promote more effective implementation of ODA.

¹³ Please refer to the following websites:

MOFA’s ODA Website: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>

JICA: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/index.html>

ODA Mieru-ka Site (a website for visualization of ODA): <https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/> (in Japanese only)

¹⁴ Back issues of the ODA email newsletter are also available on the MOFA website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/mail/bn.html> (in Japanese only)).

¹⁵ EARTH CAMP: <https://earthcamp.jp/> (in Japanese only)

¹⁶ ODA Mieru-ka Site: <https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/> (in Japanese only)

C. Promotion of development education

MOFA organizes the “ODA Delivery Lecture,” which provides information and explanations about Japan’s international cooperation and ODA by sending Ministry officials as lecturers to junior high and high schools, universities, NGOs, and other organizations in Japan. In order to support development education, JICA provides the “International Cooperation Delivery Lecture,” which sends former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and others as lecturers to promote cross-cultural and international understanding by giving talks on their experience and life in developing countries, upon requests from educational and other organizations. JICA also organizes “Visit JICA,” which welcomes visits by students to domestic offices and the showcase facility “JICA Global Plaza.” In addition, JICA conducts the “JICA Essay Contest on International Cooperation for Junior and Senior High School Students.” For teachers, JICA offers training programs such as the “Training Program for Development Education Leaders” and the “Study Tour Program for Teachers,” in which teachers are dispatched to developing countries with the aim of utilizing their overseas experiences for teaching.



In 2020, the ODA Delivery Lecture was also held via videoconference.

D. On-site ODA experience

Providing opportunities for as many people as possible to experience development cooperation sites and see, hear, and understand actual ODA projects is one of the most effective ways to foster understanding of ODA among the Japanese people. For this reason, JICA is striving to support the dispatch of teachers and local public entities’ officials to ODA project sites.

E. Promotion of discussion and dialogue

The Government of Japan is holding information sessions across Japan regarding ODA-related initiatives including assistance for small and medium-sized enterprises through ODA projects. Likewise, lectures and symposiums are held to introduce trends in international cooperation and Japan’s efforts, offering opportunities to engage in dialogue with members of the public who have an interest in how Japan’s foreign policy and ODA should be implemented.

Furthermore, JICA organizes roundtables and lectures with representatives from local industries, government officials, experts, and local university and school staff by utilizing its domestic regional offices. Through these efforts, JICA aims to encourage the sharing of the experience of international cooperation from different regions of Japan, as well as to promote regional revitalization.

Japan's Efforts toward Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

—4th Japan SDGs Award—

The Government of Japan has been presenting the “Japan SDGs Award” since 2017 to acknowledge companies and organizations for excellent initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from the perspective of making SDGs-related initiatives across Japan more visible and promoting those actions.

At the 4th Japan SDGs Award ceremony held in December 2020, Minna-Denryoku, Inc., a company making efforts to promote partnerships between regions through renewable energy under the concept of “traceable electric power™”, received the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chair's (Prime Minister's) Award. Also awarded were efforts to achieve the SDGs in Japan and overseas by a broad range of organizations and groups. These included an agricultural high school striving to develop environmental and agricultural technologies to solve challenges in developing countries, and an NPO helping people with disabilities and former child soldiers become self-reliant.

○ Examples of Efforts by Award Recipients

· Minna-Denryoku, Inc. (The SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chair's (Prime Minister's) Award)

Minna-Denryoku, Inc. launched a renewable energy retail business in 2016 under the concept of “traceable electric power™.” The company realized the commercialization of an electric power traceability system that uses blockchain^{*1} for the first time in the world, allowing electric power consumers to know how much electric power they purchased and from which power plant.

In 2019, the company started the Yoko-Yoko Project, which links electricity users in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture with power generators in Yokohama Town, Aomori Prefecture, in the northern part of Japan. Using the traceability system, electricity produced in Yokohama Town is supplied to companies and other entities in Yokohama City. This project aims to promote decarbonization in the city and revitalize the regional economy, creating a circulating and ecological economy^{*2} through electricity between Yokohama City, which is an energy-consuming area and aims to become carbon neutral, and Yokohama Town, which produces an abundant amount of renewable energy.



Commemorative photo with Minna-Denryoku, Inc. (winner of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chair's (Prime Minister's) Award) at the 4th Japan SDGs Award ceremony (December 2020) (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office of the Government of Japan)

· NPO Support for Woman's Happiness (The SDGs Promotion Headquarters Deputy Chair's (Foreign Minister's) Award)

In Laos, Support for Woman's Happiness partnered with a Laotian organization for people with disabilities to establish a facility where women with physical disabilities and women from ethnic minority groups can live and work together. The NPO supports the self-reliance of people with disabilities in both Japan and Laos by providing vocational training in using sewing machines and embroidery techniques in a facility established in Laos and by supporting them in making quality products in collaboration with people with disabilities in Japan.

In addition, people with disabilities in Laos, people with mental disabilities in Japan, Japanese designers, and others are working together to commercialize a traditional Laotian tea called butterfly pea flower tea in Japan and produce souvenir products. By sharing work among workshops in each country, the NPO has developed a system where people with disabilities can support each other across countries. As a result, products combining traditional Laotian and Japanese textiles have received positive reviews and are exhibited and sold not only in Laos but also at department stores and other venues in Japan.

As women have traditionally been the primary workforce in cloth making, which is the basis of the NPO's activities, women with disabilities can earn the same income as men.



Workshop for people with disabilities in Laos (Photo: Support for Woman's Happiness)

^{*1} Blockchain is distributed ledger (database) technology that enables the exchange of important data requiring a high level of reliability over open networks, such as the Internet. Using this technology can prevent forgery and falsification without the intervention of costly third-party organizations (intermediaries).

^{*2} A circulating and ecological economy is a concept that aims to maximize regional vitality by creating self-reliant and decentralized societies where regions maximize their regional resources, such as beautiful natural scenery, and by complementing and supporting each other's resources according to regional characteristics.

(2) Enhancement of Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation

The Government of Japan has set a target of 1,000 Japanese staff working in UN-related agencies by the year 2025. In order to achieve this target, Japan is cooperating with universities and offices of international organizations in Japan while proactively seeking out, training, and supporting human resources with the capacity to be active and to contribute on the world stage ¹⁷. Furthermore, based on one of the aforementioned recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA, “Develop human resources for development cooperation,” MOFA is engaged in PR activities to find human resources with efforts such as providing seminars both within and outside Japan to explain the employment systems of international organizations, as well as holding career information sessions where explanations are given by executives and HR managers from international organizations visiting Japan.

Moreover, the Government of Japan strives to nurture human resources to be active in international organizations, including in the area of development cooperation, by conducting the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme ¹⁸, which sends young Japanese nationals who aspire to work in international organizations as regular staff for two years in principle to gain necessary knowledge and experience in international organizations and attain a regular staff position after their tenure (see also “Stories from the Field” on page 121 for the activities of a Japanese staff member dispatched to an international organization through the JPO Programme). MOFA has been dispatching JPOs through this programme since 1974, and a cumulative total of approximately 1,800 people have been sent, 52 of whom were sent in FY2019. In addition, since FY2015, MOFA has been implementing the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development ¹⁹,” with the purpose of finding and fostering human resources in the field of peacebuilding and development and developing their careers in a comprehensive manner (see “Human Resources Development for Peacebuilding” on page 49 for details).

JICA is working to identify and develop human resources and make effective use of existing resources in the field of international cooperation based on



Ms. YOKOI Mizuho, head of the UNDP North-East Sub-Office, listens to healthcare providers describing the current situation at a reconstructed clinic in the village of Ngwom in Borno State, Nigeria. She worked at the UNDP Ghana Office through the JPO Programme until 2001.

the principle of “promoting all-Japan international cooperation activities.” Specifically, JICA operates the PARTNER (Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment) ²⁰ website, a comprehensive international cooperation career information site that centrally distributes information not only from ministries, agencies, and JICA, but also from a wide range of international cooperation-implementing actors such as NGOs and international organizations, as well as from companies and universities. Through PARTNER, JICA provides recruitment information related to international cooperation, human resources registration services, information on various trainings and seminars, career counseling, and other services. Moreover, since 1997, JICA has offered internships to graduate students and other individuals who conduct research closely related to development cooperation and are willing to play an active role in this field in the future. In FY2019, 146 interns were accepted at various workplaces, including the worksites of development consultants. Based on the recommendations of the Second Consultative Committee on ODA Reform in 2002, JICA secures human resources with a high degree of professional abilities and abundant work experience in developing countries through the Senior Advisor System, as well as offers the Associate Experts Program and the Capacity Enhancement Training to foster international cooperation professionals.

Furthermore, the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development ²¹ conducts policy-driven research on issues that developing countries face on the ground, working to strengthen Japan’s intellectual

¹⁷ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Recruitment Center for International Organizations website (<https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/>) (in Japanese only) provides information on vacancies in international organizations and a variety of information on working in international organizations.

¹⁸ JPO Programme: <https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/jpo/seido.html> (in Japanese only)

¹⁹ Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace_b/j_ikusei_shokai.html (in Japanese only)

²⁰ International Cooperation Career Information Website “PARTNER”: <https://partner.jica.go.jp/> (in Japanese only)

²¹ On April 1, 2020, the JICA Research Institute changed its name to the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development in order to carry on and enhance the philosophy of the late OGATA Sadako, who spearheaded the establishment of the JICA Research Institute, and to strengthen its intellectual contributions to world peace and development.

presence in the international community. Building on this basic policy, the JICA Ogata Research Institute is currently working toward a new vision: “Co-Creating Practical Knowledge for Peace and Development.” To realize this vision, the Institute is conducting research at the international academic level, analyzing and synthesizing knowledge gained in the field, and providing feedback to JICA projects, thereby contributing to the realization of human security. The Institute is also tackling research on new development issues, such as how to strategically promote SDGs in the midst of significant social changes triggered by COVID-19. In addition, the Institute is promoting the JICA Development Studies Program as

one of the program’s responsible organizations, while further strengthening its functions as a center for research exchange and human resources development.

The Government of Japan will work with universities and research institutions and strive to reinforce the intellectual foundations to plan and disseminate development cooperation activities by promoting joint policy research and intellectual networking among researchers from Japan and developing countries, while utilizing Japan’s strengths (see “ODA Topics” on page 148 for Japan’s revitalization efforts through international cooperation).

Stories from the Field

8

Voices of Japanese Personnel Working in International Organizations

—Endeavors toward peacebuilding through education in Africa—

Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is also known as the capital of Africa as it is home to many embassies and United Nations agencies, as well as the headquarters of the African Union (AU), and has the largest number of diplomats in residence on the continent. Addis Ababa is a highland city located 2,300 meters above sea level with a comfortable climate throughout the year, and in 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) was established there. The IICBA develops teacher policies, provides teacher training, and conducts relevant research and studies with the objective of strengthening teacher development in Africa. I have been serving as Director of the IICBA since April 2015. I believe that my work at the IICBA, which is to support teachers who are fundamental to the educational challenges in Africa, is my vocation, and I am working hard in that endeavor.

I have been engaged in education in Africa for almost 40 years, ever since I started working as a volunteer teacher in a rural village in Western Kenya in 1981 during my time at university. Through my experience working at a Zimbabwean NGO, JICA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UNESCO, I have visited almost every country in Africa. People sometimes say that I seem more African than Japanese, or that I am a Japanese African. When a job opening for the position of Director of IICBA was posted in 2014, I applied with low expectations of being selected, as previous directors had been former cabinet ministers of African countries. Fortunately, I was hired. I hope to consider the development of African nations as seriously as, or even more seriously than, the people of Africa.

Teachers play an essential role in increasing enrollment rates and improving the quality and suitability of education. The IICBA has provided training to and exchanged opinions with instructors at education faculties at universities and has worked with teachers' unions to have teachers' voices reflected in policies. With regard to science and mathematics education, which most teachers are not so proficient at themselves, IICBA carries out STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education in collaboration with the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA), which has been strengthened by JICA's assistance. In addition, IICBA has developed a Gender Responsive Pedagogy together with the Forum for

African Women Educationalists (FAWE), an organization for promoting girls' and women's education in Africa. Our motto is that Africa's challenges should be solved by Africa itself.

The biggest challenge facing Africa is ensuring peace and stability. Civil wars, armed conflicts with neighboring countries, conflicts arising from ethnic or religious issues, and other disputes hinder the development of the continent. Many African educators have a desire in their hearts to build peace through education. Japan's assistance is making this possible. In order to build peace

and to put an end to conflicts in African countries, where young people make up the largest percentage of the population, it is important that as many young people as possible embrace peace and work earnestly toward achieving it. Japan has been supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa through the education of teachers in collaboration with UNESCO since 2017, and is currently providing training to approximately 5,000 young teachers from 25 African countries to improve their knowledge and skills on peacebuilding and mediation under educational programs and raise awareness of promoting peace and preventing extremism. The assistance under this project can be regarded as part of the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA), which Japan advocated for at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in 2019 (see also page 131 for details on NAPSA).

