

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.

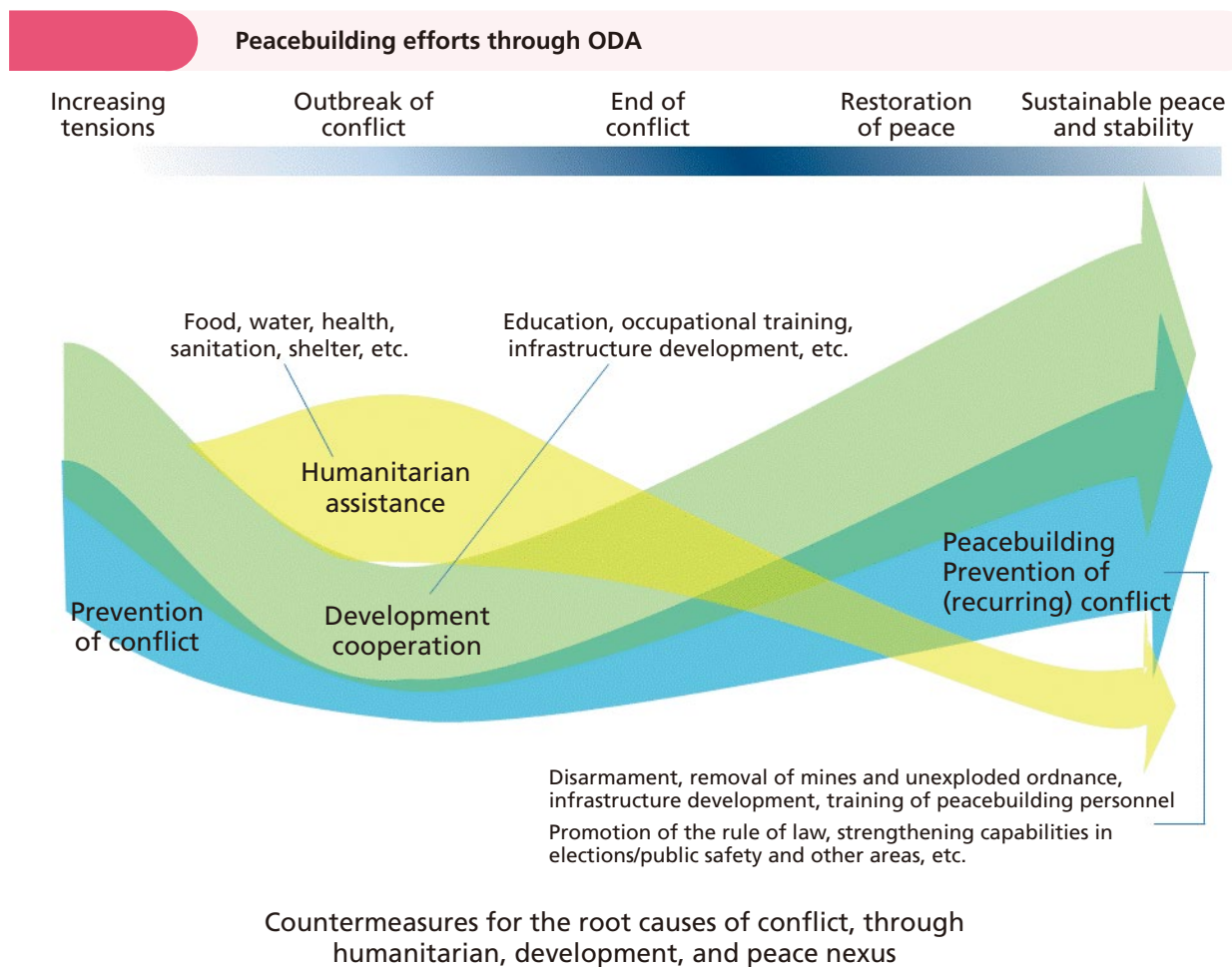
In addition, Japan dispatched 172 instructors from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and other government entities to conduct training on the operation of heavy engineering equipment for 277 engineering personnel in eight ¹⁶ countries in Africa, under the framework of the UN Triangular Partnership 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>)

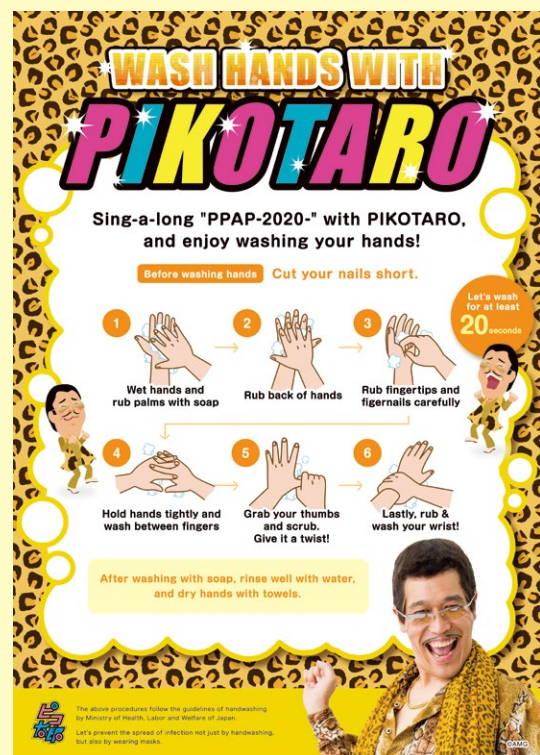
● What kind of response have you received?

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/>