In the increasingly globalized world of the 21st century, I hope that talented young people in Japan will take an interest in developing countries, especially African countries. Many people in Africa have admiration and respect for Japan, seeing it as a country rising from the aftermath of World War II and huge earthquakes, as well as a country with knowledge and technology. While the African continent is geographically distant from Japan, its culture has much in common with Japanese culture. These similarities pleasantly surprise me in my work and daily life. Working at the United Nations is challenging as once you finish your task, you will have the next issue to deal with. I have heard that fewer young people in Japan want to engage in development cooperation work. However, I hope they will think about contributing to Africa from Japan all the more now that we are facing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.



The author holding a poster of peacebuilding education conducted with cooperation from Japan (Photo: UNESCO-IICBA)



The author receiving a warm welcome from children on her visit to a school in Côte d'Ivoire at an AU African Day of School Feeding event (Photo: UNESCO-IICBA)

YOKOZEKI Yumiko
Director

International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa,
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO-IICBA)

3. Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation

ODA implemented by Japan over many years has not only contributed to the development and growth of developing countries in various ways. It has also established firm bonds of friendship and trust between Japan and developing countries, enhanced Japan's standing in the international community, and further ensured the peace and prosperity of Japan. On the other hand, ODA has not been free from challenges and struggles. For example, there were cases of fraud committed in ODA projects and failures in delivering expected outcomes and delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Government of Japan has made efforts to consider these experiences as worthwhile and strived to turn them into lessons for the future. To this end, Japan has continued to make various efforts to improve evaluation systems, enhance transparency, and hold dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society. Japan has also established the mechanisms to prevent fraudulent practices, held close dialogues and coordination with recipient countries, and arranged detailed project management and follow-up processes. The Government of Japan will continue to make ceaseless efforts to implement more effective and appropriate development cooperation.

(1) Anti-Corruption

Japan's ODA is funded by taxpayers' money. Fraudulent practices committed in ODA projects not only disturb their appropriate and effective implementation, but also undermine public trust in ODA projects. Fraudulent practices are absolutely unacceptable. In order to prevent fraudulent practices, it is necessary, for example, to ensure that companies and organizations are aware that fraudulent practices will always be revealed to the public if taken, and severe penalties will be imposed.

Therefore, based on lessons learned from fraudulent practices that occurred in the past, MOFA and JICA have taken measures to enhance its monitoring systems, such as "strengthening the function of the Consultation Desk on Anti-Corruption" and "expanding third-party checks," as well as measures to reinforce penalties, such as "increasing the maximum period for suspension measures," "raising the amount of penalty charges for breaching contracts," and "introducing a point-deduction system on corporations that repeatedly engage in serious fraudulent practices." Furthermore, in 2018, the criteria regarding measures taken against corporate groups involved in fraudulent practices were revised. One of the revisions was "expanding the scope of targets for suspension measures," which enabled MOFA and JICA to take measures against the corporate

groups of suspended companies and organizations and measures against successors of business transfer during the term of imposed measures.

The Government of Japan will make continuous efforts to prevent fraudulent practices in cooperation with JICA, under the strong determination that fraudulent practices committed in ODA projects are absolutely unacceptable.

(2) Securing the Safety Measures for People Involved in International Cooperation Projects

Ensuring the safety of people involved in international cooperation projects is a prerequisite when ODA projects are implemented. The threats are complex in the countries and regions where not only JICA-related personnel, but also a variety of people involved in international cooperation projects such as consultants, contractors, and NGO staff are working. The situation differs in each country and region and is constantly changing. Especially in 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19, MOFA and JICA supported return and re-departure of people involved in international cooperation projects, such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) who had been working on development cooperation on the ground in developing countries and other countries around the world (see Part I for details).

Furthermore, in response to the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh in July 2016, MOFA and JICA, together with the relevant ministries and experts, reviewed safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects and released a "Final Report" in August of the same year ²². The Report recognizes that "safety is no longer free of cost" and that organizational leaders must take initiative in implementing safety measures. In order to secure the safety of a wider range of people involved in international cooperation projects including NGOs, the Report put together a list of actions to be taken relating to the following:

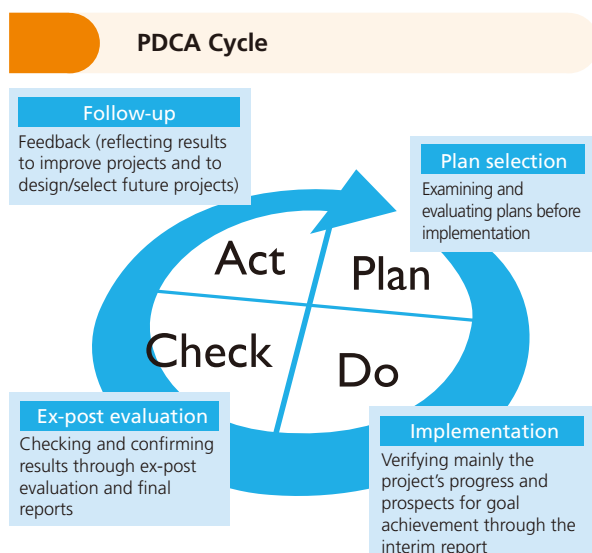
- (i) Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information
- (ii) Code of conduct of project partners and NGOs
- (iii) Physical and non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills
- (iv) Post-crisis response
- (v) Heightening crisis management awareness and improving organizational structure of the MOFA and the JICA

MOFA and JICA have been making efforts to implement the safety measures mentioned in the Final Report. They are also continuing and enhancing actions to ensure the effectiveness of safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects.

²² https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22_000141.html

(3) Conducting Evaluation

In order to enhance management and ensure the accountability of ODA, the Government of Japan has been working on thorough implementation of the following measures: (i) enhancing the PDCA cycle (project formation (Plan), implementation (Do), evaluation (Check), follow-up activities (Act)), (ii) strengthening the Program Approach, and (iii) reinforcing “visualization.”



With regard to enhancing the PDCA cycle, the ongoing efforts include: (i) formulating Country Development Cooperation Policies for all recipient countries of Japan's ODA, (ii) convening the Development Project Accountability Committee, (iii) setting indicators for each project, and (iv) strengthening the evaluation mechanism.

In order to implement ODA projects more effectively and efficiently, strengthening of the PDCA cycle not only at the project level but also at the policy level is required. To this end, MOFA conducts policy evaluations of economic cooperation policies based on the “Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA) ²³,” as well as ODA evaluations by third parties who approach the evaluation from a neutral position. The recommendations and lessons obtained from these evaluations are reflected in ODA policy to further improve ODA management.

Third-party evaluations ²⁴ are mainly carried out at the policy level (e.g., Country Assistance Evaluations

and Thematic/Aid-Modality Evaluations). They evaluate from development viewpoints based on three evaluation criteria, namely, whether the ODA policies are consistent with Japan's high-level policies, the needs of the aid recipient countries, and international priority issues (Relevance of Policies), how effective Japan's ODA is in practice (Effectiveness of Results), and whether appropriate processes had been taken to ensure the validity of the policies and effectiveness of the results (Appropriateness of Process).

In addition to development viewpoints, evaluations also incorporate the idea that it is important to verify the diplomatic impact of implemented policies and programs. Basically all of MOFA's third-party evaluations have been conducted using the diplomatic viewpoint since FY2015. Continued efforts are underway to improve evaluations from the diplomatic viewpoint in order to clarify the diplomatic importance and impact of ODA (how Japan's ODA has contributed to realizing its national interests). Furthermore, by making all evaluation reports available to the public on the MOFA website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>) and other means, MOFA fulfills its accountability to the public on how ODA has been used and what effects it has produced, while increasing the transparency of ODA, promoting public understanding about it, and encouraging public participation in it.

Moreover, JICA also conducts evaluations on respective projects of grant aid, ODA loan, and technical cooperation, as well as thematic evaluations on each project. JICA conducts consistent monitoring and evaluation from the ex-ante stage to the implementation and ex-post stage for each project and has established a coherent evaluation mechanism for these three aid modalities. As for projects that exceed a certain amount, JICA conducts ex-post evaluations by third party evaluators (external evaluations). JICA also strives to enhance impact evaluations ²⁵, recognizing the importance of quantitative examination of the effects of their projects.

These evaluations are conducted primarily based on the Evaluation Criteria of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ²⁶.

²³ 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 yen or more and on grant aid projects in which the maximum amount of aid offered through an E/N is 1 billion yen 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. “Incomplete projects” are projects for which loan disbursements have not been completed after ten years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project.)

²⁴ Regarding Grant Aid implemented by MOFA, internal evaluations have been carried out for projects of 200 million yen or more, and third-party evaluations have been carried out for projects of 1 billion yen or more since FY2017. The results of these evaluations have been publicized and utilized to improve the formation of future ODA proposals.

²⁵ Evaluation method verifying the effects of development projects by using methods from statistics and econometrics.

²⁶ DAC evaluation criteria: In December 2019, coherence was added to the five criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability that had been in use since 1991, resulting in a total of six evaluation criteria.

As an example of how Japan's ODA is viewed abroad, according to the Opinion Poll on Japan conducted among ASEAN member countries in March 2020 ²⁷, over 80% of the respondents answered, "Japan's ODA is beneficial to my country." In addition, according to the Opinion Poll on Japan conducted in three African countries (South Africa, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire) in November 2019 ²⁸, nearly 80% of the respondents answered, "Japan plays an important role in development cooperation, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), in the international community."

(4) Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation

International society is further concerned about the problem of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) in development cooperation in recent years. In response to this, MOFA has been conducting training and other activities to spread awareness of this problem among its staff. It has also posted summaries of international commitment documents and recommendations in Japanese on the MOFA website to promote understanding among the Japanese public. In addition, JICA has taken measures such as posting on its website a message from the president about eradicating SEAH and adding SEAH prevention measures to its employment regulations and ethics guidelines for JICA personnel.

²⁷ MOFA commissioned a polling institute to conduct an opinion poll on Japan, which targeted 300 individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 residing in 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) using both the internet and interviews with some selected individuals.
URL: https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008370.html

²⁸ In the same way as the above-mentioned footnote ²⁷, MOFA commissioned a polling institute to conduct an online survey targeting 1,500 individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 (500 individuals from each country) residing in South Africa, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire.
URL: http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008370.html

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1 FY2020 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)

(1) ODA Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2019			FY2020		
	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	5,566	27	0.5	5,610	45	0.8
Project budget (net)	14,936	496	3.4	15,687	751	5.0
Scale of projects (gross)	22,062	412	1.9	22,700	638	2.9
JP¥ exchange rate against US\$	¥110			¥110		

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 (for the 10 Ministries and 2 Agencies)

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2019			FY2020		
	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	5,097	19	0.4	5,144	47	0.9
1. Bilateral Grants	4,223	62	1.5	4,195	-28	-0.7
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,631	26	1.6	1,632	1	0.1
(2) Technical cooperation	2,576	35	1.4	2,551	-25	-1.0
(3) Others	16	0	0.0	12	-4	-25.0
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	875	-42	-4.6	949	75	8.5
(1) UN and other international organizations	584	-25	-4.2	644	60	10.3
(2) MDBs	290	-17	-5.5	305	14	5.0
II Loans	468	8	1.7	466	-2	-0.4
JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	468	8	1.7	466	-2	-0.4
III Total	5,566	27	0.5	5,610	45	0.8

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 sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.

(3) ODA Project Budget (for the 10 Ministries and 2 Agencies)

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2019			FY2020		
	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	7,970	25	0.3	8,604	634	8.0
1. Bilateral Grants	4,925	68	1.4	4,890	-35	-0.7
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,631	26	1.6	1,632	1	0.1
(2) Technical cooperation	3,278	41	1.3	3,246	-32	-1.0
(3) Others	16	0	0.0	12	-4	-25.0
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	3,045	-42	-1.4	3,714	69	22.0
(1) UN and other international organizations	623	-410	-39.7	1,063	440	70.7
(2) MDBs	2,422	368	17.9	2,651	229	9.5
II Loans	14,092	387	2.8	14,096	4	0.0
(1) JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	13,950	320	2.3	14,000	50	0.4
(2) Others	142	67	89.1	96	-46	-32.3
III Total (project scale)	22,062	412	1.9	22,700	638	2.9
(Reference) Amount received	-7,126	—	—	-7,013	—	—
Net	14,936	496	3.4	15,687	751	5.0

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 sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.

(4) Financing Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance

FY2019 project budget				FY2020 project budget			
Gross ¥2.2062 trillion (1.9% increase)				Gross ¥2.2700 trillion (2.9% increase)			
Expenditure by type of assistance		Budgetary sources		Budgetary sources		Expenditure by type of assistance	
Grant aid 163.1 billion (1.6% increase)		General account 556.6 billion (0.5% increase)	MOFA 437.6 billion (0.7% increase)	General account 561.0 billion (0.8% increase)	MOFA 442.9 billion (1.2% increase)	Grant aid 163.2 billion (0.1% increase)	
Technical cooperation 327.8 billion (1.3% increase)			Total for 11 ODA-related ministries and agencies 118.9 billion (0.4% decrease)		Total for 11 ODA-related ministries and agencies 118.1 billion (0.7% decrease)	Technical cooperation 324.6 billion (0.1% decrease)	
Others 1.6 billion (same as previous year)						Others 1.2 billion (25% decrease)	
UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 62.3 billion (39.7% decrease)		UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 106.3 billion (70.7% increase)					
MDBs (Contributions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions) 242.2 billion (17.9% increase)		Special account 1.0 billion (1.0% decrease)	Special account 1.0 billion (4.3% increase)	MDBs (Contributions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions) 265.1 billion (9.5% increase)			
ODA loan, etc. 1.4092 trillion (2.8% increase)	Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 216.4 billion (0.0% decrease)	Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 275.9 billion (27.5% increase)	ODA loan, etc. 1.4096 trillion (0.0% increase)				
	Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 1.4323 trillion (2.8% increase)	Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 1.4321 trillion (0.0% decrease)					
Net ¥1.4936 trillion (3.4% increase) Amounts received ¥712.6 billion				Net ¥1.5687 trillion (5.0% increase) Amounts received ¥701.3 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	FY2019	FY2020		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
National Police Agency	16	18	2	12.2
Financial Services Agency	243	166	-77	-31.6
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	817	822	5	0.6
Ministry of Justice	419	450	31	7.4
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	437,635	442,901	5,266	1.2
Ministry of Finance	76,810	77,514	704	0.9
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	16,551	16,847	297	1.8
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	6,363	6,417	54	0.8
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2,691	2,686	-5	-0.2
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	14,014	12,267	-1,747	-12.5
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	363	336	-26	-7.2
Ministry of the Environment	634	590	-43	-6.9
Total	556,556	561,015	4,459	0.8

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 sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.

(6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2019	FY2020		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
National Police Agency	16	18	2	12.2
Financial Services Agency	243	166	-77	-31.6
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	817	822	5	0.6
Ministry of Justice	419	450	31	7.4
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	440,824	484,119	43,295	9.8
Ministry of Finance	1,708,062	1,734,638	26,576	1.6
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	16,551	16,847	297	1.8
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	6,714	6,827	113	1.7
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	16,906	12,305	-4,600	-27.2
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	14,656	12,892	-1,764	-12.0
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	363	336	-26	-7.2
Ministry of the Environment	634	590	-44	-6.9
Total (project scale)	2,206,205	2,270,013	63,808	2.9
(Reference) Amount received	-712,591	-701,292	—	—
Net	1,493,614	1,568,721	75,107	5.0

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 sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.

2 Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2019

(1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (2019)

● Including disbursements for graduated countries

2019 (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		2,557.44	2,639.75	-3.1	2,788.79	2,915.28	-4.3
Debt relief		—	23.72	-100.0	—	26.19	-100.0
Grants provided through multilateral institutions		1,160.78	1,315.96	-11.8	1,265.78	1,453.31	-12.9
Grant aid excluding the above		1,396.67	1,300.07	7.4	1,523.01	1,435.77	6.1
Technical cooperation		2,726.24	2,651.71	2.8	2,972.85	2,928.49	1.5
Total grants		5,283.68	5,291.46	-0.1	5,761.64	5,843.77	-1.4
Loan aid (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement)		9,398.92	8,006.18	17.4	10,249.14	8,841.85	15.9
(Amount recovered)		7,248.12	7,237.03	0.2	7,903.78	7,992.42	-1.1
(Amount recovered excluding debt relief)		7,248.12	7,237.03	0.2	7,903.78	7,992.42	-1.1
(Net disbursement)		2,150.80	769.15	179.6	2,345.35	849.43	176.1
(Net disbursement, excluding debt relief)		2,150.80	769.15	179.6	2,345.35	849.43	176.1
Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis)		14,682.60	13,297.64	10.4	16,010.78	14,685.62	9.0
Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis)		7,434.48	6,060.61	22.7	8,106.99	6,693.20	21.1
Grants		3,123.03	2,639.86	18.3	3,405.54	2,915.40	16.8
Loan aid (Amount disbursed)		1,119.72	1,325.52	-15.5	1,221.01	1,463.88	-16.6
Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions		4,242.75	3,965.38	7.0	4,626.55	4,379.28	5.6
Total ODA (Gross disbursement)		18,925.35	17,263.02	9.6	20,637.32	19,064.90	8.2
Total ODA (Net disbursement)		11,677.23	10,025.99	16.5	12,733.54	11,072.48	15.0
Preliminary estimate of nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)		5,346.04	5,135.33	4.1	582,963.20	567,134.50	2.8
% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)		0.22	0.20		0.22	0.20	

● Excluding disbursements for graduated countries

2019 (calendar year)			Dollar basis (US\$ million)			Yen basis (¥100 million)		
Type			Current year	Previous year	Change from the previous year (%)	Current year	Previous year	Change from the previous year (%)
	Grant aid		2,555.99	2,630.91	-2.8	2,787.20	2,905.52	-4.1
	Debt relief		—	23.72	-100.0	—	26.19	-100.0
	Grants provided through multilateral institutions		1,160.34	1,314.79	-11.7	1,265.30	1,452.02	-12.9
	Grant aid excluding the above		1,395.65	1,292.40	8.0	1,521.90	1,427.30	6.6
	Technical cooperation		2,722.11	2,647.54	2.8	2,968.35	2,923.89	1.5
	Total grants		5,278.10	5,278.45	0.0	5,755.55	5,829.40	-1.3
	Loan aid (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement)		9,398.92	8,006.18	17.4	10,249.14	8,841.85	15.9
	(Amount recovered)		7,199.60	7,185.74	0.2	7,850.87	7,935.78	-1.1
	(Amount recovered excluding debt relief)		7,199.60	7,185.74	0.2	7,850.87	7,935.78	-1.1
	(Net disbursement)		2,199.32	820.44	168.1	2,398.27	906.07	164.7
	(Net disbursement, excluding debt relief)		2,199.32	820.44	168.1	2,398.27	906.07	164.7
	(Grant equivalent)		6,515.53	5,477.69	18.9	7,104.92	6,049.44	17.4
	Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis)		14,677.02	13,284.63	10.5	16,004.69	14,671.26	9.1
	Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis)		7,477.42	6,098.89	22.6	8,153.82	6,735.48	21.1
	Total bilateral ODA (Grant equivalent basis)		11,793.63	10,756.13	9.6	12,860.47	11,878.84	8.3
	Grants		3,123.03	2,639.86	18.3	3,405.54	2,915.40	16.8
	Loan aid (Amount disbursed)		1,119.72	1,325.52	-15.5	1,221.01	1,463.88	-16.6
	Loan aid (Grant equivalent)		671.00	767.53	-12.6	731.70	847.64	-13.7
	Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross and net disbursement basis)		4,242.75	3,965.38	7.0	4,626.55	4,379.28	5.6
	Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent basis)		3,794.03	3,407.38	11.3	4,137.24	3,763.04	9.9
	Total ODA (Gross disbursement)		18,919.77	17,250.01	9.7	20,631.23	19,050.53	8.3
	Total ODA (Net disbursement)		11,720.17	10,064.27	16.5	12,780.37	11,114.75	15.0
	Total ODA (Grant equivalent)		15,587.66	14,163.52	10.1	16,997.71	15,641.88	8.7
	Preliminary estimate of nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)		5,346.04	5,135.33	4.1	582,963.20	567,134.50	2.8
	% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)		0.22	0.20		0.22	0.20	
	% of GNI (Grant equivalent basis)		0.29	0.28		0.29	0.28	

Notes:

- The calculation of the grant equivalent has started since 2018. It is calculated based on the criteria of the DAC income group, and is therefore not applicable to graduated countries.
- "Grant aid" includes debt relief and grants provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- "Debt relief" refers to the cancellation of commercial debts, and does not include debt rescheduling.
- Conversion rate: 2019 US\$1 = ¥109.0459, 2018 US\$1 = ¥110.4378 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Graduated countries" are countries that have been removed from the DAC List of ODA Recipients (see Chart I-10, page 25).
- Among the graduated countries and regions that are non-DAC, Japan has made disbursements to the following 16 countries and regions: Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, [French Polynesia], Kuwait, [New Caledonia], Oman, Romania, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay (square brackets [] denote region names).

(2) Breakdown of Bilateral ODA by Country and Type (2019)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Country or region	Type	Japan's ODA (2019)						Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)	
		Grants				Loan aid				
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			Net disbursement (A) - (B)
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
Asia		738.15	160.26	653.65	1,391.81	7,580.34	5,989.93	1,590.40	2,982.21	8,972.14
East Asia		425.02	64.25	418.52	843.54	2,957.58	4,352.63	-1,395.05	-551.50	3,801.12
Northeast Asia		37.31		24.82	62.13	56.41	896.06	-839.65	-777.52	118.54
China		0.21		3.39	3.60		866.98	-866.98	-863.38	3.60
Mongolia		37.10		21.37	58.48	56.41	29.08	27.32	85.80	114.88
Southeast Asia		386.16	63.06	388.57	774.73	2,901.17	3,456.56	-555.39	219.34	3,675.90
*Brunei				0.01	0.01				0.01	0.01
Cambodia		60.29	0.75	31.49	91.79	84.64	21.54	63.11	154.89	176.43
Indonesia		26.75	1.80	59.17	85.92	578.42	1,547.35	-968.94	-883.02	664.34
Laos		44.48	7.79	21.80	66.28	10.32	5.49	4.83	71.11	76.60
Malaysia		0.04		9.45	9.49	32.19	113.93	-81.74	-72.24	41.68
Myanmar		179.85	44.52	80.51	260.36	496.57		496.57	756.93	756.93
Philippines		26.27	4.82	93.83	120.10	880.29	501.93	378.37	498.47	1,000.40
*Singapore		0.44	0.44	0.02	0.47				0.47	0.47
Thailand		1.78	0.14	27.73	29.51	229.87	764.39	-534.51	-505.01	259.38
Viet Nam		16.44	0.73	56.76	73.20	577.38	501.94	75.43	148.63	650.57
(ASEAN)* ¹		356.33	60.98	380.78	737.11	2,889.69	3,456.56	-566.88	170.23	3,626.80
Timor-Leste		29.83	2.08	7.79	37.62	11.49		11.49	49.10	49.10
Multiple countries in East Asia* ²		1.55	1.18	5.13	6.68				6.68	6.68
Southwest Asia		217.67	64.08	202.11	419.78	4,076.16	1,494.14	2,582.02	3,001.80	4,495.94
Bangladesh		55.15	37.70	37.98	93.13	1,162.46	116.41	1,046.06	1,139.18	1,255.59
Bhutan		17.99		9.50	27.49	2.73	0.97	1.76	29.25	30.22
India		7.48		106.15	113.63	2,586.31	905.17	1,681.14	1,794.77	2,699.94
Maldives		12.53		2.15	14.68		1.10	-1.10	13.58	14.68
Nepal		48.62		17.59	66.21	71.02	10.71	60.31	126.52	137.23
Pakistan		57.75	21.11	16.71	74.46	57.65	266.60	-208.95	-134.49	132.11
Sri Lanka		18.16	5.27	11.71	29.86	195.99	193.17	2.81	32.68	225.85
Multiple countries in Southwest Asia* ³				0.32	0.32				0.32	0.32
Central Asia and the Caucasus		63.29	1.22	26.85	90.14	426.00	130.66	295.33	385.47	516.13
Armenia		15.47	1.07	1.09	16.56		10.29	-10.29	6.27	16.56
Azerbaijan		1.63		0.36	1.99	29.54	33.19	-3.65	-1.66	31.53
Georgia		0.98	0.15	0.41	1.39	0.54	5.29	-4.75	-3.36	1.93
Kazakhstan		0.35		1.05	1.40		41.78	-41.78	-40.38	1.40
Kyrgyz Republic		16.88		10.47	27.35	0.56	9.58	-9.02	18.33	27.91
Tajikistan		16.74		5.60	22.35				22.35	22.35
Turkmenistan				1.52	1.52		2.00	-2.00	-0.48	1.52
Uzbekistan		11.24		6.09	17.33	395.36	28.53	366.83	384.16	412.69
Multiple countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus				0.25	0.25				0.25	0.25
Multiple countries in Asia* ⁴		32.17	30.71	6.18	38.35	120.60	12.50	108.10	146.44	158.94

(Unit: US\$ million)

Country or region	Type	Japan's ODA (2019)							Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grants				Loan aid				
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	Net disbursement (A) - (B)		
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
Middle East and North Africa		445.46	384.64	89.33	534.79	976.49	730.40	246.08	780.88	1,511.28
Afghanistan		116.46	110.80	14.98	131.44				131.44	131.44
Algeria		0.23	0.18	0.23	0.46		0.74	-0.74	-0.28	0.46
*Bahrain				0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
Egypt		13.99	1.16	24.77	38.76	319.12	196.75	122.37	161.13	357.89
Iran		6.37	5.81	11.14	17.51		4.81	-4.81	12.70	17.51
Iraq		51.10	50.60	7.11	58.20	246.20	91.97	154.22	212.43	304.40
Jordan		30.43	15.99	6.54	36.97	133.75	85.11	48.64	85.60	170.72
*Kuwait				0.01	0.01				0.01	0.01
Lebanon		11.09	9.59	0.39	11.48		6.39	-6.39	5.09	11.48
Libya		3.21	3.21	0.02	3.24				3.24	3.24
Morocco		1.38	0.78	4.80	6.18	26.53	91.94	-65.40	-59.22	32.71
*Oman				0.04	0.04				0.04	0.04
[Palestine]		44.05	35.69	7.95	52.00				52.00	52.00
*Saudi Arabia				0.52	0.52				0.52	0.52
Syria		65.33	65.33	3.74	69.07				69.07	69.07
Tunisia		0.71	0.36	4.89	5.60	173.97	77.38	96.59	102.19	179.57
Turkey		9.56	8.95	1.62	11.19	76.23	171.91	-95.68	-84.49	87.42
*United Arab Emirates				0.02	0.02				0.02	0.02
Yemen		59.97	59.97	0.45	60.42				60.42	60.42
Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa*5		31.57	16.21	0.10	31.67	0.69	3.40	-2.71	28.95	32.35
Sub-Saharan Africa		675.71	220.22	310.50	986.22	567.24	187.93	379.31	1,365.53	1,553.46
Angola		5.90	0.80	2.81	8.71				8.71	8.71
Benin		5.11	0.50	5.27	10.39				10.39	10.39
Botswana		0.72	0.50	3.32	4.04	5.37	6.65	-1.28	2.76	9.41
Burkina Faso		20.78	5.70	6.01	26.78				26.78	26.78
Burundi		10.83	3.83	0.77	11.60				11.60	11.60
Cabo Verde		6.25		0.10	6.35	3.42	1.25	2.17	8.53	9.77
Cameroon		8.02	7.65	8.99	17.01	18.11	1.24	16.87	33.88	35.12
Central Africa		5.71	5.71	0.10	5.81				5.81	5.81
Chad		5.55	5.55	0.21	5.76				5.76	5.76
Comoros		3.36		0.21	3.57				3.57	3.57
Côte d'Ivoire		25.55	2.21	13.08	38.63	14.22		14.22	52.85	52.85
Democratic Republic of the Congo		20.64	7.65	6.66	27.29				27.29	27.29
Djibouti		37.81	1.77	6.53	44.33				44.33	44.33
Equatorial Guinea				0.11	0.11				0.11	0.11
Eritrea		6.25	3.49	0.94	7.18				7.18	7.18
Eswatini		6.10	0.50	0.50	6.61		1.85	-1.85	4.76	6.61
Ethiopia		31.24	13.78	19.05	50.30	14.15		14.15	64.45	64.45
Gabon		1.81	1.34	3.77	5.58		0.49	-0.49	5.08	5.58
Gambia		3.28	1.00	0.96	4.24				4.24	4.24
Ghana		30.24	0.80	17.85	48.09				48.09	48.09
Guinea		14.30	3.00	2.04	16.34				16.34	16.34

(Unit: US\$ million)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Country or region	Type	Japan's ODA (2019)						Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)	
		Grants				Loan aid				
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			Net disbursement (A) - (B)
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
Guinea-Bissau		4.95	4.95	0.19	5.14				5.14	5.14
Kenya		19.02	8.07	28.71	47.73	242.35	76.17	166.17	213.90	290.08
Lesotho		4.01	3.71	0.58	4.59				4.59	4.59
Liberia		23.76	1.50	1.83	25.59				25.59	25.59
Madagascar		10.53	2.60	8.62	19.16	13.39		13.39	32.55	32.55
Malawi		40.21	0.97	10.63	50.84				50.84	50.84
Mali		7.09	4.00	1.50	8.59				8.59	8.59
Mauritania		8.47	3.86	0.65	9.12				9.12	9.12
Mauritius		3.84		0.20	4.04	0.07	3.04	-2.97	1.07	4.10
Mozambique		19.51	3.86	18.47	37.98	54.74	0.94	53.80	91.79	92.72
Namibia		1.73	1.00	2.05	3.78		8.61	-8.61	-4.82	3.78
Niger		11.51	4.08	1.88	13.39				13.39	13.39
Nigeria		6.97	5.52	8.20	15.17				15.17	15.17
Republic of Congo		2.24	2.15	0.90	3.14				3.14	3.14
Rwanda		13.52	2.27	9.91	23.43	55.26		55.26	78.69	78.69
Sao Tome and Principe		1.93		0.17	2.10				2.10	2.10
Senegal		11.18		16.13	27.31	1.47	0.28	1.19	28.50	28.78
*Seychelles		0.01		0.08	0.09				0.09	0.09
Sierra Leone		11.69	9.62	6.94	18.63				18.63	18.63
Somalia		13.19	13.10	1.18	14.38				14.38	14.38
South Africa		2.69	1.85	8.20	10.89		0.86	-0.86	10.03	10.89
South Sudan		35.97	20.08	6.77	42.74				42.74	42.74
Sudan		20.14	10.10	7.99	28.13				28.13	28.13
Tanzania		15.07	0.86	20.03	35.11	23.98	4.17	19.82	54.92	59.09
Togo		17.52	0.30	0.80	18.31				18.31	18.31
Uganda		31.48	9.88	13.68	45.15	20.73	0.75	19.99	65.14	65.89
Zambia		24.50	1.80	13.68	38.18	8.56	1.66	6.90	45.08	46.74
Zimbabwe		21.97	4.97	1.72	23.69				23.69	23.69
Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa*6		41.54	33.32	19.55	61.09	91.42	79.98	11.44	72.53	152.51
Latin America and the Caribbean		120.50	15.03	118.03	238.53	174.30	252.29	-77.99	160.54	412.83
Antigua and Barbuda		1.91		0.02	1.93				1.93	1.93
Argentina		0.31		4.26	4.56		16.19	-16.19	-11.62	4.56
*Barbados				0.04	0.04				0.04	0.04
Belize		0.40		0.78	1.18				1.18	1.18
Bolivia		13.68		7.85	21.53	0.76		0.76	22.29	22.29
Brazil		5.04	3.82	12.57	17.61	44.18	90.66	-46.48	-28.88	61.78
*Chile		0.46		2.31	2.76		0.93	-0.93	1.84	2.76
Colombia		6.56	4.62	4.87	11.43				11.43	11.43
Costa Rica		0.52		3.24	3.76	31.40	16.47	14.93	18.69	35.16
Cuba		10.72	0.75	3.50	14.22				14.22	14.22
Dominica		0.06		0.48	0.54				0.54	0.54
Dominican Republic		1.11		4.63	5.75		3.95	-3.95	1.80	5.75
Ecuador		7.85	3.21	10.95	18.80		4.54	-4.54	14.26	18.80
El Salvador		1.74		6.99	8.73	4.27	16.62	-12.35	-3.62	13.00

(Unit: US\$ million)

Country or region	Type	Japan's ODA (2019)						Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)	
		Grants			Loan aid					
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			Net disbursement (A) - (B)
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
Grenada		0.07		0.05	0.12				0.12	0.12
Guatemala		1.39	0.47	4.85	6.24	17.08	13.02	4.06	10.31	23.33
Guyana		2.70		0.13	2.83				2.83	2.83
Haiti		21.99	2.08	0.82	22.81				22.81	22.81
Honduras		19.50		4.21	23.71	0.53		0.53	24.24	24.24
Jamaica		0.48		2.11	2.59	0.47	4.65	-4.18	-1.59	3.06
Mexico		0.07	0.07	8.65	8.72				8.72	8.72
Nicaragua		5.72		5.93	11.65	4.67		4.67	16.33	16.33
Panama		0.80		2.53	3.33		9.60	-9.60	-6.27	3.33
Paraguay		6.03		6.77	12.80	43.20	29.29	13.91	26.71	56.00
Peru		1.31		8.20	9.52	22.98	45.99	-23.01	-13.49	32.50
*Saint Christopher and Nevis		0.16		0.02	0.19				0.19	0.19
Saint Lucia		1.83		1.70	3.53				3.53	3.53
Saint Vincent		3.70		0.33	4.03				4.03	4.03
Suriname		3.75		0.00	3.76				3.76	3.76
*Trinidad and Tobago				0.03	0.03				0.03	0.03
*Uruguay		0.39		0.59	0.98				0.98	0.98
Venezuela		0.25		0.23	0.49				0.49	0.49
Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean				8.38	8.38	4.76	0.40	4.36	12.74	13.14
Oceania		139.62	6.35	39.97	179.59	41.45	14.89	26.56	206.16	221.04
Cook Islands		0.39		0.07	0.46				0.46	0.46
Federated States of Micronesia		9.29		2.12	11.41				11.41	11.41
Fiji		4.42	0.10	7.19	11.61		1.11	-1.11	10.49	11.61
*[French Polynesia]				0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
Kiribati		10.81		0.76	11.56				11.56	11.56
Marshall Islands		9.38		1.03	10.41				10.41	10.41
Nauru		8.33		0.06	8.39				8.39	8.39
*[New Caledonia]				0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
Niue		0.16		0.10	0.26				0.26	0.26
Palau		11.84		2.34	14.18	4.22		4.22	18.40	18.40
Papua New Guinea		20.92		7.91	28.82	36.12	11.95	24.17	52.99	64.94
Samoa		34.12		3.15	37.26		1.83	-1.83	35.44	37.26
Solomon Islands		1.84		6.31	8.15				8.15	8.15
[Tokelau]				0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
Tonga		15.23		1.55	16.78				16.78	16.78
Tuvalu		3.38		0.12	3.50				3.50	3.50
Vanuatu		2.66		3.32	5.98	1.12		1.12	7.10	7.10
Multiple countries in Oceania		6.87	6.25	3.95	10.81				10.81	10.81

(Unit: US\$ million)

(Unit: 100 million)

Country or region	Type	Japan's ODA (2019)						Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)	
		Grants				Loan aid				
		Grant aid		Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			Net disbursement (A) - (B)
			Grants provided through multilateral institutions							
Europe		13.12	3.43	13.97	27.09	49.93	72.68	-22.75	4.34	77.02
Albania		0.63		3.41	4.04	1.29	6.46	-5.17	-1.13	5.33
Belarus		0.34		0.04	0.39				0.39	0.39
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1.04		0.79	1.83	22.18	4.06	18.12	19.96	24.02
*Bulgaria							14.61	-14.61	-14.61	
Kosovo		2.74	0.09	1.42	4.16				4.16	4.16
Moldova		0.76		0.20	0.96				0.96	0.96
Montenegro		0.18		0.05	0.24				0.24	0.24
North Macedonia		0.84		2.65	3.50		4.80	-4.80	-1.30	3.50
*Romania				0.00	0.00		27.57	-27.57	-27.57	0.00
Serbia		0.41		2.58	2.99	25.32	1.22	24.10	27.09	28.31
Ukraine		5.65	2.82	2.32	7.98	1.14	8.54	-7.40	0.58	9.12
Multiple countries in Europe*7		0.51	0.51	0.12	0.63				0.63	0.63
Assistance encompassing multiple regions		424.88	370.86	1,500.79	1,925.66	9.17		9.17	1,934.83	1,934.83
Bilateral ODA total		2,557.44	1,160.78	2,726.24	5,283.68	9,398.92	7,248.12	2,150.80	7,434.48	14,682.60

Notes:

- Asterisks (*) denote graduated countries and regions; square brackets [] denote region names.
- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.
- Figures for Grant aid include those provided through multilateral institutions that can be classified by country.
- Aid to "Multiple countries" refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in several countries within a region.
- Negative numbers show that the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
- "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" includes items that cannot be regionally classified, such as dispatchment of survey teams in multiple regions.
- Contributions to the DAC member countries are not respectively shown in the table, but are included in the total amounts.

*1 Each number in the row of (ASEAN) is the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, 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 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 Turkey, and for multiple countries that cut across North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

*6 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.

*7 Figures under "Multiple countries in Europe" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Turkey.

(3) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector (2019)

2019 (calendar year)

(Commitments basis, Unit: US\$ million)

Sector	Type	Grant Aid	Technical Cooperation	Total Grants	Loan Aid	Bilateral ODA	
							(Share, %)
I. Social infrastructure & services		1,036.44	675.48	1,711.91	313.34	2,025.25	13.78
1. Education		218.73	349.35	568.08	—	568.08	3.86
2. Health		263.67	79.50	343.18	—	343.18	2.33
3. Population policies and reproductive health		51.98	15.77	67.75	—	67.75	0.46
4. Water and sanitation (water and sewerage)		218.25	87.21	305.45	284.10	589.55	4.01
5. Government and civil society		220.89	56.41	277.31	29.24	306.54	2.09
6. Other social infrastructure & services		62.91	87.24	150.16	—	150.16	1.02
II. Economic infrastructure & services		392.30	341.88	734.18	6,924.00	7,658.18	52.10
1. Transport and storage		306.35	244.92	551.27	3,831.92	4,383.19	29.82
2. Communications		15.40	14.52	29.91	—	29.91	0.20
3. Energy		64.57	58.02	122.59	3,082.91	3,205.50	21.81
4. Banking and financial services		3.62	14.00	17.62	9.17	26.79	0.18
5. Business support		2.37	10.42	12.79	—	12.79	0.09
III. Production sectors		148.24	319.09	467.33	1,558.59	2,025.92	13.78
1. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries		132.30	173.68	305.98	338.14	644.12	4.38
1) Agriculture		65.88	125.24	191.12	244.14	435.26	2.96
2) Forestry		2.66	29.94	32.59	—	32.59	0.22
3) Fisheries		63.77	18.50	82.27	94.00	176.27	1.20
2. Manufacturing, mining, and construction		6.49	100.10	106.58	1,220.45	1,327.03	9.03
1) Manufacturing		2.82	95.11	97.93	211.70	309.63	2.11
2) Mining		3.67	4.93	8.60	1,008.75	1,017.35	6.92
3) Construction		—	0.06	0.06	—	0.06	0.00
3. Trade and tourism		9.45	45.31	54.76	—	54.76	0.37
1) Trade		8.89	38.13	47.02	—	47.02	0.32
2) Tourism		0.56	7.18	7.74	—	7.74	0.05
IV. Multi-sector aid		472.06	619.43	1,091.49	347.61	1,439.09	9.79
1. General environmental protection (environmental policy, biodiversity, etc.)		10.20	28.57	38.77	—	38.77	0.26
2. Other multi-sector (urban/rural development, etc.)		461.86	590.85	1,052.71	347.61	1,400.32	9.53
V. Commodity aid and general program assistance		95.20	—	95.20	229.26	324.46	2.21
1. General budget support		1.22	—	1.22	229.26	230.48	1.57
2. Food aid		91.78	—	91.78	—	91.78	0.62
3. Import support		2.20	—	2.20	—	2.20	0.01
VI. Debt relief*1		—	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Humanitarian aid (emergency food assistance, reconstruction, disaster risk reduction, etc.)		441.00	3.24	444.24	—	444.24	3.02
VIII. Administrative costs and others		17.46	765.71	783.18	—	783.18	5.33
Total		2,602.71	2,724.82	5,327.53	9,372.79	14,700.32	100.00
BHN (I.+III.1+V.2+VII.)		1,701.53	852.40	2,553.92	651.47	3,205.40	21.80

Notes:

- The sum of adding up each figure may not be exactly the same as the total figure due to rounding.

- The above table includes aid for graduated countries.

- 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 DAC_CRS Statistics categories.

*1 "VI. Debt relief" does not mean granting new funds but rather modifying repayments and other conditions of loans already provided by the government.

Developments Surrounding Japan's Development Cooperation (January - December 2020)

Year/ Month	Major Developments in Japan's Development Cooperation	Year/ Month	Important Conferences and Other Events in Japan and Abroad Related to Japan's Development Cooperation
2020.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Viet Nam for the Ha Long City Drainage and Wastewater Treatment Project (loan amount of up to ¥11.891 billion) (in Hanoi) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Indonesia for the Infrastructure Reconstruction Sector Loan in Central Sulawesi (loan amount of up to ¥27.97 billion) (in Jakarta) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to the Philippines for the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (II) (loan amount of up to ¥4.409 billion) (in Manila) ● Emergency assistance to the bushfires in Australia ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Myanmar for four projects, the Yangon Sewerage System Development Project, Yangon Urban Development Project, Urban Area Power Distribution Improvement Project, and the Regional Infrastructure Improvement Project (total loan amount of up to ¥120.915 billion) (in Naypyitaw) ● Emergency assistance to the Philippines in response to the eruption of Mt. Taal ● Emergency assistance to China in response to the novel coronavirus disease outbreak 	2020.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3rd Joint Committee Meeting of Japan-Indonesia Maritime Forum (in Jakarta)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Indonesia for the Disaster Resilience Enhancement And Management Program Loan (loan amount of up to ¥31.8 billion), and Grant Aid for two projects, the Project for the Development of Outer Islands and the Enhancement of Fishery Surveillance Capacity and the Programme for the Development of Fisheries Sector in Outer Islands (Phase 2) (total grant amount of up to ¥5.2 billion) (in Jakarta) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Palestine for the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment (grant amount of up to ¥1.955 billion) (in Ramallah) 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan (in Islamabad)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribution of ¥1.045 billion to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for environmental conservation, including the reduction of marine plastic litter ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Nigeria for the Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Network Laboratories of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (grant amount of up to ¥2.005 billion) (in Abuja) ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the damage caused by locusts in Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Northwest Syria ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region ● Emergency Grant Aid to displaced people in neighboring countries of Venezuela ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Cambodia for two projects, the National Road No.5 Improvement Project (Thlea Ma'am - Battambang and Sri Sophorn - Poipet Sections) (II) and the National Road No.5 Improvement Project (Prek Kkdam - Thlea Ma'am Section) (III) (total loan amount of up to ¥29.417 billion), and Grant Aid for two projects, the Project for the Expansion of Water Supply System in Ta Khmau and the Project for Integrated Mine Clearance and Landmine Victim Assistance (total grant amount of up to ¥4.421 billion) (in Phnom Penh) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Indonesia for two projects, the Jakarta Sewerage Development Project (Zone 1) and Urban Flood Control System Improvement in Selected Cities (Phase 2) (total loan amount of up to ¥64.36 billion) (in Jakarta) 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● G7 Summit Video Teleconference Meeting ● G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Video Teleconference) ● G20 Summit Video Teleconference Meeting ● Extraordinary G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Video Teleconference Meeting

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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to India for nine projects, the Ahmedabad Metro Project (II), Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) (IV), Madhya Pradesh Rural Water Supply Project, Mumbai Metro Line 3 Project (III), Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project (II), North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 4), Project for Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya, Project for Ecosystem Restoration in Gujarat, and the Project for Pollution Abatement of Nag River in Nagpur (total loan amount of up to ¥374.44 billion) (in New Delhi) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Thailand for the Industrial Human Resources Development Project (loan amount of up to ¥9.434 billion) (in Bangkok) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Myanmar for two projects, the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project (Phase I) (III) and the Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area (Phase 3) (total loan amount of up to ¥47.943 billion) (in Naypyitaw) 	3	
4		4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 Global Pandemic Joint Statement by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ● 2nd Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (Video Teleconference) ● G7 Summit Video Teleconference Meeting
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Nepal for the Project for the Development of Digital Elevation Model and Orthophoto (grant amount of up to ¥1.17 billion) (in Kathmandu) 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond convened by the United Nations (Video Teleconference) ● 2nd Extraordinary G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Video Teleconference Meeting ● International Donor's Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants (Video Teleconference)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Cambodia for the Project for Improvement of Referral Hospitals in Siem Reap Province (grant amount of up to ¥2.153 billion) (in Phnom Penh) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to the Philippines for two projects, the Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project and the Davao City Bypass Construction Project (II) (total loan amount of up to ¥154.055 billion) (in Manila) ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the damage caused by desert locusts in South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Papua New Guinea for the Economic and Social Development Programme (support for the strengthening of maritime security capacities through the provision of maritime security-related equipment) (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Port Moresby) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Moldova for the Project for Modernization of Agricultural Machineries and Equipment (loan amount of up to ¥2.059 billion) (in Chisinau) 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's third donor pledging conference) (Video Teleconference) ● Sudan Partnership Conference (Video Teleconference)

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7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Myanmar for the Project for the Rehabilitation of Vessel Traffic Navigation Aids in Yangon River (grant amount of up to ¥1.399 billion) (in Naypyitaw) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Zambia for the Project for Upgrading Health Centres to District Hospitals in Copperbelt Province (grant amount of up to ¥2.654 billion) (in Lusaka) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to five countries in Central Asia and Afghanistan for the Project for Improvement of Locust Management (Phase 2) (through FAO) (grant amount of up to ¥798 million) (in Dushanbe) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Gambia for the Project for Rural Water Supply (Phase IV) (grant amount of up to ¥1.591 billion) (in Dakar) 	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Statement by Foreign Minister Motegi at the UN High-Level Political Forum 2020 (Video Teleconference) ● 10th Meeting of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting (Video Teleconference)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Djibouti for the Project for the Construction of Primary and Secondary School in Nassib in Balbala Quarter (grant amount of up to ¥2.092 billion) (in Djibouti) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Paraguay for the Project for Water and Sanitation for the Metropolitan Area of Ciudad del Este (loan amount of up to ¥9.13 billion) (in Asunción) ● Emergency assistance to Lebanon in response to the explosion in Beirut ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger ● Dispatch of the first and second Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams in response to the oil spill off the coast of Mauritius ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Bangladesh for seven projects, the Jamuna Railway Bridge Construction Project (II), Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line 5 Northern Route) (I), Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (IV), Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (II), Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway Improvement Project (Engineering Services), Food Value Chain Improvement Project, and the Urban Development and City Governance Project (total loan amount of up to ¥338.247 billion) (in Dhaka) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Laos for the Project for Improving Teacher Training Colleges (grant amount of up to ¥1.912 billion) (in Vientiane) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Kenya for the Health Sector Policy Loan for Attainment of the Universal Health Coverage (Phase 2) (loan amount of up to ¥8 billion) (in Nairobi) 	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foreign Ministers' Special Video Conference of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dispatch of the third Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team in response to the oil spill off the coast of Mauritius ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to damages caused by the massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Malawi for the Project for the Improvement of Main Roads in the City of Lilongwe (grant amount of up to ¥3.099 billion) (in Lilongwe) ● Emergency assistance to Sudan in response to the flood disaster ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to the Philippines for the Post Disaster Stand-by Loan (Phase 2) (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) (in Manila) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Marshall Islands for the Project for Improvement of Water Reservoir at Majuro Atoll (grant amount of up to ¥1.757 billion) (in Majuro) 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Virtual Meeting ● 11th Joint Committee Meeting of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (Video Teleconference) ● G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting (Video Teleconference) ● High-Level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond (Video Teleconference) ● Meeting of the Ministers of Finance on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond (Video Teleconference) ● General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (pre-recorded)

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9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Kenya for the Project for the Improvement of Power Distribution System in and around Nakuru City and around Mombasa City (grant amount of up to ¥1.887 billion) (in Nairobi) ● Emergency assistance to Niger in response to flood disaster 		
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Message of congratulations from Prime Minister Suga and statement by Foreign Minister Motegi on the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Programme (WFP) ● Signing of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey (in Ankara) ● Emergency assistance to Viet Nam in response to the typhoon disaster ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Palestine for the Project for the Construction of Schools for the Improvement of Quality and Environment of Education (grant amount of up to ¥2.464 billion) (in Ramallah) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Palestine for the Programme for the Improvement of Refugee Camps (grant amount of up to ¥1 billion) (in Ramallah) ● Emergency assistance to Cambodia in response to the flood disaster ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Bangladesh for the Project for Support for Displaced Persons from Myanmar and Host Community in Cox's Bazar District (through WFP) (grant amount of ¥528 million) (in Dhaka) 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6th High-Level Meeting of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre (Video Teleconference) ● 10th Meeting of the Japan-Philippines High Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation (Video Teleconference) ● OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (Video Teleconference)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loans to Myanmar for two projects, the East-West Economic Corridor Highway Development Project (New Bago-Kyaikto Highway Section) and the Development of Finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (Phase 3) (total loan amount of up to ¥42.779 billion) ● Emergency assistance to Nicaragua in response to the hurricane disaster ● Emergency assistance to Honduras in response to the hurricane disaster ● Emergency assistance to Guatemala in response to the hurricane disaster ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Afghanistan for the Project for the Construction of the Air Navigation Service Facility and the Control Tower at Hamid Karzai International Airport (grant amount of up to ¥1.995 billion) (in Kabul) ● Emergency assistance to Colombia in response to the hurricane disaster 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 52nd OECD DAC High Level Meeting (Video Teleconference) ● The 12th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting (Video Teleconference) ● Courtesy call to Prime Minister Suga from the WFP Japan Relations Office, the Japan Association for the WFP, and members of the WFP Parliamentary League ● G20 Riyadh Summit (Video Teleconference) ● 11th Meeting of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting (Video Teleconference)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Tunisia for the Project for the Construction of Fishery Surveillance Vessels (grant amount of up to ¥1.209 billion) (in Tunis) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mozambique for the Project for the Construction of Rural Water Supply Facility in Niassa Province (grant amount of up to ¥2.076 billion) (in Maputo) ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the influx of refugees from Ethiopia into Sudan ● Emergency Grant Aid in response to the hurricane disaster in three countries in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) ● Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Sudan for the Project for Improvement of Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System (grant amount of up to ¥1.004 billion) (in Khartoum) 	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9th Meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and the 4th Japan SDGs Award Ceremony

Japan's Support in Response to COVID-19 (Grant Aid and Emergency Support ODA Loans: January-December 2020)

Year/ Month	Major Development
2020.3	●Approval of request for disbursement for the implementation of Stand-by Loan for Natural Disaster Recovery in El Salvador (loan amount of ¥5 billion)
4	●Provision of Emergency Grant Aid to deliver the anti-viral medicine Avigan to countries with COVID-19 patients
6	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Myanmar for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥2 billion) (in Naypyidaw)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Laos for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1.5 billion) (in Vientiane)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Cambodia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥2 billion) (in Phnom Penh)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Philippines for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥2 billion) (in Manila)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Maldives for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥600 million) (in Malé)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Tunisia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Tunis)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Samoa for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥150 million) (in Apia)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Marshall Islands for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥331 million) (in Majuro)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Micronesia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥382 million) (in Palikir)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Honduras for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Tegucigalpa)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Botswana for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Gaborone)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Palau for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Koror)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Timor-Leste for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Dili)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mongolia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Ulaanbaatar)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Jamaica for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥200 million) (in Kingston)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Solomon for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Honiara)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Cook for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Wellington)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Uzbekistan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Tashkent)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Niue for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Wellington)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Tuvalu for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Suva)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Tajikistan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥600 million) (in Dushanbe)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Haiti for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Port-au-Prince)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Vanuatu for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Port Vila)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Nauru for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Suva)

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6	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Panama for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥600 million) (in Panama City)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Bhutan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in New Delhi)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Papua New Guinea for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥900 million) (in Port Moresby)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Nepal for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Kathmandu)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Dominican Republic for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Santo Domingo)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Fiji for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Suva)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Armenia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Yerevan)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to the Philippines for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) (in Manila)
7	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Ghana for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Accra)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Cameroon for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Yaoundé)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Bolivia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in La Paz)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Tonga for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥150 million) (in Nuku'alofa)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Côte d'Ivoire for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Abidjan)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Sri Lanka for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥800 million) (in Colombo)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Benin for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Cotonou)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Guinea for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Conakry)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Sierra Leone for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Accra)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Djibouti for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Djibouti City)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Morocco for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Rabat)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Kyrgyz Republic for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Bishkek)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Bangladesh for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Dhaka)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mauritania for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Nouakchott)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Gabon for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Libreville)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Indonesia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥2 billion) and ODA loan for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program Loan (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) (in Jakarta)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Georgia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Tbilisi)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Malawi for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Lilongwe)
	●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Peru for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥900 million) (in Lima)

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7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Kiribati for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥250 million) (in Suva) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Jordan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Amman) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to El Salvador for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in San Salvador) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Ethiopia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1.5 billion) (in Addis Ababa) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Senegal for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Dakar) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Eswatini for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Pretoria) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Seychelles for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Victoria) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Rwanda for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of 300 million) (in Kigali) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Colombia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Bogotá)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mozambique for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Maputo) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Bangladesh for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥35 billion) (in Dhaka) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Guatemala for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Guatemala City) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Serbia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Belgrade) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Paraguay for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Asunción) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mauritius for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Port Louis) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Madagascar for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Antananarivo) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Kinshasa) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Liberia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Accra) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Ecuador for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥700 million) (in Quito) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Lesotho for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Pretoria) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Zambia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥200 million) (in Lusaka) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Niger for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Abidjan) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to India for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) and ODA loan for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) (in New Delhi) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Myanmar for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Investment Promotion and Financial Sector Development Program Loan) (loan amount of up to ¥30 billion) (in Naypyidaw)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to the Philippines for the Post Disaster Stand-by Loan (Phase 2) (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) (in Manila) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Namibia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Windhoek) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Kenya for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Nairobi) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Viet Nam for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥2 billion) (in Hanoi)

Year/ Month	Major Development
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Comoros for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Antananarivo) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Montenegro for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Belgrade) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Chile for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Santiago) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Angola for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Luanda) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Cuba for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Havana) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Kosovo for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Pristina) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Uganda for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Kampala) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to the Maldives for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥5 billion) (in Malé) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Sao Tome and Principe for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥150 million) (in Libreville) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Nigeria for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Abuja) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to North Macedonia for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Skopje) ●Decision to provide Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Province of Cabo Delgado and its surrounding areas in Mozambique (grant amount of \$4.2 million (approx. ¥460 million))
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Prior notification to the Government of Indonesia to provide ODA loan for the Disaster Resilience Enhancement and Management Program Loan (II) (loan amount of up to ¥50 billion) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Mongolia for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥25 billion) (in Ulaanbaatar) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Burkina Faso for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥300 million) (in Ouagadougou) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Egypt for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Cairo) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Mexico for the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment (through UNOPS) (loan amount of up to ¥598 million) (in Mexico City) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Zimbabwe for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥400 million) (in Harare) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Brazil for the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment (through UNOPS) (loan amount of up to ¥503 million) (in Brasilia) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Myanmar for the Project for the Development of Finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (Phase 3) (loan amount of up to ¥15 billion) (in Naypyidaw) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Azerbaijan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (grant amount of ¥200 million) (in Baku)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of ODA loan to Cambodia for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (loan amount of up to ¥25 billion) (in Phnom Penh) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to the Republic of the Congo for the Economic and Social Development Programme (Strengthening the Healthcare and Medical System) (grant amount of ¥150 million) (in Brazzaville) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan to Morocco for COVID-19 Response Support (loan amount of up to approx. \$200 million) (in Rabat) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Argentina for the Economic and Social Development Programme (Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Strengthening the Healthcare and Medical System) (grant amount of ¥500 million) (in Buenos Aires)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Pakistan for the Economic and Social Development Programme (Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Strengthening the Healthcare and Medical System) (grant amount of ¥1 billion) (in Islamabad) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Costa Rica for the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment (through UNOPS) (loan amount of up to ¥300 million) (in San Jose) ●Signing of Exchange of Notes concerning the provision of Grant Aid to Moldova for the Economic and Social Development Programme (Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Strengthening the Healthcare and Medical System) (grant amount of ¥100 million) (in Chisinau)

Development Cooperation Charter

February 10, 2015

Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter, decided by the Cabinet in 1992 and revised in 2003, has been the foundation of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy.

Currently, as it commemorates the 60th anniversary of its ODA, Japan and the international community are at a major crossroads. In this new era, Japan must strongly lead the international community, as a nation that contributes even more proactively to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community from the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, while continuing to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. This is also a juncture at which Japan's ODA activities should further evolve so as to strengthen further its role as an equal partner of developing countries in the joint efforts to address challenges facing the international community.

In the international community today, a huge amount of private funding flows to the developing countries, and various actors including the private sector, local governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are involved in global activities. These actors play important roles in dealing with development challenges and promoting sustainable growth in developing countries. Under these circumstances, Japan needs to address such development challenges not only through ODA but also by mobilizing various other resources.

Based on this recognition, the Government of Japan revises the ODA Charter and hereby establishes the Development Cooperation Charter, also bearing in mind the National Security Strategy decided by the Cabinet on December 17, 2013.

For the purpose of this Charter, the term "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." In this connection, "development" in this Charter is used in a broader sense rather than in the narrow sense; it also encompasses such activities as peacebuilding and governance, promotion of basic human rights and humanitarian assistance.

Such development cooperation needs to enhance synergetic effects for development through strengthened collaboration with other funding and activities of the Government of Japan and its affiliated agencies such as Other Official Flows (OOFs) and United Nations Peacekeeping operations (PKOs) as well as with private funding and activities whose objective is development or which contribute to development (i.e., funding and activities of various entities such as the private sector, local governments and NGOs).

Development Cooperation Charter

-For peace, prosperity and a better future for everyone-

At present the international community is in the midst of a transformation. It is experiencing changes in the global power balance on an unprecedented scale, an expansion of international economic activity due to rapid progress in globalization and technological innovation, deepening interdependency, and the growing influence of various non-state actors. Against this background, all kinds of risks in every part of the world can have a direct negative impact on the peace, stability and prosperity of the world including Japan. These risks range from transboundary challenges such as environmental issues and climate change, water-related issues, natural disasters, food crises and hunger, energy issues, and infectious disease, threats to the peace and stability of the international community such as international terrorism, transnational organized crimes, and piracy, to humanitarian issues in fragile states, regional conflicts, and political instability. In addition, as emerging and developing countries are taking on more economic importance, economic growth in these countries will affect the course of the growth of the global economy. Inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in these countries is thus essential for the stable growth of the global economy as a whole. Furthermore, in light of Japan's current economic and social situation, deepening its cooperative relations with the international community including the emerging and developing countries and tapping into their vigor are the keys to its own sustainable prosperity. Amid all these changes, a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community is increasingly intertwined with the national interests of Japan. To secure its national interests, it is essential for Japan, as a "Proactive Contributor to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, to work together with the international community including developing countries to address global challenges.

The development challenges confronting the world have also changed significantly. While many countries, notably emerging

countries, achieved progress in development, even such countries are experiencing problems such as political and economic instability owing to poor governance and other factors, internal disparities, sustainability issues, and the “middle income trap.” Furthermore, countries such as small island countries have particular vulnerability and other issues that have emerged which cannot be assessed by income levels alone. In addition, countries are being left behind in terms of growth due to various vulnerabilities resulting from internal conflicts and political instability as well as their geological and climate conditions. To overcome such vulnerabilities, these countries are urgently in need not only of humanitarian assistance but also securing the stable foundations of development such as peace, stability, rule of law, governance and democratization, as well as setting in motion the process of development. In addition, in context of inclusive development that leaves no one behind, it is important to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders in society including women participate in every phase of development. As such, the world is facing more diverse and complex challenges. These challenges are increasingly widespread, transcending national borders as the world is increasingly globalized. In the world faced with such difficult challenges, individual countries are required more than ever to exercise ingenuity and take action.

I. Philosophy

Bearing in mind the recognition described above, Japan will implement development cooperation, that is, “international cooperation activities conducted by the government and its affiliated agencies for the main purpose of development in developing regions,” based on the philosophy described below.

(1) Objectives of development cooperation

Japan recognizes that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want. Since 1954, when it joined the Colombo Plan, Japan has consistently sought peace and prosperity of the international community, supported the development efforts of developing countries through development cooperation that centers on its official development assistance (ODA), and made efforts to solve global issues. This embodies the basic stance of Japan to earnestly tackle challenges facing the international community as a responsible major player. Many years of Japan’s steady down-to-earth efforts to this end has won the respect and confidence of the international community, which expects Japan to play a more proactive role for the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community in a way commensurate with its national capabilities.

Japan overcame a range of problems and realized a period of high economic growth and a peaceful stable society with a small economic disparity to become the first developed country in Asia. At the same time, Japan has taken advantage of its philosophy in development cooperation, experience and expertise to deliver distinctive cooperation to Asian and other countries to support their economic growth. In these processes, it has experienced many successes and failures, and has accumulated a wealth of experience, expertise and lessons learned. The experience, expertise and lessons thus learned are not limited to those from the postwar high-growth period but also those from addressing present challenges such as declining and aging population, and reconstruction after the earthquake. Such experience, expertise and lessons learned contribute to addressing development challenges facing the world today, and the international community also has high expectations in this regard.

Bearing in mind the expectations of the international community, Japan, as a responsible major player in the world, will contribute more actively and exert strong leadership in addressing challenges facing the international community - especially development challenges and humanitarian concerns. Doing so is of great significance from the perspective of solidifying the confidence that the international community has in Japan.

In today’s international community, it is no longer possible for any nation to secure peace and prosperity by itself. Under such circumstances, the path Japan should take to continue developing a prosperous and peaceful society lies in a serious effort to tackle various global challenges in cooperation with the international community, including developing countries, for a peaceful, stable and prosperous international community, and, in this process, to build solid and constructive relationships with various actors in the international community. Development cooperation provides one of the most important means for Japan in its agile implementation of such diplomacy; it carries significance as an “investment for the future.”

Based on this recognition, Japan will promote development cooperation in order to contribute more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. Such cooperation will also lead to ensuring Japan’s national interests such as maintaining its peace and security, achieving further prosperity, realizing an international environment that provides stability, transparency and predictability, and maintaining and protecting an international order based on universal values.

In the present international community, various actors including private companies, local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an increasingly important role in addressing development challenges and supporting sustained growth of developing countries. It is therefore important to mobilize a wider range of resources that are not limited to ODA. In this context, ODA, as the core of various activities that contribute to development, will serve as a catalyst for mobilizing a wide range of resources in cooperation with various funds and actors and, by extension, as an engine for various activities aimed at securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

(2) Basic policies

Japan's development cooperation for the objectives described above should be based on the philosophy that has been formed over its long history and should be further developed. In this context, the directions for development cooperation are defined as basic policies below:

A. Contributing to peace and prosperity through cooperation for non-military purposes

Japan's development cooperation has contributed to peace and prosperity of the world through cooperation for non-military purposes, which is one of the most suitable modalities for international contribution. Japan has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II. Japan's development cooperation has been highly regarded by the international community as an embodiment of the country's sincere aspirations for peace and prosperity of the international community. Japan will continue to uphold this policy and comply with the principle of avoiding any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts, in proactively contributing to securing peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

B. Promoting human security

Human security - a concept that pursues the right of individuals to live happily and in dignity, free from fear and want, through their protection and empowerment - is the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan's development cooperation. Japan will thus focus its development cooperation on individuals - especially those liable to be vulnerable such as children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and internally-displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous peoples - and provide cooperation for their protection and empowerment so as to realize human security. At the same time, Japan will make efforts so that this basic policy will be understood and accepted widely among its partner countries, thereby mainstreaming the concept even further in the international community. Likewise, from the standpoint of its people-centered approach, Japan will also proactively contribute to promoting basic human rights, including women's rights.

C. Cooperation aimed at self-reliant development through assistance for self-help efforts as well as dialogue and collaboration based on Japan's experience and expertise

In its development cooperation, Japan has maintained the spirit of jointly creating things that suit partner countries while respecting ownership, intentions and intrinsic characteristics of the country concerned based on a field-oriented approach through dialogue and collaboration. It has also maintained the approach of building reciprocal relationships with developing countries in which both sides learn from each other and grow and develop together. These are some of the good traditions of Japan's cooperation which have supported self-help efforts of developing countries and aimed at future self-reliant development. On the basis of these traditions, Japan will continue to provide cooperation aimed at developing countries' self-reliant development by emphasizing their own initiatives and self-help efforts as well as further deepening dialogue and collaboration with them while taking advantage of Japan's experience and expertise. In these processes, Japan will attach importance to building the foundations of self-help efforts and self-reliant development such as human resources, socio-economic infrastructure, regulations and institutions. It will also go beyond waiting for requests from partner countries by focusing on dialogue and collaboration with diverse actors not limited to governments and regional agencies of these countries, including proactively presenting proposals while giving full consideration to policies, programs and institutions related to development in the country concerned.

II. Priority policies

(1) Priority issues

In line with the philosophy described above, Japan sets out the following priority issues for development cooperation, while taking note of the inter-relationships between them, in order to deal with development challenges that are becoming more diverse, complex and broadly based, and also to achieve peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

A. "Quality growth" and poverty eradication through such growth

The world's poor population is still large in number, and reducing poverty, especially eradicating absolute poverty, is the most fundamental development challenge. Especially as regards fragile states that have not been able to grasp the opportunities for development for different reasons and as regards people in vulnerable situations, it is important to provide both assistance from a humanitarian point of view and assistance designed to set the development process in motion and overcome vulnerability.

At the same time, in order to resolve the poverty issue in a sustainable manner, it is essential to achieve economic growth through human resources development, infrastructure development and establishment of regulations and institutions as well as the growth of the private sector enabled by the aforementioned actions, which are aimed at self-reliant development of developing countries. However, such growth should not be merely quantitative in nature, given that some of the countries that

have achieved a measure of economic growth face challenges such as widening disparities, sustainability issues, inadequate social development, and political and economic instability. Rather, it should be “quality growth”. Such growth is inclusive in that the fruits of growth are shared within society as a whole, leaving no one behind. It is sustainable over generations in terms of consideration to, among other aspects, harmony with the environment, sustained socio-economic growth, and addressing global warming. And it is resilient, able to withstand and recover from economic crises, natural disasters and other shocks. These are some of the challenges Japan has tackled in its postwar history. Japan will take advantage of its own experience, expertise and technology as well as lessons learned in order to provide assistance to realize “quality growth” and poverty eradication through such growth.

From this perspective, Japan will provide assistance necessary to secure the foundations and the driving force for economic growth. Its scope includes: the development of industrial infrastructure and industries through improvements in such areas as infrastructure, finance and trade and investment climate; sustainable cities; introduction of information and communications technology (ICT) and high technology; promotion of science, technology and innovation; research and development; economic policy; vocational training and industrial human resources development; employment creation; and the promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries that includes the development of food value chains. At the same time, Japan will provide assistance necessary to promote people-centered development that supports basic human life, taking full account of the importance of human and social development. It encompasses health care, safe water and sanitation, food and nutrition, quality education for all, disparity reduction, empowerment of women, culture and sports that brings about spiritual affluence.

B. Sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society

Stable development through “quality growth” will not be achieved unless the rights of individuals are guaranteed, people can engage in economic and social activities with a sense of safety, and the society is managed equitably and stably. With a view to solidifying the foundations for such development, Japan will provide assistance so as to share universal values such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights and the rule of law as well as to realize a peaceful, stable and secure society.

The establishment of the rule of law, the realization of good governance, the promotion and consolidation of democratization, and respect for basic human rights including women’s rights constitute the basis for effective, efficient and stable economic and social activities, and thereby support social and economic development. They also hold the key to realizing an equitable and inclusive society including reducing disparities. Japan will thus provide the necessary assistance in such areas as: development of legal and judicial systems that involves the development of positive law and the training of legal and judicial experts including experts in the correction and rehabilitation of offenders; development of economic and social systems; improvements in governance which include the training of civil servants and institutional capacity building for anti-corruption and other purposes; development of a democratic political structure including an electoral system; and democratization process with a focus on the media and education for democracy.

Peace, stability and security are prerequisites for nation-building and development. Accordingly, Japan will comprehensively address a wide range of factors causing conflict and instability, including poverty. It will also provide seamless assistance for peacebuilding from conflict prevention, emergency humanitarian assistance in the conflict situation, and promotion of conflict termination to emergency humanitarian assistance and assistance for recovery, reconstruction, and development in the post-conflict stage. Such assistance will address a range of needs such as: humanitarian assistance for refugees and internally-displaced persons; protection and participation of women and the socially vulnerable; reconstruction of social and human capital; the restoration of governance functions based on a trusting relationship between the government and the public; the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance and the collection of small arms; and the restoration of public order. In natural disasters and other emergencies, Japan will provide prompt assistance taking into account longer-term recovery and reconstruction. In view of the fact that threats to stability and security can hamper socio-economic development, Japan will also provide assistance to enhance capacities in developing countries such as: the capacity of law enforcement authorities including capabilities to ensure maritime safety; the capacity of security authorities including capabilities to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons; and the capacity of developing countries in relation to global commons such as seas, outer space, and cyberspace.

C. Building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges

Transboundary challenges facing humanity include environmental issues and climate change, water related issues, major natural disasters, infectious diseases, food issues, and energy issues. These challenges significantly affect not only developing countries but also the international community as a whole, causing damage to many people with particularly serious impact likely on the poor and other vulnerable people.

These global challenges cannot be dealt with by a single country and require united efforts at the regional level or by the international community as a whole. Taking full account of the international development goals such as the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs), the post-2015 development agenda and the discussions regarding these goals, Japan will take the lead in addressing these challenges including through participation in the formulation of international goals and guidelines and active efforts to achieve these goals. Through these efforts, Japan will seek to contribute to building a sustainable and resilient international community.

In this context, Japan will address challenges such as: actions against climate change including the creation of a low carbon society and adaptation to adverse effects of climate change; infectious diseases control; promotion of universal health coverage; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction; disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery measures; conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources from forests, farmlands and oceans; promotion of a sound water cycle; environmental management and other environmental-related initiatives; responses to demographic challenges including an aging population; food security and nutrition; sustainable access to resources and energy; closing the digital divide.

(2) Priority policy issues by region

In view of the increasingly diverse, complex, and broader-based development challenges and the progress in globalization in the international community today, it is necessary to implement cooperation that cater to the needs and characteristics of each region while maintaining a global perspective. Bearing in mind the priority policy issues for each region mentioned below, Japan will provide more focused cooperation in a strategic, effective and agile manner while coping flexibly with ever changing situations. In this process, attention will be paid to the increasing relevance of recent developments such as: moves towards regional integration such as establishment of regional communities; efforts to address trans-boundary issues at the regional level; efforts towards greater-area development; efforts to strengthen inter-regional connectivity; and increasing connectivity among regions. In addition, Japan will extend necessary cooperation to countries based on their actual development needs and affordability. These include countries that despite progress in development, are laden with challenges that hamper sustained economic growth, notably the so-called “middle income trap,” as well as with development challenges including global challenges such as exposure to natural disasters, infectious diseases, and environmental issues and climate change; small island countries and others that are faced with special vulnerabilities despite having attained a certain level of per capita income.

Asia is a region that has a close relationship with Japan and high relevance to its security and prosperity. With this recognition, Japan will extend development cooperation to the region.

Particularly with respect to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, Japan will support the establishment of the ASEAN Community as well as the comprehensive and sustained development of ASEAN as a whole. This will include a focus on the development of both physical and non-physical infrastructure including that which is needed for strengthening connectivity and the reduction of disparities both within the region and within individual countries. Japan will specifically strengthen assistance to the Mekong region as well as continue its assistance to countries that have already achieved a certain level of economic growth to keep them from being caught in the “middle income trap” through assistance to promote increased productivity and technical innovations such as human resources development. At the same time, priority will be attached to assistance that raises disaster risk reduction and disaster relief capabilities and promotes the rule of law, which constitutes the basis for stable economic and social activities. Japan will also promote cooperation with ASEAN as a regional organization to support united efforts to tackle its challenges.

With respect to South Asia, Japan will support regional stability and the fulfillment of a variety of level of regional potential. This will involve cooperation for building the foundations for economic development through growth, including cooperation on improving trade and investment climate especially by developing infrastructure and strengthening connectivity in the Asian region. Japan will also extend cooperation on basic human needs such as health care, sanitation and education, and on socio-economic infrastructure development for narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

With respect to Central Asia and the Caucasus, Japan will support nation-building and regional cooperation for the long-term stability and sustainable development of the region and its neighboring regions, while taking into consideration the disparities within the region.

With respect to Africa, Japan will provide assistance through joint efforts of the public and the private sector through the process of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) so that Africa’s remarkable growth in recent years based on expanding trade, investment and consumption will lead to further development for both Japan and Africa. Japan will take particular note of Africa’s initiatives towards regional development and integration at the sub-regional level. Meanwhile, Africa still has countries that are prone to conflict or are burdened with an accumulation of serious development challenges. Bearing this in mind, Japan will continue to actively engage in assistance for peacebuilding and assistance to fragile states from the perspective of human security, providing necessary assistance with a view towards establishing and consolidating peace and stability, and solving serious development challenges in the region.

The Middle East is an important region not only for Japan but also for the international community as a whole in terms of peace, stability and stable energy supply. With a view to proactively contributing to the peace and stability of the region and to

the coexistence and mutual prosperity of Japan and the Middle East, necessary assistance will be provided to address challenges such as peacebuilding, reducing disparity and human resources development.

With respect to Central and Eastern Europe, Japan will support the moves towards the integration of Europe, which shares universal values such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights and the rule of law, by providing assistance necessary to this end.

With respect to Latin America, Japan will provide assistance to foster an environment more conducive to economic development through trade and investment among others, and to extend necessary cooperation against a backdrop of internal disparities which exist even in countries that have achieved considerable progress in development. Consideration will be given to the presence of ethnic Japanese (“Nikkei”) communities in the region, which serves as a strong bond between Japan and the region.

With respect to small island countries in Oceania, the Caribbean and other regions also have vulnerabilities that are peculiar to small island countries. They are also faced with the challenge of coping with the effects of global environmental problems including: water scarcity, damage due to sea level rise and natural disasters associated with climate change. Japan will provide assistance based on individual development needs while bearing in mind the peculiarities of small island countries.

III. Implementation

(1) Implementation principles

Efforts will be made to implement development cooperation effectively and efficiently, while taking into account international discussion including on development effectiveness, so as to obtain maximum effect towards realizing the philosophy and implementing the priority policies described above. It is also necessary to give full consideration to the impacts of cooperation to the recipient countries and societies, and to the appropriateness of cooperation. Based on such considerations, Japan will implement development cooperation in accordance with the following principles.

A. Principles for effective and efficient development cooperation

(a) A more strategic approach

A more strategic approach should be taken to maximize the impact of Japan’s development cooperation. In other words, it is important for the government and implementing agencies to work as one – in cooperation with diverse stakeholders – and to mobilize various resources available to Japan. It is also important to engage in the development cooperation cycle of policymaking, implementation and evaluation in an integrated manner.

On policymaking, it is necessary to fully recognize that development cooperation is one of the most important tools of Japan’s foreign policy, which calls for strategic and agile responses to ever-changing international affairs. With this recognition, Japan will formulate strategic and effective policies and goals concerning development cooperation, prioritizing as appropriate, based on its foreign policy. In the process, Japan will thoroughly assess diverse factors such as: the state of affairs in the international community including developing countries; the development policies and programs of developing countries; and the strategic importance of the recipient country and the development challenges being addressed in relation to Japan. In addition, for the purpose of clarifying its development cooperation policies, thematic policies, regional policies, and country policies will be structured under this Charter.

In implementing development cooperation, Japan will enhance synergies between ODA and non-ODA finance/cooperation so as to make the most of resources of the government and its affiliated agencies. Furthermore, from the standpoint of its foreign policy and more effective and efficient development cooperation, Japan will organically combine technical cooperation, loan assistance and grant aid. It will also strive to increase the speed of implementation, improve related systems and operate them flexibly.

In the light of the importance of evaluation not only for improving effectiveness and efficiency but for accountability to the public, Japan will conduct evaluations at the policy and program/project levels and feed the results back to the decision-making and program/project implementation processes. Such evaluations, while focusing on outcomes, will take into account the peculiarities and conditions of the recipients. Efforts will be made to undertake evaluation from a diplomatic point of view as well.

(b) Cooperation that takes advantage of Japan’s strengths

Japan’s human resources, expertise, advanced technology and systems today were developed in the process of overcoming various challenges as it underwent high economic growth and rapid demographic changes. These assets can be beneficial for developing countries in addressing similar challenges, both present and future; in fact, expectations for Japan are high in this regard. In implementing development cooperation, Japan will proactively adopt proposals from various actors in the private and other sectors. It will also work with universities and research institutions to make good use of their expertise and seek

out their untapped capabilities. Japan's assistance in infrastructure development will not be limited to constructing physical infrastructure. It will also address the non-physical aspects that encompass developing systems for operating and maintaining such infrastructure as well as human resources development and institution building. Such an integrated approach will enable active utilization of Japan's experience and expertise. In addition, given that Japan's distinctive characteristics such as Japanese values and occupational culture are highly regarded by the international community, it will take into account the possibility of utilizing its soft power including the Japanese language.

(c) Proactive contribution to international discussions

Japan will strive to make its development cooperation policies better understood by the international community, and for this purpose, categorize the experiences and expertise gained in its development cooperation. To ensure that Japan's policies are adequately reflected in the process of shaping the philosophy and trends in international development cooperation, Japan will proactively participate in and contribute to relevant discussions at the United Nations, international financial institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), especially its Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and other international frameworks.

B. Principles for securing the appropriateness of development cooperation

So as to secure the appropriateness of its development cooperation policies and individual programs/projects and to give consideration to the various impacts of such cooperation on the recipient countries and societies, Japan's development cooperation will be provided in accordance with the principles described below, and by comprehensively taking into account developing countries' development needs and socio-economic conditions, as well as Japan's bilateral relations with each recipient country.

(a) Situation regarding consolidation of democratization, the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights

Japan will pay adequate attention to the situation in the recipient countries regarding the process of democratization, the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights, with a view to promoting the consolidation of democratization, the rule of law and the respect for basic human rights.

(b) Avoidance of any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts

Japan will avoid any use of development cooperation for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts. In case the armed forces or members of the armed forces in recipient countries are involved in development cooperation for non-military purposes such as public welfare or disaster-relief purposes, such cases will be considered on a case-by-case basis in light of their substantive relevance.

(c) Situation regarding military expenditures, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, export and import of arms, etc.

Japan will pay close attention to the situation in recipient countries regarding military expenditures, development and production of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, and export and import of arms, etc. This is done with a view to maintaining international peace and stability including the prevention of terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and based on the position that developing countries should allocate their resources appropriately and preferentially for their own socio-economic development.

(d) Impact of development on the environment and climate change

In order to make development compatible with the environment and to achieve sustainable development, Japan will give thorough consideration to the impact of development on the environment and climate change, and implement development cooperation which takes full account of the environment.

(e) Ensuring equity and consideration to the socially vulnerable

In implementing development cooperation, Japan will pay full attention to the social impact and give full consideration to ensuring equity, while making efforts for participation of wide-ranging stakeholders in every phase of development cooperation, with a view to reducing disparities and in consideration of the socially vulnerable such as children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

(f) Promoting women's participation

In the context of gender equality and greater role of women in development, Japan will encourage the participation of women at every phase of development cooperation and be more proactive in ensuring that women share equitably in the

fruits of development, while giving consideration to the possible vulnerabilities of women and their special needs.

(g) Preventing fraud and corruption

It is necessary to prevent fraud and corruption in implementing development cooperation. While taking measures to encourage establishment of a compliance system by bid winners, Japan will work with recipient countries to create an environment conducive to preventing fraud and corruption, including the strengthening of governance in these countries. In this context, Japan will ensure adherence to appropriate procedures and strive to ensure transparency in the implementation process.

(h) Security and safety of development cooperation personnel

In order to ensure security and safety of development cooperation personnel, Japan will pay adequate attention to strengthening security and safety management capacity, gathering security information, taking security measures, and ensuring safety of workers in construction sites. Particularly in relation to assistance in politically unstable or unsafe areas such as assistance for peacebuilding, special security measures and arrangements will be implemented.

(2) Implementation arrangements

In view of the increasingly diverse, complex, and wider-based development challenges as well as the increasingly diverse development actors and development-related funds, Japan will strive to improve the implementation architecture of the government and the implementing agencies, strengthen collaboration at different levels, and reinforce the foundations for sustained implementation of development cooperation.

A. Improvement of the implementation architecture of the government and the implementing agencies

In implementing its development cooperation, the government will improve collaboration among the relevant ministries and agencies, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serving as a hub in charge of coordinating the planning of development cooperation policies. It will also ensure close collaboration between the government, which is responsible for planning policies, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is responsible for implementation. At the same time, the government and JICA will further strive to develop the capacities of these organizations as well as to improve relevant systems and institutions, while clarifying the division of their roles and responsibilities. Especially to improve the competitiveness of its development cooperation, the government and JICA will address issues such as agility, expertise, knowledge accumulation, research capacity, reinforcement of the functions of offices abroad, human resources development and arrangements for emergency humanitarian relief. Consideration will be given to the role of JICA domestic offices as a node for various actors, including companies, NGOs, local governments, universities and research institutions, and the public at large.

B. Strengthening partnerships

In the international community today, various non-governmental actors play an increasingly important role in the development of developing countries. With this recognition, collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for other official funds such as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), and the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) will be strengthened. The government will also enhance mutually beneficial partnerships with various actors so as to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing a wide range of resources, including the private sector.

(a) Public-private partnerships and partnerships with local governments

Official funds including ODA will continue to play an important role in the development of developing countries. However, given that private flows currently far exceed official flows into developing countries, adequate consideration should be given to the fact that activities of the private sector now serve as a powerful engine for economic growth of developing countries. In Asia, hard (physical) and soft (non-physical) basic infrastructure built with development cooperation has contributed to improving the investment climate. Development cooperation's role as a catalyst promoted private investment, which in turn has led to economic growth and poverty reduction in the recipient countries. It is important to recognize that, through these processes, Asia has developed into an important market and investment destination for Japanese private companies, and therefore, an extremely important region for the Japanese economy. In addition, experience and expertise of Japanese local governments play an increasingly significant role in addressing many of the challenges facing developing countries.

In light of the above, the government will promote development cooperation through public-private partnerships and partnerships with local governments utilizing the resources of the private sector and local governments and promoting private-led growth, in order to support economic development of developing countries more vigorously and effectively and to enable such development to lead to robust growth of the Japanese economy. Specifically, partnerships with Japanese companies

including small and medium-sized enterprises, local governments, universities and research institutions, and other actors will be strengthened in order to implement cooperation aimed at creating an environment conducive to the promotion of trade and investment among others in such areas as human resources development, development of legislation and institutions, and development of infrastructure and relevant systems from planning to implementation phases in a consistent manner.

In promoting public-private partnerships, Japan's development cooperation will seek to serve as a catalyst for expanding economic activities, while utilizing excellent technology and expertise, and ample funds of the private sector for addressing the challenges faced by developing countries. In addition, taking full account of the priority policies of development cooperation described earlier, Japan will give consideration to ensuring inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience of growth as well as promoting capacity building so that private investment that is made along with development cooperation will contribute to "quality growth" in developing countries.

(b) Coordination in emergency humanitarian assistance and international peace cooperation

In the context of increasingly severe and frequent disasters, there is plenty of scope for contribution by Japan, a country known for its disaster risk reduction. For effective implementation of disaster relief and other emergency humanitarian assistance, coordination with international organizations, NGOs and other actors that have relevant expertise will be strengthened.

In addition, Japan will continue to promote coordination with international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) to maximize their effective implementation.

(c) Partnerships with international, regional and sub-regional organizations

With their expertise, impartiality and wide networks, international organizations can implement effective and efficient cooperation in sectors or regions that are less accessible in bilateral cooperation and by taking advantage of their distinctive characteristics. Such multilateral cooperation can bring about synergies if combined with bilateral cooperation. Japan will therefore continue its proactive collaboration with international organizations in such areas as humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, governance and global issues. In addition, in view of the role played by international organizations in shaping philosophy and trends in international development cooperation, Japan, as a responsible member of the international community, will strive to increase its influence and presence in international organizations and, by extension, the international community so that it can play a leading role in creating international norms. Furthermore, Japan will hold regular consultations with individual international organizations for policy coordination to create synergies with bilateral cooperation. Special attention will be paid to ensuring accountability to the public as regards the impacts and evaluation of development cooperation through international organizations.

Japan will also reinforce its partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations in view of the trend towards regional integration and the importance of a transboundary approach at the regional level.

(d) Partnerships with donors, emerging countries and other actors

Like Japan, other donors have accumulated experience and expertise over many years of their development cooperation. Donor partnerships are required for greater development effectiveness. From this perspective, Japan will continue to promote partnerships with other donors in development cooperation to maximize its effectiveness, bearing in mind the perspective of its foreign policy.

In implementing development cooperation, it is also important to take advantage of expertise, human resources and their networks, and other assets that have been accumulated in the recipient countries during the many years of Japan's development cooperation. Japan's triangular cooperation involving emerging and other countries capitalizes on such assets. In view of the high regard held by the international community, Japan will continue to promote triangular cooperation.

(e) Partnerships with the civil society

Partnerships with the civil society in and outside of Japan, including NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private foundations, are important both for greater cooperation effectiveness and for the equitable and stable development of the recipient countries as they can accurately assess varying views and needs on the ground and take timely flexible actions. With this recognition, the government will strategically strengthen partnerships with NGOs/CSOs, including reinforcing their participation and collaboration in development cooperation. From this standpoint, the government will support excellent development cooperation projects of Japanese NGOs/CSOs and their capacity development. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA will focus on developing human resources and systems in the social development sector.

The government will also encourage the participation of its people from all walks of life in development cooperation and promote utilization of their expertise in society, with a view to expanding those involved in development cooperation, including the recruitment of JICA Volunteers. In this regard, the government will provide adequate information to the public and listen to

the voice of the people at all levels including suggestions regarding development cooperation.

C. Strengthening the foundations for implementation

In order for Japan's development cooperation to fulfil the required role of realizing its philosophy and implementing its priority policies, the foundations for its sustained implementation including financial and human resources must be strengthened. Necessary efforts will be made to this end while being mindful of the internationally-agreed target of increasing ODA to 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) and fully recognizing its extremely severe fiscal situation.

(a) Information disclosure and promoting understanding of the public and the international community

Development cooperation is financed by tax revenues from the public. The public's understanding and support are therefore essential to secure necessary funds for the sustained implementation of development cooperation. For this purpose, the government will strive for effective public relations on development cooperation in Japan, timely and adequate disclosure of information on implementation, evaluation and other aspects of development cooperation to the wider public in a transparent manner. The government will also provide easy-to-understand explanations on the policies, significance, outcomes and evaluation of Japan's development cooperation by the international community among other aspects. The government will also actively engage in public information abroad as it is important to make Japan's development cooperation and its achievements better known and understood by the international community including developing countries.

(b) Promoting development education

The government will promote development education at school and various other places. The objective is for the public to develop the capacity to assess various aspects of development challenges facing the world, understand how these challenges relate to Japan, regard the challenges as their own for independent analysis, and participate in actions to address these challenges.

(c) Developing human resources and solidifying the intellectual foundations for development cooperation

Fostering human resources for development cooperation remains an important issue in the face of diversifying development challenges. In particular, promoting development cooperation in such areas as the rule of law, governance, finance and ICT calls for strengthening the institutional structure such as by training and securing the necessary human resources. The government, industry and the academia will therefore work as one to promote the training and development of globally competent human resources with specialized expertise among consultants, researchers, students, and employees at universities, private sector and NGOs/CSOs in addition to the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA. Efforts will also be made to increase opportunities for such persons to fulfill their capacity within and outside Japan and to make institutional and structural improvements.

In order to play a leading role in shaping the philosophy and trends in international development cooperation by making use of its strength, the government will also work with universities and research institutions among others to reinforce the intellectual foundations, including research capabilities to plan and disseminate development cooperation. This may take the form of joint policy research by researchers from Japan and developing countries or intellectual networking of such researchers.

(3) Reporting on the status of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Charter

The government will report the status of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Charter in the "White Paper on Development Cooperation," which is reported annually to the Cabinet.

February 10, 2015
Cabinet Decision

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2020 Japan's International Cooperation

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 Japan
Tel: +81-3-3580-3311

White Paper on Development Cooperation 2020

Japan's International Cooperation

International cooperation in the COVID-19 era:
our commitment to the future

